**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**

| ***Requirements/information needed*** | ***Information/further explanation and justification*** |
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| **1. Identification of the programme** | |
| 1.1. Declaring Member State | SLOVENIA |
| 1.2. 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<br>Fax: +386 1 300 13 56<br>Phone: +386 1 300 13 00<br>e-mail: uvhvvr@gov.si<br>Contact: Janez Posedi, PhD, acting CVO (e-mail: janez.posedi@gov.si) |
| 1.3. Type of declaration | Declaration of a zone free of VHS/IHN following a 2-year surveillance programme; surveillance programme was sent to the Commission on 20 May 2019 and was presented at PAFF on 12-13 June 2019. No comment was received.<br>Relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with. |
| 1.4. Date of publication | 29 June 2023 |
| **2. National legislation** | Veterinary Compliance Criteria Act (Official Gazette of RS, No. 93/05, 90/12 and 23/13), Rules on animal diseases (Official Gazette of RS, No. 81/07 and 24/10) and Rules on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals (Official Gazette of RS, No. 6/14) |
| **3. Listed diseases** | |
| 3.1. Fish | **X** VHS |

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| | **X** IHN<br>□ infection with HPR-deleted infectious salmon anaemia virus |
| 3.2. Molluscs | □ infection with *Marteilia refringens*<br>□ infection with *Bonamia ostrae*<br>□ infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* |
| 3.3. Crustaceans | □ White spot disease |
| **4. Identification of the grounds for recognition of disease free-status** | |
| 4.1. □ Absence of listed species | |
| 4.2. □ Disease agents's incapacity to survive | |
| 4.3. □ Historical and surveillance data | |
| 4.4. **X** Completion of an eradication programme | Sampling was performed in accordance with Model A and Table 1A of Commission implementing decision (EU) 2015/1554 of 11 September 2015 laying down rules for the application of Directive 2006/88/EC as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods (corresponds to Table 1A Chapter I Part II Annex VI of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689).<br>All diagnostics were performed by National veterinary institute (NVI), which acts also as National reference laboratory for fish diseases.<br>Used tests – isolation of VHSV and IHNV in cell culture followed by identification using antibody-based methods (indirect fluorescent antibody test) and molecular techniques. |
| **5. General information** | |
| 5.1. Competent authority | Competent authority is AFSVSPP, organised as affiliated |

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| | body to the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food. AFSVSPP carries out the administrative tasks, inspection and control in the veterinary sector. Within AFSVSPP, these tasks are implemented by the veterinary inspection service, divided between ten Regional Offices and two Border Inspection Posts (BIPs). |
| 5.2. Organisation, supervision of all stakeholders involved in the programme to achieve disease free status | According to the legislation, fish specialists from National veterinary institute (NVI specialist) perform animal health surveillance at the fish farm based on the risk level given.<br><br>Clinical examinations and sampling were performed according to the approved surveillance programme (Model A and Table 1A of Commission implementing decision (EU) 2015/1554).<br><br>Official veterinarians from AFSVSPP Regional office Ljubljana perform control of the implementation of the approved surveillance programme. Official control will be performed based on the given risk and yearly plan prepared by inspection and animal health and animal welfare division.<br><br>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. |
| 5.3. An overview of the structure of the aquaculture industry in the area in question (disease-free Member State, zone or compartment) including types of production and species kept | The proposed zone consists of the fish farm "Okroglo" and stream Bistričica from its spring(s) to the artificial dam (4,20 m high) approx. 1500 m downstream of the water inlet.<br>1. Fish farm "Okroglo" was built 15 years ago, but there hasn't been connection through pipes between water inlet and fish tanks till today. With construction of pipes the fish farm has become functional and ready to use. In 2020, the fish farm was approved by the Regional office of AFSVSPP Ljubljana (SIRIB0070113). Fish farm is managed by aquaculture production business operator |

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| | Vodomec d.o.o.<br>There are two concrete tanks (channel type) – 25m x 5,60 m x 1,30 m at the fish farm. Tanks are divided in to 6 units. The capacity of the fish farm is approx. 5 tonnes per year.<br>2. Stream Bistričica is a breeding stream for brown trout, managed by Fishing family Bistrica Domžale. There are several springs approx. 2700 m above the fish farm. According to the statement made by the fishing family, the upper part of the stream Bistričica, which is also part of the proposed zone, doesn't have active management, so there is no repopulation done there. During the last intervention Fishing family caught 26 brown trout and 8 european bullhead. Rainbow trout is not present.<br>First fish – rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) were brought to the fish farm in September 2020. Fish originate from fish farms declared free of VHS/IHN and managed by the same aquaculture business operator. Rainbow trout will be the only fish species reared at the fish farm and is intended mainly for further growing and for the repopulation of open waters.<br>Photos: 1-3, 7, 8 |
| 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)? | VHS and IHN have been compulsory notifiable in Slovenia since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)<br><br>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. |

