



Selfoss, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Ref.: 1601052

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

## Veterinary Certificate

**SUBJECT: FISH HEALTH SITUATION IN ICELAND AND STOFNFISKUR LTD.**

I the undersigned Gísli Jónsson, Veterinary Officer for Fish Diseases, and a Certifying Official for Iceland, do hereby certify following:

**STOFNFISKUR LTD.**, the only hatchery of origin which is exporting live Atlantic salmon eyed eggs, has a history of being **virus free** since founded in 1991. Parasitic diseases like ***Gyrodactylus salaris*** and **Whirling disease** (*Myxobolus cerebralis*) have never been detected in Icelandic aquaculture. **Enteric redmouth disease** (*Yersinia ruckeri*) and **Pscirickettsiosis** have never been detected in Stofnfiskur. In addition, at least 60 females from every year-class and stripping group are tested for **BKD** with an ELISA and RT-PCR methods, also with a negative outcome through all the years. In this context it is appropriate to inform that Stofnfiskur's broodstock sites are being visited by an official fish health veterinarian two days a week almost all year around which gives a unique possibility to monitor the development of fish health in our core establishments distributing eggs to other domestic and foreign companies. That close contact to the fish, opening almost every single male and female for tissue sampling, gives the authority valuable information about the general health situation at any time.

All transmissible diseases which have the potential for very serious and rapid spread and which are of serious socio-economic importance in the international trade of live fish, eggs and gametes are defined as List A diseases in Iceland. They will be met with stamping out procedures as these diseases are considered as dangerous and exotic in Iceland. The surveillance systems that are directed to certain List A diseases are based on risk assessments. For instance, the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST) has implemented targeted surveillance with regular samplings of diagnostic material in Icelandic salmonid farms regarding diseases like **IPN**, **VHS**, **IHN** and **BKD** which is in line with the European rules and regulations. Stofnfiskur Ltd. is formally declared free of **IHN** and **ISA** by the fish health authority of the European Union. Because of detection of **VHSV** in lumpfish of wild origin last year the Icelandic Authority is still in process of declaration of a disease-free status for **VHS** of a modified area, but it can be confirmed that Stofnfiskur has no connection to that affair and all eggs from Stofnfiskur come from a virus free compartment. MAST also performs intensive samplings at brood fish sites regarding **PD/SAV** and **CMS** (PMCV), but that is more upon a request from international customers of salmon egg producers. In 2015 totally 13.566 samples were taken from the Stofnfiskur's broodfish for virological examination and up to date this year 4.718 samples have already been taken. All test results have been negative for above mentioned diseases.

Respectfully yours,



Gísli Jónsson

*Veterinary Officer for Fish Diseases*

