

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service

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Sernapesca today

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Removal and final disposal of salmon mortality affected by harmful algal blooms in Aysén concludes



Wednesday, January 19, 2022

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January 19, 2021.-

Complying with all established protocols for the management of salmon mortality, two deep-sea fishing vessels from the Aysén region arrived in the Biobío region with salmonid species affected by harmful algal blooms (HAB) at the beginning of the month. The so-called HABs manifested themselves in an algal bloom that caused five aquaculture concession centers in Aysén to report mass mortalities, associated with the presence of harmful microalgae.

The affected companies are Blumar SA, Salmones Austral SA, Camanchaca and Aquachile SA. In addition, a center belonging to the company Mowi Chile SA activated its contingency plan for mass mortality associated with low oxygen levels. According to the company owners, the affected biomass (mortality) was 3,550 tons, which were removed in their entirety (100%).

Mortality has been treated using silage systems and removal from the cultivation centres in optimal conditions, that is, without obvious signs of decomposition, destined for reduction plants, as established in the contingency plans.

Iván Oyarzún, regional director of Sernapesca Biobío, reported that "the PAMs Erika and Duqueco arrived in Talcahuano a few days ago and carried out the unloading process of 1,353.98 tons at the Landes plant in complete normality, to later transfer the load in hermetic trucks to the processing plant, and thus use the raw material to make flour or oil, preventing it from being used as waste."

The Biobío region has shown that it is prepared to support the proper management of mass mortality events generated by environmental contingencies, always within the framework of the protocols established by the Environmental Regulation for Aquaculture. "For this type of procedure, there are protocols established in the Aquaculture Pre-Alert Declaration contained in the Environmental Regulation for Aquaculture, and that is why we are coordinated with the Maritime Authority, the Environmental Superintendence and the Seremi of Health" added Oyarzún.

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It should be noted that this raw material and its waste water are subjected to a thermal process and the incorporation of chemical elements in the treatment, without any fraction being sent to landfills or sanitary landfills.

Finally, Sernapesca indicated that it will maintain surveillance in the area through satellite and remote monitoring systems, information exchange and in-person monitoring, keeping alert to climate changes that could modify the current environmental conditions.

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