

**Provisional declaration of disease-free status in accordance with chapter 4 of part II of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and Article 11 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002**

<i>Requirements/information needed</i>	<i>Information/further explanation and justification</i>
<b>1. Date of submission</b>	13 June 2024
1.1. Type of declaration	Disease-free status of a zone based on approved eradication programme (Article 77 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689)  Relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with.
<b>2. Declaring Member State</b>	SLOVENIA
2.1. Competent authority (address, fax, e-mail)	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (AFSVSPP), Dunajska 22, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  Fax: +386 1 300 13 56 Phone: +386 1 300 13 00 e-mail: <a href="mailto:uvhvvr@gov.si">uvhvvr@gov.si</a>  Contact: Vida Znoj, acting CVO (e-mail: <a href="mailto:vida.znoj@gov.si">vida.znoj@gov.si</a> )  Contact for the declaration: Tina Arič, animal health expert (e-mail: <a href="mailto:tina.aric@gov.si">tina.aric@gov.si</a> )
<b>3. Name of the disease</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VHS  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IHN
<b>4. Territorial scope with a description and demarcation and the names of the zones or compartments</b>	Proposed zone “Vjerb” consists of stream “Mrcinova grapa” from 2 springs to the natural barrier (waterfall). There is one establishment - fish farm in the zone.  <u>1. Fish farm Vjerb</u>  - registration number (GMID100094038) and approval number (SIRIB100115)  - lat: 46.03255, long: 13.83302

	<p><u>2. Part of the stream “Mrcinova grapa” from the springs to the natural barrier (waterfall)</u></p> <p>The stream has 2 springs, approx. 800 m upstream from the inlet for the fish farm. Both springs come into one stream approx. 260 m above the inlet. This part of the stream is managed by Fishing family Tolmin. According to their written statement, there is no active management of the stream and no repopulation.</p> <p>End of the proposed zone is a natural barrier - waterfall approx. 3m high (Lat: 46.0318, Long: 13.8353), which is situated 200 m downstream from the outlet from the fish farm.</p> <p>spring 1- Lat: 46.0337, Long: 13.8249; spring 2 – Lat: 46.0295, Long: 13.8250</p> <p>Photos: 1,4,6,7</p>
<p><b>5. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone, compartment or region if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme:</b></p>	
<p>a) the number of approved aquaculture establishments and the number of registered aquaculture establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population, by type of production and by health status (2) at 31 December</p>	<p>One approved establishment: Fish farm “Vjerb” (approval number SIRIB100115)</p> <p>It is a new farm which consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 round tanks, 3 m deep and 7 m in diameter, each volume of 100 m<sup>3</sup>; Each tank has 2 shafts (1,2 m in diameter) for inflating of air and one shaft (2 m in diameter) for bio-filter,</li> <li>- 3 sedimentation shafts (2 m in diameter) and one sedimentation shaft with bio-filtration (10 m long and 1,5 m wide) and</li> <li>- borehole for dissolving of oxygen and ozon.</li> </ul> <p>The system is half recirculation, and the capacity is 20 tonnes per year. The fish species reared is rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>). In the future, the operator intends to rear also marble trout (<i>Salmo marmoratus</i>). Fish reared at the fish farm are intended for human consumption, selling to other fish farms for further growth and for repopulation.</p>
<p>b) listed species kept in the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) by health status;</p>	<p>Rainbow trout – source of fish is a hatchery declared free of VHS/IHN of the same operator</p>
<p>(c) maps indicating: (i) the geographical location of the aquaculture</p>	<p>Photo 1</p>

<p>establishments referred to in point (a) and the relevant water catchment areas; and</p> <p>(ii) the geographical distribution of cases of infection with the relevant category B or C disease covering at least the past 5 years;</p>	/
<p>(d) information as regards the epidemiological situation in wild aquatic animals, where relevant.</p>	/
<p>5.4. The notification to the competent authority of the suspicion and confirmation of the disease(s) in question has been compulsory since when (date)?</p>	<p>VHS and IHN have been compulsory notifiable in Slovenia since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>Notification of VHS and IHN is to be performed in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulations (EU) 2020/689 and 2020/2002, which are directly applicable. In line with national Rules on animal diseases (UL RS, 81/07 and 24/10) which corresponds to the provisions of the EU legislation every suspicion (clinical signs or increased mortality) has to be notified to the specialists for fish diseases at NVI, who are responsible for the fish health. NVI has to notify the suspicion to the Regional office of AFSVSPP. Official veterinarian then performs the epidemiological inquiry and prescribes measures according to the legislation.</p> <p>AFSVSPP must notify the presence of VHS or IHN in line with point 1(c) Article 3 of Regulation 2020/2002/EU to the European Commission, the World organisation for animal health (OIE), and other member states using ADIS.</p>
<p>5.5. Early detection system in place throughout the Member States, enabling the competent authority to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting since when (date)?</p>	<p>Since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (points 1(b) and 1(c) of Article 18) operators are obliged to notify to NVI specialists for fish diseases every suspicion of VHS or IHN or any increased mortality. NVI has to confirm or rule out the disease as soon as possible and notify the official veterinarian who prescribes measures according to Regulation (EU) 2020/687.</p>
<p><b>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:</b></p>	
<p>a) the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex VI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for:</p> <p>i) health visits and sampling in aquaculture establishments</p> <p>ii) targeted surveillance in wild populations, where relevant;</p>	<p>Health visits and sampling according to the approved eradication programme are attached to this declaration.</p>

