No. 80 June 14th 2019

Executive order on the establishment of and disease-prevention in aquaculture facilities

Pursuant to the provisions in Art. 9. 1, Art 10, Arts. 11.1 to 11.6 and 11.8, Art.12. 1 and 12.3, Arts. 13 and 14, Arts. 16 and 17, Art. 19.1 and 19.3, Art. 20.1, Art. 26.1, Arts. 27 and 28, Art. 30, Art. 32, Art. 35, Art. 39. 1, Art. 40.1, Art. 41. 2, Art. 42.1, Art. 46, and Art. 48.2 and 48.3 of Parliamentary Act 16, dated February 23rd, 2001, on Animal Diseases, as amended by Parliamentary Act No. 105, dated July 13th, 2017, and Art. 9.2, Art. 10.2 and 10.3, Art. 13, Art. 16.2, Art. 17, Art. 18. 3, Art. 25 of Parliamentary Act No. 83, dated May 25th, 2009, on Fish Farming and Other Provisions, Art. 9.5, Art. 12.3, Art. 16. 2, Art. 17. 2, Art. 18.2, Art. 19.4, Art. 20.4, Art. 22.3, Arts. 27 and 28, Art. 30. 6 Parliamentary Act No. 49, date April 30th 2018 on Animal Welfare (The Animal Welfare Act), the following is stipulated:

Chapter 1

Definitions and scope

Scope

Art. 1

1 This Executive Order covers animal health, disease prevention and biosecurity requirements in relation to the establishment and operation of aquaculture facilities intended to farm fish, animals or algae.

Definitions

Art. 2

2 In this executive order the following definitions apply:

1) Algae: photosynthetic beings living in water or seawater, including micro algae and macro algae.
2) Aquaculture facilities: Brood farm, nursery, aquaculture farm or other farms or stations for the farming of fish, animals or algae.
3) Aquaculture unit: hatching tray, hatching cylinders and similar implements used to hatch fish or seed animals or algae, as well as tubs, tanks, pens, cages and similar units intended for farming fish, animals or algae in water or seawater.
4) Aquaculture animal: Fish and animals at all their life stages, including their gametes, which live in water or seawater except marine mammals, and which come from, are kept in or are intended to be kept in aquaculture facilities on land or at sea.
5) Aquaculture farm: Aquaculture farm on land or at sea for the farming of all life stages of fish, animals or algae in water or in seawater in tubs, tanks or similar implements.
6) Sea-based aquaculture farm: Aquaculture farm at sea in one or several aquaculture areas with one or several connected land-based farms, intended to farm all life stages of fish, animals or algae in aquaculture installations.
7) Aquaculture farm with water: Farm where it is only permitted to use water and synthetic seawater to hatch, seed or farm all life stages of fish, animals or algae in tubs tanks or the like.
8) Aquaculture installations: Farming pens, farming cages, feed barges and similar implements intended for farming fish, animals or algae, which are used in a specific aquaculture area and/or aquaculture facility.
9) Stocking river or lake: Body of water into which the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority has authorised the release of fish, animals or algae. E.g. in order to maintain an established salmon stock by releasing brood from salmon from the same river or lake, or, if this is not possible, brood from other salmon.
10) Year class: Aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae from gametes or spores that have been:
    a. Hatched or seeded during the same period,
    b. transferred to an aquaculture farm within the same limited period of time,
    c. farmed for harvest during the same period, or
    d. harvested or slaughtered in the same period, followed by fallowing of the aquaculture area.
11) Biomass: Total wet weight of live fish, animals or algae. For shellfish the weight of the shell is not included in live weight.
12) Fish kill or aquaculture animal kill: Fish or aquaculture animals that die during farming, as well as fish or aquaculture animals killed, e.g. for sampling.

