

## Reported Escapes of Farmed Atlantic Salmon in Maine

Currently, any farmed salmon escapes from lease sites must be reported by the farmer to The Department of Marine Resources, as well as other state and federal agencies. Escapes must be reported to DMR on a monthly report or within 24 hours, depending on the number and size of the escaping fish. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the US Army Corps of Engineers have similar reporting requirements. Salmon farms in Maine are required to follow certain equipment standards and operational practices to minimize the risk of escapes. They are also required to mark their fish so that they can be identified in case an escaped fish is captured in a river. Efforts to minimize and detect escapes are meant to reduce risks to wild salmon from genetic effects or habitat competition.

The lease site escape events of which the DMR is aware are:

November 6, 2003, Birch Point, estimated 2,000 salmon

December 2000, Stone Island, estimated 170,000 fish

1995, Libby Island, estimated number of escapes unclear from current records

For further information on this topic, contact

Aquaculture Policy Coordinator  
207-624-6554  
Samantha.horn-olsen@maine.gov