

# HOW SALMON are farmed

## FROM EGG TO FARM TO YOUR PLATE

Regulations require that salmon grown in Atlantic Canada originate from a native fish strain. Currently in Atlantic Canada the fish are a Saint John River strain. Farmed Atlantic salmon begin their life cycle as eggs, which are collected from salmon broodstock. The young fish are reared from eggs in land-based freshwater hatcheries for at least 12 to 18 months. When the fish are biologically ready to move to salt water, farmers move them to ocean farms where they remain for the next 18 to 24 months in large floating pens that are moored to the ocean floor and engineered to withstand the challenging Atlantic tides, currents and weather. The net pens, specifically designed for salmon farms, fully enclose the fish to protect them from predators.

## RESPONSIBLE FARMING PRACTICES

Each farm's location is carefully chosen in areas with the right temperature, water depth and currents. Farmers follow strict codes of practice and regulations to ensure their fish are healthy, properly contained in their pens and waste is managed responsibly. Like farms on land, salmon farms are fallowed regularly, and the environment under and around their farms is regularly monitored. Divers inspect the fish, the pen systems and the ocean floor, sometimes on a weekly basis. Federal and provincial regulators routinely monitor each farm to ensure farmers meet the requirements for fish health and quality as well as environmental standards.

## WHAT DO FARMED SALMON EAT?

Farmed salmon eat nutrient-dense, dry pellets made from animal, plant and fish proteins. Two important ingredients of this feed have been fishmeal and fish oil, although new sources of sustainable proteins are being incorporated to ensure salmon contain high levels of omega-3 fatty acids that are good for your heart and mind, while reducing the use of wild fish. Carotenoids – the same natural ingredients found in carrots and egg yolks – are added to their diet to provide salmon with antioxidants, vitamin A and to give them their pink colour. The feed is tailored to suit the dietary needs of salmon at each life stage, improve feed digestibility and significantly reduce waste. All fish feed ingredients are approved by the Canada Food Inspection Agency.

## Get the facts!

**SALMON FARMERS USE INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS TO DELIVER FEED AS WELL AS UNDERWATER CAMERAS AND SENSORS TO MONITOR FEED DELIVERY, AVOID OVERFEEDING AND ELIMINATE WASTE.**



**REGULATED STOCKING PLANS ENSURE FISH DENSITIES ARE 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.**

**PREVENTING ESCAPES IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR ATLANTIC SALMON FARMERS. SALMON FARMERS DO NOT WANT TO LOSE A SINGLE FISH.**

**NO DYES, CHEMICALS OR GROWTH HORMONES ARE ADDED TO THE DIET OF FARMED SALMON. EVER.**