

**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>
<b>1. Identification of the programme</b>	
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: <a href="mailto:uvhvvr@gov.si">uvhvvr@gov.si</a> Contact point: Matjaž Guček, CVO (e-mail: <a href="mailto:matjaz.gucek@gov.si">matjaz.gucek@gov.si</a> )
1.3. Type of declaration	Declaration of a zone free of VHS/IHN following a 2-year surveillance programme; surveillance programme was sent to the Commission on 5 April 2019 and was presented at PAFF on 13 May 2019. No comment was received. Relevant general criteria in accordance with point (a) of Article 66 of Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are complied with.
1.4. Date of publication	6 July 2021
<b>2. National legislation</b>	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)
<b>3. Listed diseases</b>	
3.1. Fish	<b>X</b> VHS

	<p><b>X IHN</b></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 ostreae</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> infection with <i>Bonamia exitiosa</i></p>
3.3. Crustaceans	<p><input type="checkbox"/> White spot disease</p>
<b>4. Identification of the grounds for recognition of disease free-status</b>	
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. <b>X</b> 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 was 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>
<b>5. General information</b>	
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 farms inside the proposed zone. Clinical examinations and sampling was performed according to the approved surveillance programme (Model A and Table 1A of Commission implementing decision (EU) 2015/1554).</p> <p>There are three fish farms in the proposed zone:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fish farm (hatchery) “Porton” is a farm with unknown health status and is classified as “medium risk” for IHN and VHS. Two clinical inspections per year are performed. Fish farm is managed by Fishing family Koper (RD Koper). RD Koper intends to establish its own broodstock, that is why in Autumn 2018, they caught wild fish from river Rižana (part of the proposed zone) and stripped them. They will rear fingerlings to the size of mature fish, which will be used as a broodstock in 3 years. Due to the enrichment of the broodstock, wild fish will also be present in the fish farm every 2-3 years.</li> <li>2. Fish farm “Rižana” is part of a compartment already declared free of VHS/IHN (declaration was presented at PAFF in July 2016 and no comment was received). Fish farm is classified as “medium risk” farm and one clinical examination per year is performed. Compartment is managed by aquaculture production business operator Prodan Branko s.p.</li> <li>3. Fish farm “Formio” which has been empty since 2017</li> </ol>

	<p>and the production suspended due to health problems of the aquaculture production business operator. Surveillance programme was adapted accordingly and sent to the Commission on 5 April 2019.</p> <p>Official veterinarians from AFSVSPP Regional office Koper 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>Proposed zone includes:</p> <p>1. river “<u>Rižana</u>” from the spring to the artificial barrier (a dam approx. 2 m high) in the length of approx. 10 km, including all tributaries (18), Farmska, Kortinska and Dekanska mlinščica,</p> <p>River “<u>Rižana</u>” with all its tributaries (18) and Farmska, Kortinska and Dekanska mlinščica (part of the river where there used to be a mill), is managed by Fishing family Koper. It is a karst river, approx. 14 km long, which flows into Adriatic Sea. All tributaries are dry most of the year and not suitable for the survival of fish. Free living rainbow trout is not present in the river. Mostly “crossbreed” of marble and brown trout, so called “rižanke” are present in the river. The lower part of the river Rižana is populated with approx. 300 kg of adult sterile rainbow trout per year for the purpose of recreational fishing and repopulated with “crossbreeds”, typical for the river Rižana. All fish for repopulation originate from Category I fish farm.</p> <p><u>2. compartment “<u>Rižana</u>” already declared free of VHS/IHN</u></p> <p>Compartment “<u>Rižana</u>” with fish farm “<u>Rižana</u>” (registration number 100090163, authorisation number</p>

	<p>SIRIB040101) and river “Rižana” from its source to the dam, including stream Farmska mlinščica with its capture above the dam. Fish farm consists of 5 closed facilities (hatchery and storehouses), 15 concrete tanks, several channels and one natural pond (part of it is used as a sedimentation pond). Compartment is managed by aquaculture production business operator Prodan Branko s.p. Compartment was declared free of VHS/IHN on 27 September 2016.</p> <p><u>3. fish farm “Formio”</u></p> <p>Fish farm “Formio” has been empty since 2017 and the production suspended due to health problems of the operator.</p> <p><u>4. fish farm (hatchery) “Porton”</u></p> <p>Fish farm (hatchery) “Porton” (registration number 100094003, authorisation number SIRIB040103) is managed by Fishing family Koper. Fish species reared at the fish farm is a “crossbreed” of Marble and Brown trout. The main occupation of the farm is repopulation of river Rižana.</p> <p>RD Koper intends to establish its own broodstock. For this reason, they caught wild fish from river Rižana (part of the proposed zone) in Autumn 2018 and stripped them. Fingerlings will be bred to the size of mature fish, which will, in 3 years, serve as broodstock.</p> <p>Photo 1 - proposed zone; Photo 2 – fish farm “Porton”;</p> <p>Photo 4 – fish farm “Rižana” (part of the already declared compartment “Rižana”)</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.</p>

