



B.C. FARM-RAISED ATLANTIC SALMON ESCAPE MONITORING AND INCIDENTS

Escape Prevention

- B.C. salmon farmers have a zero tolerance policy with respect to escapes, and are diligent at reporting and responding to escapes of farm-raised salmon in an effective and efficient manner.
- Salmon farmers work towards ensuring 100% containment of their stocks at all times, despite challenges from weather events and predator interactions with infrastructure.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Atlantic Salmon Watch Program was developed in 1991 to study the abundance, distribution and biology of Atlantic salmon in B.C. and its adjacent waters. Program information can be found at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/aquaculture/aswp/index-eng.html>.
- Farm-raised salmon escapes are publicly reported online by DFO and can be viewed at <http://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/691dd994-4911-433d-b3b6-00349ba9f24e>.
- Since 2011, B.C. Atlantic salmon farmers have reported 67 fish escapes, over 12 incidents.
- So far in 2017, there have been 4 individually escaped Atlantic salmon reported over 3 incidents.

Research on the ability of Atlantic salmon to reproduce in B.C.'s rivers

- There has been concern that Atlantic salmon could escape from their net pens and successfully reproduced in B.C.'s rivers. Fisheries and Oceans Canada's website notes that if this non-native species became established in local waters, they would be present in multiple life stages, particularly juveniles in B.C.'s coastal streams.
- Multiple intentional introductions of hundreds of thousands of Atlantic salmon have been made in B.C., starting in 1905 and running until 1933. The purpose was to establish a population for recreational angling. No populations were established.
 - Reference: Carl, G. Clifford and Guiguet, C.J. "Alien Animals in British Columbia." Published 1958. Online version available through UBC's Department of Geography, Electronic Atlas of the Fauna of British Columbia: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/efauna/AlienSpeciesinBritishColumbiaHistoricalRecords.html>.
- In order to evaluate the continued perceived risk of population establishment, DFO's Atlantic Salmon Watch Program has periodically conducted field surveys to determine if Atlantic salmon are present in B.C. waters. DFO scientists focus their work in streams where sightings and catches have been reported to the Department.
 - For example, DFO conducted extensive field work in 2011 and 2012 in 12 freshwater systems on Vancouver Island. No Atlantic salmon, of any life stage, were identified. A [summary report](#) of these findings has been published in DFO's National Library (August 2015) (Link: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/357053.pdf>).

About the BC Salmon Farmers Association

Farm-raised salmon is B.C.'s highest valued seafood product, the province's top agricultural export, and generates over \$1.1-billion towards the B.C. economy, resulting in over 5,000 jobs.

The BC Salmon Farmers Association represents 50 businesses and organizations throughout the value chain of finfish aquaculture in B.C., including West Coast Reduction. Our members account for over 95% of the annual provincial harvest of farm-raised salmon, 100% of the salmon feed produced in B.C., and most of the service and suppliers involved in ensuring that over \$700-million (2016 value) of salmon raised in B.C. gets to domestic and global markets.

For more information visit BCSalmonFarmers.ca