

Provisional declaration of an eradication programme for IHN in accordance with chapter 3 of part II of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and Article 10 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002

Requirements/information to be submitted	Information/Further explanation and justification
1. Date sent to the Commission	29 June 2023
2. Member State	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: uvhvvr@gov.si Contact: Janez Posedi, PhD, acting CVO (janez.posedi@gov.si)
3. Disease	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (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	Fish farm on river Tolminka (registration number 100093989 and authorisation number SIRIB100113) Lat: 46.1727, Long: 13.7427 Municipality: Tolmin Photo 1: geographical location of the fish farm
5. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone, compartment, or region if more than one region is included in the territorial	Only fish farm on river Tolminka is included in the territorial scope of the eradication programme. Fish farm lost its free status at the end of 2022 when on 18 October the suspicion on IHN was established in rainbow trout for human consumption. The presence of IHNV was confirmed on 21

<p>scope of the programme:</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 at 31 December</p>	<p>October 2022.</p> <p>The farm is situated on the right bank of river “Tolminka” and upstream of cleaning plant. It is managed by operator Faronika d.o.o.</p> <p>Water for the fish farm comes from the fish farm “Tolmin” (the same operator) which is part of a compartment already declared free of VHS/IHN (in 2009). Water flows through a closed pipe (1080 m long) and comes to a cleaning tank at the fish farm. 10 smaller and 4 larger tanks are supplied with water from a cleaning tank through 2 separated pipes. Each tank has separated inlet and siphon outlet. All water flows to the sedimentation tank and after cleaning back to the river “Tolminka”. Height difference between outlets of water from the tanks, sedimentation tank and level of the river “Tolminka” prevents the passage of fish to the fish farm. Inlet of water into tanks, height difference between inlets and cleaning tank and cleaning tank with grid prevents the passage of fish from the fish farm to the fish farm “Tolmin”.</p> <p>Reared fish are intended for repopulation of open waters and human consumption.</p> <p>Photos: 2 - 9</p>
<p>(b) listed species kept in the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) by health status</p>	<p>The following species are reared at the fish farm: Marble trout (<i>Salmo marmoratus</i>), Grayling (<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>), Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) and Brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>).</p> <p>Source of fish: farms declared free of VHS/IHN</p>
<p>(c) maps indicating:</p> <p>(i) the geographical location of the aquaculture 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>Lat: 46.1727, Long: 13.7427</p> <p>Municipality: Tolmin</p> <p>There was no case of infection with IHN on this territory until the outbreak last year.</p> <p>Photo 1: geographical location of the fish farm</p>
<p>(d) information as regards the epidemiological situation in wild aquatic animals, where</p>	<p>/</p>

