

**Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Cleaner Fish Surveillance Plan**

Each company must have a Designated Veterinarian to oversee aquatic animal health surveillance. This surveillance plan is a living document and will be reviewed and updated to reflect ongoing changes in the industry.

Disease Surveillance

Surveillance by facility/company Designated Veterinarians

- Every active finfish site with cleaner fish and within Newfoundland must have a licensed Designated Veterinarian oversee a surveillance visit a minimum of **once** per month (every 30 days).
- Samples are submitted to the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory in St. Alban's. Please see Annex 1: Sampling Requirements.
- The Aquatic Animal Health Division recognizes that some aquaculture sites in the province are not accessible during certain months of the year due to weather and unsuitable water temperatures.

Surveillance by the Aquatic Animal Health Division

The Aquatic Animal Health Division will conduct a risk-based, targeted, active surveillance in addition to surveillance performed by the Designated Veterinarians. The Aquatic Animal Health Division may conduct multiple activities at the time of the surveillance visit. For example, a biosecurity audit and surveillance can occur at the same time.

Annex 1 Cleaner Fish Sampling Requirements

Designated Veterinarian Monthly Surveillance

Monthly (every 30 days) surveillance performed by Designated Veterinarians (in addition to their company specific aquatic animal health surveillance program).

Moribund fish, collected during a mortality retrieval event, will be collected for diagnostic sampling.

The following will be obtained from fish collected for diagnostic sampling:

- Virology – Organs from five (5) moribund fish can be pooled together. Pooling can only occur if the fish are from the same tank/cage and status (apparently healthy/moribund).
 - Organs to be included: kidney, heart, spleen, gill, brain, eye
 - Cell lines: Chinook Salmon Embryo, Epithelioma Papulosum Cyprini and Striped Snakehead cell line
- Pathogen specific testing
 - Polymerase chain reaction testing for Nodavirus

Aquatic Animal Health Division Surveillance

The Aquatic Animal Health Division will conduct quarterly site visits to each Bay Management Area stocked with cleaner fish. The number of sites and number of fish that will be sampled will be dependent on the number of stocked farms and disease status. Sample sizes and site selection will be calculated prior to the sampling period.

- Bacterial screening - Bacteriology testing (Blood Agar, Tryptic Soy Agar, Marine Agar) including MALDI-TOF testing for Newfoundland and Labrador pathogens of concern
- Virology – Organs from five (5) moribund fish can be pooled together. Pooling can only occur if the fish are from the same tank/cage and status (apparently healthy/moribund).
 - Organs to be included: kidney, heart, spleen, gill, brain, eye
 - Cell lines: Chinook Salmon Embryo, Epithelioma Papulosum Cyprini and Striped Snakehead cell line
- Histology screening: skin, eye, brain, spleen, kidney, heart, gill and liver.
- Pathogen specific testing
 - Nodavirus
 - Polymerase chain reaction testing
 - Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus
 - Polymerase chain reaction testing