	<p>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 – brood stock inside the fish farm which is part of the already declared free compartment “Rižana” and Category I fish farms</p> <p>Crossbreed of marble and brown trout – wild fish from river Rižana (autumn 2018) which were stripped and fingerlings are kept in the farm “Porton” – in 3 years they will form broodstock for this fish farm</p>
<p>5.7. Biosecurity measures in place</p>	<p>Breeding at both active fish farms in the proposed zone 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</p>

	<p>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 in the log which is present at the fish farm. 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 - hatchery "Porton": due to the process, the hatchery will be active only half of a year when the fish are present. Disinfectant barrier is placed in the entrance to the hatchery. All the equipment used is cleaned after every usage and meant only for the use in the hatchery.</p> <p>Compartment "Rižana": breeding is performed on the basis of good hygiene practice (regular cleaning and disinfection of equipment, disposal of dead fish, etc.) Fish farm is fenced and concrete tanks are protected against predatory birds (nets). All concrete tanks have wooden barriers and metal grids on inlets and outlets. Fish farm is equipped with a system which is activated in the case of lower water level in the tanks. There are also 4 aerators and 3 underwater pumps that are used in the dry season</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>Passage of fish from the farm to the open water and back is prevented by metal grids.</p> <p>Passage of fish from the proposed zone and back is prevented by the artificial barrier (a dam approx. 2 m high) which is also the end of the proposed zone.</p> <p>Photo 3: artificial barrier (dam) – end of proposed zone</p>
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<b>6. Area covered</b>	
6.1. <input type="checkbox"/> Member State	
6.2. <input type="checkbox"/> Zone (entire water catchment area)	
6.3. <input checked="" 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.	<p>Proposed zone includes river “Rižana” from its source to the artificial barrier (a dam approx. 2 m high) in the length of approx. 10 km, including all tributaries (18), streams Farmska, Kortinska and Dekanska mlinščica, compartment “Rižana” already declared free of VHS/IHN and fish farms “Formio” and fish farm (hatchery) “Porton”.</p> <p>River “Rižana” from the spring to the dam, including stream Farmska mlinščica with its capture (source of water for the fish farm “Rižana”) above the dam is a part of already declared compartment “Rižana”.</p> <p>River “Rižana” is a karst river, approx. 14 km long, with the outflow to the Adriatic Sea. All 18 tributaries are dry most of the year and not suitable for the survival of fish.</p> <p>“Wild” rainbow trout is not present in the river. Mostly “crossbreed” of marble and brown trout, so called “rižanke” are present in the river.</p> <p>Streams Farmska, Kortinska and Dekanska mlinščica are parts of the river where used to be mills.</p> <p>Photo 3: artificial barrier (dam) – end of proposed zone</p> <p>Photo 5: artificial barrier (dam) – end of already declared compartment</p>
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 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		
<input type="checkbox"/> All farms comprising the compartment fall within a common biosecurity system. Describe the common biosecurity system.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Any additional requirements		
<b>7. Geographical demarcation</b>		
7.1. Farms or mollusc farming areas covered (registration numbers and geographical situation)	<p>Fish farm “Rižana” (registration number 100090163, authorisation number SIRIB040101; lat: 45,52490 and long: 13,887176) – part of already declared VHS/IHN free compartment</p> <p>Fish farm (hatchery) “Porton” (registration number 100094003, authorisation number SIRIB040103; lat: 45,5424 and long: 13,7983)</p> <p>Fish farm “Formio” (registration number 100090034, authorisation number SIRIB040102; lat: 45, 5367 and long: 13, 8644) – farm hasn’t been in function since 2017</p>	
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 <sup>26</sup>	
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)	
<b>8. Farms or mollusc farming areas which commence or recommence their activities</b>		
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	