13) Official veterinarian: Veterinarian employed by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.
14) Fish unit, animal unit or algae unit: fish, animal or algae farmed in the same aquaculture unit.
15) HFS-Aliskipanin: The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority's public aquaculture database to which the information in the digital operations logbook must be submitted in accordance with Arts. 27 and 28.
16) Helper fish, helper animal or helper algae: Fish, animals or algae at all their life stages intended as aids in farming, e.g. lump suckers or mussels to control parasites or seaweed shelters for lump suckers.
17) Stock improvement: Improving the stock. Selective breeding through selecting and breeding brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae, which carry or are expected to carry certain characteristics.
18) Land-based facility: Place on land where activities in conjunction with sea-based aquaculture take place and, which you must be sluiced through in order to reach a sea-based aquaculture facility.
19) Brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae: Parents of new generations of fish, animals or algae.
20) Brood fjord or brood area: A fjord or other ocean area, which is the catchment area for a farm breeding brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae on land and from which seawater can be taken in.
21) Brood farm: Brood farm on land to incubate, hatch, seed and farm brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae at all their life stages in water, pumped or synthetic seawater and for stripping, hatching, seeding and other related tasks.
22) Marine fish, marine animals and marine algae: Fish, animals or algae, which in nature are always in seawater or in brackish water.
23) Operating unit: Brood farm, nursery, water aquaculture farm or seawater aquaculture farm with shared premises or shared water supply, which is run with shared equipment, or sea-based aquaculture farm with one or several aquaculture areas, aquaculture installations, land-based facilities, feed vessels or aquaculture vessels, which operate with shared equipment and are run by joint crews.
24) Nursery: Farm with a permit to use water and disinfected or synthetic seawater to incubate, hatch, seed and culture fish, shellfish and algae in tubs, tanks or the like, before they are transferred for out growing in ocean farming.
25) Land-based seawater aquaculture farm: Farm on land, where it is permitted to use seawater, synthetic seawater, water and a mixture of these to hatch, seed and farm all life stages of fish, animals or algae in tubs, tanks or the like, including farms with salmonids that are ocean-ready, as well as lump suckers and other helper fish.
26) Hygiene sluice: A physical barrier with a hand washing station between two operating units preventing the spread of infection into, out of or between operating units.
27) Technological purposes: Fish, animals and algae intended for other purposes than human consumption, e.g. as helper fish or for the extraction of non-food products, e.g. cosmetics.
28) Lake: Natural or manmade lake, e.g. water in a dam.

29) Infectious disease: Disease caused by agents, including parasites, which breed or replicate in or on a host.

Chapter 2

Approval of the establishment of aquaculture facilities

Approval and registration requirements

Art. 3

3.1 Aquaculture facilities must be located within the assigned aquaculture areas.

3.2 Aquaculture companies are required to register their operations using the following registration numbers:

1) L-numbers for brood farms or brood areas.
2) S-numbers for nurseries.
3) A-numbers for fish aquaculture areas.
4) SL-numbers for land-based seawater aquaculture farms.
5) AS-numbers for sea-based aquaculture farms.
6) AV-numbers for aquaculture farms with water.
7) H-numbers for helper fish aquaculture farms.
8) GS-numbers for ocean-based seeding farms.
9) AA-numbers for algae aquaculture farms.
10) AL-numbers for bivalve mollusc aquaculture farms.

Assessment and considerations

Art.4

4.1 The placement of any aquaculture facility must not cause considerable risk of the spread of infection, this includes infection within the aquaculture facility and to the surrounding environment.

4.2 Assessments of risk of infection must emphasise distance to other aquaculture-related activities, including distance to other aquaculture facilities, pursuant to the provisions in Art. 9.

4.3 Assessments must also emphasise production type, operation method and the scope of production.

4.4 For land-based aquaculture facilities assessments of distance to other aquaculture facilities will mainly be based on water inlet points and effluent discharge points.

4.5 Steps must be taken to ensure that it is likely that the conditions in relation to number, density, circulation and exchange of water or seawater and technology remain within prudent limits, which do not lead to increased mortality or disease, pursuant to Art. 61.

