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Code of Practice for Small Fish Farms and Fish Processing Plants

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CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SMALL FISH FARMS AND FISH PROCESSING PLANTS

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SMALL FISH FARMS AND FISH PROCESSING PLANTS

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Preface

1(1) The Code of Practice for Small Fish Farms and Fish Processing Plants is incorporated by the *Substance Release Regulation* (A.R. 124/93), under the authority of section 36 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. Persons responsible for activities affected by this Code must meet all its requirements to ensure that their activities are in compliance with Alberta's environmental laws. In addition to the requirements of this Code of Practice, persons responsible must comply with all requirements of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, its associated regulations, and all other applicable laws.

(2) Persons responsible affected by this Code must register with Alberta Environmental Protection prior to commencing operation of a small fish farm or fish processing plant. Section 4 of this Code deals with registration in greater detail.

Introduction

2(1) This Code of Practice outlines the minimum operating requirements for small fish farms and fish processing plants. This Code is based on current knowledge and is intended to define the best practical technology used in waste and wastewater handling, treatment and disposal from small fish farms and fish processing plants. These requirements must be complied with by persons responsible for small fish farms or fish processing plants within the Province of Alberta. As well, persons responsible should consult with persons or parties that may be affected by the plant's operations.

(2) Larger fish farms or fish processing plants will require an approval under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*. Persons responsible should refer to the *Activities Designation Regulation* to determine if their activities will require an approval.

(3) Questions or concerns regarding the application or contents of this Code of Practice can be addressed to:

Alberta Environmental Protection
Northeast Boreal & Parkland Regions
Regional Director
5th Floor, 9820 - 106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2J6
Phone: (403)427-5836
Fax: (403)422-5120

or:

Alberta Environmental Protection

Northwest Boreal & Northern East Slopes Regions

Regional Director

203, 111 - 54 Street

Edson, AB T7E 1T2

Phone: (403)723-8395

Fax: (403)723-8542

or:

Alberta Environmental Protection

Southern East Slopes & Prairie Regions

Regional Director

201 Deerfoot Square

2938 - 11 Street N.E.

Calgary, AB T2E 7L7

Phone: (403)297-7605

Fax: (403)297-5944

Definitions

3(1) In this Code of Practice,

- (a) "fish farm" means a fish farm or hatchery that is designed to raise 9000 kilograms or less of fish per year or has the capacity to use or uses 2250 kilograms or less of feed per month;
- (b) "fish processing plant" means a plant for processing fish, mollusks or crustaceans that
 - (i) operates not more than 2 days per week,
 - (ii) processes not more than 130 tonnes live weight per year, and
 - (iii) does not release industrial wastewater to the environment other than
 - (A) to a wastewater treatment plant, or
 - (B) by irrigation on cultivated land in accordance with this Code of Practice;
- (c) "industrial wastewater" means the composite of liquid wastes and water-carried wastes, any portion of which results directly from an industrial process carried on at the plant;
- (d) "wastewater treatment plant" means a wastewater treatment plant as defined in the *Wastewater and Storm Drainage Regulation* (A.R. 119/93).

(2) Terms that are defined in section 1 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and in the *Substance Release Regulation* (A.R. 124/93) have the same meaning when used in this Code of Practice, unless otherwise defined or modified within this Code of Practice.

Registration

4 In addition to any information required by the Director under the *Approvals and Registration Procedure Regulation* (A.R. 113/93), the person responsible shall complete the registration form attached to this Code of Practice and forward it to the Director.

Person Responsible's Duty

5 The person responsible shall comply with all requirements of this Code of Practice.

Operating Requirements

6(1) All industrial wastewater shall be

- (a) discharged to a wastewater treatment plant, or
- (b) used to irrigate cultivated land following at least 12 months accumulation in a wastewater retention facility.

(2) Where industrial wastewater is contained in a wastewater retention facility, the wastewater retention facility shall meet a standard infiltration rate of less than 1×10^{-7} centimetres/second. The person responsible shall use a material such as clay liner, flexible synthetic liner, concrete liner, steel tank, or any other material authorized in writing by the Director to obtain this infiltration rate. The wastewater retention facility shall not exceed a depth of 2.5 metres.

(3) Where industrial wastewater has been accumulating for 12 months or longer in a wastewater retention facility, and the person responsible disposes of the industrial wastewater from the wastewater retention facility onto cultivated land by spray or surface irrigation, this irrigation shall be at a rate that does not exceed the nutrient requirements of the crop to be grown and does not impair the ability of the land to be used for production of a crop. The person responsible shall determine the application rate according to generally accepted agricultural practices, and shall apply the industrial wastewater at a rate that prevents runoff.

(4) The person responsible shall dispose of all wastes generated by processing fish at a fish processing plant to a facility capable of rendering the material or to a landfill authorized to handle this type of waste.

(5) The person responsible shall maintain air emissions at a level that does not cause adverse effects.

(6) The person responsible shall manage all wastes to prevent adverse effects.

Reporting

7 The person responsible shall immediately report any contravention of this Code of Practice by telephone to the Director of Pollution Control Division at (403) 422-4505. The Director of Pollution Control Division may require the operator to provide a further written report of any contravention.

Code Amendment

8 This Code of Practice will be reviewed every 10 years beginning in 2006. Alberta Environmental Protection will accept and compile written comments on the contents of this Code at any time, and will review all comments received at the next 10 year review. The Director may institute a review and amendment of this Code of Practice at any time. All proposed amendments to this Code of Practice will be reviewed by government, the industry, and the interested public. The Director shall have the final decision on amendments made to this Code of Practice. Amendments to this Code of Practice shall become effective when published by Alberta Environmental Protection.

Effective Date

9 This Code of Practice is effective September 30, 1996.

REGISTRATION FORM
Code of Practice for Small Fish Farms and Fish Processing Plants

Name and address of person responsible (owner):

Plant/facility location:

Contact person:

Telephone and fax numbers:

Operating capacity: (Tonnes per year of raw product processed)

Description of operations, including handling and disposal of waste and wastewater: (NOTE: describe on additional sheets as necessary.)

I acknowledge that I have reviewed a copy of the Code of Practice for Small Fish Farms and Fish Processing Plants, and that I am bound by the provisions of this Code of Practice, and any subsequent amendments to it.

Signature of person responsible (owner)

Date

For office use only:

Date Received: _____

Registered by:

Director's Signature

Title

Date

Registration Number: _____

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