



# WILD SALMON

interaction

## THE DECLINE OF WILD SALMON

No one really knows exactly why wild salmon populations are fluctuating. Wild salmon populations are impacted by a variety of issues. Marine survival is viewed as the most significant factor, and this is being compounded by climate change. The Cohen Commission listed more than 20 activities affecting salmon, including climate change (marine and fresh water), loss of habitat, predators, non-point sources of contaminants, forestry, and cumulative effects.

## FISH CONTAINMENT

Preventing escapes is a top priority for Atlantic salmon farmers. Salmon farmers do not want to lose a single fish. Their fish are their livelihood. Atlantic fish farmers developed a Code of Containment that follows International Guidelines for Containment set by the International Salmon Farmers Association and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). The code details rigorous guidelines for the design of pens, their mooring systems and netting. Current regulation requires the reporting of fish escapes of more than 100 fish, but farmers voluntarily report all escapes or suspected escapes from farms.

The net pens that contain our salmon have been designed to work in Atlantic Canada and must meet specific engineering standards that will withstand the weather and the energetic tidal waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The net and mooring systems are strong and effective at keeping the fish in and predators, such as birds and seals, out. Due to ongoing advancements in technology and the implementation of the Code of Containment, escapes have been dramatically reduced over the past 25 years, now estimated at well below one per cent and primarily as a result of human error rather than system failures.

## WILD SALMON RECOVERY

Salmon farmers and aquaculture companies have a long history of working on wild salmon conservation and enhancement efforts in many parts of the region. Farmers work with a wide variety of partners, including First

Nations, as part of the innovative Fundy Salmon Recovery project that is now seeing inner Bay of Fundy salmon return to one river in Fundy National Park in unprecedented numbers. (fundysalmonrecovery.com)

## Get the facts!

**SALMON FARMING BEGAN AS A WAY TO ADDRESS THE DECLINE OF THE COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERY FOR ATLANTIC SALMON. THE DECLINE BEGAN OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.**

**THERE IS NO PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT FARMED SALMON TRANSFER DISEASE TO WILD SALMON.**

**STUDIES AND MONITORING DATA SHOW THAT WILD SALMON RUNS FLUCTUATE FROM YEAR TO YEAR WHETHER SALMON FARMS ARE IN THE AREA OR NOT.**

**FARMED SALMON ARE DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND VERY POORLY SUITED TO SURVIVAL IN THE WILD.**

