

1. Objetivo y Alcance

At Multi X, we declare our commitment to animal welfare, ensuring fish health at all stages of development and the production of safe food. Aware that, despite our precautions, animals, like humans, may face diseases, we recognize the crucial role of antibiotics in treating bacterial diseases.

Our comprehensive strategy addresses disease prevention from various perspectives. Firstly, we prioritize the vaccination of 100% of our fish during their freshwater stage. This approach not only provides protection against risks during their stay in seawater sites but also reduces the need for antibiotics.

Additionally, we strengthen the immune defenses of our fish through diets enriched with strategic additives. This holistic approach aims not only to control infectious diseases but also to enhance the immunity of our fish.

In line with our Sustainability Policy, we recognize the importance of a responsible approach to antibiotic use to minimize the risks associated with antimicrobial resistance. The administration of these medications is only considered in specific situations and under the specific guidance of a veterinarian, ensuring they are used only when necessary, following strict guidelines in terms of content and dosage.

We are aware of the growing global concern about antibiotic resistance and are committed to being part of the solution. We prioritize precise application and careful evaluation of timelines for slaughter after treatment, actively contributing to mitigating the risks associated with antimicrobial resistance.

Multi X's approach to antibiotic use reflects our strong commitment to sustainable and responsible aquaculture practices. Through our comprehensive strategy, we aim not only to control infectious diseases but also to preserve the health and welfare of our fish. In this way, we actively contribute to strengthening food security and preventing disease outbreaks.

2. Governance

The responsibility for our antimicrobial use policy and the implementation of best practices in responsible use lies with our Health and Nutrition Management. Their direct supervision and leadership strengthen our governance, ensuring consistency and effective application of our policies throughout the organization.

Multi X is firmly committed to not using antimicrobials classified as critically important by the World Health Organization (WHO). This commitment reflects our responsibility towards global health and the well-being of aquatic ecosystems, while preserving the efficacy of antimicrobials and actively contributing to the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

Our practices and standards are inherently rooted in ensuring precise and necessary treatment of fish with registered veterinary medications. Thus, every prescription used in treating fish must be approved by veterinarians authorized by the company. This process is subject to strict control. Additionally, our practices are defined following current regulations and supervised by the competent authority, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and adherence to industry standards.

The application of withdrawal periods, established by the respective authorities, involves thorough analysis of fish before harvest to ensure there are no negative impacts on the quality of our final product. This process highlights our commitment not only to fish health but also to excellence, producing salmon that meets the highest standards of quality and food safety.

3. Responsibilities

3.1. Training

Our health professionals continuously fulfill their duty of care and attention to our fish's welfare. Veterinary staff regularly attend internal and external fish health courses and seminars, focusing on disease prevention, management, and responsible medication use.

Continuous knowledge updates ensure our team is well-equipped to address health challenges informedly, extending regular training to staff at farming centers.

Additionally, to inform communities where our operations are located about the application of medicated treatments and comply with current regulations, a color-coded alert system is used. A red flag at the center indicates that the production is under antibiotic treatment.

3.2 Fish health management

Fish health is a priority in our comprehensive management, based on rigorous breeding practices, biosecurity programs, and veterinary health plans, all under the direct supervision of our company's professional veterinarians.

Our plans emphasize fish welfare, disease prevention, and stress reduction. Implementing proactive preventive measures is key to minimizing pathogen exposure. We adopt biosecurity practices, including the "sanitary void" concept in our cultures. This strategic approach involves specific periods of inactivity, during which facilities are kept fish-free, allowing complete disinfection, and significantly reducing infection spread risk.

In case of disease, our measures are designed not only to treat affected fish but also to quickly contain any potential pathogen spread.

3.3 Vaccination

Multi X vaccinates 100% of its fish against the main bacterial and viral infections of salmon, to prevent disease occurrence and minimize the need for antimicrobial treatments.

3.4 Treatment with authorized antimicrobial medications

When other measures are insufficient, or fish welfare could be compromised due to bacterial disease, Multi X resorts to using antimicrobial medications. This decision, supported by strict criteria such as laboratory diagnostic techniques for the infectious agent, is made solely under veterinary prescription, recorded for traceability, and controlled by the authority. We never use antimicrobials prophylactically or for growth promotion.

3.5 Residue and quality control

We respect pre-harvest withdrawal periods established by authorities for fish exposed to antimicrobials. Before harvest, thorough analyses are conducted to ensure residues are below safe levels for consumers of our final product. This commitment ensures product quality and food safety.

3.6 Antimicrobial resistance management

We adopt a proactive and robust strategy for managing antimicrobial resistance, supported by good management practices, biosecurity programs, antibiotic sensitivity monitoring programs, and veterinary health plans. This comprehensive approach lays a foundation for effectively addressing the risks associated with antimicrobial resistance.

Alimentando el futuro

To ensure optimal management, alternative measures and strategic rest periods are implemented, following a systematic approach that helps prevent resistance development. Additionally, regular sensitivity checks are conducted, determining Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC), and continuously monitoring the presence of pathogens with reduced sensitivity.

3.7 Internal and global standards

We comply with and exceed regulatory requirements and industry guidelines on antimicrobial use. Our farming centers are certified according to standards such as BAP and/or ASC, supporting and certifying the application of this policy.

3.8. Supplier standards

Multi X's commitment to controlling antibiotics supplied to farmed fish extends to feed suppliers. Thus, the company requires traceability analysis to ensure the safety and quality of the final product. For medicated feeds, the minimum requirement is certification of the present concentration in each batch, a study conducted by an external laboratory.

3.9. Continuous improvement

Multi X continuously develops good practices and supports research for new vaccine formulations to effectively prevent diseases requiring antibiotic administration, such as SRS.

We also collaborate with academic and commercial partners to explore new approaches and alternative treatments supporting disease prevention, such as adding probiotics and novel vaccine technologies.

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