4.6 Steps must be taken to ensure that it is likely that the requirements in Chapter 3 can be met, also pursuant to 4.8.

4.7 An internal control system must be in place, which ensure that it is likely that the requirements regarding biosecurity in aquaculture operations stipulated in Chapter 3, can be met, including emergency response system, risk-based health inspections, water quality and log system.

4.8 The license-holder or another employee in a position of responsibility must have the necessary competences.

4.9 Effective preventive measures against the spread of infection, parasites, stress and disease must be in place.

4.10 Approvals may stipulate additional conditions.

Year class separation

Art.5

5.1 Only fish of the same year-class may be kept in the same farming fjord or brood fjord.

5.2 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may allow different year-classes at the same land-based aquaculture facilities, provided that the aquaculture facility is divided into several production units. The main reception hygiene sluice, employee spaces and office spaces may be shared between several operating units. The hygiene sluice, which employees must cross daily in order to reach each operating unit must, however, not be shared, each unit must have its own hygiene sluice.

5.3 If it is assessed that shared employees and shared facilities may jeopardize the disease prevention and biosecurity, then the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority can stipulate that different operating units may not share staff or facilities.

5.4 Based on a risk assessment the Chief Veterinary Officer may grant exemptions from 5.1, provided that the spacing conditions in Art. 9 are met, and that each year-class can be farmed at an independent aquaculture farm with its own land-based facility.

5.4 Helper fish are exempt from the requirement in 5.1, meaning that it is possible to use helper fish of a younger year-class than the farmed fish, but only in one production cycle.

Brood fjords, farming fjords, trial fjords and aquaculture farms

Art. 6

6.1 The Faroe Islands are divided into farming fjords, pursuant to the Executive Order on Issuing Aquaculture Licenses.

6.2 All forms of brood fish farming must take place in tubs, tanks or the like on land-based brood farms.

6.3 Brood farms, nurseries and land-based fish farms are required to have approved equipment for purifying and disinfecting their water and seawater intake.

6.4 If any exemptions are granted pursuant to Art. 49.3, then any brood fish, roe and milt from brood fish not farmed at a brood farm on land must be kept separate from other brood fish and other roe and milt. Fertilized roe

from these must be collected and hatched separately and in units that are kept separate from other roe or fish in terms of operations and biosecurity.

6.5 Any roe or brood pursuant to Art. 6.4 that are used in aquaculture must stem from brood fish, which through testing has been found free from infectious disease. The Chief Veterinary Office will determine, which diseases it should be tested for.

6.6 The Chief Veterinary Office may lay down requirements identical or equivalent to those set out in Arts. 6.2 to 6.5 for the farming of other animals and algae, if it advisable on the grounds of animal health.

One species of fish, animals or algae at the same aquaculture farm

Art. 7

7.1 If several species of fish, including helper fish, are kept at the same aquaculture farm, the license-holder must document that the farm's operations, layout, equipment, health inspections, etc. are adapted to these.

7.2 An official veterinarian may, on grounds of veterinary concerns, refuse the farming of several fish species at the same aquaculture farm.

Disinfecting water and seawater

Art. 8

8.1 Brood farms, nurseries and land-based aquaculture farms must purify and disinfect their water and seawater intake.

8.2 The license-holder must ensure that the water taken in is disinfected or otherwise treated effectively, so that any pathogens are inactivated.

Location and spacing requirements

Art. 9

9.1 The minimum spacing requirements between aquaculture farms, land-based facilities and processing plants that handle farmed fish are:

1) Land-based aquaculture farm using only water for fish on land. Distance to:
    a. Other fish aquaculture farms, 1 km.
    b. Ocean-based fish aquaculture farms, 1 km.
    c. Aquaculture farm at sea or on land for aquaculture animals or algae, 500 m.
2) Land-based fish aquaculture farm solely or partly using seawater. Distance to:
    a. Other fish aquaculture farms on land or at sea, 5 km.
    b. Aquaculture farms on land or at sea for aquaculture animals, except fish or algae, 500 m.
    c. Processing plants handling aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae, 1 km.
3) Ocean-based fish aquaculture farm. Distance to:

a. Other fish aquaculture farms in the same farming fjord, 2.5 km.
b. Other fish aquaculture farms in other farming fjords, 5 km.
c. Aquaculture farms on land or at sea for aquaculture animals or algae, 500 m.
d. Processing plants handling aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae, 1 km.

