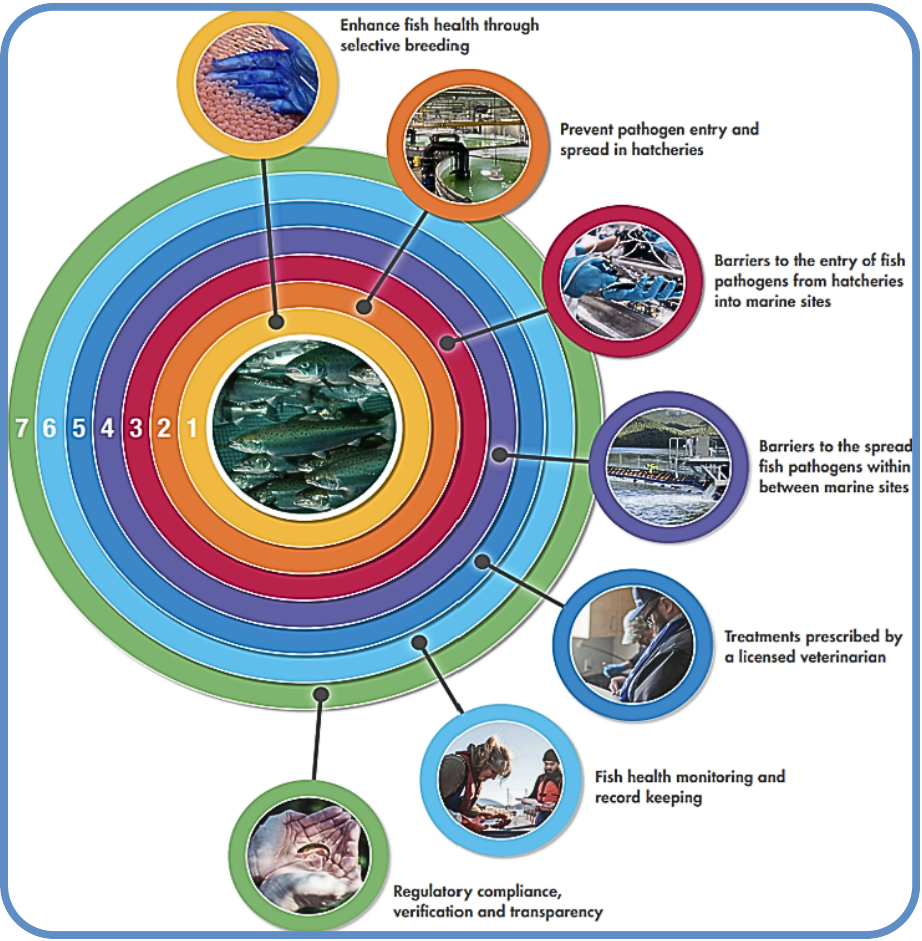




Fish Health



Q: How do salmon farmers and their teams keep farm-raised fish healthy?

A: Salmon farmers, along with internal fish health teams, external regulatory agencies, and First Nation Rightsholders, keep farm-raised fish healthy through selective breeding, using vaccines to minimize pathogen entry and spread, monitoring fish health, maintaining records, providing prescribed treatments, and undergoing health audits by government regulators.

Q: How have advances in salmon farming impacted infectious diseases?

A: Advances in salmon farming methods over the past 40 years have decreased the occurrence of infectious diseases on farms. This reduces the chances of diseases being transmitted from farmed salmon to wild salmon.

