

Chilean Government
National Fisheries Service

Ord/U.A./N° 520107507
Background: Pure Salmon Campaign Letter 100032907
Issue: Sea Lice

Valparaíso, July 5, 2007.

From: National Director of Fisheries

To: Andrea Kavanagh
Director
Pure Salmon Campaign

In relation to your letter (Background), regarding actions taken against the outbreak of the disease caused by the copepod parasite “Caligus” in salmon farm centres of the X Region of the country during 2006 and the beginning of 2007, I inform you about the different measures implemented by this Service(Agency), some taken immediately to the outbreak and some other more recent in order to prevent future events:

1. Monitoring, starting from April 2007, there will be monitoring of the transportation of fish from Caligus infested zones to Caligus-free zones, through the enforcement of the certificate of transporting health, that must take into account the declaration of a Veterinary Doctor about the absence of Caligus in the transported fish as well as indication of the treatment applied if pertinent.
2. Due to the Caligus infestation affecting the salmon industry, on April 23 of the current year, Sernapesca authorized the use of hydrogen peroxide in salmon aquaculture as an additional tool in order to control and treatment for this ectoparasite.
3. Workshops were executed in May among sectoral authorities, industry and academic groups involved in the study of Caligus in Chile, with the intention of getting a deeper understanding of the biology of Caligus rogercresseyi in Chile, in order to define integral and efficient strategies to the control of the disease, as well as the emphasis that should be applied in future research related to this problem in the country.
4. Related to the previous point, round tables including research entities, such as CORFO¹, University of Chile, Cien Austral, among others, were created in order to privilege important relevant areas to the control of the disease.

¹ CORFO: Corporation for Promotion from the Chilean Government.

5. There has been a coordination between the Agriculture and Husbandry Service (SAG), in charge of registering veterinary drugs in Chile, in order to address -as a priority- the evaluation of available therapeutic alternatives for treating Caligus. This activity has been conducted permanently from April this year

6. As an outcome of the sectoral workshops and related round tables, Sernapesca proposed to the Technical Committee of the Sanitary of Animal Health of Hydro-biological Species (RESA) to incorporate Caligidosis to list 2 of the high risk diseases in Chile, which was accepted by the Committee and ratified on June 4, 2007 by the Resolution N° 1669. It must be noted that this measure will allow to implement vigilance and official control programmes to control such disease.

7. On June the 8th, it was formally initiated the elaboration of the Surveillance and Control Programme for Caligus, in the frame of a multidisciplinary round table lead by Sernapesca, and including salmon industry representatives, marine biologists, epidemiologists and veterinary doctors of the aquaculture unit from Sernapesca.

⇒ The objectives of the Surveillance Program are oriented to decrease the Caligus impacts on salmon aquaculture and considers –at a first stage- the collection, record, and analysis of data about the disease, as well as the definition of all needed actions order to control this parasitary problem. The general strategy of control would consider alternation of antiparasitary drugs, zone approach, and the establishment of early therapies that difficult the life cycle of the parasite, with the objective of avoiding an outbreak of the disease in the next summer season.

8. Finally, it must be noted that such programmes will be presented to the Technical Committee of the RESA for its approval and will be distributed to the industry and the community, given the fact that it is fundamental having both the cooperation and the commitment of the industry sector in order to achieve success of proposed objectives.

Sincerely,

Ines Montalva Rodriguez
National Director of Fisheries

Distribution:

Pure Salmon Campaign
Unit of Aquaculture Sernapesca
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