



Nova Fish Farms Inc.
A division of Ocean Trout Canada Inc.

July 5, 2023

A statement regarding the occurrence of abnormal mortality during transfer

Nova Fish Farms Inc. publicly advises of a transfer mortality of approximately 17,000 steelhead trout. The mortality was encountered in the final two shipments of fish stocked to marine site AQ 500, Muddy Hole in Bay d'Espoir. In accordance with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture policy AP 17, the mortalities trigger the public notification process.

Two fish transport trucks, carrying a total of approximately 60,000 juvenile fish, were moving the stock from PEI to NL on June 30-July 1st. A combination of transport stress and low oxygen levels in the transport water during transfer is believed to have triggered the abnormal losses. Previous shipments using the same equipment did not experience these difficulties.

Nova Fish Farms is continuing to investigate this incident and develop mitigation strategies to prevent any such future events. The fish were evaluated at the hatchery, prior to shipment, and were fit for transfer. The mortalities have been removed from the net pens, and there is no risk to the site or the environment.

The company is taking all the responsible steps under the oversight of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and is following government approved policies and directives for reporting.

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