



CLOSED CONTAINMENT

NOT SO ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY

Salmon farmers are experts in closed containment because our fish spend the first third of their lives in land-based hatcheries where recirculation is used. We know the amount of continuous electricity needed to run land-based facilities would leave a huge carbon footprint by producing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

Closed systems require a consistent and abundant water supply at a time when many areas are facing water shortages. Huge amounts of water are needed to depurate salmon in closed systems prior to harvest.

Depurating the annual New Brunswick production of farmed Atlantic salmon would require the equivalent of diverting more than double the flow of the St. John River in “new” water from wells, streams or rivers.

Our industry has shown over the past 30 years we can grow Atlantic salmon in their natural environment with minimal risk to wild stocks or the marine habitat. Farmers use government-audited ocean floor sampling, underwater cameras and sophisticated feed management techniques to prevent waste and minimize potential environmental impacts to the ocean. Our production systems meet and exceed the stringent provincial and federal regulatory requirements for environmental and fish health standards.

NOT SO HEALTHY FOR OUR FISH

Closed systems result in cramped and stressed fish. A DFO study shows that to make closed containment marginally viable, farmers need to grow fish at a biomass of 50 kg/m³. Our fish are stocked at 15-17.

Atlantic salmon raised in net pens swim in their natural environment, contained by a system of nets, cages and mooring systems that are designed to meet the challenging environment of the east coast.

Our salmon take up less than four per cent of their pen at maximum, giving them plenty of room to follow their natural schooling instinct.

NOT SO COMMERCIALY VIABLE

A study led by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat examined 44 closed containment trials conducted throughout the world, including New Brunswick. All failed. To date, no closed system has successfully grown Atlantic salmon on a commercial scale. Further economic data showed only a four per cent return on equity after three years and return on investment would be two per cent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Developing land-based facilities for Atlantic Canada’s salmon production would require about 8,500 football fields. Net pens need only a fraction of that space in the ocean.

The capital costs to move Atlantic Canada’s salmon production to land would be at least \$1.5 billion.

There is no evidence that farmed salmon transfer disease to wild salmon.



CONTACT



ACFFA

226 Limekiln Road
Letang, NB E5C 2A8
Tel: 506-755-3526
Fax: 506-755-6237

info@atlanticfishfarmers.com
www.atlanticfishfarmers.com