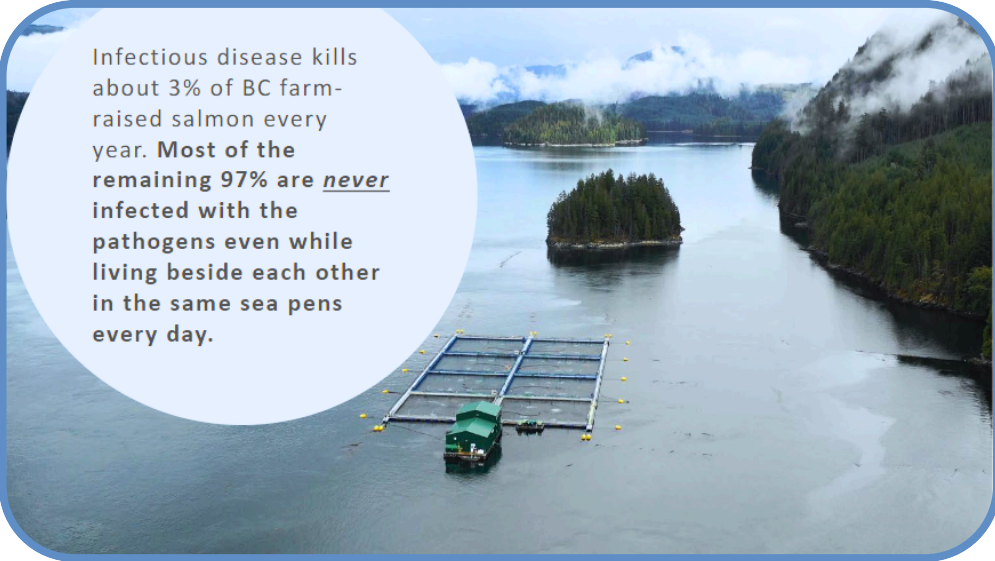
Veterinary practices for farm-raised salmon have been applied to enhancement facilities raising wild Pacific salmon across BC

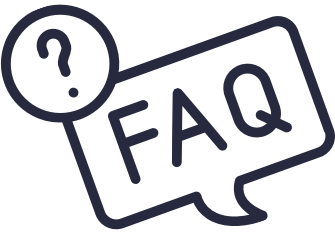
Q: How has the use of antibiotics changed in salmon farming?

A: Antibiotic treatments for farm-raised salmon in the marine environment have decreased significantly, now less than 20% of the peak usage seen in 1997.

Q: What is the current mortality rate from infectious diseases in farm-raised salmon?

A: Currently, only about 3% of farm-raised salmon in the marine environment die each year from infectious diseases. Other causes of mortality among farm-raised salmon include toxic algal blooms and plankton blooms, and low dissolved oxygen levels.





Fish Health

Q: How do pathogens from farms affect wild fish?

A: Pathogens shed by farms are diluted and degraded in the environment, which decreases the likelihood of wild fish getting infected by diseases from farmed salmon.

Q: What factors affect the spread of disease in farm-raised salmon?

A: For disease to occur in an individual fish, many variables must align, and for it to spread to a population, even more factors must come together. These factors can be related to weather, ocean conditions, and climate change impacts. Safeguards in farms help reduce pathogen spread, which in turn prevents disease spread.

Q: What is the risk of farmed salmon pathogens to Fraser River sockeye salmon?

A: Formal assessments of nine salmonid pathogens that have occurred on farmed salmon in British Columbia have concluded that there is a "minimal risk" to the abundance and diversity of Fraser River sockeye salmon.



DFO routinely confirms the reliability of reports submitted by licensed veterinarians that oversee farm-raised salmon. Nowhere else in the world is a livestock sector subject to this level of auditing and public reporting.

“The Honourable Justice Cohen stated, **“Data presented during this Inquiry did not show that salmon farms were having a significant negative impact on Fraser River sockeye.”** Justice Cohen's final report describes the salmon farm disease data presented during the hearings as "impressive," and he noted, **“There was a statistically significant declining trend in the number of high-risk diseases reported by salmon farms between 2003 and 2010.”**”

The uncertain future of Fraser River sockeye. Volume 3, Recommendations, summary, process : final report / Bruce I. Cohen, commissioner.



Want to learn more?

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

- 🐟 Indigenous Stewardship in Aquaculture
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