



# marine harvest

excellence in seafood

## Down at the Farm Sea Lice Management

Sea lice and the effect on wild salmon is a significant public concern when it comes to salmon farming. As the out-migration period for wild juvenile salmon is soon to happen, Marine Harvest Canada would like to share with you what we do at our salmon farms to manage sea lice. This management plan incorporates the Sea Lice Action Plan as well as our own strict management techniques. The effectiveness of this plan is detailed in the graph below.

1. The entire BC salmon farming industry embraced the Sea Lice Action Plan in 2003. Routine monitoring of our fish and specific actions to reduce sea lice levels occur during the March-June out-migration period for wild salmon.

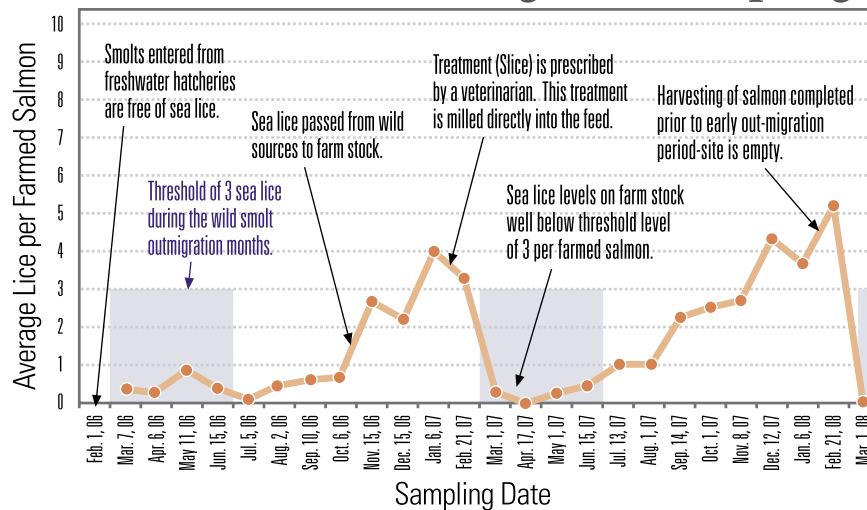
2. MHC started posting sea lice monitoring data on our website ([www.marineharvestcanada.com/fish\\_health/sealice](http://www.marineharvestcanada.com/fish_health/sealice)) for everyone to see in 2004. The data clearly show that our actions all but eliminate sea lice during the out-migration.

3. Specific stakeholders were invited to observe sea lice sampling during February to June 2006 and they saw that our actions result in almost zero sea lice.

4. We further agreed to start our sea lice management plan even

earlier than required to ensure that lice levels on our fish never reach threshold numbers. This was done in winter 2006-07 and again in winter 2007-08.

### Port Elizabeth Farm Broughton Archipelago



The Pacific Salmon Forum's interim research findings do not support the extreme claims ("extinction of Broughton pinks") which some researchers have claimed:

1. Stickleback, common in local waters, are a significant reservoir of sea lice that may contribute lice to farmed and wild salmon. Research continues into other natural hosts of sea lice.

2. Early claims of high mortality of juvenile pinks (up to 97%) were overstated; only the very smallest pink fry appear to be affected by sea lice. Larger Pacific salmon smolts are more resistant to sea lice than first believed.

3. More importantly, over the past five years the returns of pink salmon to Broughton streams and rivers has been steadily increasing. At the same time sea lice numbers on wild salmon and our own fish in the Broughton continue to decline.

*Do we have all the answers? No. But we are committed to reviewing all science and improving our practices to ensure we minimize risk to our salmon and to wild fish. We look forward to sharing these continual improvements with you.*

If you'd like to know more about Marine Harvest Canada please visit our website at [www.MarineHarvestCanada.com](http://www.MarineHarvestCanada.com) or call us at (250) 850-3276.