4) Ocean-based aquaculture farm for aquaculture animals. Distance to:
   a. Ocean-based aquaculture farms for aquaculture animals, 1 km.
   b. Ocean-based algae aquaculture farms, 500 m.
   c. Processing plants handling aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae, 1 km.
5) Ocean-based algae aquaculture farms. Distance to:
   a. Other algae aquaculture farms, 1 km.
   b. Processing plants handling aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae, 1 km.
   c. Processing plants handling aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae, 1 km.
6) Land-based facilities and sailing routes from land-based facilities to own aquaculture farm. Distance to:
   a. Aquaculture farms belonging to other land-based facilities: 2.5 km.

9.2 The distances in 9.1 are calculated from:

1) The location where water effluents drain from the land-based aquaculture farm or processing plant.
2) The location where seawater is pumped from the ocean into land-based aquaculture farms.
3) The aquaculture area of the relevant ocean-based aquaculture farm.

9.3 All aquaculture areas belonging to an ocean-based aquaculture farm must be located in the same farming fjord as the aquaculture farm.

9.4 An official veterinarian may, following a risk assessment, grant exemptions from 9.3 allowing the land-based facility to be located in another farming fjord.

9.5 An official veterinarian may grant exemptions from the spacing requirements in 9.1:

1) An official veterinarian may reduce the spacing requirements, provided that it is determined that this will not lead to any significant risk of spread of infectious disease.
2) An official veterinarian may increase the spacing requirements, in case a considerable risk of spread of infectious disease is found.

Requirements for applications for approval

Art. 10

10.1 All applications must detail any information needed to assess whether an approval can be issued and to assess, which terms and conditions it may be necessary to stipulate. Applications must at least include:

1) The name of the owner, address and telephone number.
2) Management:
   a. distribution of responsibilities.
   b. level of competence of management team.
   c. level of education and
   d. professional and industry experience.
3) Geographical names and map annotations indicting where aquaculture facilities are located, including any land-based facilities.
4) Diagrams showing the layout, meaning any buildings, access conditions, hygiene sluices, sampling site, where required, and other particulars.
5) Information about technological particulars, including wherefrom and how water or seawater will be sourced, treated, purified, and potentially recirculate, how the water purification system is connected or separated between different departments and units, and how it is discharged, meaning filtering, biofilters, UV, ozone, and the like.
6) Diagram of the brood area, nursery area, land-based facility or aquaculture area.
7) Description of the intended operations at the aquaculture facility.
8) Details of the species of fish, animals and algae included in the operations and whether they are intended for human consumption, as helper fish, helper animals, helper algae or for other purposes.
9) Internal control system, which makes it likely that the requirements regarding biosecurity in aquaculture operations stipulated in Chapter 3 can be met, including emergency response system, risk-based health inspections, water quality and log system.
10) Emergency response plan, including the biosecurity plan to prevent and manage any outbreaks of infectious disease, mass kills and other hazards.
11) Documents substantiating that the aquaculture area is fit to ensure good living conditions for fish and animals, including data on water quality, volume and any natural conditions of major significance.

Term of approval and changes

Art. 11

11.1 Aquaculture facilities may be approved for up to 5 years at a time.

11.2 In order to ensure continuous operation of aquaculture facilities, re-approval applications must be submitted no later than three months before a current approval expires.

11.3 Any significant changes to aquaculture facilities, including changes to the placement or internal layout of buildings, land-based facilities and aquaculture installations require the prior approval of the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

Chapter 3

Aquaculture facility operations

Notification prior to the start of operations

Art. 12

12.1 Before operations commence the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority must receive notification of the intended start date for operations and must have the opportunity to carry out inspection, including on-site inspection.

