

Algal Monitoring and Mitigation Policy

1. Objective

Plankton are a natural occurrence which has long been recognised in the marine and freshwater ecosystem with the function and structure of the bloom being dependent on the geographic location. Although plankton are a significant contributor to the marine food chain, they can be harmful to fish when found in large densities by irritating the gills. A smaller number of plankton species can impact gill function through toxin production, mechanical damage to fish gills or deoxygenation. Mitigation measures may help reduce fish exposure to, and the potential impacts of, harmful algal blooms.

This policy together with internal training on plankton surveillance, risk management and response plans, are designed to contribute to fewer incidents and losses associated with algal blooms.

2. Risk and Opportunities

The presence of harmful algal blooms or toxic species, with their impact varying depending on the species and/or combinations involved, presents a potential risk to farmed salmon stock. Climate change, including rising seawater temperatures and changing ocean conditions, may increase the frequency, intensity or geographical distribution of harmful algal bloom events in some regions. Establishing standardised and regular algal monitoring across Mowi sites creates the opportunity to allow fish health and site managers to better understand algal population trends to make early site management decisions to effectively protect their stock. Mitigation methods are relatively limited, but Mowi conducts research and innovation activities to evaluate additional monitoring and mitigation solutions.

3. Governance and Implementation

3.1 Roles and responsibilities

Mowi's production practices and standards, supported by fish health professionals and trained site personnel, provide a framework for monitoring fish welfare and implementing appropriate actions throughout the production cycle.

3.2 Monitoring of compliance

Our Managing Directors and Group Management Team have responsibility for our plankton monitoring and mitigation policy and respective implementation.

4. Scope

Mowi's policy on plankton monitoring and mitigation practices is complemented by internal standards on plankton monitoring and fish welfare. Mowi's internal standards are designed to support compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and relevant industry guidelines on fish welfare. This policy applies to all Mowi farming operations producing Atlantic salmon and to MOWI-branded products containing Atlantic salmon produced by Mowi. The policy establishes a common framework for algal monitoring and mitigation, with site-specific measures implemented based on local risks, environmental conditions and regulatory requirements.

5. Actions

5.1 Our strategy

Monitoring

Mowi site monitoring protocols (applicable in Chile, Canada, Scotland, Ireland and some regions of Norway) are based on algal bloom risk levels, which trigger relevant monitoring and mitigation approaches. Categorisation of risk level includes information such as history of harmful algal blooms, number of events and/or recordings of known harmful plankton species over a defined threshold. This information is used to determine the risk period and monitoring plan for the site or area. Depending on the allocated risk category, a sampling frequency and plankton identification plan is established. Plankton species are either identified in-house or samples are analysed by external laboratories. Useful resources such as interagency tools, namely satellite imagery or national monitoring systems (e.g. Irish Marine Institute Harmful Algal Bloom weekly bulletin and the Institute of Marine Research national monitoring programme), are used to monitor the risk of algal blooms, where available.

Mitigation

Mowi assesses environmental conditions when selecting and operating sites for salmon farming. Where required by local risk assessments and where operationally appropriate, sites may use systems that increase water flow or provide aeration to help manage low-oxygen conditions. During algal bloom events, sites implement response plans and may use risk-appropriate measures such as aeration, temporary suspension of feeding, or the use of deep lights to encourage fish to remain at depths with lower exposure. Fish may also be moved from an affected site or area where permitted by the relevant authorities and where the movement complies with applicable biosecurity requirements and risk assessments.

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