

# Wildlife Interactions

**Q: How do wildlife interact with salmon farms?**

**A:** Wildlife interactions with salmon farms mostly involve observing each other from a distance. However, sometimes wildlife comes closer to the farms, and care is needed to avoid harm to the animals, people, and infrastructure.

**Q: What is megafauna, and how has it been affected by salmon farms in BC?**

**A:** Megafauna refers to large animals like sea lions, seals, and whales. From 2011 to 2022, there were 431 megafauna mortalities at BC salmon farms, with the majority involving California sea lions and harbour seals due to their growing populations.

**Q: What measures have BC salmon farms taken to reduce megafauna mortalities?**

**A:** In 2012, BC salmon farmers introduced a "no-kill" policy and mandatory prevention measures for seals and sea lions. Innovations in infrastructure and staff training have significantly reduced mortalities, averaging 10 per year from 2013 to 2022.



Farmers focus on preventing interactions by minimizing both attractants and the ability for wildlife to access farm infrastructure, through:

Staff Training

- Comprehensive training to keep wildlife, farm staff, and infrastructure safe

Minimize Attractants

- Measures taken to reduce attracting wildlife

Exclude Wildlife

- Measures to prevent wildlife from entering cages and infrastructure

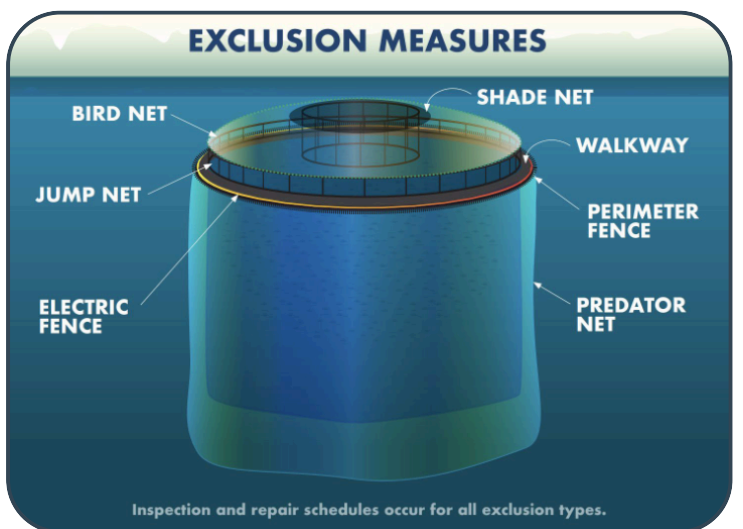
Authorized Deterrents

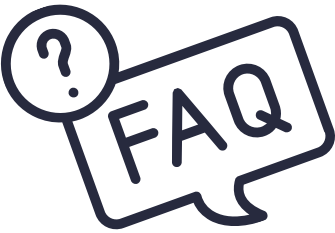
- Behavioural:
  - Non-harmful measures to encourage wildlife to avoid interacting with the farm
- Non-lethal/Aggressive:
  - Assertive measures that elicit a pain or stress response



**Did you know?**

BC harbour seal populations have increased from about 10,000 seals in the 1960s to over 100,000 seals in the early 2000s (DFO 2023)





# Wildlife Interactions

**Q: What has been the impact of salmon farms on humpback whales?**

**A:** Between 2008 and 2022, eight humpback whales were entangled in salmon farms in BC. Five were released unharmed, but three did not survive. These cases made up less than 6% of all entanglements in BC.

In the very rare event a whale entanglement does occur, DFO is immediately notified and will lead the release efforts. This is to ensure the safety of both the animal and the farm staff.


**Q: Have any other marine megafauna been affected by salmon farms?**

**A:** There have been no reported mortalities of sharks, turtles, otters, porpoises, or dolphins at BC salmon farms.



## 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



“Modern Salmon Farming: A Review”  
Prepared By

