

## KHV – Q&A – 12 July 2010

### What is Koi Herpesvirus (KHV)?

- Koi herpesvirus (KHV) disease is a viral disease of common carp *Cyprinus carpio* and its variants including mirror carp, ghost carp and koi. The virus was first recorded in Israel in 1998, following large-scale mortalities of koi. More recently the virus has been isolated from a number of countries throughout the world and has been associated with an increasing number of mortalities of both ornamental koi, and of common carp in managed fisheries in England. In all instances so far recorded, the disease has been restricted to common carp and its variants.

### Does KHV disease have implications for human health?

- No

### Why is a status being chosen?

- Council Directive 2006/88/EC extended the list of EU notifiable diseases to include KHV disease, thus placing an obligation on the Government to establish an official health status.
- The Impact Assessment quantifies the impacts of each health status on various sectors of the aquatic industry.

### What does it mean declaring Category V (infected)?

- Nothing will change from the current control arrangements when an outbreak is confirmed. Affected sites will not be able to move live fish until they have been destocked, cleaned and disinfected, or, where this is not possible (i.e. some fisheries) after a 4 year monitoring programme has demonstrated absence of the virus.

### Trade Impact:

- Imports of susceptible species from countries outside the EU into GB, and from other MSs into GB will continue under the current animal health certification requirements.
- As an additional disease mitigation measure, Article 18 of the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 requires that fish imported for stocking into the wild including into managed fisheries need to meet Category I health standards.
- Movements of susceptible species will not be possible from GB to areas of a higher health status in other Member States (e.g. Hungary, ROI), with the exception of compartments (e.g. individual farms) which have gained KHV free status (i.e. category I).

- All movements of susceptible species require health certification however only those imported for stocking into the wild or into fisheries must include declarations of KHV disease freedom.
- All importers of live fish and shellfish into GB from another UK territory e.g. Isle of Man, Channel Islands, and Northern Ireland, other EU Member States or third countries must be authorised by the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI).

### **Illegal Imports:**

- The Fish Health Inspectorate will continue to vigorously enforce trade controls and will proactively investigate any suspicion of the illegal import of fish. To facilitate this the FHI has teamed up with a number of its most influential partners, including ECHO, the Angling Trust, Cemex, and the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association (OATA), to sponsor a new initiative, targeting the illegal importation of fish and the theft of expensive angling equipment.
- The project is in conjunction with the crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers, Crimestoppers operates a telephone number (0800 555 111) and website ([www.crimestoppers-uk.org/](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)) to enable people to pass on information about crime anonymously. By providing complete anonymity it is hoped that the angling community will be encouraged to take more responsibility for their sport and report illegal activity.

### **Devolved Administrations:**

- Scotland will also be declaring Category V (infected) status. This will allow continued free movement of susceptible species between the three regions (England, Wales and Scotland).
- Northern Ireland is slightly different in that they have very few fisheries with KHV susceptible species and have seen no outbreaks of the disease. Additionally, it made sense for them to follow the Republic of Ireland declared status, as they are part of the same epidemiological region. Therefore, Northern Ireland has submitted a declaration to the EU Commission, for Category II (surveillance programme) status.

### **KHV status for England has been a lengthy process:**

- To ensure that Ministers were able to make an informed decision we built up an evidence base using the information available to us. This included undertaking an impact assessment for which we commissioned additional research and epidemiological modelling.
- Additionally, the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 that implement Council Directive 2006/88/EC only came into force in March 2009.

## Research/ Modelling:

KHV research and modelling work was used to inform the decision making process. This research has resulted in a number of published peer reviewed papers. Details of this research and modelling:

**1. FC1180 - Investigating the distribution of Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) in England and Wales**

01 March 2007 – 31 July 2009

Total cost: £206,054.12

Final report received in July 2009, was peer reviewed and published on <http://www.efishbusiness.co.uk/news/080902a.pdf>

**2. An assessment of the impact of imported carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) vaccinated against KHV from Israel on the site level prevalence of KHV in England and Wales**

Produced by Cefas in September 2008

Peer reviewed and published on

<http://www.efishbusiness.co.uk/news/081024.pdf>

**3. Modelling work on the spread of KHV in carp fisheries in England and Wales** - produced to help inform the evidence base for KHV disease status consultation)

The work was produced by Cefas in December 2009. A summary is available <http://www.efishbusiness.com/news/khv-modelling-work.pdf>

**4. FC1167 - Research into Koi herpesvirus and other important viral pathogens of cyprinid fish species**

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=13393&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=koi&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

01 April 2005 - 31 March 2009

Total cost: £558,481

## What financial information has Defra used to inform the impact assessment?

- Defra has used the financial information available for the purpose of undertaking the economic analysis. We are unable to take account of financial information provided specifically for other purposes.

## Koi herpesvirus disease remains a notifiable disease and any suspicion of its presence should be immediately reported to:

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in Weymouth

Tel: 01035 206700

E-mail: [fhi@cefas.co.uk](mailto:fhi@cefas.co.uk)