North American Commission *North American Commission Annual Report (Submitted to the North American Commission by Canada)*	**NAC(26)03** **Agenda item: 7**

North American Commission Annual Report (Tabled by Canada)

Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Date: Data covers the calendar year 2025

The North American Commission (NAC) of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) is geographically defined. The boundaries include the maritime waters within the fisheries jurisdiction of coastal states off the east coast of North America.

1. Summary of salmonid-controlled disease incidents

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canada's National Aquatic Animal Health Program and is the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health which includes meeting Canada's international reporting obligations to the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.

The CFIA updates the health status of Canada's aquatic animals monthly as mandatory notifications of aquatic animal diseases are confirmed (See Annex).

For more information, please consult the CFIA website or contact:

- Domestic disease status and imports: Dr. Clarice Lulai-Angi, clarice.lulai-angi@inspection.gc.ca
- For exports: Dr. Suminder Sawhney, suminder.sawhney@inspection.gc.ca 2025 summary of federally reportable diseases of salmonids

https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/federally-reportable-aquatic-animal-diseases/eng/1339174937153

Current as of: 2025-12-31

Disease	**Total (Quebec/Atlantic Region)**
Ceratomyxosis (*Ceratomyxa shasta*)	0
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis	0
Infectious pancreatic necrosis	0
Infectious salmon anaemia	16
Whirling disease (*Myxobolus cerebralis*)	0

Confirmed cases of federally reportable diseases in 2025 that affected salmonids[1] in the Atlantic Region are summarized in the tables below.

[1] Reporting does not distinguish whether the salmonids were cultured or wild.

Locations infected with infectious salmon anaemia[2]:

Date confirmed	Location	Animal type infected	Scientific Name
December 11 Table note *	Nova Scotia	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
November 21	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
November 20	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
November 20	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
November 20	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
September 11	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
July 25	Newfoundland	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
July 10 Table note*	Newfoundland	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
July 10	Newfoundland	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
July 7	Nova Scotia	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
July 7	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
June 11	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
March 28 Table note*	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
February 20	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
February 20	New Brunswick	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*
January 30 Table note*	Prince Edward Island	Atlantic salmon	*Salmo salar*

Table Note This virus strain is not known to cause disease.*

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

Species (Strain, if applicable)	Number [A]	Average size of fish[B]	Location [C]	Result [D]	Cause of the Breach
Rainbow Trout	>34,000	620 g	Whycocomagh Bay, Nova Scotia	The escape was not detected until well after the time of the event, making recapture infeasible. A hole in containment netting was repaired immediately upon discovery.	Hole in containment net.
Steelhead Trout (diploid)	300	2.5 kg	AQ1159, St. Alban's Wharf Site 2, Bay D'Espoir, Newfoundland	Recapture efforts undertaken over six days resulted in no recaptures.	The breach is attributed to a hole in cage netting.

Notes:

A. This should be the best estimate possible, though it is recognized that exact numbers may

[2] Locations infected with infectious salmon anaemia - inspection.canada.ca

be difficult to obtain.

B. Based on the codes of containment, it was agreed that average size is a more accurate measurement than life stage.

C. The more specific the information the better, however bay level is considered sufficient.

D. This refers to using recapture methods as detailed in the relevant code of containment and summarizing the results of the recapture attempt.

There are no marine net-pens in Quebec or Prince Edward Island.

There were no reported or confirmed escape events in New Brunswick in 2025[3].

In Nova Scotia[4], the number of escaped fish listed above is an estimate. The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA) will complete an inventory reconciliation for all confirmed and suspected breaches of containment reported in 2025. Should there be inventory variances that cannot be explained, DFA will report to DFO, as required, on any variances. Per Section 37-39 of the Nova Scotia *Aquaculture Management Regulations*, DFA performed an audit of the containment management section of the Farm Management Plan. As a result of the audit findings, the licence holder was required to submit a corrective action plan for which implementation was verified by DFA.

In Newfoundland[5], efforts to recapture escaped fish were commenced immediately in accordance with the Code of Containment for the Culture of Salmonids, which is a condition for all salmonid aquaculture licences in the province.

3. Compilation of confirmed farmed Atlantic salmon escapees caught at monitoring facilities along the Atlantic coast

Salmon escapees caught at monitoring facilities in rivers of DFO Maritimes and Newfoundland Regions from 2015 to 2025. No salmon escapees were caught in the province of Quebec and DFO Newfoundland and Labrador Region in 2025. Escapees were confirmed by scale analysis and physical appearance.

