

18/10/2017

Question Reference(s): 44185/17

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Agriculture; Food and the Marine further to parliamentary question number 167 of 4 October 2017, if there was a disease outbreak or other incident resulting in extensive fish mortalities at a site (details supplied) previous to the recent jellyfish strike; the date his department and Inland Fisheries Ireland was notified of the disease outbreak or incident; the number of mortalities from this disease outbreak or incident; and the condition and number of the remaining fish at the time of the jellyfish strike. (Details Supplied) Marine Harvest's Roancarrig site in Bantry Bay

REPLY

My Department has been advised by the Marine Institute that the aquaculture site referred to by the Deputy experienced a disease outbreak in advance of the jellyfish strike.

On 21 September my Department received an inquiry from Inland Fisheries Ireland concerning large quantities of dead fish at the site referred to by the Deputy. Inquiries by my Department's Marine Engineering Division indicated that substantial mortalities had occurred.

The information requested by the Deputy in relation to the number of mortalities may be commercially sensitive and is also under consideration by my Department as part of a statutory process. Therefore it would not be appropriate for me to comment further pending completion of this process.

08/11/2017 Question Reference(s) 46928/17

Department: Agriculture, Food and the Marine

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Agriculture; Food and the Marine further to parliamentary question number 169 of 18 October 2017, if previous to 21 September 2017, the company complied with statutory instrument number 261 of 2008 Notification of Disease (2) (a); the action he has taken or plans to take if the requirements of the legislation were not met.

REPLY

The Competent Authority responsible for the implementation of the Directive in Ireland is the Marine Institute.

The Marine Institute has confirmed to my Department that the operator of the aquaculture site in question has complied in full with the requirements of the Directive and Statutory Instrument No. 261 of 2008.

The mortalities at the site referred to by the Deputy have been caused in part by Cardiomyopathy Syndrome (CMS) and a jellyfish attack.

While my Department is satisfied that the notification requirements as specified in Statutory Instrument No. 261 of 2008 have been complied with, there are other notification requirements which form part of the terms and conditions of the applicable Aquaculture Licence. My Department is currently examining whether all the necessary notifications required by the licence terms and conditions have been fully adhered to. This examination is currently ongoing as part of a statutory process and, pending completion of this process it would not be appropriate for me to comment further.

Emma Fortune

From: Michael McPartland
Sent: 01 November 2017 10:47
To: Sean Long
Subject: FW: Bantry Bay Dead Fish

From: Michael McPartland
Sent: 22 September 2017 11:16
To: McManus, Catherine
Subject: Re: Bantry Bay Dead Fish
Catherine

Thank you very much for the update.

Michael Mc Partland

From: McManus, Catherine
Sent: 22 September 2017 11:01:48
To: Michael McPartland
Subject: RE: Bantry Bay Dead Fish

Dear Michael,

Our Roancarrig fish were damaged by a bloom of the siphonophore, *Muggiaea atlantica* during week 35. We have counted concentrations of this small hydrozoan jellyfish in densities of 500 to 600 individuals at Roancarrig which has caused significant gill and skin damage in our fish. Hence the elevated mortality. Prior to this, blooms of *Noctiluca scintillans* and Radiolarians were recorded in the bay with the latter reaching concentrations of 180,000/m³. These plankters also caused gill damage to our fish which made them more susceptible to *Muggiaea atlantica*. As for the reports of wild mackerel mortality I cannot comment on the pathology but I suspect these blooms are to blame.

Best regards

Catherine McManus

Technical Manager
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From: Michael McPartland [<mailto:Michael.McPartland@fisheriesireland.ie>]
Sent: 21 September 2017 16:33
To: McManus, Catherine
Subject: Bantry Bay Dead Fish
Catherine

IFI Macroom received a report today which alleges large quantities of dead fish at the Marine Harvest, Roancarrig Site. The report also suggest wild mackerel populations are impacted. Can you please let us know if you have any knowledge of such an incident

For Written Answer on : 07/11/2017

Question Number(s): 952 Question Reference(s): 46831/17

Department: Agriculture, Food and the Marine

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Agriculture; Food and the Marine the number of notifications of increased levels of mortalities on salmon farms in the past two years under statutory instrument number 261 of 2008 (details supplied). (Details Supplied) Notification of Disease, (2) (a) which requires that 'A person who is aware or suspects or who should reasonably be aware or suspect that there is an increased level of fish mortality on a premises, shall immediately notify the Marine Institute of the fact or suspicion

REPLY

The Marine Institute has advised my Department that it received 41 notifications of increased mortalities on salmon farms in the period referred to by the Deputy under the provisions of Regulation 9(2) of SI 261 of 2008.