



January 13, 2006

68800-20/05/MP

To All Licensed B.C. Marine Plant Aquaculturists:

2005 Annual Aquaculture Statistical Reports - due February 24, 2006

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for collecting and analyzing British Columbia seafood production statistics for both the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sectors. For aquaculture production the information is collected under authority of Section 20(1) of the *Fisheries Act* using the Annual Aquaculture Statistical Reports (AASR).

Summary data from the census is published in the *British Columbia Seafood Industry Year in Review* and may be utilized when responding to various information requests from industry stakeholders. Links to the publication as well as other statistical tables and information from the 2004 census can be viewed at: http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/fish_stats/statistics.htm.

Your or your company held a provincial Aquaculture Licence during 2005 and as a condition of that licence you are required to submit an annual production report to our office. Enclosed for your convenience, is a 2005 AASR for each of your licensed aquaculture operations. Remember the reports must be completed in full for all species, and returned, even if they are "NIL", to satisfy your reporting requirements.

We will be strictly enforcing the reporting deadline based upon Section 20(1) of the *Fisheries Act*. Companies or persons that have not submitted their completed Annual Aquaculture Statistical Reports by the deadline as stated in the *Fisheries Act* will be committing an offence under the *Fisheries Act* and subject to penalties and fines therein.

In addition, companies or persons with outstanding Annual Aquaculture Statistical Reports will be subject to administrative sanctions including:

- non-issuance of new species;
- no recommendation for tenure expansions; and
- no recommendation for tenure assignments.

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Please be assured that **data from individual forms and companies will be protected** within the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The information contained on the AASR is published only in aggregate form (combined data from three or more companies). However, please be aware that the information provided on individual AASR may be utilized by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands compliance staff as part of their mandate to monitor industry compliance.

Forward the completed AASR by email to fishstats@gov.bc.ca or by toll free fax to 888-356-0358 or use the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided for your convenience **by February 24, 2006**. If you would like copies for your records and are unable to make them yourself, send a request along with your completed report(s) and we will provide them to you.

Thank you in advance for your participation, if you have any questions please contact me by phone or fax or email.

Yours truly,



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Enclosures

All statistical reporting forms and letters to industry may be accessed at:
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/fish_stats/statistics-forms.htm.
There are both excel and PDF versions of the forms available for viewing, printing &/or downloading.