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| | 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. |
| 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)? | Since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)<br><br>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. |
| 5.6. Source of aquaculture animals of species susceptible to the disease in question entering in the Member State, zone or compartments for farming. | Rainbow trout: fish farms declared free of VHS/IHN managed by the same aquaculture production business operator.<br>There is no active management in the part of the stream Bistričica included in the proposed zone. |
| 5.7. Biosecurity measures in place | Breeding at fish farm in the proposed zone 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.)<br><br>According to national legislation in place, each aquaculture establishment that applies for approval, need to send a plan of hygiene measures before the approval. Biosecurity measures are in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/42.<br><br>Fish farm “Okroglo” is fenced and protected with nets for the birds. Fish farm is protected against flooding.<br><br>All movements of fish are documented. For each repopulation a special record is issued with all the relevant data. Only fish from free status can enter the |

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| | proposed zone.<br><br>Fish tanks are checked daily for the presence of dead or moribund fish. Data is entered in the log present at the farm.<br><br>Source of water for the fish farm is stream Bistričica which arises approx. 2700 m upstream the fish farm. There are several springs, the main one in village Ambrož pod Krvavcem. The whole stream from springs to the water inlet for the fish farm is part of the proposed compartment. Inlet for the fish farm is on the left side of the stream, just above the artificial dam (2,10 m high).<br><br>There are several impassable artificial dams on the stream Bistričica. Approx. 400 m above the inlet is a 5,50 m high dam, there is one 2,10 m high dam just bellow the inlet and approx. 1500 m downstream the inlet is another 4,20 m high dam. This dam is also the end of proposed zone.<br>From the inlet to the fish tanks water comes through pipes.<br><br>Photos: 1-3, 4,5,6,9,10,11 |
| **6. Area covered** | |
| 6.1. □ Member State | |
| 6.2. □ Zone (entire water catchment area) | |
| 6.3.**X** Zone (part of water catchment area)<br><br>Identify and describe the artificial or natural barrier that delimits the zone and justify its capability to prevent the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area. | The proposed zone includes the fish farm “Okroglo” and stream Bistričica from the spring(s) to the artificial barrier (dam), approx. 1500 m downstream the fish farm “Okroglo”. This is a 4,20 m high dam which prevents the passage of fish to the proposed zone. There are several impassable artificial dams on the stream Bistričica.<br><br>Photos: 1-3, 4,5,6, 9,10 and 11 |

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| 6.4. □ Zone (more than one water catchment area) | | |
| 6.5. □ Compartment independent of the surrounding health status | | |
| Identify and describe for each farm the water supply | □ Well, borehole or spring<br>□ Water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen | |
| Identify and describe for each farm natural or artificial barriers and justify its capability to prevent that aquatic animals enter each farm in a compartment from the surrounding watercourses. | | |
| Identify and describe for each farm the protection against flooding and infiltration of water from the surrounding | | |
| 7.6**.** □ Compartment dependent on the surrounding health status | | |
| □ One epidemiological unit due to geographical localisation and distance from other farms/farming areas | | |
| □ All farms comprising the compartment fall within a common biosecurity system. Describe the common biosecurity system. | | |
| □ Any additional requirements | | |
| **7. Geographical demarcation** | | |
| 7.1. Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation) | | Fish farm “Okroglo”<br>Authorisation number SIRIB0070113<br>Lat: 46.272, Long: 14.574 |
| 7.2. □ Non-free buffer zone | Geographical demarcation | |

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| | Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers, geographical situation and health status) | |
| | Type of health surveillance | |
| 7.3. □ Non-free zones or compartments | Geographical demarcation | |
| | Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers geographical situation and health status) | |
| 7.4. □ Extension of disease-free zone to other Member States | Geographical demarcation[26] | |
| 7.5. □ Existing disease-free zones/compartments in the vicinity. | Geographical demarcation | |
| | Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation) | |
| **8. Farms or mollusc farming areas which commence or recommence their activities** | | |
| 8.1. □ New farm | | |
| 8.2. □ Recommencing farm | □ Health history of farm known to Competent authority | |
| | □ Not subject to animal health measures in respect of listed diseases | |
| | □ Farm cleaned, disinfected and, as necessary, fallowed | |