

Provisional declaration of disease-free status in accordance with chapter 4 of part II of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 and Article 11 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002

<i>Requirements/information needed</i>	<i>Information/further explanation and justification</i>
1. Identification of the programme	
1.1. Declaring Member State	SLOVENIA
1.2. Competent authority (address, fax, e-mail)	Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection (AFSVSPP), Dunajska 22, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia Fax: +386 1 300 13 56 Phone: +386 1 300 13 00 e-mail: uvhvvr@gov.si Contact point: Matjaž Guček, CVO (e-mail: matjaz.gucek@gov.si)
1.3. Type of declaration	Declaration of a compartment free of VHS/IHN following a 2-year surveillance programme; surveillance programme was sent to the Commission on 20 May 2019 and was presented at PAFF on 12-13 June 2019. No comment was received. Relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with.
1.4. Date of publication	12 July 2021
2. National legislation	Veterinary Compliance Criteria Act (Official Gazette of RS, No. 93/05, 90/12 and 23/13), Rules on animal diseases (Official Gazette of RS, No. 81/07 and 24/10) and Rules on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals (Official Gazette of RS, No. 6/14)
3. Listed diseases	
3.1. Fish	X VHS

	<p>X IHN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> infection with HPR-deleted infectious salmon anaemia virus</p>
3.2. Molluscs	<p><input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Marteilia refringens</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Bonamia ostrae</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Bonamia exitiosa</i></p>
3.3. Crustaceans	<p><input type="checkbox"/> White spot disease</p>
4. Identification of the grounds for recognition of disease free-status	
4.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Absence of listed species	
4.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Disease agents's incapacity to survive	
4.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Historical and surveillance data	
4.4. X Completion of an eradication programme	<p>Sampling was performed in accordance with Model A and Table 1A of Commission implementing decision (EU) 2015/1554 of 11 September 2015 laying down rules for the application of Directive 2006/88/EC as regards requirements for surveillance and diagnostic methods (corresponds to Table 1A Chapter I Part II Annex VI of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689).</p> <p>All diagnostics were performed by National veterinary institute (NVI), which acts also as National reference laboratory for fish diseases.</p> <p>Diagnostic methods used: isolation on cell culture following virus identification</p>
5. General information	
5.1. Competent authority	<p>Competent authority is AFSVSPP, organised as affiliated body to the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food. AFSVSPP carries out the administrative tasks, inspection</p>

	<p>and control in the veterinary sector. Within AFSVSPP, these tasks are implemented by the veterinary inspection service, divided between ten Regional Offices and two Border Inspection Posts (BIPs).</p>
<p>5.2. Organisation, supervision of all stakeholders involved in the programme to achieve disease free status</p>	<p>Specialists for fish diseases from NVI, once per year, take samples of semen/ovarian fluid for the detection of VHS/IHN virus in the frame of Rules on the carrying out of systematic surveillance of animal diseases and vaccination of animals, issued at the end of each year.</p> <p>Specialists for fish diseases from NVI performed animal health surveillance at farm inside the proposed dependent compartment. Fish farm “Temenica” is classified as “high risk” and three clinical inspections per year are performed. Clinical examinations and sampling were performed according to the approved surveillance programme (Model A and Table 1A of Commission implementing decision (EU) 2015/1554).</p> <p>Official veterinarians from AFSVSPP Regional office Novo mesto perform control of the implementation of the approved surveillance programme.</p> <p>For the purposes of implementing the programme and animal health monitoring, AFSVSPP has set up the information technology system called CIS AFSVSPP EPI, which enables the traceability of samples from the point of sampling to a final assessment of test results.</p>
<p>5.3. An overview of the structure of the aquaculture industry in the area in question (disease-free Member State, zone or compartment) including types of production and species kept</p>	<p>Fish farm “Temenica” is managed by aquaculture production business operator Novo mesto Fishing club. The source of water for the fish farm is the karst spring, which functions as a capture above the dam of a small HE. The dam is more than 5 m high, so the passage of fish from the river is not possible. There is a shaft in the capture, from where the water flows to the fish farm through a channel. The outlet of water from the fish farm is channelled back to the river Temenica. Karst spring is the third spring of the river, which disappears into the ground twice before entering the fish farm. Due to type of</p>

the spring, the passage of the fish from upstream part of the sinking river into the fish farm is not possible.

