



North American Commission

NAC(18)05

Annual Report

(Tabled by the United States)

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United States, 2017

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1. Summary of Salmonid disease incidences

In 2017, 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 2017. As reported last year, there were two aquaculture escapees found in the Dennys River and one in the Penobscot River in 2016. Since all of the farmed fish in the United States are genetically marked, we were able to determine that the fish were of farmed origin and from which site they escaped. In 2017, monitoring was undertaken to assess potential introgression risks as early as possible. In that regard, roughly 50 tissue samples were collected from 0+parr in the Dennys River in the vicinity of known redds to conduct genetic screening. Results are not yet available. In addition, all broodstock collected from the Dennys and Penobscot Rivers are screened to ensure that no farm-origin salmon are used in the conservation hatchery program.

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 2017. No salmonids that originate from outside the NAC area are stocked directly into 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
<i>Brown trout</i>	35,000	Eyed eggs	Finland	Connecticut	Recreational Fisheries	2017
<i>Brown trout</i>	45,500	Eyed eggs	Variable sources but with known fish health certifications	Connecticut	Recreational Fisheries	2017
<i>Rainbow trout</i>	200,000	Eyed eggs	Trout Lodge	Rhode Island	Recreational Fisheries	2017
<i>Rainbow trout</i>	49,000	Eyed eggs	Trout Lodge	Maine, New Hampshire	Private ponds, research, commercial net pen aquaculture in NH	2017
<i>Rainbow Trout</i>	1,250,000	Eyed Eggs	Trout Lodge, Erwin NFH	Pennsylvania	Recreational Fisheries, private ponds	2017
<i>Rainbow Trout</i>	15,000	Eyed eggs	Erwin NFH	New York	Recreational Fisheries	2017
<i>Rainbow trout</i>	61,000	Eyed eggs	Variable sources but with known fish health certifications	Connecticut	Recreational Fisheries	2017

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. While no eggs or fish have yet been placed in a facility, in 2017, preliminary discussions were held about two land-based facilities (i.e., recirculating aquaculture systems) to rear Atlantic salmon from egg to harvest size. 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) anticipated discharges for wastewater are ongoing. These reviews must be completed and strict requirements must be met before any authorizations could be issued.

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

There are no further updates on this matter beyond what was provided in 2016.