



ESCAPEES / LOSS OF STOCK ACTION PLAN

Mitigation measures:

- Daily net checks for structural integrity performed by the divers.
- Weekly and monthly mooring system check for structural integrity performed by the divers.
- Minimise the severe build-up of biofouling organisms. This is controlled through regular net changing intervals, per a strict net changing regime. All nets spend a maximum of eight weeks in the water, after which it will be removed and replaced by a clean net. In this period, only plant growth has been able to settle.
- During operational practices such as grading, harvesting, moving or sampling fish, catch nets are always to be used at danger zones such as the entry ways to the work boat. These nets are to be placed between the boat and the pen if fish will be handled and moved to and from the boat and pen.
- Handheld nets must always be kept on board if any fish falls on the deck, to prevent it from moving from the work boat and into the water. If fish do move from the work boat to the water an attempt will be made to retrieve the fish.
- Pieces of culture net, rope and cable ties are always to be kept on the work boat in good supply to ensure that small tears or holes in the cages or other nets can be thoroughly patched up as soon as possible

Management measures:

- All staff must be trained how to stitch nets, what to look out for during infrastructure inspections and what to do in the event of an escape event and how to deploy the emergency net
- Spare nets are kept on land to replace damaged nets
- Number all the nets for logging purposes
- Compile a net maintenance list which details the following for **each** net:
 - The material each net is made of;
 - When it was purchased
 - When it was first installed for use in cage and each successive installation;

In the event of stock loss:

- Deploy emergency net onto the net tear to block further escapes from occurring
- Staff on site to notify the Designated Environmental Officer (DEO) as soon as possible
- The DEO will report the following to the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Aquaculture Management Committee (AMC) and Aquaculture Development Zone Environmental Control Officer:

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- Suspected number of escapees
- In depth identification of the escapees (size, colour, species, anything specific to the fish from that pen, etc)
- Its disease status (if any)
- The cause of the escape
- Increased mitigation measures to follow to prevent future escapees
- A possible location of the escapees
- An attempt will be made to locate the escapees and recapture them.
- In the event of a large stock loss (over 1000 depending on size), Molapong will contribute financially toward researching the impacts of escapes on the ecosystem within which the escape has occurred.