[3] As per the New Brunswick Aquaculture Act, 2019, 56(3) a licence holder shall report to the Chief Veterinary Officer any failure of the site's containment structures in accordance with the regulations, which adopt the Code of Containment for Finfish Aquaculture in New Brunswick, published by Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association. Finfish escapes or failure of containment structures where losses are equal to or greater than 50 fish are posted on the public facing registry, as per the General Regulation, 2022-28, section 7(b)(iv). A link to the public registry can be found at: https://dnr-mrn.gnb.ca/AquacultureRegistry/AquacultureRegistry.aspx

[4] In Nova Scotia, per Section 33(2) of the Aquaculture Management Regulations (AMRs), a licence holder or any personnel of their aquacultural operation who know or suspect a breach must immediately notify the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. As outlined in Section 15 of the AMRs, a licence holder must have information and procedures in their Farm Management Plan (FMP) that outlines how they limit the risk of a breach, and their response to a known or suspected breach. The minimum compliance requirements for a licence holders FMP can be found here: https://novascotia.ca/fish/documents/compliance-documents/Minimum-compliance-requirements-Marine-Finfish.pdf

[5] In Newfoundland and Labrador, escape reporting in managed by the Code of Containment for the Culture of Salmonids, which is a condition of all salmonid aquaculture site licences in the Province, but is co-administered by the Province and DFO. The code requires licensees to immediately report escape incidents to both DFO and the Newfoundland Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFA). The Province also requires public reporting as per AP 17 of the DFA Aquaculture Policy and Procedures Manual (via the NAIA website or company website) within 24 hours of escapes, incident events and disease events.

Year	New Brunswick			Nova Scotia	Newfoundland and Labrador	
	Big Salmon River	Magaguadavic River	Saint John River (Mactaquac Dam)	Gaspereau River (White Rock)	Garnish River	**Total**
2015	0	0	0	0	8	**8**
2016	0	0	0	0	3	**3**
2017	0	0	0	1	7	**8**
2018	0	0	1	1	5	**7**
2019	3	78	3	0	0	**84**
2020	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
2021	0	3	0	2	1	**6**
2022	0	59	4	0	0	**63**
2023	0	65	0	0	0	**65**
2024	0	17	0	0	0	**17**
2025	0	4	0	0	0	**4**
Total	**3**	**226**	**8**	**4**	**25**	**262**

4. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin [A]	Destination [B]	Purpose [C]	Land-Based or Marine
Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Saga strain, all-female – diploid	375,000	Eggs	Hafnarfjörður, Iceland	Centre Burlington, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Saga strain, all-female – diploid	250,000	Eggs	Hafnarfjörður, Iceland	Wentworth Valley, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Stofnfiskur strain, all-female – triploid	275,000	Eggs	Hafnarfjörður, Iceland	Wentworth Valley, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based

Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Troutlodge strain, mixed sex – diploid	1,050,000	Eggs	Troutlodge Inc., Washington, USA	Merigomish, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) Steelhead strain, all-female – triploid	2,000,000	Eggs	Troutlodge Inc., Washington, USA	Wolfville, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	20,000	Fingerlings	Lyndon Fish Hatchery, Ontario[6]	Truro, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)	20,000	Fingerlings	CTSS Fish Culture Station, Québec[7]	Truro, Nova Scotia	Aquaculture	Land-Based
Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	6,000,000	eyed eggs	Hoodsport, WA, USA	North Wiltshire, PE	Aquaculture	Land Based
Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	80,000	eyed eggs	Hoodsport, WA, USA	Victoria, PE	Research	Land Based
Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)	50,000	fertilized eggs	Benchmark Genetics, Iceland	Victoria, PE	Research	Land Based
Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) - triploid	5,400,000	Eggs	Iceland	Marystown, Newfoundland and Labrador	Aquaculture	Land- and Marine-Based

[6] Ontario- and Québec-origin salmonid transfers are included because the NASCO North American Commission Area is defined geographically rather than by national or provincial boundaries, and interprovincial movements originating outside the Commission Area are required to be reported to NASCO in the same manner as international introductions.

[7] Ibid.

Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	125,000	Eggs	Washington, USA	Quebec	Aquaculture	Land-based

Notes:

A. 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 NASCO Commission Area (between Maine and New Brunswick, for example) would not be included here as those introductions would be captured in other avenues and because these are not as relevant.

B. The more specific the information the better. However, Bay level is considered sufficient.

C. This refers to the purpose for the introduction – aquaculture, research, stock enhancement, recreational fishing, etc.

