

ERADICATION PROGRAMME FOR CATEGORY C DISEASE IHN

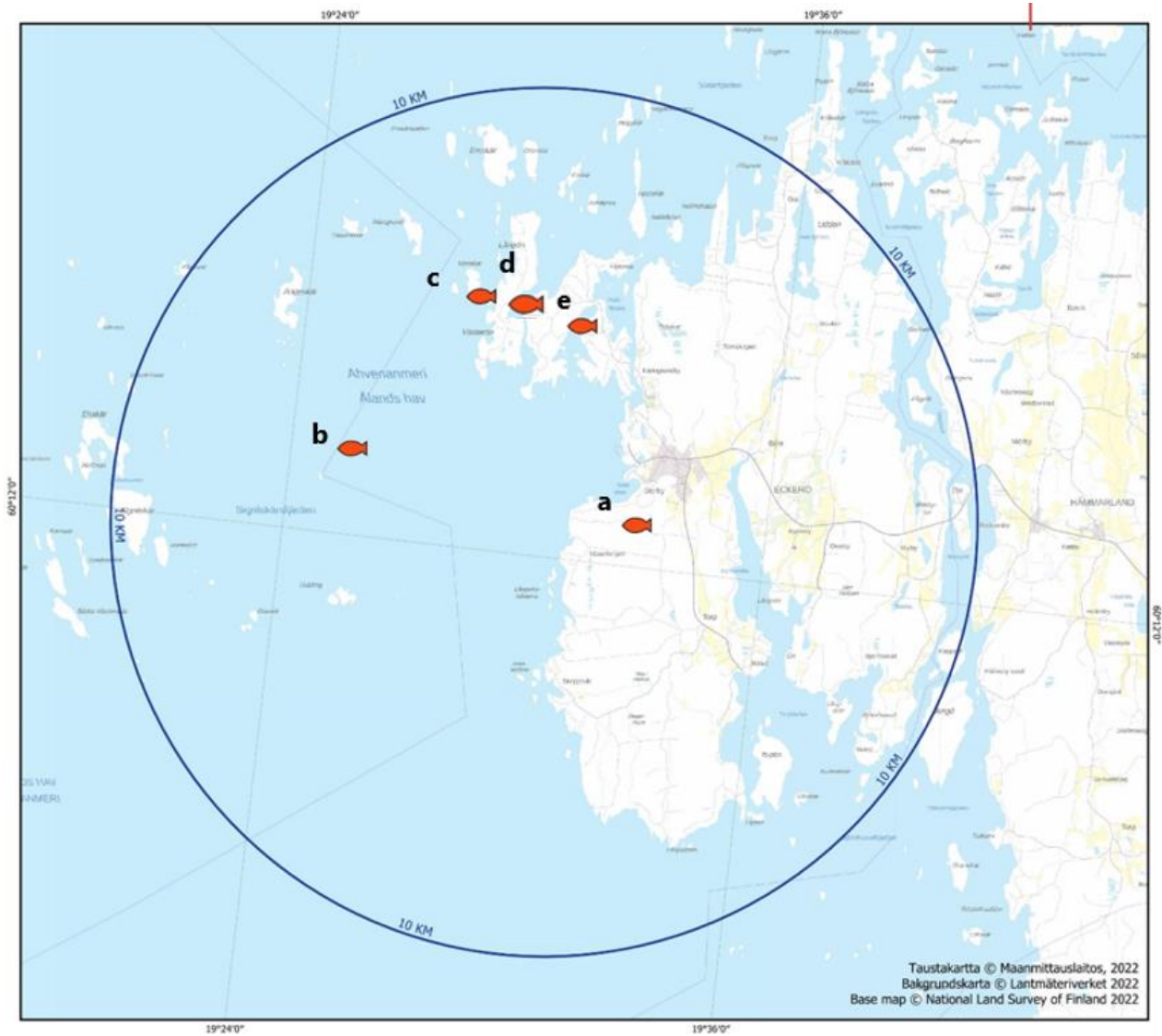
Requirements and information	Information, explanation, and justification
Identification of the programme	
1. Date of submission	January 13 <sup>th</sup> 2023
2. Name of Member State and details of contact point	Finland  email: <a href="mailto:cvo-finland.mmm@gov.fi">cvo-finland.mmm@gov.fi</a>
3. Name of Category C disease	IHN
4. Territorial scope with a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas covered by the eradication programme and the names of the zones or compartments	The coastal compartment comprised by the parts of Eckerö and Hammarland municipalities that are contained within a circle of radius 10 km, centred on WGS84 coordinates Lat 60,207175390°, Lon 19,507907780
5. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone or compartment included in the territorial scope of the programme:	
a. The number of approved aquaculture establishments and the number of registered aquaculture establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population, by health status (noninfected, infected, unknown)	Infected: 1 approved establishment keeping rainbow trout Noninfected: 4 approved establishments
b. Details of the listed species of the targeted animal population kept in the establishments referred to in point (a)	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> ) sized juveniles and roe are transported into the area and grown to slaughter-size (2000 – 2500 g).
c. Maps indicating:	
i. The geographical location of the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) and the relevant water catchment areas	Map 1, in attachment I
ii. The geographical distribution of cases of infection with the relevant Category C disease covering at least the past 5 years	Map 2, in attachment I IHN has been detected in one establishment in the compartment covered by the eradication programme. IHN was, however, detected in 5 establishments in another compartment with an IHN eradication programme in Åland in 2021. The last infected establishment in that compartment was emptied in December 2021. The shortest distance between the establishments infected in 2021 and the infected establishment in the present compartment is about 48 km (as the crow flies) and about 60 km (sea route).
6. A description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 46 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, including at least:	
a. Details of the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with the relevant chapter of Part II of Annex VI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for: i. Health visits	Sampling scheme according to table 1A in (EU) 2020/689, Annex VI, part II, Chapter 1: Two visits and samplings a year for two years in each establishment in the compartment. 75 fish in each sample.

