

Declaration of Approved Zone Status for Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS) Under Commission Decision 2007/570/EC

Declaration

In accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC the United Kingdom declares that the programme for the re-establishment of approved zone status for viral haemorrhagic septicaemia as approved in Commission Decision 2007/570/EC has been successfully completed.

The following areas are now considered as a part of the GB approved zone for VHS

- the catchment areas of the river Ouse from its sources to its normal tidal limit at Naburn Lock and Weir
- a buffer zone consisting of the waters of the Humber Estuary from the normal tidal limits at Barmby Barrage, Naburn Lock and Weir, the railway bridge at Ulleskelf, Chapel Haddlesey Weir and Long Sandall Lock, to a line drawn due north from the jetty at Whitgift.

A single approved zone for VHS now exists across the whole of GB.

Background

In May 2006 the UK suspended its approved status for VHS for the whole of GB following the identification of VHS at a single trout farm in North Yorkshire. The fish stocks were culled and the fish farm was subsequently disinfected and fallowed. Statutory controls were placed on the Greater Ouse river catchment. Investigations of farmed and wild fish stocks across the catchment indicated that the disease was restricted to the one affected farm.

On 17 October 2006 a surveillance programme commenced to demonstrate freedom from VHS with a view to the re-establishment of approved zone status across the whole of GB. This programme was developed in accordance with Article 49 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC. The programme was approved by the European Commission on 20 August 2007 through Commission Decision 2007/570/EC

The application for an approved programme to regain approved zone status can be found at: www.efishbusiness.co.uk/news/UKApp.pdf

The approved programme was carried out in full accordance with the application. No evidence for VHS was found during the surveillance programme.

Article 8 of Council Directive 93/53 on minimum control measures for the control of certain fish diseases requires that epizootic investigations into the VHS outbreak are carried out. A report 'An epidemiological investigation into

an outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia in Yorkshire, United Kingdom' was submitted to the European Commission on 28 March 2007.

A copy of this report can be found at:

www.efishbusiness.co.uk/news/EpiReport.pdf

A second report on the molecular epidemiological findings can be found at:

www.efishbusiness.co.uk/news/EpiReport2.pdf

In accordance with Article 50 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC this declaration, and supporting evidence has been made available through electronic means to the Commission and to Member States on

www.efishbusiness.com/news/080827.pdf