



To whom it might concern

Tórshavn, the 13. juni 2020

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Your letter.:

Subject: Fishery products from Faroe Islands are not considered to pose any risk for covid-19

The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority has been informed that there in Beijing has been a finding of the virus causing covid-19 from equipment used for salmon and consequently a concern about covid-19 in salmon products.

The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority has following comments.

In general fish are not considered to be affected by the same pathogens as humans and terrestrial animals. Although there are several pathogens infecting terrestrial animals that are zoonotic (infect humans as well), the covid-19 virus is generally considered to be transmitted human-to-human.

From OIE's homepage: "*...While there is some circumstantial evidence indicating likely transmission from farmed, infected European mink to humans, as of 26 May 2020, evidence from risk assessments, epidemiological investigations, and experimental studies do not suggest that live animals or animal products play a role in SARS-CoV-2 infection of humans. The current COVID-19 pandemic is sustained by human-to-human transmission...*" For more information:

https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/COV-19/A_COVID-19_Considerations_OIE_Sanitary_Measures.pdf)

Transmission between humans from food products is also considered unlikely. ‘

From WHO's homepage: "*As food has not been implicated in the transmission of COVID-19, imported food should be subjected to the same import controls as before the pandemic.*" For more information: "<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/questions-relating-to-food-safety-authorities>

Even if covid-19 is not considered to spread with fishery products it is worth to mention, that Faroe Islands have had an intensive testing programme for covid-19 in humans, and we have not had any positive results since the 22nd of April 2020. Before that, we had 187 positive tests, no patient in intensive care and no death caused by covid-19.



It is of great importance for The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority that the fishery products that are exported to China are safe concerning pathogens. The production plants are under inspection and have to be in line with Chinese and EU regulations before they are authorised for export to China. This means strict sanitary regulations for fishery products all the way for farm/fishing area to the finished product. Production plants, authorised for export to China are listed at the GACC official website: <http://www.customs.gov.cn/customs/jyiy/jckspaq/xxfw63/a62c9010-2.html>

If there are any kind of concern about fishery product from Faroe Islands, please don't hesitate to contact us at hfs@hfs.fo

Sincerely

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