

AQUAPLAN INFORMATION LEAFLET

GENERAL BIOSECURITY

PRINCIPLES

- Biosecurity in aquaculture can be defined as a set of management practices put in place to prevent the introduction of disease causing organisms onto a site.
- Effective biosecurity measures should prevent the spread of potential pathogens both within and between sites.
- Biosecurity plans should be site-specific and based on a risk analysis of the potential hazards.
- There are three components to biosecurity control measures:
 - Ensuring ongoing health and welfare
 - External barriers – preventing pathogen entry
 - Internal barriers – minimizing spread within a site

ONGOING HEALTH AND WELFARE

- The objective of site biosecurity is to exclude potential pathogens from entering the site, thereby helping to maintain the health and welfare of the stock.
- Ensure staff are knowledgeable and experienced in recognising early signs of disease.
- Optimal levels of fish health and welfare should be achieved by following the guidelines outlined in *The Farmed Salmonid Health Handbook*.



EXTERNAL BARRIERS

- Dips for footwear and vehicles should be positioned at the entry to each site.
- Vehicles and equipment (boats, transport trucks, fishing gear) should be disinfected prior to entering site.
- Ensure that transporters have carried out appropriate cleaning and disinfection procedures on vehicles, prior to entering a site.
- Visitor logbooks should be used with declarations of contact with fish in the previous 24 h.
- Ensure that there are adequate signs throughout the site informing visitors about biosecurity procedures.
- Fish should be inspected prior to any transfer and should only be moved if free from clinical disease.
- Predator control should be adequate for each site.

INTERNAL BARRIERS

- Where appropriate, sites (e.g. hatchery, on-growing tanks) should be divided into separate sections with specific disinfection points at each point of entry.
- Ideally, each section should have its own equipment and where this is not possible; equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected when moved to another section.
- Clothing and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Wash hands before and after contact with fish.
- A regular cleaning schedule should be set-up for tanks, pipelines, nets etc.
- All disinfectants should be used according to the manufacturers' instructions.

