

Mexico recovers the status of “country free of Tilapia lake virus”: Sader

Senasica declared the sanitary event closed, so the transportation of tilapia and its products coming from affected fish farms, return to normal.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader), through the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), informed to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that Mexico recovered its status of “country free of tilapia lake virus” pursuant to the last quarantine period finished on May 15 in Michoacán state.

At the conclusion of this sanitary event, the mobilization of tilapia and its products coming from affected fish farms return to normal with the purpose of benefitting consumers supplying them with plenty of this food, which is nutritive, healthy and innocuous.

In August, 2018, the Senasica technicians identified the virus using techniques of molecular biology, and as a result of epidemiologic surveillance activities. This virus was located in fish farms of Chiapas, Jalisco, Michoacán, Sinaloa, Tabasco and Veracruz.

As an additional measure, the staff visited 280 farms, 57 of them were breeding farms and 223 fattening farms, all distributed along Mexico. No evidence of new cases was found, so this sanitary event is considered closed.

On recommendation of Senasica, producers reinforced the biosecurity measures into their Production Units. They also implemented the Good Production Practices and immediately reported any suspected case of disease. This contributed to eradicate the disease from the national territory in less than one year.

It is important to mention that Senasica has considered to continue with the reinforced sanitary inspections and epidemiological surveillance activities. This, in order to avoid the re-entry of virus and protecting the tilapia production against this disease which mainly affects the eyes, brain and liver of young fishes of this species.

The Senasica exhorted producers to continue being vigilant; to keep the biosecurity measures at fish farms; to implement the Good Production Practices; and to immediately report any deviation to the Committee of Aquatic Animal Health or to the following emergency numbers 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year: 01 (800) 751 2100; from Monday to Friday: 01 (55) 5905 1000, Ext. 51236, 51242 and 51243 or to the following emails: sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx or gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx.