

Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Biosecurity Audit Plan
Aquatic Animal Health Division Guidelines

Biosecurity is a set of preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of disease. Every aquaculture company that operates in Newfoundland and Labrador is required to have a Biosecurity Plan. The plan outlines the measures taken to prevent the spread of disease for every step of their process – from hatchery to processing plant.

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture is committed to promoting a sustainable aquaculture industry. By performing Biosecurity Audits, the Aquatic Animal Health Division is ensuring that companies are taking every reasonable action to prevent the spread of disease. This will help to ensure aquatic animal health and that future expansion of the aquaculture industry is conducted in a sustainable manner.

Outlined in this document are the types of Biosecurity Audits, and the frequency of each type, that the Aquatic Animal Health Division is committed to performing. Biosecurity Audits are subject to weather and safety conditions. Aquatic Animal Health retains the right to exceed the number of audits outlined anywhere in this document. All audits will involve a review of relevant records, such as Cleaning and Disinfection activities or processing plant effluent records.

Hatcheries/Nurseries

- The Aquatic Animal Health Division will perform a Hatchery/Nursery Biosecurity Audit (AP 35 – Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audit) at every aquaculture hatchery/nursery in the province a minimum of one time per year. This audit can include testing of the incoming water to ensure it is free of specific pathogens. This can be combined with surveillance or Certificate of Health for Transfer visits.

Fish Transfers

- Transfers involve transferring fish from one aquaculture lease to another or between provinces. A Transfer and Transport Permit is required to move live fish for aquaculture purposes (AP 12 – Transfer and Transport Permits). This process can utilize any combination of trucks, boats, net pens and wharves. Outflow Wharves).
- Notification of all transfers are required as outlined in the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Policy and Procedures Manual (AP 36 – Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge Biosecurity; AP 37 – Aquaculture Equipment Biosecurity). Aquatic Animal Health Division will perform a Fish Transfer

Biosecurity Audit a minimum of one time per aquaculture company per Bay Management Area per year. The Aquatic Animal Health Division retains the right to audit any or all of the transfers occurring.

Marine Cage Sites

- Performing marine cage site audits (AP 35 – Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits), ensures that companies are doing everything within reason to operate in a biosecure manner.
- The Aquatic Animal Health Division will perform a Marine Cage Site Biosecurity Audit at every active aquaculture marine cage site in the province a minimum of two times per year. One of these audits will take place in the spring/summer of the year, and one in the fall/winter. These audits can be performed at the same time as other activities (i.e., surveillance).

Harvest Vessels

- Harvest vessels and other outflow activities are not permitted at inflow wharves for that Bay Management Area (AP 38 – Inflow and Outflow wharves).
- Several types of harvest vessels can be used. The Aquatic Animal Health Division will perform a Harvest Vessel Biosecurity Audit (AP 35 – Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits) a minimum of one time per aquaculture company per vessel type per year. These audits can be performed at the same time as other activities (i.e., surveillance).

Processing Plants

- Processing plants handle a large quantity of fish and water effluent. It is important to ensure that proper disinfection of effluent water is occurring to prevent any potential pathogen spread.
- A phage test is used to verify the effectiveness of the water treatment process. The current minimum recommendation is that processing plants conduct a phage test be performed every five years (AP – 39 Blood Water and Offal).
- The Aquatic Animal Health Division will perform a Processing Plant Biosecurity Audit (AP 35 – Biosecurity and Biosecurity Audits) at every aquaculture processing plant operating within the aquaculture growing region in the province a minimum of one time per year.
- Processing plants can handle High Risk Material only if they meet the requirements of the Aquaculture Policies (AP 39 – Blood Water and Offal).

Vessels Coming Into or Leaving the Province

- To prevent the spread of potential pathogens between provinces/countries, The Aquatic Animal Health Division retains the right to perform a Vessel Biosecurity

Audit on every vessel coming into the province. Notice must be given to the Aquatic Animal Health Division as outlined in the Aquaculture Policy and Procedures Manual (AP 36 – Aquaculture Motor Vehicle, Vessel, Boat and Barge Biosecurity). The Aquatic Animal Health Division will audit vessels leaving the province upon request.

Sites/Facilities Operating Under a Quarantine and/or Depopulation Order

- Sites under a provincial Quarantine and/or Depopulation Order must follow the Contingency Plan and the Aquaculture Policy and Procedures Manual (AP – 33 Aquatic Animal Health Contingency Plan).