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February 22, 2007

Dear Gentlemen:

Further to recent press reports in the Chilean newspaper *La Nacion*¹, the Pure Salmon Campaign ask that Salmon of the Americas and SalmonChile provide the names of any companies involved in crystal violet contamination of farmed salmon.

Information obtained under Freedom of Information by the Pure Salmon Campaign from the UK Government identifies Chile as the source of contaminated farmed salmon². A letter from the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Debby Reynolds, to Sr. Hernan Rojas Olavarria, Director of the Department de Proteccion Pecuaria at the Ministry of Agriculture (copied to the British Ambassador in Chile) stated that this is "a matter of serious concern" (letter attached).

Despite this, the UK Government has refused to name any Chilean companies involved in crystal violet contamination of farmed salmon. A letter dated 16th February 2007 from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (letter attached) stated:

"However, we have withheld the Chilean import documentation and have redacted from the Sample Information Table the names of the farming companies, producers and producers' registration numbers. The import documentation from Chile to Thailand relating to this sample showed that the consignment consisted of lots from more than one company/farm. This documentation which lists the companies involved was provided voluntarily to the VMD by a third party. Having taken account of the third party's views (in accordance with the Code of Practice, as above) it is our judgment that its disclosure could adversely affect their legitimate economic interests and the likelihood of them and other companies volunteering similar information in the future".

¹ "Parlamentarios piden conocer nombres de salmoneras acusadas por ingleses - Mientras una nueva alerta sanitaria fue emitida por Canadá" (La Nacion, 20th February 2007: www.lanacion.cl

"Reino Unido confirma partida de salmón contaminado" (La Nacion, 18th February 2007): http://www.lanacion.cl/prontus_noticias/site/artic/20070217/pags/20070217204416.html

² MAVIS (Edition 61, January 2007): <http://www.vmd.gov.uk/Publications/MAVIS/Full/mavis61.pdf>

It also stated that:

“On 2 January we received a copy of the import documentation from Chile to Thailand, cited above. As explained, this showed that the consignment which included the contaminated fish consisted of lots from more than one company/farm and therefore did not specifically identify the producer of the contaminated lot”.

Information supplied by the UK Government on 19th February 2007 names the retailer (Tesco), the supplier (Findus Ltd) and the exporter (Findus (Thailand) Ltd) but the name of any Chilean companies involved is blackened out. Photographs of the packaging (complete with barcode identification) were provided by the UK Government but the name of the company involved is not listed (Appendix 1 attached here).

Further information provided by the UK Government on 19th February 2007 reveals that out of 100 samples of farmed salmon tested between April 2006 and 31st January 2007 only four were from Chile. However, the UK Government chose to withhold the Chilean import documentation and remove the names of the farming companies, producers and producers’ registration numbers (Appendix 2 attached here).

In the spirit of transparency and traceability, the Pure Salmon Campaign therefore asks that Salmon of the Americas and SalmonChile provide specific details of all the companies involved in crystal violet contamination. We refer you specifically to two recent Salmon of the Americas advertisements; one featuring farmed salmon with a passport and another with a barcode stamped across the farmed salmon.

The passport advertisement published in January 2007 claims³:

“Identity – it’s as important with ocean farmed salmon. Traceability, Who are you? Where were you yesterday, last week, last year? Ocean farmed salmon have their own passport-one that tells you where each fish came from, what it ate and when it was harvested. That’s one of the things that takes the mystery out of buying salmon and makes farmed salmon reliable for your business and your customers. Ocean farmed salmon. No matter where they came from, their history is no mystery”.

The barcode advertisement published in December 2006 claims⁴:

“Confidence – confirmed identity. Traceability, ocean farmed salmon have their own identification that tells you where each fish came from, what it ate and when it was harvested. That’s one of the things that takes the mystery out of buying salmon and makes farmed salmon reliable for your business and your customers. Ocean farmed salmon. No matter where they came from, their history is no mystery”.

It would therefore be much appreciated if you will confirm the identity of any companies involved in crystal violet contamination. We request that you circulate this request to all

³ Intrafish, January 2007 (p11): Download via <http://www.intrafish.no/global/paper/p200701/>

⁴ Intrafish, December 2006 (p7): Download via <http://www.intrafish.no/global/paper/p200612/>

salmon farming companies and processors in Chile. As Salmon of the Americas acknowledge, the public have a right to know where their farmed salmon came from.

Finally, could Salmon of the Americas and SalmonChile provide further information on an Import Alert issued last week (dated 12th February 2007) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding Emamectin/Ivermectin in a product exported by Fjord Seafood Chile?

A search of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's web-site reveals the following Import Alert⁵:

Country/Economy	Product Type	Processor	Product	Analysis	Alert Type	Date on IAL	Last Reject	Pass Count	Container Design
CHILE	FRESH OR LIVE	FJORD SEAFOOD CHILE (CULTIVADORA DE SALMONES LINAO, LTDA) (# 10135)		ALL PRODUCTS	EMAMECTIN / IVERMECTIN		ALI	2007/02/12	2007/02/12 0

The Pure Salmon Campaign looks forward to a response as soon as possible. We have also written to the UK Government, retailers and Findus asking for further information on this serious incident.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kavanagh
Director
Pure Salmon Campaign

Cristian Perez Muñoz
Chilean Representative
Pure Salmon Campaign

Don Staniford
European Representative
Pure Salmon Campaign

Attachments:

- 1) UK Government documents obtained under FOI
 - Letter dated 16th February 2007 from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate
 - Appendix 1
 - Appendix 2
 - Letter dated 15th January 2007 from the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer to Sr Hernan Rojas Olavarria, Director of the Department de Proteccion Pecuaria at the Ministry of Agriculture (copied to the British Ambassador in Chile)
- 2) Salmon of the Americas 'Passport' advertisement
- 3) Salmon of the Americas 'Barcode' advertisement

⁵http://active.inspection.gc.ca/scripts/fispoi/ial/IALresults.asp?FormReq=Y&lang=e&frmCountry=CHILE&frmProduct_Type=&frmProcessor=&frmProduct=&frmDate_On_IAL=&frmLast_Reject=&m=20

If the above direct link does not work, just type Chile into <http://active.inspection.gc.ca/scripts/fispoi/ial/IALFront.asp?lang=e>

Cc.

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