



# HOW SALMON ARE FARMED

## THE LIFE CYCLE OF FARMED SALMON

Farmed salmon grown in Atlantic Canada originate from St. John River wild salmon. They begin their life cycle as eggs, which are collected from adult salmon broodstock, and placed in temperature controlled tanks in a freshwater hatchery.

After about one year, the young salmon are moved to saltwater farms where they continue to grow for another 18-24 months in large floating net pens that are moored to the ocean floor. The pens rise and fall and are flushed by the tide.

## CAREFUL SITE SELECTION

Salmon farm sites are carefully chosen in areas where water currents naturally provide the best conditions for fish well-being and environmental sustainability. Regulators oversee detailed site-specific environmental assessments before farming operations are permitted.

## APPROVED FARMING PRACTISES

Atlantic salmon farmers adhere to environmental policies and codes of practice developed with government, researchers and the community. Fish farms are regulated by both the federal and provincial governments. Farms are inspected regularly and their records are audited. Some of their farming practices include:

- Monitoring water conditions
- Routinely following their farms between crops
- Conducting regular maintenance and inspection of net pens
- Monitoring of the ocean floor, feed delivery and the health of their fish

## STRONG AND EFFECTIVE NET PENS

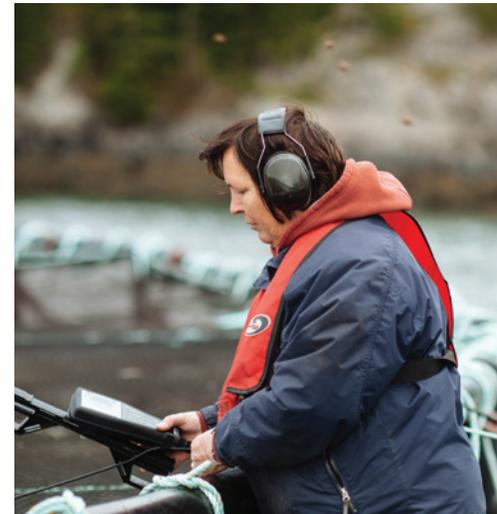
Preventing escapes is a top priority for Atlantic fish farmers, who have developed a Code of Containment that details rigorous guidelines for the design of pens, their mooring systems and netting. Escapes have been dramatically reduced since the early 1990s and have been estimated at well below one per cent in every year since 1995. Regulation requires that all escapes over one hundred fish are reported.

## KEEPING IT NATURAL

*Salmon occupy less than four per cent of the space in their net pen and have plenty of room to mimic natural schooling patterns.*

## INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

*Salmon farmers use underwater cameras and sensors to monitor feed delivery, avoid overfeeding and eliminate waste.*



## CONTACT

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