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# Down at the Farm: A Sea Lice Update

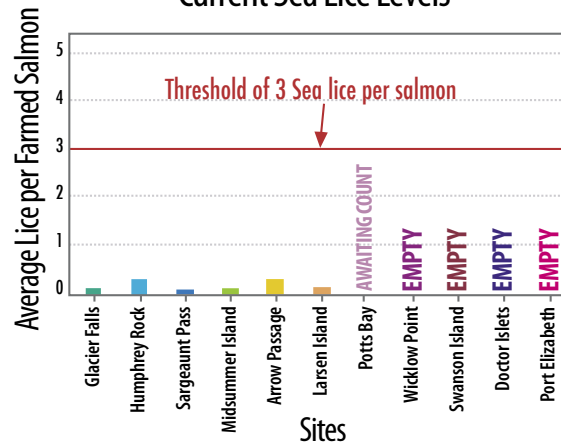
The out-migration of wild salmon in British Columbia has now started and will continue until June. Marine Harvest Canada understands public concern for the migrating juvenile salmon and we have taken action to reduce or eliminate the potential for sea lice transfer from our farms.

Although we recognize that the state of scientific knowledge is inconclusive about the threat of sea lice to wild salmon, we maintain that conservation is the best policy. Therefore, we would like to update you on the results of specific management plans that help ensure our salmon farms are not adding to the multitude of threats already posed to young, juvenile salmon. This management plan incorporates the Sea Lice Action Plan as well as our own strict management techniques. The success of this plan for our farms in the Broughton area is detailed in the chart on the right.

## Did you know?

- Sea lice do not live in freshwater. Farmed salmon spend their first year in freshwater hatcheries and are free of sea lice when entered into saltwater farms. On the farm, sea lice may be passed from wild sources (wild salmon, herring, stickleback) to farmed salmon.
- Our salmon are monitored monthly to check for presence of sea lice. Sea lice presence may vary depending on variables such as location, salinity levels, proximity to sources of sea lice and water temperature. We ensure the number of sea lice per fish does not reach the threshold limit (3 per farmed salmon) during the out-migration months.
- Sea lice levels on each farm have been available on our website since 2004.
- Harvesting schedules may be timed so certain farms are empty prior to the out-migration of wild salmon.
- If salmon at the farm are too small for harvest and sea lice are approaching threshold levels during the out-migration months, the farmer may treat his/her fish with Slice™. Prescribed by a veterinarian, Slice™ is provided in the feed and effectively kills the lice. We recognize that sea lice are naturally hosted by wild fish and cannot be completely eliminated. Therefore, to minimize our use of Slice™, our treatments are typically limited to the out-migration months.

### Current Sea Lice Levels



Glacier Falls	Treatment on January 16th	0.15 Sea lice per salmon on March 4th
Humphrey Rock	Treatment on January 27th	0.20 Sea lice per salmon on March 5th
Sargeant Pass	Treatment on January 28th	0.10 Sea lice per salmon on March 5th
Midsummer Island	Treatment on January 14th	0.15 Sea lice per salmon on March 4th
Arrow Passage	New arrivals from hatchery	0.20 Sea lice per salmon on March 4th
Larsen Island	New arrivals from hatchery	0.15 Sea lice per salmon on March 3rd
Potts Bay	Treatment March 11th	Awaiting Counts
Wicklow Point	Empty	Harvested out on March 25th
Swanson Island	Empty	Harvested out on March 6th
Doctor Islets	Empty	Harvested out on January 23rd
Port Elizabeth	Empty	Harvested out on February 26th

For more information on current sea lice science, please visit [www.PacificSalmonForum.ca](http://www.PacificSalmonForum.ca)



*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 wild fish. We look forward to continually sharing these 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.