



GSI'S WORK ON FISH HEALTH AND WELFARE

The health and welfare of our fish is our number one priority. Only with healthy fish will we see healthy oceans and be able to support healthy human diets.

THE GSI PERSPECTIVE

GSI member farms are in the oceans; we share the same waters and therefore the same risks when it comes to biosecurity and fish welfare. By working together and sharing expertise, we believe we can have a greater impact on ensuring optimal fish health.

WHAT IS THE GSI BIOSECURITY TASKFORCE?

The Taskforce is a group of fish health experts from within the GSI network – both farming members and our associates – that come together to create an open platform for discussing best practices related to fish health and welfare. Within this group the members share challenges, solutions, learnings and review new farming approaches to determine their usability for all salmon farms.



WHAT DOES THIS TASKFORCE DO?

The objective of the Taskforce is to drive innovation and encourage knowledge sharing to identify, prevent and improve management of fish health and welfare. The members join teleconferences on a regular basis, as well as meeting face-to-face twice a year for intense 3-day technical workshops. They discuss challenges, share solutions, review new R&D options, coordinate collaborative trials and kick off new projects. To keep ideas fresh we invite expert speakers to work with us on specific challenges.

Since established, the Taskforce has:

- Coordinated management zones
- Promoted faster uptake of new holistic approaches to disease management
- Collated data on new treatments and vaccines to assess efficacy
- Identified new and effective approaches to disease control and prevention (saving companies wasting resources by doing this individually)
- Secured commitment of members to transparently report their medicine use annually as part of the GSI Sustainability Report
- Run data analysis to compare different management techniques and associated outcomes
- Coordinated an expert panel to advise the GSI members on methods to reduce medicinal use

“Being a member of the GSI Biosecurity Taskforce offers me a unique position – I can now connect with a group of experts from all over the world. Through the GSI we have been able to hear from other regions who have had the same challenge and learn from their experiences on the best approaches.”

Alejandro Heisinger, Fish Health Manager at Multiexport Foods and GSI Biosecurity Taskforce member

THE FUTURE OF THE BIOSECURITY TASKFORCE

The nature of our work is always changing and with the growing impact of issues such as climate change, and its impact on the oceans, our work in this Taskforce will never be done. Through ongoing collaboration, both within GSI and with external partners, we aim to stay at the forefront of best-practice in fish health and welfare.

For more information please visit:
globalsalmoninitiative.org