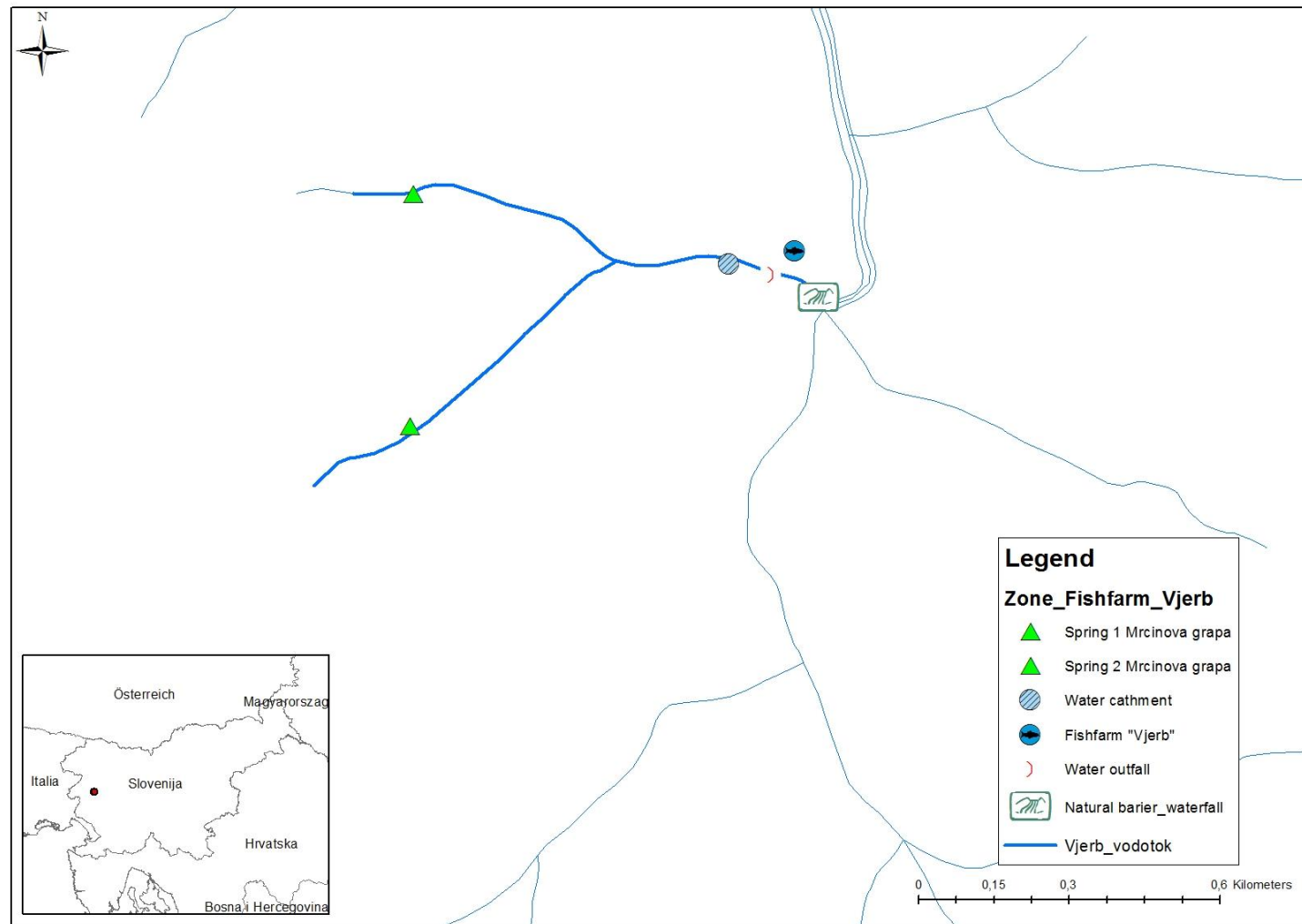
<p>b) the disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case</p>	<p>VHS and IHN have been compulsory notifiable in Slovenia since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>AFSVSPP must notify the presence of VHS or IHN in line with point 1(c) Article 3 of Regulation 2020/2002/EU to the European Commission, the World organisation for animal health (WOAH), and other member states using ADIS.</p> <p>According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (points 1(b) and 1(c) of Article 18 operators are obliged to notify to specialists for fish diseases at National veterinary institute (NVI) every suspicion of VHS or IHN or any increased mortality. NVI has to confirm or rule out the disease as soon as possible and notify the official veterinarian who prescribes measures according to Regulation (EU) 2020/687.</p>
<p>c) the biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented</p>	<p>Breeding is performed on the basis of good hygiene practice (regular cleaning and disinfection of equipment, disposal of dead fish, movement of personnel, protective barriers to prevent the migration of wild fish, rodent control, etc.). Fish farm is fenced.</p> <p>According to national legislation in place, each aquaculture establishment that applies for approval, need to establish a plan of hygiene measures before the approval. Biosecurity measures are in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.</p> <p>All movements of fish will be documented in the log which is present at the fish farm. Only fish from free status will be able enter the proposed zone.</p> <p>Fish tanks will be checked daily for the presence of dead or moribund fish. Data will be entered in the log present at the farm.</p> <p>Passage of fish from the farm to the open water and back is prevented by metal grids, which are placed at the inlet and outlet from the fish farm.</p> <p>Passage of fish to the proposed zone is prevented by the natural barrier (a waterfall approx. 3 m high) which is also the end of the proposed zone.</p> <p>Photos: 2,3,5,6</p>
<p><b>7. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:</b></p>	
<p>a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection (AFSVSPP), Regional Office Nova Gorica</li> <li>2. National Veterinary institute (NVI)</li> </ol>

