



Incidental Catch

Q: What is incidental catch at a farm?

A: Incidental catch refers to any wild finfish caught during harvest, the movement of fish between facilities, or while removing nets. This occurs when wild fish swim through the nets containing farmed salmon and either choose to find refuge or grow too large to swim out.

Q: What are the requirements set by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding incidental catch?

A: DFO requires that farmers design equipment and practices to minimize harm to incidental catch. Additionally, there are requirements for releasing incidental catch and reporting incidental catch mortalities, which DFO publicly reports.

Salmon farmers have invested in equipment, farming practices and staff training to minimize interactions with wild fish.

These measures which have been very effective in reducing incidental catch at farms, include:

Innovation & Training

Improved mechanization and training to prevent incidental catch and release wild fish alive to the surrounding environment

Lighting

Salmon farmers began switching to LED lights ten years ago to reduce fish attraction

Wild Fish Predation

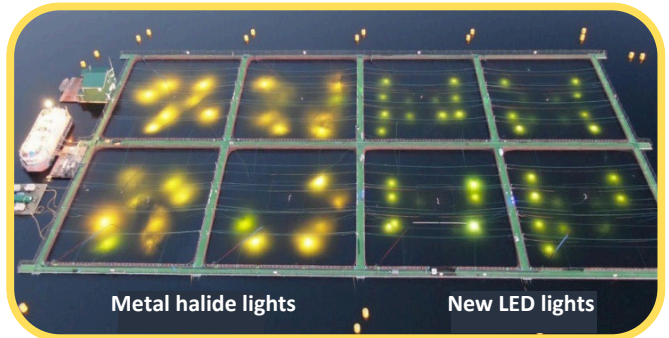
Monitoring indicates that farm-raised salmon rarely eat wild fish trapped within the pens

Herring Mortality

Herring (primarily juvenile) comprise 94% of the total aquaculture incidental catch mortalities (2011 to 2022)

Did you know?

As a part of salmon farm licence conditions, DFO requires the reporting of all wild fish releases and mortalities by species and number. This information is all publicly available on their website!



Q: How many incidental catch mortalities occurred at BC salmon farms from 2011 to 2022, and what species was most affected?

A: There were 1,520,457 incidental catch mortalities at BC salmon farms from 2011 to 2022, with 94.4% of these being Pacific herring.

Q: Where and when did the highest number of Pacific herring incidental catch mortalities occur?

A: The highest number of Pacific herring incidental catch mortalities occurred in Clayoquot Sound in 2022, the same year that the West Coast Vancouver Island herring fishing experienced its largest spawn event since 2013.



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Q: How significant were the Pacific herring mortalities compared to the commercial fishery herring catch?

A: The Pacific herring mortalities at salmon farms represented 0.014% of the commercial fishery herring catch during the same period (excluding roe, food, bait, and special-use fisheries).

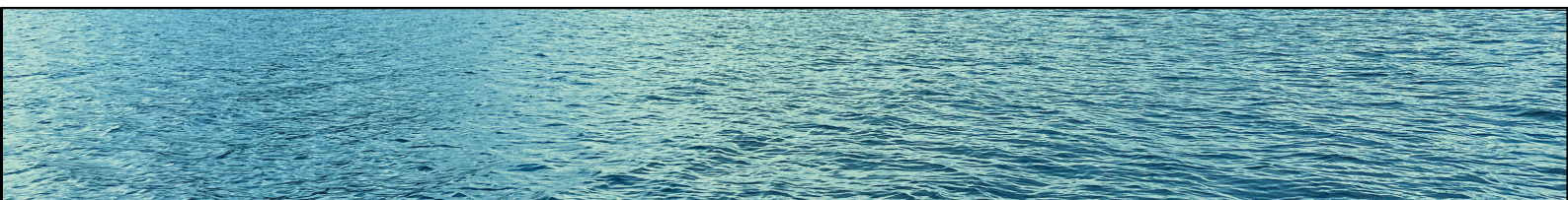
Q: How did the total Pacific herring incidental catch mortality at salmon farms compare to the herring spawning biomass in 2022?

A: The total of Pacific herring incidental catch mortality at all salmon farms combined was equivalent to 0.086% of the herring spawning biomass for the West Coast of Vancouver Island in 2022.



Q: How many Pacific salmon incidental catch mortalities occurred at salmon farms from 2011 to 2021, and how does this compare to the recreational and commercial salmon fisheries?

A: There were 402 Pacific salmon incidental catch mortalities at salmon farms from 2011 to 2021. In comparison, the recreational and commercial salmon fisheries captured 73,694,320 Pacific salmon during the same period.



Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code to check out
“Modern Salmon Farming: A Review” for info on:

- 🐟 Indigenous Stewardship in Aquaculture
- 🐟 Feed Sustainability
- 🐟 Protecting Biodiversity
- 🐟 Sea Lice Management

and more!



“Modern Salmon Farming: A Review”
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