

**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**

<b><i>Requirements/information needed</i></b>	<b><i>Information/further explanation and justification</i></b>
<b>1. Date of submission</b>	14 July 2025
1.1. Type of declaration	Disease-free status of an aquaculture establishment based on approved eradication programme (Article 77 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689). Eradication programme was sent to the COM and MS on 30 June 2023. No comment was received.  Relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 73(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with.
<b>2. Declaring Member State</b>	SLOVENIA
2.1. 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: <a href="mailto:uvhvvr@gov.si">uvhvvr@gov.si</a>  Contact: Vida Znoj, director general and CVO (e-mail: <a href="mailto:vida.znoj@gov.si">vida.znoj@gov.si</a> )  Contact for the declaration: Tina Arič, animal health expert (e-mail: <a href="mailto:tina.aric@gov.si">tina.aric@gov.si</a> )
<b>3. Name of the disease</b>	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis IHN
<b>4. Territorial scope with a description and demarcation and the names of the zones or compartments</b>	Fish farm on river Tolminka (registration number 100093989 and authorisation number SIRIB100113)  Lat: 46.1727, Long: 13.7427  Municipality: Tolmin  Photo 1: geographical location of the fish farm
<b>5. A description of the epidemiological situation for each zone, compartment or</b>	

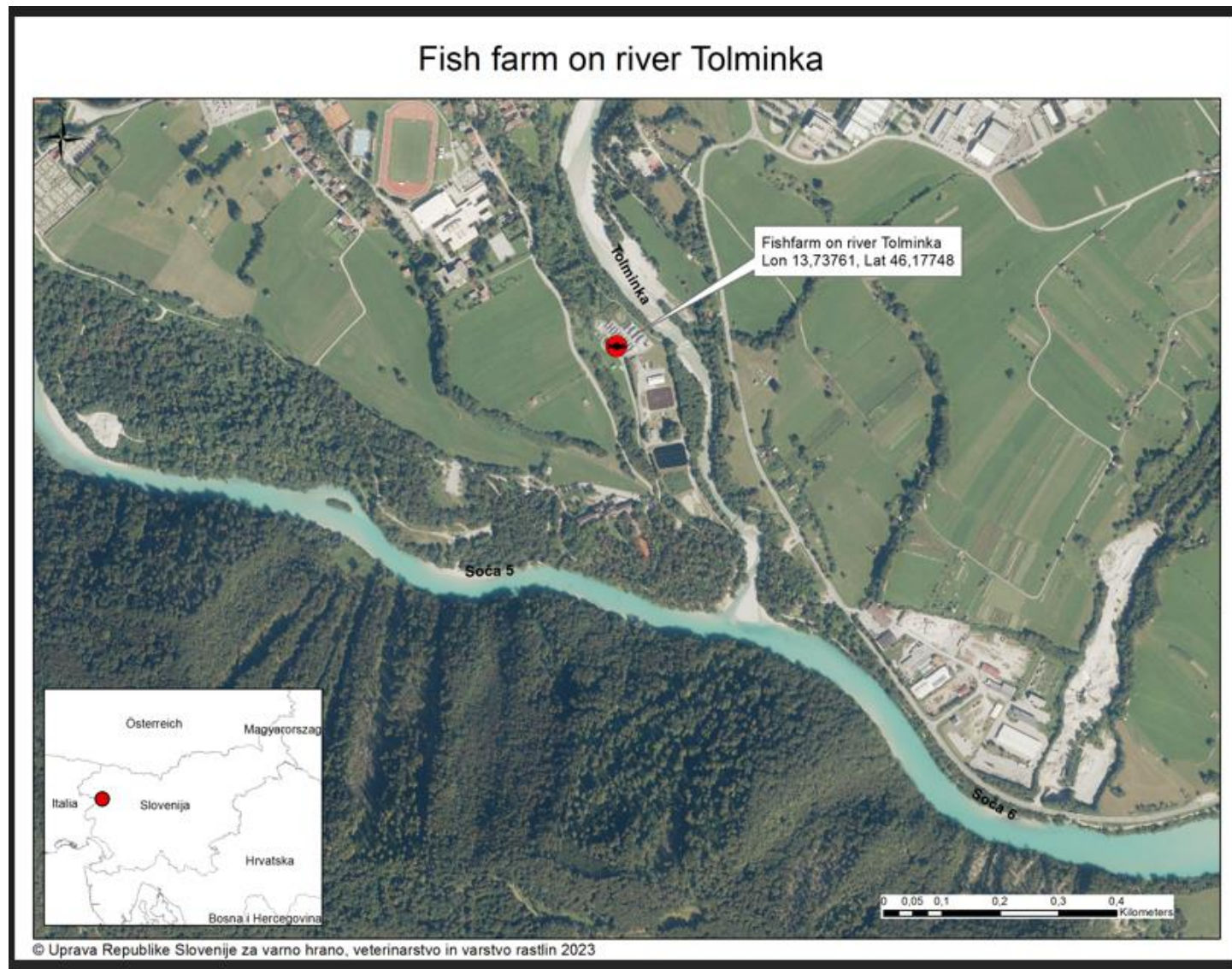
<b>region if more than one region is included in the territorial scope of the programme:</b>	
a) the number of approved aquaculture establishments and the number of registered aquaculture establishments keeping animals of the targeted animal population, by type of production and by health status (2) at 31 December	<p>Aquaculture establishment is situated on the right bank of river "Tolminka" and upstream of cleaning plant. It is managed by operator Faronika d.o.o.</p> <p>Water for the fish farm comes from the fish farm "Tolmin" (the same operator) which is part of a compartment already declared free of VHS/IHN (in 2009). Water flows through a closed pipe (1080 m long) and comes to a cleaning tank at the fish farm. 10 smaller and 4 larger tanks are supplied with water from a cleaning tank through 2 separated pipes. Each tank has separated inlet and siphon outlet. All water flows to the sedimentation tank and after cleaning back to the river "Tolminka". Height difference between outlets of water from the tanks, sedimentation tank and level of the river "Tolminka" prevents the passage of fish to the fish farm. Inlet of water into tanks, height difference between inlets and cleaning tank and cleaning tank with grid prevents the passage of fish from the fish farm to the fish farm "Tolmin".</p> <p>Reared fish are intended for the repopulation of open waters and human consumption.</p>
