

## ENSURING THE HEALTH & WELFARE OF FARM-RAISED SALMON

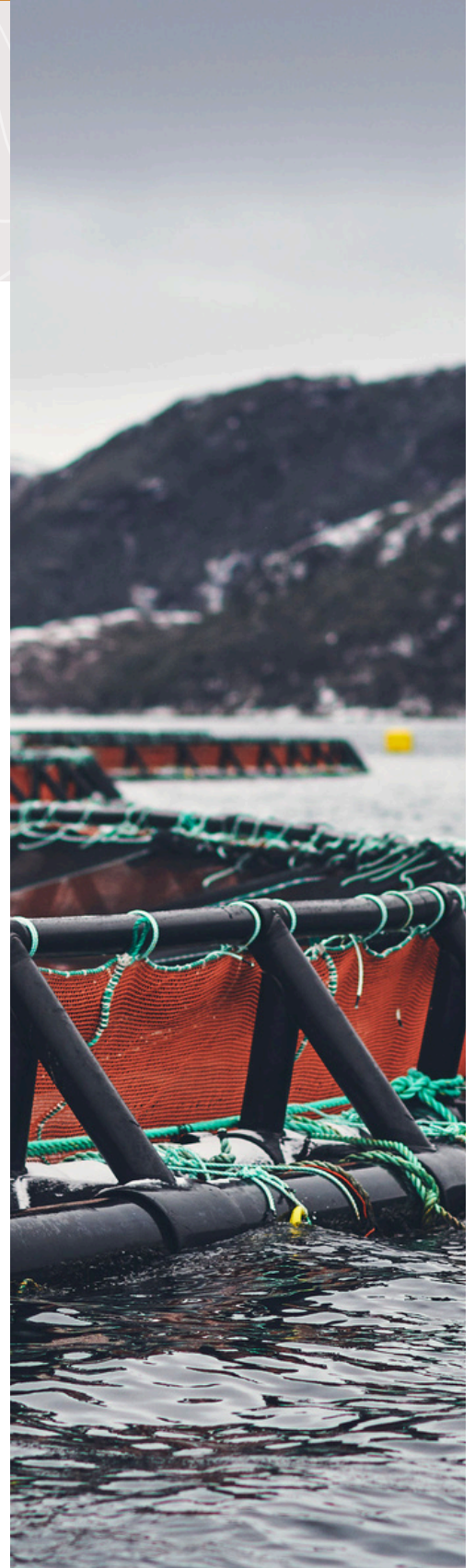
Canadian salmon farmers use best management practices and technologies to ensure the health and welfare of farm-raised salmon.

### PRISTINE MARINE CAGE CONDITIONS

- Canadian salmon farmers know that **pristine marine cage conditions are essential** for healthy, high-quality salmon.
- Farmers keep stocking densities low so fish can mimic natural schooling patterns. Salmon **occupy less than 4% of the marine cage** in a typical Canadian farm, giving them lots of space to swim and grow<sup>1</sup>.
- Farmers must **conduct regular government-audited sediment testing** of the ocean floor to ensure farms meet high environmental standards.
- Salmon farms are fallowed (emptied) regularly – just like farms on land – to ensure their continued viability.
- Farmers use **underwater cameras** to avoid overfeeding and use tailored fish feed to suit the dietary needs of salmon at each life stage. **Divers inspect the fish, the nets, and the ocean floor** regularly.

### MANAGING SEA LICE

- **Managing sea lice is a top priority** for North American salmon farmers. Farmers must manage, under regulation, sea lice to low levels to protect the health of both farm-raised and wild salmon.
- Sea lice are parasites that occur naturally in ocean environments and have existed on wild salmon and other fish species for thousands of years. They **do not pose a risk to human health**.



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## MANAGING SEA LICE, CONTINUED

- Farmers use a **strategic approach to sea lice** that combines preventative farming practices like fish husbandry, fallowing, and low stocking densities combined with various management practices and approved treatments when necessary.
- Canadian salmon farmers are **investing millions into research and development** for “green” sea lice treatment technologies, such as freshwater well boats, warm water and water pressure systems, broodstock development, and “cleaner” fish.



All salmon are healthy and free of parasites when they enter marine farms. However, naturally present pathogens and parasites in the environment can sometimes affect farm-raised salmon.

## MAINTAINING FISH HEALTH

- Farmers **vaccinate farm-raised salmon** against several diseases that commonly affect both farmed and wild salmon, part of regulated surveillance programs through their veterinarians.
- Antibiotic use on North American salmon farms is **in line with that of any other agricultural animal producing industries**<sup>2</sup>.
- Canadian farm-raised salmon **commonly grow to maturity without the use of any antibiotics**.
- In the rare instances when treatment is necessary, the treatment is prescribed and overseen by licensed veterinarians. **Veterinarians use only approved products** under the oversight of government regulators.
- Health Canada undertakes **extensive risk assessments of all treatments** to ensure they are safe for salmon and other species, the environment, and human health.

1.<https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/40653109.pdf>

2.<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/carss/amu/results.html?ind=05>