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PART I : SECTION (F) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

L.D.—B 4/96.

FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT, No. 2 OF 1996

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development under paragraph (g) of Sub-section (1) of Section 61 of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996.

MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA,
Minister of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources Development.

Colombo,
24th October, 2000.

Regulations

1. These regulations may be cited as the Aquaculture Management (Disease Control) Regulations, 2000.
2. The provision of these regulations shall apply in respect of all licensed aquaculture enterprise.
3. The monitoring and inspection licensed of aquaculture enterprises shall be carried out by an inspector out of a panel of inspectors appointed by the Director-General for that purpose, from among persons who hold a degree or equivalent academic qualification from a recognized university or any other higher education at institution, in the field of zoology, biology, aquaculture or veterinary science.
4. (1) The area set apart for breeding purposes in any licensed aquaculture enterprise shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to facilitate easy cleaning. Care must be taken to prevent this area from being contaminated or being subject to the risk of diseases.
(2) Breeding tanks, hatching trays, hatching troughs and any other equipment used to contain or breed fish, shall be cleaned and disinfected before being used for a new batch.
(3) All refuse and residue from the licensed aquaculture enterprise shall be collected daily in a special place set apart for that purpose (preferably in a closed container), which is kept secluded from the breeding area.

5. (1) For the cleaning of breeding tanks, separate gear shall be used for each tank, and after each use such gear shall be disinfected.

(2) All bulky equipment which is used in handling fish, and grading apparatus and transport tanks shall be disinfected after each use.

(3) If any measuring apparatus is used in more than one tank consecutively, such apparatus shall be disinfected between each use.

6. All drains and pavements in the licensed aquaculture enterprise shall be disinfected at least once a week.

7. (1) Areas set apart for feed storage and feed preparation shall be kept apart from other sections of the licensed aquaculture enterprise with separate entrances. During the moving or receiving of any consignment of feed or of feed components, care should be taken to prevent contamination.

(2) Floors, ceiling, utensils, furniture and equipment kept in the area set apart for feed storage shall be water resistant and smooth, so as to allow for easy disinfections. Floors and equipment shall be washed daily and disinfected when necessary or at least once a week. Tools and objects that are not used every day shall not be kept in area set apart for feed storage or feed preparation.

8. (1) Protective clothing, footwear and plastic gloves shall be provided for visitors to be worn indoors in the areas set apart for hatching and breeding.

(2) A licensee shall have posters printed with instructions about the sanitary measures to be observed by visitors to the enterprise that shall be hung or displayed in conspicuous places.

(3) Whatever is required to be kept isolated on the licensed aquaculture enterprise shall not be accessible to any visitor.

9. A licensee shall take adequate measures to prevent any cat, dog, reptile, bird or vermin, from entering the licensed aquaculture enterprise.

10. Protective garments and footwear used by the personnel at work shall not be used elsewhere. There shall be changing rooms for the personnel where clothes can be changed, and protective garments and day to day clothes can be kept in separate places. There shall also be adequate sanitation facilities available for the use of the personnel.

11. (1) Special gear and special protective garments and footwear shall be used while handling diseased fish or dead fish and such gear, protective garments and footwear shall be washed and disinfected after use.

(2) Dead fish shall not be kept in areas set apart for fodder preparation or storage, or in refrigerated storage cells for recently slaughtered fish.

(3) Dead fish and fish refuse, including refuse after slaughter, shall be—

(a) burned ;

(b) interred in such sanctioned places where cats, dogs, or vermin cannot reach it ; or

(c) sterilized.

(4) Dead fish and fish residue shall not be used as fish fodder without being sterilized.

TREATMENT OF DISEASES

12. (1) It shall be the duty of the licensee to immediately inform the Director-General of any symptom discovered in the farm that might constitute a ground for suspecting an out-break of any of the disease referred to in the Schedule.

(2) The Director-General shall on receipt of any information referred to in paragraph (1), take all necessary steps immediately, to carry out an investigation of the licensed aquaculture enterprise promptly through an Inspector, and the Inspector shall obtain samples of diseased fish from such farm which shall be sent to a laboratory approved by the Director-General for testing.

