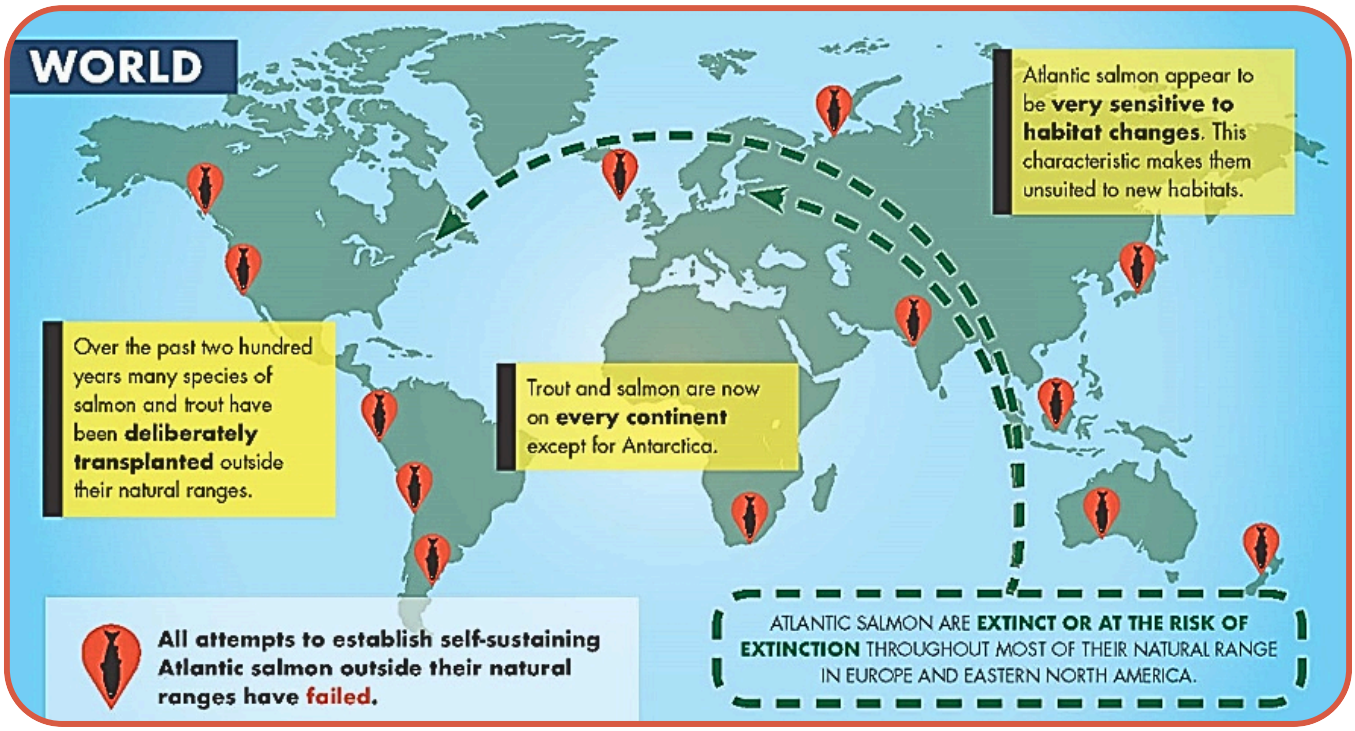
FAQ

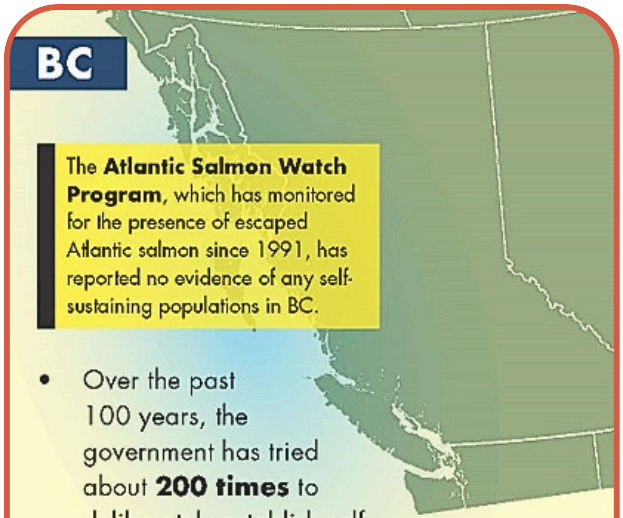
BC SALMON FARMERS

Fish Escapes

WORLD



BC



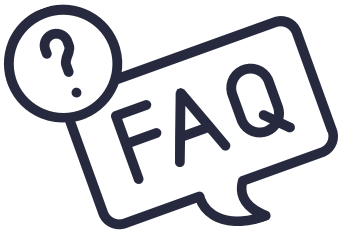
The **Atlantic Salmon Watch Program**, which has monitored for the presence of escaped Atlantic salmon since 1991, has reported no evidence of any self-sustaining populations in BC.

- Over the past 100 years, the government has tried about **200 times** to deliberately establish self-sustaining Atlantic salmon populations in BC. **All attempts have failed.**
- Escaped farm-raised Atlantic salmon are **rarely successful** finding food, are not well suited to avoid predators, do not appear to compete well with Pacific salmon, and cannot interbreed with other salmon species.

FARM

BC Atlantic salmon farmers have **reduced fish escapes by 97%** since 2010.

- **2,998** farm-raised Pacific salmon have escaped from farms since 2012. During the same time period **2,790,629,000** Pacific salmon were released from public hatcheries in BC.
- Farms have strict cage system and net inspections and maintenance.
- Secondary predator nets, jump nets above the surface and bird nets on top of cages.
- **Comprehensive employee training.**
- Escape prevention and response plans.



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Q: Have attempts to establish Atlantic salmon populations outside their natural range been successful?

A: No, all attempts to establish self-sustaining sea-run Atlantic salmon populations outside their natural range have failed.