b) listed species kept in the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) by health status;	<p>The following species are reared: Marble trout (<i>Salmo marmoratus</i>), Grayling (<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>), Rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) and Brook trout (<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>).</p> <p>Source of fish: farms declared free of VHS/IHN</p>
<p>(c) maps indicating:</p> <p>(i) the geographical location of the aquaculture establishments referred to in point (a) and the relevant water catchment areas; and</p> <p>(ii) the geographical distribution of cases of infection with the relevant category B or C disease covering at least the past 5 years;</p>	<p>Lat: 46.1727, Long: 13.7427 Municipality: Tolmin</p> <p>There was no case of infection with IHN on this territory until the outbreak in 2023.</p> <p>Photo: geographical location of the fish farm</p>
(d) information as regards the epidemiological situation in wild aquatic animals, where relevant.	/
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>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</p>

	<p>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>
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>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>
<b>6. A description of the disease control strategy of the eradication programme in accordance with Article 46 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 including at least:</b>	
a) the sampling schemes and diagnostic methods to be used in accordance with Annex VI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 for: i) health visits and sampling in aquaculture establishments ii) targeted surveillance in wild populations, where relevant;	Health visits and sampling according to the approved eradication programme are attached to this declaration.
b) the disease control measures to be applied in the event of a confirmed case	<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>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 (WOAH), and other member states using ADIS.</p> <p>According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (points 1(b) and 1(c) of Article 18) operators are obliged to notify to specialists for fish diseases at National veterinary institute (NVI) 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>
c) the biosecurity and risk mitigating measures to be implemented	According to national legislation in place, each aquaculture establishment that applies for approval, needs to send a plan of hygiene measures before the approval. Biosecurity measures must be in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/42.

