

ERADICATION PROGRAMME FOR CATEGORY C DISEASE IHN

In accordance with chapter 3 in part II of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/689 and article 10 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002.

Requirements and information	Information, explanation and justification
Identification of the programme	
1. Date of submission	9.2.2022
2. Name of Member State and details of contact point	Finland email: cvo-finland@mmm.fi
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 zones	Coastal dependent compartment contained within a circle of radius 19,3331 kilometres, centered on WGS84 coordinates Lat 59,975253701°, Lon 20,454027317° and comprised by parts of the municipalities Föglö, Lumparland, Lemland, Vårdö, Sottunga and Kökar in Åland Islands, Finland.
5. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone or zone 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)	<p>Infected: 0</p> <p>Noninfected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 approved establishments keeping rainbow trout <p>Unknown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 approved establishments keeping rainbow trout - 1 registered establishment keeping rainbow trout (a slaughterhouse with netcages where rainbow trout from infected establishments were kept temporarily before slaughter)
b. Details of the listed species of the targeted animal population kept in the establishments referred to in point (a)	Rainbow trout sized ~200 g – 2500 g Juveniles are transported into the area and grown until slaughter-size. All the establishments have only sea-cages.
c. Maps indicating:	
i. The geographical location of the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) and the relevant water catchment areas	attachment I
ii. The geographical distribution of cases of infection with the relevant Category C disease covering at least the past 5 years	attachment I
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:	

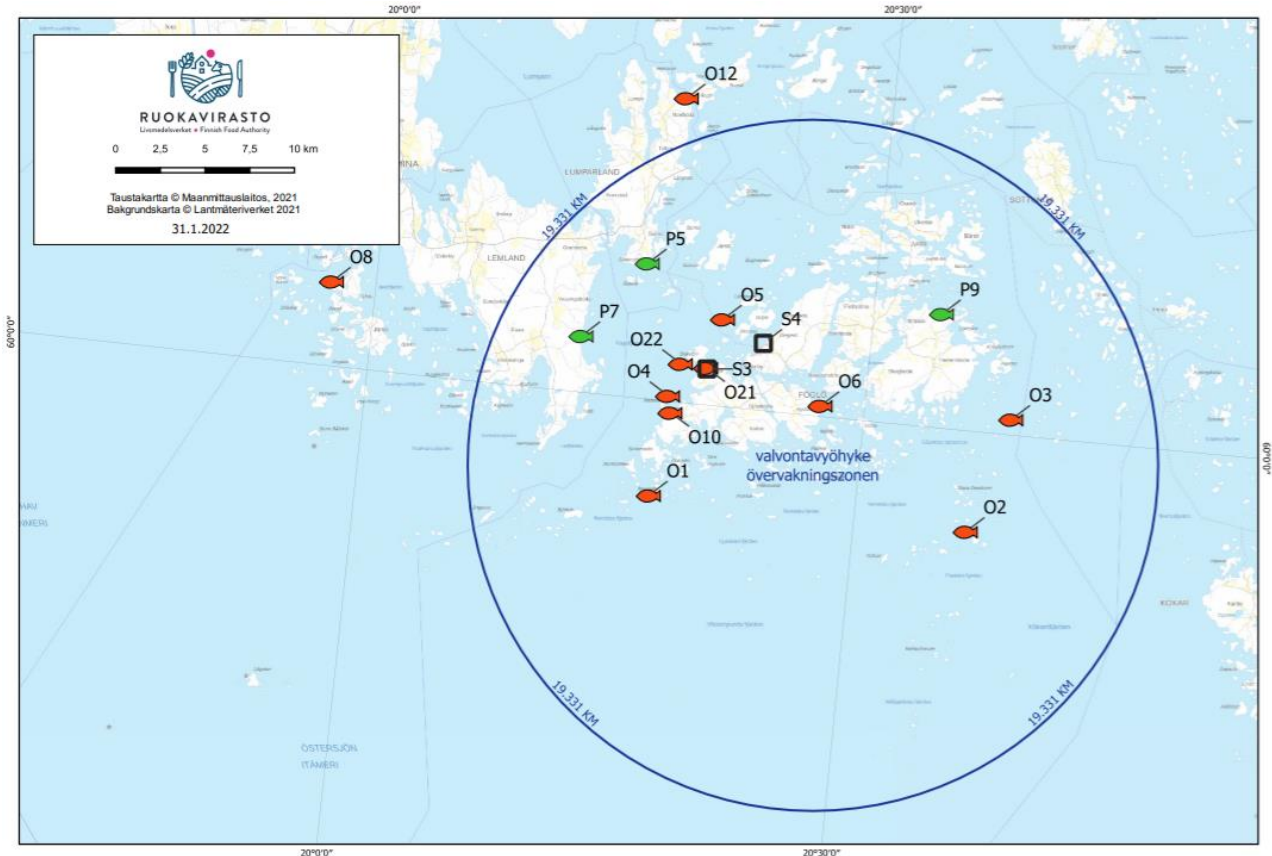
<p>a. Details of the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with the relevant chapter of Part II of Annex VI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for: i. Health visits and sampling in aquaculture establishments</p>	<p>Sampling scheme according to table 1A in (EU) 2020/689, Annex VI, part II, Chapter 1: Two visits and samplings a year for two years. 75 fish in each sample.</p> <p>Diagnostic methods according the section 5: virus-isolation method will be used (2A).</p>
<p>b. The disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case</p>	<p>According to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, section 2, articles 58-65: Movement restrictions, epidemiological enquiry, removal of infected animals, cleaning and disinfection, fallowing.</p>
<p>c. The biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at the inspection, the official veterinarian goes through the biosecurity issues of the establishment and advises the operator - The compartment is surrounded by over 100 km of officially IHN-free areas (Finland, Sweden). - The establishments only transfer juveniles from approved establishments that are officially IHN free - The establishments that have had problems with predators, use protective nets to reduce the fish contact with seabirds and seals - The establishments (incl. slaughter houses) in the compartment have approved and up-to-date biosecurity plans. - 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"> * obligatory observation of fish and notification of IHN symptoms or raised mortality. * ban to transfer ungutted rainbow trout, salmon or trout away from the zone * order to wash and disinfect transport vehicles that are used in the area * ban to transfer feed or undisinfected equipment away from the area * order to treat by-product in a way that destroys IHN * order to use protective clothing in the establishments - Wild fish in the area will be sampled depending on availability (salmon, pike, pike-perch, brown trout). Samples are bought from local fishermen - Fishermen are instructed to dry or disinfect fishing gear - Only salmonids from approved establishments which are officially IHN free can be re-stocked into the area <p>Addition Feb 28th 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one well-boat is used within the area moving fish from the harbor to the establishments out at sea, as well as from establishments owned by the same company outside the restriction zone to establishments within the restriction zone. The movements will be based on specific permissions from the Government of Åland taking into account the risks involved and stating case specific conditions to minimize any possible risk. The well-boat has to be completely empty before leaving the zone. Disinfection will be carried out in accordance with a disinfection protocol laid down by the Government of Åland and in any case every time before the well-boat moves to moving fish from a new establishment outside the restriction zone.
<p>7. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:</p>	

