

**Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada
Statement Regarding Lumpfish Mortalities
May 26, 2020**

In keeping with the policies of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada publicly advises that higher than normal mortalities were observed among lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*) being transported to a site off the southern coast of Newfoundland called "Steamers Head."

These were non-disease related mortalities that occurred at site during the transfer of the lumpfish. The abnormal mortalities were the result of rough sea conditions at the site immediately post transfer. Two other sites were supplied with lumpfish during the same supply trip without issue.

Approximately 12,300 lumpfish mortalities occurred, which accounts for approximately 19 percent of the total 65,700 lumpfish transferred to the site.

In addition to reporting on these lumpfish mortalities, Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada also advises of an update to prior public reporting that was made on May 24 in relation to a separate situation where lumpfish were being transported from New Brunswick to a company site in Little Bay, off the southern coast of Newfoundland.

On May 24 Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada initially reported that approximately 8,000 lumpfish mortalities occurred onboard the vessel from a total of 38,000 fish. This was an estimate determined within the timeframe allowed under the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's AP-17 policy to report immediately to the public within 24 hours of the event. Upon further retrieval and investigation, Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada advises that our review of the matter has identified a total of approximately 15,800 mortalities, which is 42 percent of the lumpfish that were transported on the vessel.

The removal and disposal of all mortalities is conducted per standard operating procedures. Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada has taken all responsible steps under the oversight of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, and is following government policies in this matter.

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