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Theme: Aquaculture

Session: WeA2 - Pests and diseases

Title: **Counting the current costs of salmonid disease free status in the UK**

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Abstract: This paper describes the assumptions, scenarios and calculations underlying best estimates of the current costs of three notifiable fish diseases in the United Kingdom: infectious salmon anaemia (ISA), viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) and infectious haemorrhagic necrosis (IHN). The benefits of avoiding a major disease outbreak are effectively the return on spending to maintain disease free status. Current costs of salmonid disease freedom are the costs associated with the efforts of control, surveillance and monitoring activities from both the private and public sectors. The simulated effects of disease outbreak and avoidance costs on the public sector, domestic consumers, exporters are analysed and factored to generate estimates of maintaining disease freedom. The estimates of the average current costs of maintaining disease freedom per annum in the study period ranges between £13.5 million to £23.6 million per annum in total for all diseases. Individual current disease costs are substantially lower if specific expenditure is dedicated to the control and surveillance of the diseases in the private sector.