

Public Notice – Breach of Containment

May 23, 2023

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is confirming a containment breach in September 2021 at aquaculture site AQ#5010 operated by We'koqma'q First Nation in Whycocomagh Bay, Inverness County, Cape Breton that resulted in the release of rainbow trout from the facility.

This event was first reported to the Department as a suspected containment breach in 2021 and standard procedures were followed at that time. The Department conducted an audit of the Containment Management Sections of the operator's Farm Management Plan (FMP) in September 2021. As a result of the FMP audit, corrective actions were identified and implemented, as verified through follow-up by the Department.

Following evaluation of 2022 harvesting information, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has determined that the suspected containment breach did result in escaped fish. An estimated 79,712 rainbow trout were unaccounted for at the time of harvest, which represented 24% of the total site inventory.

In keeping with a commitment to transparency, public notices are posted to the Information for the Public website at:

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>.