12.2 If, in conjunction with inspections pursuant to Art. 12.1 or other inspections pursuant to Art. 74, any failure to meet the stipulated requirements is detected, then the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may issue any necessary notifications, bans, instructions or orders.

Placement and signage

Art.13

13.1 Aquaculture facilities must be placed in accordance with the descriptions, diagrams and maps submitted as documents referenced in the aquaculture license pursuant the Parliamentary Act on Fish Farming and Other Provisions.

13.2 Aquaculture facilities and all associated farms must be signposted using their permit identification number along with the letters stipulated in Art. 2.1, No. 43 by the entrance to the aquaculture facility or associated land-based facility.

13.3 Each aquaculture unit in floating aquaculture installations must be marked with the permit identification number with special number plates from the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

13.4 The signage mentioned in Arts. 4.2 and 4.3 must be clearly legible and visible from a suitable distance.

Layout

Art. 14

14.1 Land-based fish farming facilities must have at their disposal buildings, rooms and outdoor areas for the farming of fish or animals in tanks or tubs.

14.2 Diagrams of the buildings, rooms and outdoor areas that belong to the fish farming facility must be submitted to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

14.3 Any buildings and outdoor areas at aquaculture facilities must be fenced in a manner that prevents unauthorized persons from entering the aquaculture facility and all entering and exiting traffic must go through a hygiene sluice.

14.3 The size and placement of any buildings and outdoor areas associated with an aquaculture facility must be designed to ensure a logical workflow with particular focus on biosecurity and hygiene habits.

14.5 Buildings, outdoor areas and equipment, including water purification systems pursuant to Art. 8, must be designed and fitted in a manner that ensures that they are easy to clean and disinfect to a satisfactory standard.

14.6 Floors, walls and ceiling of any rooms used to store feed, live or dead fish, animals or algae or extracts thereof must be watertight and easy to wash and disinfect. Raw or untreated materials must not be used.

14.7 All buildings and equipment must be kept in good repair.

Buildings, rooms and equipment

Art. 15

15.1 Aquaculture facilities must have the following buildings, rooms or equipment:

1) Hygiene sluice at the entrance.
2) Sluice rooms separating the different operating units and separating operating units from employee facilities and office areas.
3) Inspection room or inspection area with adequate table and floor space.
4) Any necessary technical and storage rooms.
5) Equipment for grinding and storing fish kill and, in relevant cases, aquaculture animal or algae kill.
6) Access to suitable disposal of shells and seaweed.
7) Changing room with toilet facilities where private clothes and work uniforms are stored separately.
8) Access to showers from the changing room.
9) Changing rooms and sluice rooms may be merged.

15.2 Access between clean and non-clean rooms or areas at any aquaculture facilities must always be through a hygiene sluice.

15. 3 Inspection rooms or inspection areas pursuant to Art. 15.1. No. 3, which are intended for sampling and inspecting fish must be ergonomically fitted with steel tables, work light, sink and cold and hot water. The free working area must be at least 2 square metres and the table height 90-95 cm off the floor. The floor must be fitted with drainage. Any drainage fluid must be collected and disinfected before it is discharged.

15.4 The Chief Veterinary Office may grant exemptions to the requirements in Arts. 15.1 to 15.3 for new species of fish, animals or algae.

Disposal of fish kill

Art. 16

16.1 Aquaculture facilities must at all times have the capacity to dispose of fish kill, pursuant to Art. 40.4, equivalent to a daily mortality of at least 1% of the maximum biomass planned for the production cycle.

16.2 Aquaculture facilities are required to have equipment for grinding, silaging and temporary storage, as well as a collection agreement in place, which at any given time is in line with the capacity stipulated in Art. 16.1.