relevant.																
<p>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> <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>Specialists for fish diseases from National Veterinary Institute (NVI) perform animal health surveillance at the fish farm. Fish farm is classified as “high risk” and one clinical inspection per year is performed. Once per year, organs of fish are taken for the detection of VHS/IHN virus. (Annual decree on the carrying out of systematic surveillance of animal diseases and vaccination of animals, issued at the end of each year).</p> <p>Health visits and sampling will be performed in accordance with Model A, Table 1.A. Section 2 Chapter I Part II Annex VI of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="846 528 1993 715"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="846 528 1093 563">2-year programme</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="1093 528 1451 563">Health visits</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="1451 528 1993 563">Sampling</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="846 563 1093 639">1st year</td> <td data-bbox="1093 563 1263 639">Autumn 2023</td> <td data-bbox="1263 563 1451 639">Spring 2024</td> <td data-bbox="1451 563 1727 639">Autumn 2023: organs of 75 fish</td> <td data-bbox="1727 563 1993 639">Spring 2024: organs of 75 fish</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="846 639 1093 715">2nd year</td> <td data-bbox="1093 639 1263 715">Autumn 2024</td> <td data-bbox="1263 639 1451 715">Spring 2025</td> <td data-bbox="1451 639 1727 715">Autumn 2024: organs of 75 fish</td> <td data-bbox="1727 639 1993 715">Spring 2025: organs of 75 fish</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Used tests – isolation of VHSV and IHNV in cell culture followed by identification using antibody-based methods (indirect fluorescent antibody test) and molecular techniques.</p> <p>No targeted surveillance in wild populations is foreseen.</p>	2-year programme	Health visits		Sampling		1 st year	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Autumn 2023: organs of 75 fish	Spring 2024: organs of 75 fish	2 nd year	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Autumn 2024: organs of 75 fish	Spring 2025: organs of 75 fish
2-year programme	Health visits		Sampling													
1 st year	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Autumn 2023: organs of 75 fish	Spring 2024: organs of 75 fish												
2 nd year	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Autumn 2024: organs of 75 fish	Spring 2025: organs of 75 fish												
(b) the disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case	Disease control measures in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 (Articles 55 – 65) have been applied at the fish farm.															
(c) the biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented;	<p>Breeding is performed based on good hygiene practice (regular cleaning and disinfection of equipment, keeping of records, etc.). Fish farm is fenced, so the access of unauthorised persons and wild animals is prevented. Also, all tanks are covered which makes the access of predatory birds impossible.</p> <p>After the confirmation of IHNV the official veterinarian of the Regional office of Administration for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection (AFSVSPP) Nova Gorica issued the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish farm was declared to be infected - There was no movement of live fish allowed from the fish farm, only for dead fish on ice, 															

	<p>intended for human consumption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead fish had to be collected daily and removed from the fish farm in accordance with ABP Regulation - Strict Biosecurity measures were applied (cleaning and disinfection of equipment, disinfection barriers, traceability of movement of people, vehicles, etc.) <p>Eradication programme was prepared by National veterinary institute (NVI) and approved by AFSVSPP Headquarters. The programme consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emptying the fish farm - Cleaning and disinfection - Period of fallowing of at least 6 weeks - Repopulation with fish from fish farms declared free of VHS/IHN
(d) vaccination schemes, where relevant;	/
e) the measures to be implemented as regards wild aquatic animals and the number and geographical location of sampling points where relevant;	/
(f) the derogations to be applied in accordance with Article 53 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, where relevant;	/
(g) coordinated measures with other Member States or third countries, where relevant	/
<p>7. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:</p> <p>(a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and</p>	<p>Control and supervision of the programme is the responsibility of the Regional Office of AFSVSPP Nova Gorica. Official veterinarians work according to the plan, prepared at the end of each year. The plan is based on the level of risk, determined by specialist for fish health from the NVI.</p> <p>Fish farm is classified as “high” risk and one official visit per year is planned according to the plan.</p>

supervising the implementation of the programme;	For the purpose of implementing the programme and 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.
b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved.	<p>Specialist from NVI who is responsible for fish health perform clinical examination and take samples. NVI who is a National reference laboratory for fish diseases performs the diagnostic tests.</p> <p>Fish farmer is responsible to perform the eradication at the fish farm according to the approved eradication programme.</p>
8. The estimated duration of the eradication programme.	<p>2 years</p> <p>We expect that the eradication of the infected farm will be successful, and the farm will regain disease free status for IHN in spring 2025 when the last sampling is foreseen.</p>
<p>9. The intermediate targets of, and the disease control strategies for implementing, the eradication programme including at least:</p> <p>(a) the expected annual decrease of the number of infected aquaculture establishments and where relevant, sampling points in wild populations;</p>	It is planned that the fish farm will be emptied and fallowed at the end of June. Fallowing should last from 6 to 8 weeks. Sampling of fish from farm declared free of VHS/IHN is foreseen for autumn 2023.
(b) the expected annual increase of the number of aquaculture establishments and, where relevant, sampling points in wild populations that tested negative;	1
(c) the expected vaccination coverage, where relevant.	/