

**Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada  
Public Notice - Abnormal Mortality Event at an Atlantic Salmon Marine  
Site in Newfoundland and Labrador  
September 11, 2021**

In accordance with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture policy AP 17, Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada advises of an abnormal mortality event at its Marine Site AQ# 1135 ("The Gorge"). Of approximately 900,000 Atlantic Salmon being raised at the site, mortality in excess of 10 percent has been observed, which in turn requires public notice. The fish at the site are approximately 3 kilograms, and harvesting was scheduled to begin at this site before the end of the year. This development will not change those plans.

Environmental pressures on farming activity off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador are most acute at the end of summer, when site conditions are at their most intense and variable. The suspect cause of the mortalities is a precipitous drop in dissolved oxygen. Further study is underway to determine causation of the low dissolved oxygen and develop further mitigation strategies to prevent recurrence. Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada has invested in deep netting and aeration equipment, which helped protect the fish and improve survivability through the event. Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada will continue site work and remove noted mortalities as quickly as possible, having invested in assets that will aid in speeding that process.

Marine Harvest Atlantic Canada is taking all responsible steps under the oversight of the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture and is following government approved policies for reporting. We thank our staff for their hard work and responsiveness to this matter.

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