


Incidental Catch at BC Aquaculture Facilities

At marine finfish facilities in British Columbia, the nets used to contain farmed fish can allow wild fish to pass in and out of the farm. If wild fish are caught during aquaculture related activities, such as the harvest or transfer of fish, they are referred to as **incidental catch**. To manage this, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has strict requirements that facility operators must follow.


WHAT DOES DFO REQUIRE?

BEFORE HARVEST



Facilities must have mitigation measures in place to **sort wild fish from farmed fish** as well as limit harm to wild fish.


DURING HARVEST



Facilities must **maintain records** of all incidental catch.


Dead incidental catch must be disposed of by following **established protocols**.

Living incidental catch must be immediately released in a manner which causes the least harm.



DFO Fishery Officers, or Fishery Guardians, **perform inspections** to observe and confirm that mitigation measures are properly implemented and appropriate records are maintained.

AFTER HARVEST



Facilities must **submit reports** after harvest is complete. Facilities that grow fish year-round must **submit reports annually**. **Data is summarized and publicly reported online**. Overall, instances of incidental catch are very low and considered negligible in comparison to the allowable catch of BC's other fisheries.

ON AVERAGE, PACIFIC HERRING ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF ANNUAL INCIDENTAL CATCH MORTALITIES WHILE PACIFIC SALMON ACCOUNT FOR THE LEAST

PACIFIC HERRING

78%

PACIFIC SALMON

0.2%

THE TYPES OF INCIDENTAL CATCH

HERRING



Clupea pallasii (Pacific Herring)

COD



Gadidae (Pacific cod, Pacific tomcod, and walleye polluck)

SALMON



Oncorhynchus sp. (pink, sockeye, chum, chinook and coho)

SURFPERCH



Embiotocidae (shiner perch, striped seaperch, pile perch, etc.)

ROCKFISH



Sebastidae (black rockfish, copper rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, etc.)

OTHER



Includes fish belonging to many different groups but all were reported in low quantity (Northern anchovy, sablefish, sculpin species, etc.)