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"> - 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 - Environment and health authority in Åland Islands is responsible for inspections, samplings and biosecurity guidance - Government of the Province of Åland Islands is responsible for coordinating, supervising and reporting of the program to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. - Finnish Food Safety Authority is responsible for laboratory analytics, zoning and certain tasks relating to movements between Member States and between Åland and other parts of Finland, as well as publishing the zone on its website - 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
8. The estimated duration of the eradication programme	2 years (2022 – 2023)
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>There are 12 fish farming establishments and two slaughterhouses in the area. Six of the farms had IHN susceptible species (rainbow trout) in 2021 and five of them were infected in 2021 (four outbreaks, as the first outbreak consisted of two separate establishments). The sixth establishment keeping rainbow trout as well as the establishments keeping only non-susceptible species (brown trout) or which were empty remain non-infected.</p> <p>At the time of publishment of the provisional declaration, all the fish of species listed IHN susceptible including vector species (EU 2008/1882) from the infected establishments have already been either euthanized or slaughtered. Three of the establishments have been cleaned and disinfected under official supervision and fallowed since October 18th 2021. The nets and the other equipment from the other two establishments are transported to a store for winter months and will be cleaned and disinfected in February 2022. Those two establishments have been fallowed since December 16th 2021. Rainbow trout farming will begin again in each of the five establishments in March or April 2022 after a minimum of 16 weeks fallowing.</p> <p>Thus the target is that there will be no infected establishments in the compartment.</p> <p>Vaccination is prohibited by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry decree 327/2021, 45 §.</p>

Attachment I.

The geographical location of the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (5a) and the relevant water catchment areas

The geographical distribution of cases of infection with the relevant Category C disease covering at least the past 5 years



Map of the dependent compartment with an IHN eradication programme in Åland Islands (Baltic Sea) incl. all the establishments in the area. The area was officially free of IHN before the outbreaks in 2021. Geographical location of the sites that farm 2021 (WGS84):

Approved establishments, health status unknown:

- o1 (lat: 59,952077790°, lon: 20,293717511°)
- o2 (lat: 59,949668378°, lon: 20,612868385°)
- o4 (lat: 60,002723026°, lon: 20,302789312°)
- o21, s3 (lat: 60,018605027°, lon: 20,337943267°)
- o22 (lat: 60,019364731°, lon: 20,312126597°)

Registered establishment, health status unknown (slaughterhouse with net-cages where infected rainbow trout were kept temporarily awaiting slaughter):

- s4 (lat: 60,034025408°, lon: 20,392355963°)

s10 (lat: 59,994447026°, lon: 20,306829780°)

Approved establishments, health status noninfected:

o3 (lat: 60,007833522°, lon: 20,647457340°)

o5 (lat: 60,043679964°, lon: 20,349869486°) (empty 2021)

o6 (lat: 60,005386041°, lon: 20,455803450°) (only *Salmo trutta* during the epidemic in 2021)

The rest of the establishments in the zone (P5, P7, P9) are small registered establishments keeping non-susceptible species temporarily awaiting release into the wild.