



Atlantic Salmon Federation

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Policy Statement on Aquaculture

(Salmonid Farming)

(Approved by ASF Joint Boards on 13 November 2003)

This policy is developed with the following in mind:

1. Salmon from the aquaculture cages, whose genetic characteristics have been altered in controlled genetic programs to provide domesticated strains of fish, continue to escape from sea cages and hatcheries resulting in adverse genetic consequences for wild Atlantic salmon.
2. Waste products from the industry (feces, shed scales, and uneaten food) are released to the environment, where they cover the sea bottom and over-enrich nutrients in the water column.
3. Notwithstanding best efforts to manage fish health, the salmonid farming industry continues to be damaged by a number of diseases, including sea lice and Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), and infected farms release infectious organisms to the environment where they could infect wild fish.
4. Development of methods and procedures to eliminate disease epidemics in the salmon salmonid farming industry.
5. Large-scale research efforts are underway into the development of alternate fish species to add to those species already in culture.
6. The short and long-term ecological carrying capacities in the areas where salmon are presently being cultured are unknown.

Policy: Based on accumulated experience with salmonid farming aquaculture to November 2003, the Boards endorse the following statements to minimize the impacts of the present industry upon the environment.

- Adoption of regulatory measures that, at a minimum, are consistent with resolutions and protocols adopted by NASCO and its regional Commissions.
- The exclusive use of local strains of native species in culture facilities.

- A moratorium* on the use of transgenic salmonids, until such time as a full evaluation of potential impacts of escaped transgenics has been conducted and appropriate safeguards developed before they are used in the industry.
- No extension of salmonid farming aquaculture within Zones I and II, established pursuant to the North American Commission of NASCO Protocols for the Introduction and Transfer of Salmonids {NAC (94)14}, beyond existing areas of salmonid farming production pending identification of solutions to the risks to wild Atlantic salmon represented by salmonid farming. Additional sites, which present actual or severe potential danger to wild salmon may be recommended for exclusion in the future. (See attached map for NAC zones).
- Expanded research into methods to attain environmentally sustainable aquaculture.
- Continued development of equipment and procedures to provide secure containment of fish for all freshwater and marine aquaculture operations.
- Continued development of practices and procedures to eliminate fish disease and epidemics in the aquaculture industry.
- All aquaculture salmonids should be identifiable through tagging, genetic characteristics or other methods to the point of origin.
- ASF and its Regional Councils will work with the salmonid farming industry and government regulatory agencies to achieve environmentally sustainable salmonid farming aquaculture.

*Note: A moratorium on the use of transgenic salmon is proposed by the aquaculture industry.

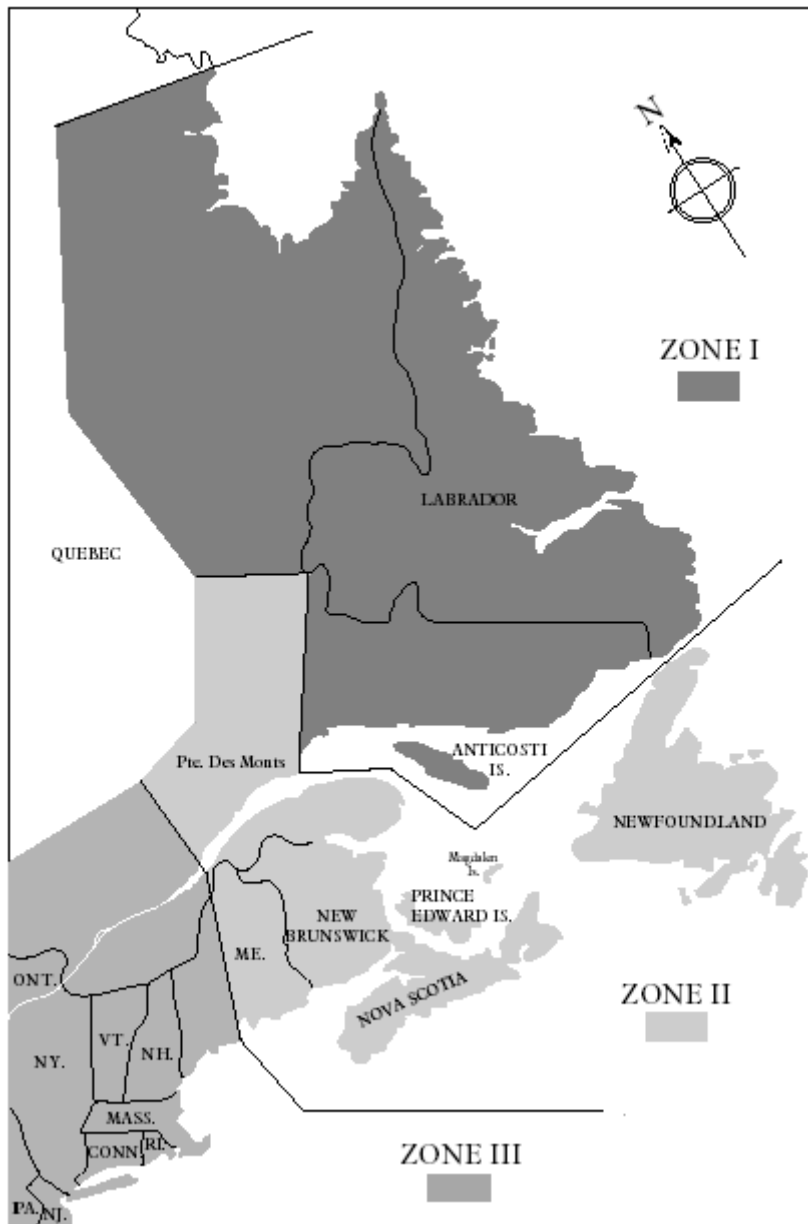


Figure 1.

Map of eastern Canada and northeastern USA showing the three zones designated for implementation of the Protocols. Certain rivers on the west coast of Newfoundland are designated as Zone I, even though Newfoundland is shown as being in Zone II.