Fish farm Temenica consists of:

- the hatchery with 28 concrete tanks and capacity of 2 million eggs. Hatchery is situated in the cellar of the main building, where there are also facilities for personnel and storage;

- 10 concrete tanks for fry;

- 1 concrete tank for brood stock;

- 4 concrete tanks for fingerlings;

- 13 concrete tanks for fish fit for consumption;

- 2 concrete tanks for sorting the fish.

Capacity of the fish farm is approx.. 30 to 35 tonnes of market-size rainbow trout, approx.. 200.000 fingerlings (1 year) of indigenous salmonids and up to 5 tonnes of grown fingerlings of indigenous salmonids for repopulation of open waters.

Species reared at the fish farm are rainbow trout, brown trout and danube salmon.

Rainbow trout is reared mainly for human consumption, approx. 3 to 5 tonnes are intended for introduction into open waters. Other species are reared for the repopulation of open waters according to the yearly plan.

River Temenica

River Temenica is a carst river, with 3 springs upstream the fish farm. River is managed by Novo mesto Fishing club and Fishing family Grosuplje. The first spring is in the village Javorje (lat: 46.00091 and long: 14.85263), the second in the village Vrhpeč (lat: 45.88006 and long: 15.06685) and the third at the fish farm (lat: 45.81812 and long: 15.10213).

The following species are present in the part of the river, which is proposed as a buffer zone: brown trout, chub, Danube salmon, carp, pike, common roach and cactus roach. Presence of the rainbow trout is negligible. This part of the river is managed only by Novo mesto Fishing club. The only species for the repopulation is brown

	<p>trout, originating from the fish farm “Temenica”.</p> <p>Photo 1 – fish farm and photo 2 – river Temenica</p>
<p>5.4. The notification to the competent authority of the suspicion and confirmation of the disease(s) in question has been compulsory since when (date)?</p>	<p>VHS and IHN have been compulsory notifiable in Slovenia since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>Notification of VHS and IHN is to be performed in line with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Regulations (EU) 2020/689 and 2020/2002, which are directly applicable. In line with national Rules on animal diseases (UL RS, 81/07 and 24/10) which corresponds to the provisions of the EU legislation every suspicion (clinical signs or increased mortality) has to be notified to the specialists for fish diseases at NVI, who are responsible for the fish health. NVI has to notify the suspicion to the Regional office of AFSVSPP. Official veterinarian than performs the epidemiological inquiry and prescribes measures according to the legislation.</p> <p>AFSVSPP must notify the presence of VHS or IHN in line with point 1(c) Article 3 of Regulation 2020/2002/EU to the European Commission, the World organisation for animal health (OIE), and other member states using ADIS.</p>
<p>5.5. Early detection system in place throughout the Member States, enabling the competent authority to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting since when (date)?</p>	<p>Since 1987 (Law on animal health, Official Gazette of SRS, no. 37/85)</p> <p>According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (points 1(b) and 1(c) of Article 18) operators are obliged to notify to NVI specialists for fish diseases every suspicion of VHS or IHN or any increased mortality. NVI has to confirm or rule out the disease as soon as possible and notify the official veterinarian who prescribes measures according to Regulation (EU) 2020/687.</p>
<p>5.6. Source of aquaculture animals of species susceptible to the disease in question entering in the Member State, zone or compartments for farming.</p>	<p>Rainbow trout – fish farms declared free of VHS/IHN (Category I);</p> <p>Brown trout – brood stock present at the fish farm; fish</p>

	<p>from fish farms declared free of VHS/IHN (Category I) and fish from open waters in the vicinity (in this case fish would be stripped and eggs brought to the fish farm through quarantine facility)</p> <p>Optional - Danube salmon – open waters in the vicinity (in this case fish would be stripped and eggs brought to the fish farm through quarantine facility)</p>
<p>5.7. Biosecurity measures in place</p>	<p>Breeding at fish farm in the proposed compartment is performed on the basis of good hygiene practice (regular cleaning and disinfection of equipment, disposal of dead fish, movement of personnel, protective barriers to prevent the migration of wild fish, rodent control, etc.)</p> <p>According to national legislation in place, each aquaculture establishment that applies for approval, need to send a plan of hygiene measures before the approval. Biosecurity measures are in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/42.</p> <p>All movements of fish are documented. For each repopulation a special record is issued with all the relevant data. Only fish from free status can enter the proposed zone.</p> <p>Fish farm “Temenica”, excluding the part which borders river “Temenica”, is fenced (2,5 m high). Tanks are partially covered with nets and wires and are protected against predatory birds.</p> <p>Fish tanks are checked daily for the presence of dead or moribund fish. Data is entered in the log present at the farm.</p> <p>The source of water for the fish farm is the karst spring, which functions as a capture above the dam of a small HE. The dam is more than 5 m high, so the passage of fish from the river is not possible. There is a shaft in the capture, from where the water flows to the fish farm through a channel. The outlet of water from the fish farm is channelled back to the river Temenica. Karst spring is the third spring of the river, which disappears into the</p>

