

## NAC(17)9

### *Information on the rearing of transgenic salmon (tabled by Canada)*

1. AquaBounty is seeking provincial approval to expand their hatchery facility for grow-out of AquaAdvantage® salmon in Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island. The facility would be required to adhere to standards of physical and operational containment to ensure these transgenic salmon do not enter the environment.
2. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) approved the production of AquaAdvantage® salmon in Canada in 2013. Fisheries and Oceans Canada assisted ECCC in the regulatory process by conducting the environmental and indirect human health risk assessment for AquaAdvantage® salmon in 2013 and by providing science advice at the time to ECCC to appropriately manage risks. The risk assessment examined a range of scenarios including extreme weather events. Under the well-defined physical and operational containment conditions proposed by AquaBounty, Fisheries and Oceans Canada determined that the AquaAdvantage® salmon poses a low risk to the Canadian environment and indirect human health from environmental exposure.
3. AquaBounty submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment to seek Prince Edward Island provincial approval to expand their hatchery operation for grow-out of transgenic, sterile Atlantic salmon in Prince Edward Island. The province has provided an information session and accepted public comments on the proposal until 15 May 2017.
4. The Significant New Activity Notice (No. 16528) issued by ECCC under the Significant New Activity Regulations in 2013 outlines the containment requirements to produce Aqua Advantage salmon. In accordance with ECCC's Significant New Activity Notice, the facility will be required to follow the strict standards of physical and operational containment as required under the previous regulatory process to ensure these salmon do not enter the Canadian environment. If Fisheries and Oceans Canada receives an application to transfer these salmon, the physical containment requirements of the receiving facility (i.e. Rollo Bay facility) will reflect the requirements of this Notice.
5. Whereas ECCC is responsible for compliance and enforcement under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff are currently assessing whether an Introductions and Transfer licence issued under Section 56 of the Fishery (General) Regulations would be required to move the eggs/fish between facilities. If so, an inspection of the physical containment of the new facility may be performed as a condition of licence.