Aquaculture Public Reporting

Aquaculture management in Canada is a shared responsibility. The federal government has jurisdiction over fisheries and fish habitat across the country under the *Fisheries Act*. The Minister of Fisheries, Oceans issues aquaculture licences in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. In the rest of the country, the provinces and territories have this authority.

The Government of Canada established the Sustainable Aquaculture Program in 2008 to help develop an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable aquaculture sector. Sustainability is improved by increasing scientific knowledge and fact-based decision-making, by developing and improving regulations, and by ensuring transparency through enhanced reporting. The recent budget announced a $22 million further investment in the program focused on regulatory aquaculture science, regulatory reform and governance, and improved openness, transparency, and public reporting.

The *Aquaculture Activities Regulations* (AAR) clarify conditions under which aquaculture operators may treat their fish for disease and parasites, deposit organic matter, and manage their facilities under sections 35 and 36 of the *Fisheries Act*. The Regulations require owners or operators of marine finfish aquaculture facilities to submit the use of drugs and pesticides (frequency and quantity) in their operation in an annual report to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. (Frequency is the number of treatment periods, specified in prescriptions, over which drugs and pesticides are to be used on a farm. For example, a single 7 day prescription represents a frequency of one.) In this annual report, operators or owners must also describe measures taken to avoid the need for such uses and measures to mitigate their resulting impacts. They also require aquaculture owners and operators to report on their intent to utilize pest control products when required; any morbidity (unhealthy fish) or mortality events in wild fish; any exceedances of Biological Oxygen Demanding matter thresholds; and, when an application, for a new or expanded site is submitted to a provincial or territorial authority.

The process of raising farmed finfish includes a number of animal husbandry practices to ensure fish remain healthy throughout the production cycle. Practices include using high-quality nutritional feed, providing a low-stress growing environment (e.g. not over-crowding) and, when required, veterinarian treatments against fish pests and pathogens. These treatments include the use of approved drugs or registered pesticides or other mitigation actions.

All of the products presented in the data have previously been assessed for risk and authorized for use by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency via the *Pest Control Products Act*, *Feeds Act* or *the Food and Drugs Act*. The amount of product alone does not determine the existence of any potential environmental threats, nor explains the reason for differing amounts needed to treat pests and pathogens which seriously impact fish health at specific farm sites. In assessing the potential for impacts, the reader/user should include the physical/chemical

properties of the substance (e.g. water solubility, persistence), non-target species present, oceanographic and hydrographic characteristics of the site, intrinsic toxicity of substance, etc.

Environmental factors (e.g. temperature), animal husbandry, type and severity of infections, and cost-benefit of treatment strategies play an important role in the type and amounts of drugs and pesticides used to treat pathogens.

Fishery officers conduct regular patrols on land, on sea and in the air for compliance and enforcement purposes. In their inspections, they validate licence reporting and determine whether there is compliance with the conditions of the aquaculture licences. When necessary, fishery officers respond to complaints and conduct investigations. In addition, the Department promotes compliance through public education and awareness activities to encourage all Canadians to protect fishery resources and habitats.

Further information can be found on:

- Aquaculture Activities Regulations Reporting (New page)

This dataset contains a list of the type and quantities of drug and pesticide products used at aquaculture facilities to combat pests and microbial pathogens. The data is submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada by industry owners or operators as a reporting requirement under the *Aquaculture Activities Regulations* (AAR). The Department does not manipulate or interpret the information submitted by the regulated parties. The Department reserves the right to make changes should errors or omissions be identified.