16.3 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may grant exemptions from 16.1 and 16.2 provided that:

1) An emergency response plan is in place with a licensed company on the provision of immediate assistance with the disposal of quantities equivalent to Art. 16.1 if mortality exceeding 0.1% occurs.
2) The aquaculture facility at all times has equipment for grinding, silaging and temporary storage, as well as a collection agreement in place equivalent to 0.1% of the maximum biomass according to the operations plan.

16.4 Processing of fish kill pursuant to Arts. 16.1 to 16.3 may take place at a land-based facility, approved unit in the aquaculture area or on board an auxiliary boat.

16.5 If fish is ground and processed into silage at a land-based facility, the equipment mentioned in Art. 16.2 must be kept in an indoor or outdoor area with the following characteristics:

1) The flooring must be watertight so that it can be washed and disinfected to acceptable standards without any spillage of fish kill, silage, runoff or the like into the sea or into the surrounding area.
2) The area must be designed to prevent the spread of infection and must be enclosed to prevent access by any unauthorised parties.
3) Fish kill and offal silage from fish kill must be kept in closed and watertight containers or tanks.
4) It must be possible to collect silage without direct contact between the aquaculture farm and the transport vessel collecting silage.

16.6 If fish kill is ground and processed as silage in an auxiliary vessel or other approved unit in the aquaculture area, the equipment for provisional silage storage mentioned in Art. 16.2 must have the following characteristics:

1) The flooring must be watertight so that it can be washed and disinfected to acceptable standards without any spillage of fish kill, silage, runoff or the like into the sea or into the surrounding area.

2) All couplings between the vessel and storage tank must be tightly sealed and there must be no spillage on connection or disconnection.
3) Tanks must be fitted with automatic systems preventing overflow. The system must be approved by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority
4) The area shall be fenced off and secured against unauthorized access,
5) Silage must be stored in sealed and watertight containers or tanks.
6) It must be possible to collect silage without direct contact between the aquaculture farm and the transport vessel collecting silage.

16.7 Any transportation of aquaculture equipment between the aquaculture farm and the area where the aquaculture equipment is washed, disinfected and stored must take place pursuant to the rules and regulations in Art. 39.

16.8 An official veterinarian may set the same requirements as in Arts. 16.1 to 16.4 for animals and algae.

Land-based facilities

Art. 17

17.1 Ocean-based brood farms and aquaculture farms must have a land-based facility with buildings, rooms and equipment mentioned in Arts. 14 to 16, and a special area for the reception, grinding, silaging and temporary storage of aquaculture fish kill.

17.2 If it is not possible to place the land-based facility and the special area stipulated in Art. 17.1 directly by the land-based facility's dock, then the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may approve a different placement as close to the dock as possible.

17.3 An official veterinarian may lay down the same requirements as in Arts. 17.1 and 17.2 for animals and algae.

Transport of fish kill

Art. 18

18.1 The transport of fish kill from an aquaculture vessel or room where the fish is ground and stored must take place in closed and watertight containers, tubs or other closed and approved system.

18.2 Any transportation of aquaculture equipment between the aquaculture farm and the area where the aquaculture equipment is washed, disinfected and stored must take place according to the rules and regulations in Art. 39.

Design of aquaculture units and other aquaculture equipment

Art. 19

19.1 Aquaculture units and other equipment used for aquaculture must be designed to ensure that the physiological and behavioural needs of fish and animals are met.

19.2 Aquaculture units and other equipment that enters into contact with fish or animals must not have sharp edges or any other characteristics, which could harm fish or animals.

Cleaning and disinfecting aquaculture units and other items on land

Art. 20

20.1 Aquaculture units and other equipment at brood farms, nurseries or land-based aquaculture farms must be designed so they can be drained completely, cleaned and disinfected to a satisfactory standard.

Changes and maintenance of buildings and other items

Art. 21

21.1 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may order changes to, maintenance or repair of buildings, rooms, equipment, outdoor areas, boats, pumps, treatment equipment and other items, which fail to meet the requirements in Arts. 14 to 20.

21.2 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may give an existing aquaculture facility a deadline to meet the requirements in Arts. 14 to 20.

