

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service

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Sernapesca activates surveillance for Harmful Algal Bloom in the Salmonid Concession Group 17B



Friday, April 19, 2024

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The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (Sernapesca) of the Los Lagos region reported the presence of a new harmful algal bloom (HAB) event that is causing mass mortality (MM) in Hornopirén and affecting the Salmonid Concession Group (ACS) 17B, Los Lagos region, due to the presence of the microalgae *Heterosigma akashiwo*.

Of the 14 centres currently operating in ACS 17B, 6 have activated action plans for FAN, and of these, 2 have activated their action plans for mass mortality. The total mortality reported by the companies Multi-X SA and Productos del Mar Ventisqueros SA to Sernapesca corresponds to **288.3 tons in total, information that is updated daily. Of the centres that are experiencing mass mortality, the removal of 284 tons** has also been reported with final destination to the Fiordo Austral and Salmon Oil SA reduction plants.

Cristian Hudson, Regional Director of Sernapesca Los Lagos, indicated that, "Since the activation of the contingency plans, we have been monitoring and supervising their correct compliance. As for the centers that have declared mortality, we have been permanently verifying that their correct removal is carried out within the established deadlines."

According to the phytoplankton reports sent by the companies, the concentrations of *H. akashiwo* remain high, so as a precaution, centers 101283, 101541, 100991 and 103923 requested the transfer of fish to other centers, movements that Sernapesca authorized within the framework of the current aquaculture pre-alert.

In this regard, the regional authority also mentioned that they will continue monitoring the affected and surrounding ACS in case of an increase in the concentration of microalgae.

The high concentration of the microalga *Heterosigma akashiwo* produces a sedative/anaesthetic effect on salmonids, which can cause their death. It should be noted that this microalga does not correspond to the so-called "red tide", so there is no affectation of bivalve molluscs or other fish.

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