5. Summary of transgenic activities within the country [Annex 1 of NAC (10)6]

In 2025, there was no production of transgenic salmon in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Newfoundland and Labrador.

In keeping with Annex 5, paragraph d) of the Williamsburg Resolution, DFO has established and continues to operate the Centre for Aquatic Biotechnology Regulatory Research (CABRR), in British Columbia, where contained, land-based research is undertaken to provide scientific knowledge that informs risk assessment, risk management and regulatory approaches for transgenic salmonids. To facilitate decision-making in the absence of full scientific certainty, where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm, the Government of Canada has developed a Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-Based Decision Making about Risk. This approach is aligned with Article 7 of the Williamsburg Resolution.

Although the following two projects are unrelated to transgenic activity, Canada volunteers the following introductions and transfers information regarding 1) Newfoundland and Labrador's Grieg Project and 2) a project to produce triploid European Atlantic Salmon from the eyed egg stage in New Brunswick hatcheries through to commercial harvest at marine cage sites in Nova Scotia. Canada does not intend to report on triploid production in subsequent NAC reports.

1) Cermaq Marine NL Ltd (formerly Grieg Seafood NL) operates a state of the art hatchery / smolt facility in Marystown, Newfoundland and is licensed to operate 13 licensed marine farms in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland. Each marine farm consists of multiple cages with nets extending down to 43 meters.

The project proposal was received back in February 2016 and has undergone a series of provincial and federal environmental reviews and assessments. More information, including relevant documents, is publicly available from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at https://www.gov.nl.ca/mae/projects/project-1834/. Additionally, DFO published two CSAS reviews of their proposed sites, which can be found at the following links: Science Response 2019/029 and Science Response 2022/019.

In 2020, the company introduced their initial batches of triploid (all female) European salmon eggs at their land-based hatchery in Marystown. Following a suspected detection of the Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) virus in 2021, the hatchery population was culled as a preventative measure. To date, no further ISA detections have been reported in subsequent egg introductions.

In 2022, the company stocked two marine sites in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, which have now been fully harvested. Three sites were stocked in 2023 and harvested in 2025, while three additional sites were stocked in 2024 with harvest scheduled in 2026.

Prior to DFO approving the transfer of smolt to marine cages, the company is required to sample fish (via blood) to verify triploidy, beyond the two-step validation conducted at the source in Iceland. As part of the province's environmental assessment process, it required the development of a triploid verification methodology. Federal and provincial respective requirements were approved.

2) New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Introductions and Transfers Committees received a request from Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., to internationally import triploid (all female) European salmon eggs into their land-based hatchery in New Brunswick in 2023 for stocking onto marine finfish aquaculture cage sites in Nova Scotia in 2024.

The DFO-Chaired New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Introductions and Transfers Committees reviewed the applications for their respective provinces. At the recommendation of the DFO Science genetics experts, the DFO Chairs sought expertise from University of New Brunswick Professor, Dr. Tillmann Benfey. Seeking outside expertise is in keeping with the National Code on the Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms. Dr. Benfey is an expert on the use of single-sex and sterile populations of fish for aquaculture and was a contributor to the 2016 Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) Science Response (DFO. 2016. "Proposed Use of European-Strain Triploid Atlantic Salmon in Marine Cage Aquaculture in Placentia Bay, NL." DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Sci. Resp. 2016/034). Dr. Benfey confirmed that the procedures proposed by the egg supplier are the accepted standards and aligned with his recommended approach for producing and screening all-female triploid populations of Atlantic salmon. Although the egg supplier did not provide specific methodological details, Dr. Benfey indicated that verification of success is of greater importance. For the all-female component, it's basically a "yes" or "no", and this is captured in the all-female process. For the triploidy component, Dr. Benfey advised that, although the egg supplier's sample size does not match those recommended in the 2016 CSAS, their triploid verification process is the same one he employs, and he therefore has confidence in their stated 99.4% triploidy success rate from 18,738 analyses since 2016.

Triploid verification test results from the egg supplier were required prior to transfer into the New Brunswick Hatchery. Results showed 100% of the eggs sampled were triploid. Containment measures such as triple screening and effluent treatment were in place at the hatchery. Prior to transfer to NS marine sites, additional testing from a third party for percentage triploidy was required.

Annex

Additional Information

- Information on all confirmed findings of regulated diseases is publicly available on the CFIA's website (see http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable/2017/eng/1339174937153/1339175227861).
- The CFIA also maintains information on the status of controlled diseases in Canada (see http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/eng/1299155892122/1320536294234