and sampling in aquaculture establishments	
b. The disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case	According to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, section 2, articles 58-65: Movement restrictions, epidemiological enquiry, removal of infected animals, cleaning and disinfection, following.
c. The biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The compartment is surrounded by over 100 km of officially IHN-free areas (Finland, Sweden), except for one coastal compartment with an approved IHN eradication programme with a radius of ~19 km located at a distance of 30 km from the compartment covered by the declaration.</li> <li>- At the inspection, the official veterinarian goes through the biosecurity issues of the establishment and advises the operator</li> <li>- The establishments only transfer roe and juveniles from establishments that are officially IHN free</li> <li>- The establishments that have had problems with predators, use protective nets to reduce the fish contact with seabirds and seals</li> <li>- Finnish Food Authority has established a restricted zone (comprising the same area as the compartment) which includes obligatory biosecurity measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Obligatory observation of fish and notification of IHN symptoms or raised mortality.</li> <li>* Ban to transfer ungutted IHN sensitive species away from the zone</li> <li>* Order to wash and disinfect transport vehicles that are used in transport of fish or by-products from the zone.</li> <li>* Ban to transfer feed or uninfected equipment away from the area</li> <li>* Order to treat by-product in a way that destroys IHN</li> <li>* Order to use protective clothing in the establishments</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Wild fish in the area will be sampled depending on availability (salmon, pike, brown trout). Samples are bought from local fishermen</li> <li>- Fishermen are instructed to dry or disinfect fishing gear</li> <li>- Only salmonids from approved establishments which are officially IHN free can be re-stocked into the area</li> </ul>
7. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:	
a. The authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme	Animal health authorities in the government of the Province of Åland Islands
b. Responsibilities of all stakeholders involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fish farmers and transporters operating in the compartment are responsible for maintaining a high level of biosecurity, following restrictions, observation of fish health and notification if needed</li> <li>- Environment and health authority in Åland Islands is responsible for inspections, samplings, and biosecurity guidance</li> <li>- Government of the Province of Åland Islands is responsible for coordinating, supervising, and reporting of the program to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.</li> <li>- Finnish Food Authority is responsible for laboratory analytics, zoning, and controls of movement between Member States and between Åland and mainland Finland, as well as publishing the compartment on its website</li> <li>- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the decrees approving national eradication programmes and officially IHN-free compartments, as well as for communication with the European Commission and other Member States</li> </ul>
8. The estimated duration of the eradication programme	2 years (2023 – 2024)

<p>9. The intermediate targets of the eradication programme including at least the expected: a. Annual decrease of the number of infected aquaculture establishments and where relevant, sampling points in wild populations</p>	<p>There are two companies with 5 fish farming establishments in the area. All the farms have IHN susceptible species (rainbow trout). One of them was infected in 2022. Two of the establishments are in use only during spring-autumn and two only during autumn-spring, these four establishments are owned by the same company.</p> <p>At the time of publication of the provisional declaration, all the fish in the infected establishment have been euthanized or slaughtered.</p> <p>The establishment has been washed and disinfected under official supervision and 6 weeks following begins when all the water from the establishment is drained 16-22.1.2023.</p> <p>Rainbow trout farming will begin again earliest after 6 weeks following.</p> <p>Thus, the target is that there will be no infected establishments in the compartment in 2023.</p> <p>Vaccination is prohibited by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry decree 327/2021, 45 §.</p>

## Attachment I

Map 1. Map of the eradication program area and the 5 approved establishments located there (a=status infected, b-e=status noninfected).



Map 2. The two IHN eradication program areas in Åland Islands.

