A3.2 Sampling Position Statements

A. 2000 – 2002 Position Statements

1. **Initial Position Statement**
   This chapter was by far the most difficult to develop, due to the vast nature of situations and scenarios an inspector might come across. It is impossible to cover all scenarios and situations; therefore, while we have done our best to cover as much as we can, it will remain incumbent on the inspector to determine how best to sample in any given situation. Individual jurisdictions are likely to require different criteria and those criteria shall supersede the recommendations set forth in this chapter.

B. 2002 – 2003 Position Statements

1. **Should a sampling exemption be recommended for facilities on SPF water, no fish introductions, and a history of negative testing?**

   a. All members of the committee recognized the importance of limiting the destruction of valuable brood stock but felt strongly that annual surveillance of all lots must be mandatory. The committee compared the lot definitions and sampling requirements of this handbook with the OIE and Title 50. The OIE does allow reduced sample sizes after two years of negative results but no exemptions are given. In conclusion, the committee does not agree that any exemption would be appropriate, but did agree to discuss, over the next year, whether sampling requirements could be modified to spare valuable brood fish while still maintaining sufficiently stringent disease surveillance.

2. **Changes made as a result of the inclusion of *Piscirickettsia salmonis.***

   a. *Piscirickettsia salmonis* added to Table 2.1.

   b. Tissue collection procedures added to Section 2, 2.2.E.3.

C. 2003 – 2004 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.

D. 2004-2005 Position Statements

1. **Under certain conditions, is it acceptable to use non-lethal sampling methods in lieu of killing 60 fish for a health inspection?**
   a. In some cases, captive brood stocks in hatcheries with protected water supplies have been tested at the 5% level for years without detecting pathogens covered by the inspection manual. Could samples be obtained in a non-lethal manner and used to satisfy sampling requirements for inspections?

b. In other cases, remnant populations may exist (which may be threatened or endangered species) and there may be a desire to use adult fish from these populations as a source of gametes for restoration purposes. Rather than killing 60 fish, could samples be obtained non-lethally and still meet Blue Book inspection criteria?

c. This was the first time this question was brought before the Oversight Committee. There was some discussion among the Committee members, recognizing that non-lethal sampling techniques may exist for some pathogens, however trials to show equivalency with lethal methods have not been done for all pathogens.

d. At this time, the Oversight Committee agreed that no changes be made in the inspection manual regarding the use of non-lethal methods for fish health inspections. However, the Oversight Committee encourages researchers and fish health biologists to address this question by beginning to collect comparative data to show equivalency of methods, and to consider developing new diagnostic tools that are geared toward the type of samples that can be obtained non-lethally (ovarian fluids, mucous, intestinal swabs, feces, blood, gill tissue, etc.) and in the quantities likely to be non-lethal to the fish. This topic is of interest in Canada as well as the United States; the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee has made non-lethal sample collection for inspections a top research priority.

E. 2006 – 2007 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.

F. 2008 – 2010 Position Statements

See 2008-2010 Bacteriology Position Statement A.3.3.

G. 2011 – 2012 Position Statements

1. **The Review and Oversight Committee agreed that a fixed transportation temperature of 4.0^{0}C for shipping fish tissue samples to a fish health diagnostic laboratory did not reflect the true ambient temperature of the inside of a shipping container.**

   a. **Text within the Sampling Chapter of the Inspection Manual under section A (Guidelines for Preparation of a Fish Health Inspection) and section E (Sample Collection) which states; "Samples must be shipped and stored at greater than 0^{0}C, but less than 4^{0}C" will be replaced in three places of these two sections with "Greater than 0^{0}C, but less than 10^{0}C with a target temperature of 4^{0}C".**

H. 2013 – 2014 Position Statements

No changes or reviews requested.