(3) The Inspector may, where he is of opinion that the fish in the licensed aquaculture enterprise might be infected with one or more of the diseases referred to in the Schedule and he conveys his opinion to the Director-General, the Director-General may until the receipt of a report from the laboratory on the samples sent for testing, suspend all contact with other aquaculture enterprises in the area that could spread the disease, and temporarily suspend any fish from being taken out of the enterprise for any purpose whatsoever.

(4) Where on receipt of the report from the laboratory, it is confirmed that the fish are suffering from any one or more of the diseases referred to in the Schedule, the Director-General, acting on the advice of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, shall, by notice in writing to the licensee—

- (a) extend the suspension imposed under paragraph (3) of this regulation for such longer period as shall be specified in the notice ; and
- (b) impose corrective measures that should be taken by the licensee to eradicate such disease within the time stipulated in the notice.

(5) The corrective measures, stipulated in the notice shall be carried out with the assistance of an Inspector who shall supervise the execution of such task. All expenses involved in taking the measures shall be borne by the licensee of such the aquaculture enterprise.

(6) Once the stipulated corrective measure are completed, the licensee shall inform the Director-General of such fact, and the Director-General shall thereupon call upon the inspectors who supervised the operation for a report. The Director-General may having considered the report and having obtained the advice of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, revoke the suspension imposed on that aquaculture enterprise under paragraph (4).

MEDICATION, VACCINATION AND ARTIFICIAL COLORING

13. (1) The Director-General may require an Inspector to supervise the use of antibiotics in fish feed, and where necessary issue guidelines in relation to the same, which shall be complied with by licensees of licensed aquaculture enterprises.

(2) Fish on a regime of antibiotics shall not be harvested for placing on market for human consumption until fifty days after completion of the regime.

(3) Use of artificial coloring agents in fish raised for human consumption, is prohibited.

14. Vaccination of fish against any of the diseases referred to in the Schedule is prohibited, except with a permit obtained from the Director-General, which shall contain directives as to what kind of vaccination should be used.

GENERAL

15. (1) A licensee shall maintain a logbook in which the following information shall be recorded :—

- (a) detailed information relating to stocking, feeding and harvesting ;
- (b) information relating to water renewal ;
- (c) information regarding disease prevention methods being adopted ;
- (d) detailed description of any diseases discovered and information relating to all measures taken to control it ; and
- (e) any other information relating to the operation of the licensed aquaculture enterprise.

(2) A log book being maintained under paragraph (1) shall where necessary, be made available to the Director-General, an Inspector or any other officer authorized in that behalf by the Director-General, for inspection.

16. The Director-General, an Inspector or any officer authorized in that behalf by the Director-General, shall have the power to visit and inspect any licensed aquaculture enterprise, so as to verify whether such enterprise has conformed with all the requirements stipulated and imposed under these regulations.

17. In these regulations —

“ Act ” means the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act, No. 2 of 1996 ;

“ aquaculture enterprise ” shall have the same meaning as given in the Act ;

“ Director-General ” means the Director-General of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources appointed under the Act ;

“ fish ” shall have the same meaning as in the Act ;

“ licensed aquaculture enterprise ” means an aquaculture enterprise licensed under the provisions of the Act ;

“ licensee ” means a person who is issued with a license under the Act ;

“ National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency ” means the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency established by the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Act, No. 54 of 1981.

(Regulations 12 and 14).

SCHEDULE

DISEASES

Fish Diseases

1. Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN)
2. Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)
3. Oncorhynchus masou virus disease
4. Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)
5. Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy
6. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)
7. Bacterial kidney disease (BKD)
8. Spring viraemia of carp (SVC)
9. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)

Mollusc Diseases

10. Bonamiosis (*Bonamia ostreae*)
11. Marteiliiosis (*Martelia refringens*, *M. Sydneyi*)
12. Microcytosis (*Microcytos mackini*, *M. roughelyi*)
13. Perkinosis (*Perkinsus marinuns*, *P. olseni*)
14. Haplosporidiosis (*Haplosporidium costale*, *H. nelsoni*)

Crustacean Diseases

15. Yellow head disease
16. Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
17. White-spot disease
18. Baculoviral midgut gland necrosis
19. Gill associated virus disease
20. Spawner mortality syndrome (Midcrop mortality syndrome)