



FACT SHEET: CLOSED CONTAINMENT AQUACULTURE

- BCSFA members raise salmon using many types of farming systems including net-pen and containment aquaculture systems. On average, 75,000 tonnes of salmon are harvested in B.C.
 - 100% of salmon raised in B.C. spend their early life stages in land-based fresh water aquaculture facilities.
 - 97% of salmon raised in B.C. (Atlantic, Chinook) are transferred from land-based fresh water aquaculture facilities to ocean based net-pen farms for their adult life.
 - 1.5% of salmon (steelhead) raised in B.C are transferred from land-based fresh water aquaculture facilities to a lake-based containment system for their adult life.
 - 1.5% of salmon raised in (Coho, Atlantic) are raised for their full life in land-based fresh water aquaculture facilities.
- 2010 DFO Feasibility Study of Closed-Containment Options for the British Columbia Aquaculture Industry concluded: “In summary, the analysis showed that RAS technology is marginally viable from a financial perspective, but that it presents a higher level of risk compared to net- pen [Full study](#)
- An April 2016 analysis of B.C.’s most recent land-based pilot project showed significant biological issues in rearing salmon for their full life in a fresh-water recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) including early maturation, small overall harvest size, fungus mortality, cataracts, and slower than expected growth. [Full report](#)
- To date there are no large-scale commercially viable farms exclusively raising Atlantic salmon in a closed containment environment. [Full report](#) (list of projects available in section 11)
- 2014 Feasibility of Land-Based Closed-Containment Atlantic Salmon Operations in Nova Scotia concluded “The risk for government in providing financial support at the developmental stage is that there is little to ground the technology and its eventual commercial expansion in Nova Scotia. The province could be investing in local technology development, but seeing the rewards in terms of economic impact reaped elsewhere. [Full report](#)
- A recent report by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) considered land based RAS for full production on land of all grow out stages not financially viable, with the high-energy use and carbon footprint making it an environmentally unfriendly option. [Full report](#)

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