

Melina Tensen

RSPCA Australia

Schedule 1- Salmonid biosecurity program standards – marine operations

Support the specific standards around competency, ability to recognise normal fish behaviour and appearance, daily inspection, investigation of mortalities, water quality monitoring, mortality and unusual disease reporting, escape event reporting, recording of fish movements, recording of fish mortality, stocking single year class only, 6wk fallowing, reporting of therapeutant use.

The document should mention the need for low-stress fish handling during all fish handling procedures, including during e.g. crowding, grading, bathing, transport.

There is no mention of wildlife interactions other than in the context of scavengers.

Schedule 2 - Salmonid biosecurity program standards - freshwater operations

Support the specific standards around competency, ability to recognise normal fish behaviour and appearance, daily inspection, investigation of mortalities, water quality monitoring, mortality and unusual disease reporting, escape event reporting, recording of fish movements, recording of fish mortality, reporting of therapeutant use, smolts to be seawater adapted and health assessed before transfer to seawater.

The document should mention the need for low-stress fish handling during all fish handling procedures, including during e.g. spawning, crowding, grading, vaccination, transport.

Schedule 3 - Salmonid biosecurity program standards – processing operations

There is no mention of live fish handling, stunning and slaughter in the 'processing operations standards'. This is an oversight. Fish must be handled in a low-stress manner, be stunned prior to bleeding out, and be bled out effectively without regaining consciousness.