

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR SEA LICE

A BALANCED AND EFFECTIVE APPROACH

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategic approach to sea lice that combines preventative farming practises like fish husbandry, fallowing and low stocking densities with approved treatments when necessary.

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. Veterinarians use only approved products under the oversight of government regulators.

Under an IPM strategy, farmers would have access to a variety of approved products to use based on the life stage of the louse and on other factors like water temperature. That would mean farmers could use the right treatment at the right time, thus reducing the overall amount of approved product used.

Farmers in Chile, Scotland and Norway have had access to a variety of approved products for many years.

COMMITTED TO PROTECTING OUR OCEANS

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.

Extensive scientific field research and monitoring have shown that approved products have no negative impact on the marine system, on lobster or other species when used according to treatment protocols.

Working with researchers and government officials, farmers monitor sea lice at all farms. They work with top scientists and regulators to collaborate on research and monitoring projects and share information with fisheries groups and the community.

INVESTING IN “GREEN” TECHNOLOGIES

Atlantic salmon farmers are investing millions of dollars into the research and development of alternative “green” sea lice technologies like wellboats, sea lice traps, and “cleaner” fish.

WHAT ARE SEA LICE?

Sea lice occur naturally in the ocean and live on many species of wild fish including salmon. They do not pose a human health risk.

Farmed salmon go into the water free of sea lice.

Not all salmon farms have sea lice. No sea lice treatments have been necessary in Nova Scotia for over 20 years.



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