	<p>All movements of fish are documented. Only fish from free status can enter the establishment.</p> <p>The fish farm is regularly checked for the presence of dead or moribund fish. Data is entered in the log present at the farm.</p> <p>Breeding is performed based on good hygiene practice (regular cleaning and disinfection of equipment, keeping of records, etc.). Fish farm is fenced, so the access of unauthorised persons and wild animals is prevented. Also, all tanks are covered which makes the access of predatory birds impossible.</p>
<b>7. A description of the organisation, supervision and roles of the parties involved in the eradication programme including at least:</b>	
a) the authorities in charge of coordinating and supervising the implementation of the programme	<p>Control and supervision of the programme is the responsibility of the Regional Office of AFSVSPP Nova Gorica. Official veterinarians work according to the plan, prepared at the end of each year. The plan is based on the level of risk, determined by specialist for fish health from the NVI.</p> <p>Fish farm is classified as “high” risk and one official visit per year is performed according to the plan.</p> <p>For the purpose 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>
b) responsibilities of all stakeholders involved	<p>AFSVSPP acts as the competent authority and is organised as affiliated body to the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food. AFSVSPP – Regional office Nova Gorica, carries out inspection and control of the programme and maintaining the free status.</p> <p>Fish specialists from National veterinary institute (NVI specialists) perform animal health surveillance at the fish farms based on the risk level given. Official veterinarians (Regional office Nova Gorica) will perform inspections based on the given risk and yearly plan prepared by inspection and animal health and animal welfare division.</p> <p>For the purpose of 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>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</p>

	<p>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 then 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 (WOAH), and other member states using ADIS.</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 eradication measures according to Regulation (EU) 2020/687.</p> <p>Operator is responsible for maintaining a high level of biosecurity, following restrictions, observation of fish health and notification if needed.</p>
<b>8. The estimated duration of the eradication programme.</b>	<p>Eradication programme was conducted from autumn 2023 to spring 2025 and was in accordance with Table 1.A Chapter 1, Part II, Annex VI to Delegated Regulation 2020/689.</p> <p>Fish farm was emptied on 1 June 2023. First C&amp;D was performed on 23 August 2023, the second C&amp;D was finished 12 weeks later, before the new generation of fish was repopulated into the fish farm. All the tests were negative.</p>
<b>9. The intermediate targets of, and the disease control strategies for implementing, the eradication programme including at least:</b>	
(a) the expected annual decrease of the number of infected aquaculture establishments and where relevant, sampling points in wild populations;	/
(b) the expected annual increase of the number of aquaculture establishments and, where relevant, sampling points in wild populations that tested negative;	/
(c) the expected vaccination coverage, where relevant.	/

Photo – Geographical location of the fish farm on river Tolminka



**Submission of information on sampling and clinical examinations according to Chapter I of Part II of Annex VI of Regulation (EU) 2020/689**

**Data on testing animals**

Fish farm on river Tolminka (registration number 100093989 and authorisation number SIRIB100113)

**Disease: VHS/IHN..... Year: ...2023, 2024 and 2025.....**

<b>Date of health visit</b>	<b>Date of sampling</b>	<b>Water temperature at sampling</b>	<b>Aquatic species present</b>	<b>Species sampled</b>	<b>Number of animals sampled (total and by species)</b>	<b>Laboratory carrying out the analysis</b>	<b>Result of health visit</b>	<b>Result of laboratory tests</b>
20/12/2023	20/12/2023	7,3 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
14/05/2024	14/05/2024	8,0 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
23/10/2024	23/10/2024	8,5 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative
25/02/2025	25/02/2025	6,5 ° C	Rainbow trout	Rainbow trout	75 fish (organs)	NVI	negative	negative