



North American Commission

NAC(19)05

Annual Report

(Tabled by the United States)

NEA(19)05

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United States, 2018 Activities

Submitted by: National Marine Fisheries Service

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1. Summary of Salmonid disease incidences

In 2018, no disease outbreaks were reported occurring and requiring therapeutic treatments.

U.S. Point of Contact on Disease:

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2. Summary of breaches of containment of salmonids from net cages

There were no reportable escape events in 2018.

Species (Strain, if applicable)	Number¹	Average size of fish²	Location³	Result⁴	Cause of the breach	Date

There were no reported escapes, and as such, this table has intentionally been left blank.

1. This should be the best estimate possible, though it is recognized that exact numbers may be difficult to obtain.
2. Based on the codes of containment, it was agreed that average size is a more accurate measurement than lifestage.
3. The more specific the information the better, however Bay level is considered sufficient.
4. This refers to using recapture methods as detailed in the relevant code of containment and summarizing the results of the recapture attempt.

Notes:

Federal permits for U.S. commercial aquaculture operations in Maine require reporting any escapes of 50 fish or greater, and specifically for marine sites; only fish larger than 2 kg or a loss of greater than 25% of cage biomass for fish smaller than 2 kg are reported (i.e., reportable escape).

3. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

Listed below is information on salmonids brought into the Commission Area in 2018. No salmonids that originate from outside the NAC area are stocked directly into salmon rivers in Maine. The vast majority of fish brought in from outside the Commission area are stocked in inland ponds and lakes (e.g., private “farm ponds”) and, thus, pose little or no risk to Atlantic salmon in the wild. Any potential risks are further minimized by strict fish health regulations (both state and federal) as well as distance from salmon rivers in Maine.

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin ¹	Destination ²	Purpose ³	Date
Brown trout	37,000	Eyed eggs	Finland	Connecticut	Recreational Fisheries	2018
Rainbow Trout	41,500	Eyed Eggs	Trout Lodge, WA	Maine	Private Ponds, Recreational Fisheries	2018
Rainbow trout	50,000	Eyed eggs	Trout Lodge, WA	New Hampshire	Private ponds, research, commercial net pen aquaculture in New Hampshire	2018
Rainbow trout	675,000	Eyed eggs	Trout Lodge, WA	Pennsylvania	Private ponds, Recreational Fisheries	2018

1. This would be the province or state for introductions from the west coast; or country for international introductions. It was decided that introductions between Canada and the US that are within the Commission Area (between Maine and NB, for example) would not be included here as those introductions would be captured in other avenues (ICES WGITMO, for example) and because these are not as relevant.

2. The more specific the information the better, however Bay level is considered sufficient.

3. This refers to the intention for the introduction – aquaculture, research, stock enhancement, etc.

There is also increasing interest in land-based commercial production of Atlantic salmon in Maine. Preliminary discussions and public meetings were held to exchange information about two land-based facilities (i.e., recirculating aquaculture systems - RAS) to rear Atlantic salmon from egg to harvest size completely in large tanks in a RAS design housed entirely in a building on land. Both projects are considering the importation and use of non-North American origin eggs for production within the facility. Thorough reviews of the (1) design of each facility, (2) containment management systems, and (3) federal and state permit applications with U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Maine discharge permit for wastewater (MEPDES) are ongoing. In 2018, the State of Maine Department Environmental Protection issued a MEPDES permit for a proposed RAS facility in Bucksport, Maine. To date, no eggs or fish have been imported into the state or transferred to a facility. All permits must be in place and final approval from state and federal agencies prior to importing any eggs or fish into the proposed facilities described above.

4. Summary of Transgenic activities within the Country Annex 1 of NAC(10)6

In 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a supplemental New Animal Drug Application (NADA) to rear genetically engineered (GE) salmon (AquaAdvantage) at an FDA approved land based facility in Indiana. The supplemental application filed in 2017 requested approval for an additional facility located in Albany, Indiana. A previous NADA approved by the FDA in 2015, specifically identified the company (AquaBounty Technologies) and the product (AquaAdvantage GE salmon) to be produced in AquaBounty's freshwater hatchery on Prince Edward Island, Canada, and the subsequent eggs would be transferred to Panama for grow out to market. In 2016, the FDA issued an Import Alert (99-40) to prevent the importation of AquaAdvantage GE salmon into the United States due to concerns over insufficient labelling requirements for appropriately notifying the consumer of the nature of the product being purchased for food. In 2019, the FDA deactivated the Import alert 99-40 that now allows AquaBounty to sell products from their AquaAdvantage salmon in the United States and import GE salmon eggs into the only FDA approved land based facility in the United States for grow out to market. The first harvest of market size fish from the facility is anticipated in 2020. Additionally, as previously noted, state and federal regulations in place prohibit the use of transgenic salmon for grow out in marine net pens in Maine.