<p>b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved</p>	<p>AFSVSPP acts as the competent authority and is organised as affiliated body to the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food. AFSVSPP – Regional office Nova Gorica, carries out inspection and control of the programme and maintaining the free status.</p> <p>Fish specialists from National veterinary institute (NVI specialists) perform animal health surveillance at the fish farms based on the risk level given. Official veterinarians (Regional office Nova Gorica) will perform inspections based on the given risk and yearly plan prepared by inspection and animal health and animal welfare division.</p> <p>For the purpose of animal health monitoring, AFSVSPP has set up the information technology system called CIS AFSVSPP EPI, which enables the traceability of samples from the point of sampling to a final assessment of test results.</p> <p>VHS and IHN have been compulsory notifiable in Slovenia since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>Notification of VHS and IHN is to be performed in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulations (EU) 2020/689 and 2020/2002, which are directly applicable. In line with national Rules on animal diseases (UL RS, 81/07 and 24/10) which corresponds to the provisions of the EU legislation every suspicion (clinical signs or increased mortality) has to be notified to the specialists for fish diseases at NVI, who are responsible for the fish health. NVI has to notify the suspicion to the Regional office of AFSVSPP. Official veterinarian than performs the epidemiological inquiry and prescribes measures according to the legislation.</p> <p>AFSVSPP must notify the presence of VHS or IHN in line with point 1(c) Article 3 of Regulation 2020/2002/EU to the European Commission, the World organisation for animal health (WOAH), and other member states using ADIS.</p> <p>According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (points 1(b) and 1(c) of Article 18) operators are obliged to notify to NVI specialists for fish diseases every suspicion of VHS or IHN or any increased mortality. NVI has to confirm or rule out the disease as soon as possible and notify the official veterinarian who prescribes eradication measures according to Regulation (EU) 2020/687.</p> <p>Operator of the approved fish farm in the zone is responsible for maintaining a high level of biosecurity, following restrictions, observation of fish health and notification if needed.</p> <p>Fishing family Tolmin, in charge of stream “Mrcinova grapa” which is part of the proposed zone, is responsible for maintaining a high level of biosecurity, following restrictions, observation of fish health and notification if needed.</p>
<p><b>8. The estimated duration of the eradication programme.</b></p>	

<p><b>9. The intermediate targets of, and the disease control strategies for implementing, the eradication programme including at least:</b></p>	
<p>(a) the expected annual decrease of the number of infected aquaculture establishments and where relevant, sampling points in wild populations;</p>	<p>/</p>
<p>(b) the expected annual increase of the number of aquaculture establishments and, where relevant, sampling points in wild populations that tested negative;</p>	<p>/</p>
<p>(c) the expected vaccination coverage, where relevant.</p>	<p>/</p>

Photo 1: Geographical location of the zone

## Zone Vjerb





Photos 2 and 3: Inlet to the fish farm





Photos 4 and 5: Fish farm and outlet from the fish farm





Photos 6 and 7: natural barrier and stream Mrcinova grapa





**Submission of information on sampling and clinical examinations according to Chapter I of Part II of Annex 6 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689**

**Data on testing animals**

zone “Vjerb” with stream “Mrcinova grapa” from 2 springs to the natural barrier (waterfall) and fish farm “Vjerb”

**Disease: VHS/IHN..... Year: ...2022, 2023 and 2024.....**

<b>Date of health visit</b>	<b>Date of sampling</b>	<b>Water temperature at sampling</b>	<b>Aquatic species present</b>	<b>Species sampled</b>	<b>Number of animals sampled (total and by species)</b>	<b>Laboratory carrying out the analysis</b>	<b>Result of health visit</b>	<b>Result of laboratory tests</b>
22/11/2022	22/11/2022	8,8 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
28/03/2023	28/03/2023	7,0 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
03/10/2023	03/10/2023	12,6 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
14/03/2024	14/03/2024	7,9 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative