

FDA statement about Canadian salmon that were exposed to the infectious salmon anemia (ISA) virus

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FDA has recently received inquiries as to whether salmon from Canada that have been exposed to the infectious salmon anemia (ISA) virus, but are not necessarily diseased, would be allowed entry in to the U.S.

It is possible for animals to be exposed to and even to be infected with a particular organism and not develop a disease. Disease occurs due to numerous factors, including: the health of the animal, resistance of the animal, environmental factors, the number and concentration of the organism the animal was exposed to, and virulence of the strain of the organism. Therefore, exposure to an infectious organism may or may not result in disease.

Based on discussions with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), FDA does not have human health concerns related to ISA for fish from the one farm at issue. Further, Canada does not allow processing of any fish that are tainted, decomposed, or un-wholesome, which would include fish with visible signs of disease.

It is the responsibility of seafood processors to ensure that product intended for entry into interstate commerce in the U.S. is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Product that is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations will be allowed entry into the U.S.

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