		ground twice before entering the fish farm. Due to type of the spring, the passage of the fish from upstream part of the sinking river into the fish farm is not possible. Photos 3,4 and 5
6. Area covered		
6.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Member State		
6.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (entire water catchment area)		
6.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (part of water catchment area) Identify and describe the artificial or natural barrier that delimits the zone and justify its capability to prevent the upward migration of aquatic animals from the lower stretches of the water catchment area.		
6.4. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (more than one water catchment area)		
6.5. <input type="checkbox"/> Compartment independent of the surrounding health status		
Identify and describe for each farm the water supply	<input type="checkbox"/> Well, borehole or spring <input type="checkbox"/> Water treatment plant inactivating the relevant pathogen	
Identify and describe for each farm natural or artificial barriers and justify its capability to prevent that aquatic animals enter each farm in a compartment from the surrounding watercourses.		
Identify and describe for each farm the protection against flooding and infiltration of water from the surrounding		
7.6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compartment dependent on the surrounding health status		
<input type="checkbox"/> One epidemiological unit due to geographical localisation and distance from other farms/farming areas		Proposed compartment includes fish farm "Temenica" from the karst spring of the river Temenica (lat: 45.8113 and long: 15.1093), which functions as a capture above the dam of a small HE to the outlet of water from the fish

	<p>farm back to the river. Karst spring is the 3rd spring of the river, which sinks under the ground twice before this. As the compartment is dependant of the surrounding waters and there is one small farm for human consumption near the first spring of the river in the village Javorje (lat: 46.00091 and long: 14.85263), the additional measure in the proposed surveillance programme is the establishment of a buffer zone.</p> <p>Photo 6 – Temenica buffer zone</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> All farms comprising the compartment fall within a common biosecurity system. Describe the common biosecurity system.</p>	<p>Fish farm “Temenica” is managed by aquaculture production business operator Novo mesto Fishing club. Part of the river Temenica (approx. 8 km long) which is included in the buffer zone is also managed by Novo mesto Fishing club.</p> <p>See also point 5.7.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Any additional requirements</p>	<p>As the proposed compartment is dependent of the surrounding waters, buffer zone was established. Buffer zone includes approx. 8 km of the river, from the second karst spring in the village “Vrhpeč” ((lat: 45.88006 and long: 15.06685) to the village “Goriška vas” (lat: 45.83886 and long: 15.09163) where the river disappears under the ground for the last time before entering the fish farm.</p> <p>(See photo)</p> <p>Due to the fact that only small number of wild fish are present in this part of the river, that the presence of rainbow trout is negligible and that only brown trout from fish farm “Temenica” is used for the repopulation, the sampling in the buffer zone is not reasonable. That is why passive surveillance was put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repopulation of fish only from fish farm “Temenica” or farm/compartment/zone free of VHS/IHN, - notification of any abnormalities, increased mortality to National veterinary institute, - sampling of ovarian/semen fluid of broodstock of

		<p>brown trout inside fish farm “Temenica” from where fingerlings are repopulated to the buffer zone.</p> <p>Instead of the sampling in buffer zone, intensified surveillance was performed in the fish farm “Temenica”.</p>
7. Geographical demarcation		
7.1. Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)		Fish farm “Temenica” (registration number 100090019, authorisation number SIRIB110104; lat: 45.8113, long: 15.1093)
7.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-free buffer zone	Geographical demarcation	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers, geographical situation and health status)	
	Type of health surveillance	
7.3. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-free zones or compartments	Geographical demarcation	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers geographical situation and health status)	
7.4. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of disease-free zone to other Member States	Geographical demarcation ²⁶	
7.5. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing disease-free zones/compartments in the vicinity.	Geographical demarcation	
	Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)	
8. Farms or mollusc farming areas which commence or recommence their activities		
8.1. <input type="checkbox"/> New farm		

8.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommencing farm	<input type="checkbox"/> Health history of farm known to Competent authority	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to animal health measures in respect of listed diseases	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm cleaned, disinfected and, as necessary, fallowed	