



ST'ÁT'IMC

St'át'imc Nation

PO Box 2218
650 Industrial Place
Lillooet, BC V0K 1V0

www.statimc.net

News Release

November 7th, 2011

Lillooet, BC - The lethal salmon virus, Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), detected in the central BC coast has now been found in Fraser River salmon and coho. The St'át'imc Nation fears an impending disaster to their fish stocks.

As printed in canada.com: A Seattle biologist is sounding the alarm after obtaining a leaked copy of a Canadian Food Inspection Agency report that he says identified ISA in fish from a Fraser River tributary. In mid-October, researchers at Simon Fraser University announced test results confirmed the presences of a marine influenza called ISA virus in two of 48 juvenile sockeye salmon collected in Rivers Inlet.

The disease is known to be associated with commercially farmed Atlantic salmon around the world.

Biologist Alexandra Morton said in *The Province* on November 4th, "The terrible thing about the work that myself and [SFU researcher Rick] Routledge have done is that it's tiny. We looked at 60 fish, and we got it in two different generations, 600 kilometers apart. That's a huge red flag."

St'át'imc Chiefs Council Chair, Mike Leach said, "We need to start by coming to a collective realization that if man made fish are allowed into the oceans and rivers which are meant for wild fish stocks, this will result in the extinction of most, if not all species of wild fish. This has always been common knowledge for Indigenous Peoples. Therefore the right thing to do is to destroy all man-made fish stocks for the sake of saving our wild salmon stocks".

Morton's samples are now being tested in Canada's official ISA lab in Moncton, NB. The strain of the virus is unknown at this point, as is its effects on wild salmon.

ST'ÁT'IMC

“Salmon farms break the natural laws, and viruses, bacteria and parasites are the beneficiaries of the behaviour,” Morton wrote in an internet blog.

"It is at times like this that all organizations, communities, Indigenous Peoples and their respective Nation Governments, both Federal and Provincial Governments, US Governments and their States, Commissions , DFO, commercial, sports fisheries, etc. need to come together and care for the fish in a manner that staves off extinction of all fish stocks,” said Leach.