Q: Why have attempts to establish Atlantic salmon populations failed?

A: The exact reasons for these failures aren't fully understood, but it's suggested that Atlantic salmon have a narrow tolerance for habitat conditions, which may contribute to their inability to establish new populations.

Q: Has there been any success in creating self-sustaining Atlantic salmon populations in BC?

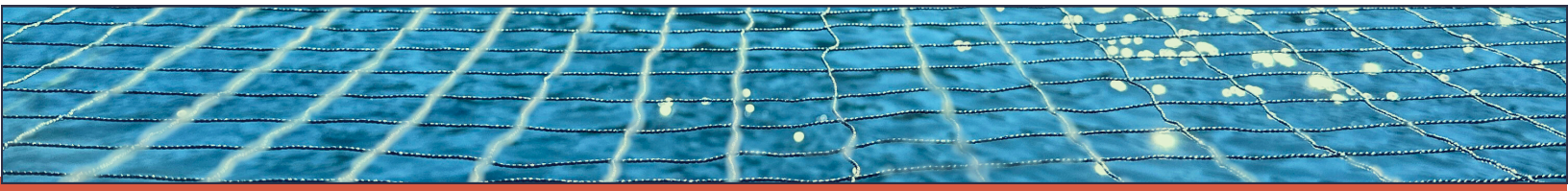
A: No, there is no evidence of any self-sustaining Atlantic salmon populations in BC, despite nearly 200 attempts over the past century and some incidental farm escapes from salmon farms in the last 50 years.

Q: How have BC salmon farmers addressed the issue of fish escapes?

A: In collaboration with First Nation partners, government regulators, and the aquaculture supply chain, BC salmon farmers have reduced fish escapes by 97% since 2010. This has been achieved through improved net technology, modernized operational procedures and data-enhanced planning for sea site locations.

Q: Is there a risk of future Atlantic salmon populations being established from farm escapes in BC?

A: Given the very low levels of escapes from BC salmon farms since 2010, it is highly unlikely that future escapes would occur at a level that could create a risk of establishing a self-sustaining population.



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"
Commissioned By

COALITION OF FIRST NATIONS FOR FINFISH STEWARDSHIP

"Modern Salmon Farming: A Review"
Prepared By

BC SALMON FARMERS

CAHS
BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences