### ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

FISH HEALTH PC-SD-PL03



# 1. Objective and Scope

Multi X S.A. states its commitment to good practices in animal welfare through this policy. To this end, it adopts, communicates, and ensures the application of the highest standards available in the industry.

The policy has a global scope, that includes the entire fish farming and harvesting value chain. This document integrates with internal standards and principles statements specifically addressing welfare issues, such as the use of medications and harvesting methods. Additionally, Multi X declares that it does not work with genetically modified salmon (GMO).

#### 2. Definitions

The company understands the close relationship between fish health and welfare with the quality and safety of the finish product.

To this end, Multi X has developed an Animal Welfare Standard based on the Five Freedoms adopted by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH):

- 1. **Freedom from hunger:** Providing adequate nutrition at each development stage and constantly monitoring fish activity.
- 2. **Freedom from disease and pain:** Continuous surveillance systems for fish health, acting promptly in the event of any pathology.
- 3. **Freedom to express:** Definition of appropriate farming densities, ensuring the use of each cage's volume.
- 4. **Freedom from discomfort:** Minimizing fish stress by reducing handling and ensuring optimal physical-chemical parameters in farming centers.
- 5. **Freedom from threats:** Maintaining and improving protective barriers against predators without resorting to harmful actions.

#### 3. Responsibilities

The application and implementation of the Animal Welfare Policy is the responsibility of the Health and Nutrition Management. Operationally, the Health Sub-Management leads initiatives involving teams from various formations to address opportunities for improving standards and procedures.

# 4. Integrated Strategies for Animal Welfare at Multi X

### 4.1. Training and education

Multi X has a permanent training program available to all company members, providing relevant knowledge for various tasks along the value chain. The company provides training and updates on animal welfare to those who require it, as deemed appropriate. Annually, the company publishes guidelines and commitments on animal welfare in public available documents and reports.

Health personnel receive additional training on animal welfare, including topics on farming and slaughter. In case of non-compliance with this policy, corrective actions will be identified for implementation.

# 4.2. Farming in optimal environmental conditions

Throughout the salmon farming phase, Multi X ensures ideal environmental conditions for the natural development of the fish, promoting a positive affective state.



The company uses systems and technologies to emulate natural habitat conditions during both freshwater and seawater stages, thus preventing stress and facilitating growth.

The company has procedures that to measure relevant parameters such as oxygen level, temperature, and water quality are monitored daily.

In the seawater phase, monitoring and detection practices for plankton presence activate risk management, mitigation, and action plans to protect fish health and prevent stressful or life-threatening situations.

The structures used to contain the fish are designed to prevent damage from impacts or abrasions.

### 4.3. Optimal health and responsible treatment

The company's strategy is based mainly on preventing diseases through the vaccination of 100% of the fish during the freshwater stage, providing them with a protective shield against biological threats. Multi X also incorporates fortified diets with strategic additives, designed with food suppliers to enhance the fish's immune system. This proactive approach not only helps prevent diseases but also improves the overall resilience of the fish to stressors.

Health condition monitoring strategies use available technology, such as daily visual parameter observation via high-resolution cameras in each cage controlled from the Remote Feeding Center, located in Puerto Montt; periodic visits by professional veterinarians, sample collection, and instructed observation by managers at each farming center. These measures aim to detect pathogens that could affect the fish's health condition promptly.

Research and innovation led by engineering and project teams have introduced new developments, such as the use of 50x50 meter cages, reducing fish density per cage and providing a more spacious and comfortable environment for healthy development. Moreover, the seawater fattening periods have been optimized by planting fish in the post-smolt stage, reducing exposure time to potential pathogens in the aquatic environment.

The company has its genetic program that develops fish strains with improved growth rate, disease resistance, and final product quality through hybridization.

Multi X does not use antimicrobials or hormones as growth-promoting substances in its fish farming production, ensuring 100% of farmed salmon are free from growth promoters and genetically modified, triploid, or cloned salmon.

#### 4.4. Antibiotic use reduction

Since 2013, Multi X has committed to reducing antibiotic use, implementing strategies as specified in the previous section. This has allowed antibiotic-free production in the Magallanes Region and harvesting cages in the Aysén and Los Lagos regions under the same condition.

Antibiotic use aims to cure sick fish, preventing suffering and pain. The use of antibiotics is mainly for controlling endemic bacterial diseases such as SRS and BKD, which vaccines have not fully controlled.

In 2022, Multi X adopted a policy to reduce antibiotic treatments for both freshwater and seawater centers, eliminating antibiotic use in salmon over a certain weight and limiting the amount used per production cycle, promoting harvest in such instances.

Antibiotic use, if necessary, involves only authorized antimicrobials, administered under veterinary prescription and control by the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service. The company does not use critically important antibiotics for human health, according to WHO classification. Multi X transparently communicates medicated treatments to neighboring communities, complying with current regulations using a color-coded flag system, with red flags indicating antibiotic



treatment at the center or cage.

## 4.5. Good farming practices and sustainable management

The company determines the following principles for sustainable production management:

- Defined densities: The company sets a maximum density in the sea of 17  $kg/m^3$  as indicated by the authority, ensuring ample space for fish to swim and express natural behaviors.
- Biosecurity in facilities: Multi X has visit procedures for hatcheries, seawater centers, and processing plants, indicating disinfection zones, flow, and rest periods between facilities or neighborhoods (salmon concessions group).
- Information and analysis of death and survival causes: The company collects data on fish mortality causes in farming centers, including the proportion of fish affected by injuries and the main causes of reduced survival, both infectious and non-infectious. This data analysis helps identify improvement areas and mitigating actions, guiding the R&D focus.

# 4.6. Responsible medicinal treatment

Under professional veterinary supervision, each treatment follows strict regulatory compliance. Each treatment step is thoroughly recorded in the management system, including dates, treatment duration, product used, amount administered, specific instructions, and the number/biomass of treated fish.

Antimicrobial medication use is restricted to critical situations where bacterial infection poses an imminent threat to fish health and welfare, aiming to avoid unnecessary suffering. Sensitivity testing is performed whenever possible before antimicrobial treatment to ensure efficacy and minimize resistance development.

Prophylactic use of antimicrobials is never employed. When necessary, treatments adhere strictly to withdrawal periods before harvest, ensuring residue levels are always below safety standards in the final products.

This responsible medicinal treatment commitment not only preserves fish health but also guarantees product integrity while maintaining high ethical standards in fish care.

### 4.7. Ensuring optimal feeding practices

The company ensures 100% of farmed salmon receive the necessary nutrients for good health and welfare throughout their lives.

Animal welfare and resilience remain fundamental in the feeding strategy, using functional ingredients to support fish welfare according to seasonal risk and exposure to compromising conditions. The company continuously seeks solutions to support intestinal health to maximize nutrient retention.

Feeding methods and regimes are controlled daily, ensuring fish have access to feed without competition. Feed controllers monitor fish behavior and appetite, adjusting feeding rates accordingly to ensure optimal satiety.

Feed deprivation is only applied when necessary, such as before harvest or handling/treatment by immersion, agreed upon with health professionals, with fasting events recorded, including duration and reasons. This record includes fasting periods, including those related to environmental restrictions.

### 4.8. Observing fish behavior

All farming centers are equipped with underwater cameras to monitor fish behavior, including appetite and swimming activity.



## 4.9. Handling and transportation minimizing handlings need

Multi X is committed to minimizing fish handling, and when inevitable, rigorous protocols and standards are followed to minimize stress, using approved anesthetics for fish comfort.

Advanced technology eliminates handling for biomass weight sampling, using AI and underwater cameras instead.

During transport, tanks ensure efficient water exchange and circulation, supervised by providers observing fish behavior. Water quality parameters like temperature, oxygen ( $O_2$ ), and carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) levels are constantly monitored.

Transport densities conform to regulatory guidelines, ensuring comfortable and safe travel, with maximum transport time limits varying by fish origin regions (Los Lagos, Aysén, Magallanes). This approach ensures that transportation is tailored to the specific needs of each region.

### 4.10. Slaughter method

During harvest, 100% of the fish are stunned by percussion or thermal shock, ensuring effective and humane slaughter.

## 4.11. Internal and global standard son fish welfare

The company implements standards meeting regulatory requirements and industry guidelines on fish welfare. Multi X commits to certifying all farming centers with recognized standards like BAP, covering aspects like feeding and water quality, health management, transport, harvest, and slaughter.

### 4.12. Suppliers and fish welfare

The company requires its equipment, products, and services suppliers to adhere to the fish welfare standards defined by Multi X.

### 4.13. Monitoring and reporting Operational Welfare Indicators

Operational Welfare Indicators (OWIs) are based on scientifically validated indicators, such as those developed by NOFIMA (Fishwell, Atlantic salmon welfare handbook), covering environmental, individual, and group welfare indicators. A standardized and systematic monitoring system for welfare, along with OWI data capture, is in place. This allows regular verification and reporting of fish welfare status, with performance data revealed in the annual welfare report.

### 4.14. Continuous improvement through R&D and other initiatives

The company aims for excellence and continuous improvement through innovative solutions in aquaculture, technology, and health, participating in research initiatives. Collaboration with research institutes, health and service providers, as other relevant interested parts, have the objective to advance in our fish welfare.

The research and development portfolio covers, among other aspects, the analysis of the main causes that impact survival, research into infectious diseases, nutritional health, disorders related to production and harvesting methods. We Will maintain an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders to contribute to the ongoing development of specific Operational Welfare Indicators for farmed salmon.

#### **Document approved by:**

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