



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Conservation and Protection
Pacific Region
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Nanaimo, British Columbia
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Pêches et Océans
Canada

Conservation et Protection
Région du Pacifique
Suite no 2 - voie Island Diesel
Nanaimo (C.-B.)
V9S 5W8

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

August 9, 2011

Dear;

The Conservation and Protection (C&P) Program of the Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO), has created a dedicated unit of Fishery Officers to focus on aquaculture in BC. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the procedures that will be followed by C&P officers while conducting duties under the *Fisheries Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14)* and the *Pacific Aquaculture regulations* with respect to marine fin fish aquaculture facilities. While conducting inspections and investigations, Fishery Officers are required to comply with enforcement policies and occupational health and safety regulations. C&P officers received guidance from DFO fish health and veterinary staff with respect to bio-security and fish health concerns including the prevention of pathogen transfer. Bio-security measures taken by officers will be documented.

Inspections:

When attending facilities for the purpose of an inspection C&P staff will follow bio-security protocols including the following:

- Attending sites with the youngest stock first and proceeding to sites with older stock (when stocking information is provided upon request).
- Docking at the "Designated Docking Area" when deemed appropriate by C&P staff. If the area is not deemed appropriate due to operational requirements, C&P staff will consult with site staff to determine a secondary docking area to meet C & P operational requirements.
- C&P staff will disinfect equipment before attending a site.
- C&P staff will utilize available foot baths on-site.

Vessels and equipment that have come into contact with wild fish stocks or fishing gear will not attend any facility prior to being thoroughly disinfected.

Investigations:

Investigational procedures and rules of evidence collection may conflict with individual company bio-security protocols. Under these circumstances vessels and equipment will be disinfected with Virkon Aquatic prior to attending the site.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you and your staff that owners and facility staff have a responsibility under the section 49(1.2)(a) of the *Fisheries Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14)* to provide reasonable assistance to Fishery Officers and Fishery Guardians while carrying out their inspections. There is also provisions under the act that make it an offence to provide false information or to obstruct a Fishery Officer or Guardian when carrying out duties or functions under the Act.

We encourage individual companies to provide monthly inventory reports to assist in C&P patrol planning. If you are experiencing a fish health event that may compromise bio-security at one of your sites please contact the DFO Observe Record Report (ORR) line at 1-800-465-4336 to advise C&P staff.

The C&P program welcomes dialogue with you and your staff and I encourage you to contact the C&P aquaculture unit to discuss bio-security. Please contact Denver Marray who is the C&P Aquaculture Detachment Supervisor in Campbell River to arrange a meeting. Denver may be reached at 250- 286-5816.

Sincerely,

B. Atagi
Area Chief Aquaculture
Conservation and Protection