



HEALTHY FISH

Get the facts!

KEEPING OUR FISH HEALTHY

Atlantic fish farmers follow the highest fish health management standards and use the best science and more than 40 years of farming experience to grow healthy, nutritious salmon. They rely on in-house veterinarians, biologists, oceanographic specialists as well as advice and oversight from provincial and federal regulators to develop best practices for fish health management, bio-security, and area management strategies that support responsible fish health and welfare standards. Salmon farmers are proactive in fish health management and respond immediately when a challenge does arise. Our world-renowned Bay Management Area system separates first, second and third year fish, supporting a proven agriculture practice of rotation and grow-out periods. This approach allows farmers to coordinate the health management practices on all farms in that area and help prevent the spread of disease or parasites.

A BALANCED APPROACH TO SEA LICE

Sea lice occur naturally in the ocean and the over 500 marine species can be found on most wild fish including herring, cod, halibut, and salmon. They do not pose a human health risk. Avoiding sea lice treatment is the top priority of Atlantic salmon farmers, but sometimes our fish need to be treated by a veterinarian because some fish can become stressed by sea lice making them vulnerable to disease. Farmers use a strategic approach to sea lice that combines preventative farming practices like fish husbandry, fallowing and low stocking densities with approved treatments when necessary. If a treatment is necessary, veterinarians use only approved products under the oversight of government regulators. All sea lice treatment products undergo extensive risk assessments by Health Canada to ensure they are safe for salmon and other species, the environment and human health.

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

Atlantic salmon farmers are investing millions of dollars into the research and development of alternative "green" sea lice technologies like well boats, warm water and water pressure systems, broodstock development and "cleaner" fish.

ALL SALMON ARE FREE OF DISEASE AND PARASITES WHEN THEY ENTER MARINE FARMS. HOWEVER, NATURALLY PRESENT DISEASES AND PARASITES IN THE MARINE AND FRESHWATER ENVIRONMENTS THAT CAN ULTIMATELY AFFECT THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY SOMETIMES REQUIRE OUR FISH TO BE TREATED BY VETERINARIANS.



ANNUAL REPORTING SHOWS THAT ANTIBIOTIC USE ON SALMON FARMS IS FAR LOWER THAN ANY OTHER AGRICULTURAL ANIMAL FARMING INDUSTRY, AND OUR INDUSTRY VETERINARIANS ARE COMMITTED TO USING ANTIBIOTICS ONLY AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE OUR ANIMALS ARE HEALTHY.

FARMERS KEEP STOCKING DENSITIES LOW. SALMON OCCUPY LESS THAN FOUR PER CENT OF THE SPACE IN THEIR NET PEN AND HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO MIMIC NATURAL SCHOOLING PATTERNS.

NOT ALL SALMON FARMS HAVE SEA LICE. NO SEA LICE TREATMENTS HAVE BEEN NECESSARY IN NOVA SCOTIA FOR OVER 20 YEARS, AND 80 PER CENT OF SEA LICE TREATMENTS IN OTHER AREAS ARE USING "GREEN" TECHNOLOGIES.

