

## **Northern Harvest Smolt Limited Statement - April 28, 2020**

Northern Harvest Smolt Limited (NHSL) advises that the suspect detection of infectious salmon anemia (ISA) at its hatchery located in Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador has just been confirmed. Follow up sampling at the facility identified 8 fish as positive for pathogenic ISA, and six fish as positive for non-pathogenic ISA.

In response to this confirmation, and in keeping with best practice, NHSL is culling all 450,000 juvenile Atlantic Salmon that were raised with these positive fish. The investigation is continuing with further sampling. Should further fish be confirmed ISA positive through sampling, additional measures may be announced. All culled fish will be transported to a facility within the province that will convert these fish into biofuel. Post-cull, the facility will undergo a disinfecting process to ensure any presence of ISA is eradicated. An enhanced program of additional testing and monitoring will continue at the facility with the involvement of regulatory authorities after the cull. The facility will remain in a state of quarantine until the quarantine is lifted by regulatory authorities. The cull, disinfecting process, and continued monitoring activity will be conducted per standard operating procedures approved by regulators.

As noted previously, the suspect positive result was identified through our compliance with continuous testing protocols led by regulators. Per regulation, the suspect positive discovery was disclosed within 24 hours of detection, and in keeping with the industry's focus on public disclosure, NHSL is now publicly announcing the ISA confirmation and our response. We remind that ISA is not a human health issue or a food safety issue.

We thank our staff for their hard work and professionalism as they responded to this issue. NHSL will now proceed with making revisions to its production planning, and remains committed to continuing productive operations in Stephenville, and throughout Atlantic Canada.

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