

In 2011 an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan and damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. In July of 2013, the head of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority confirmed that contaminated water has been leaking into the ocean.

This has raised concerns about possible radioactive contamination of seafood – both farm-raised and wild – in British Columbia.

To date, all testing shows that fish from British Columbia continue to be safe for consumption. Testing results by BC salmon farmers have shown levels to be less than the detection limit.

A number of monitoring efforts are underway to ensure food safety in Canada:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency undertook testing of food imports from Japan as well as domestic products from British Columbia. Information on that testing and the results can be found here: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/imports/japan-nuclear-crisis/eng/1384447285082/1384448940388>

Health Canada is also monitoring the levels of radionuclides in food sold in Canada through the Canada Total Diet Study: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/surveill/total-diet/index-eng.php>

The World Health Organization has released an FAQ on concerns about radioactivity in food samples: <http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index7.html>

The state of Hawaii is monitoring ongoing results of water quality surveys and posting updates. Here is the latest from August, 2013. <http://health.hawaii.gov/about/files/2013/06/aug2013.pdf>

For additional comment, see this article from the David Suzuki Foundation on the safety of West Coast fish: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2013/10/despite-fukushima-scientists-say-eating-west-coast-fish-is-safe/>

More questions? Contact us at the BC Salmon Farmers Association and we'd be happy to help answer them.