Operations plan

Art. 22

22.1 The license-holder is responsible for drawing up a continuous operations plan for the aquaculture facility. Operations plans must be submitted to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority for approval pursuant to Arts. 22.2 and 22.3

22.2 For aquaculture facilities with one production round at a time, meaning that all aquaculture units are laid fallow simultaneously, the first draft must be submitted to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority no later than 5 months before a new transfer of fish for on-growing is scheduled. The final operations plan, which takes into account the first draft, must be submitted to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority no earlier than 4 weeks before and no later than one week after the last fish, aquaculture animals or algae have been harvested.

22.3 Operations plans for aquaculture facilities with continuous production must be submitted to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority by February 1st every year.

22.4 On the condition that all the necessary information has been submitted on time, pursuant to Arts. 22.2 and 22.3, the license-holder is entitled to at least a provisional reply to the submitted plan no later than one month

before the first aquaculture fish, aquaculture animals or algae are to be set out for a new farming cycle. The provisional reply must contain a decision regarding part of the volume of fish scheduled to be set out.

22.5 When processing applications for approval the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority must particularly emphasise assessing:

1) maximum fish density according to the operations plan,
2) maximum biomass according to the operations plan, and
3) the risk of infection in case of several fish species at the same aquaculture facility.

22.6 Operations plans for aquaculture farms in the same farming fjord must be coordinated before the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority can approve them.

22.7 If it is warranted on grounds of spacing, hydrological or operational conditions, the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may require that operations plans for several farming fjords must be coordinated before they can be approved.

22.8 Rolling operations plans must span 2 production cycles.

22.9 Operations plans for hatching of roe at brood farms and nurseries must contain the information mentioned in Annex 1.

22.10 Operations plans for the farming of fish at brood farms, nurseries and aquaculture farms must list the information mentioned in Annex 1 separately for each operating unit.

22.11 Any changes made to the operations plan must be notified to and approved by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

Internal control

Art. 23

23.1 It is the license-holder's responsibility that a risk-based internal control system is in place before any fish, animals or algae or helper fish are set out at the license-holder's aquaculture facility, it is also the license-holder's responsibility that the internal control system is implemented and functions in the company. Sections of the internal control system must cover the activity in the farming fjord in more detail. This must be done in cooperation with operations managers and relevant employees at the aquaculture facility. Internal control systems must include the emergency response plan in Art. 24.

23.2 The internal control system must be adapted to the activity, hazards and size of the aquaculture facility in order to meet the legislation in force on operating aquaculture facilities and combatting disease in fish, animals, algae and helper fish.

23.3 Internal control systems must encompass the identification and description of:

1) Any factors that may lead to a risk of mortality and that disease is brought into and spread through the aquaculture facility,
2) any measures that must be implemented to limit mortality and the risk of disease being brought into and spread through the aquaculture facility,

3) any monitoring procedures intended to prevent mortality and the risk of disease being brought into and spread through the aquaculture facility, and
4) any factors that may lead to fish, animals, algae or helper fish escaping.

23.4 Any internal control system must encompass all of the license holder's activity in the farming fjord or nursery in a manner that ensures that every aspect is covered.

23.5 Internal control systems must encompass the training of employees in:

1) the legislation in force on disease prevention in aquaculture facilities, as well as on combatting disease in fish, animals, algae and helper fish and a copy of the legislation in force must be available at the aquaculture facility,
2) ordinary work at an aquaculture facility, including daily monitoring of technical installations, water quality, feeding, welfare and health condition of fish, animals, algae and helper fish,
3) disease prevention measures, including cleaning and disinfecting aquaculture equipment, hygienic handling of fish, animal, algae and helper fish kill, disinfection of roe, personal hygiene and procedures in relation to administrating medication and the vaccination of fish, and
4) assessing hazards and implementing preventive measures against hazards in accordance with the emergency response plan.

23.6 When storms are forecast all hazards pursuant to the risk-based internal control system must be checked in advance and any faults or shortcomings found must be corrected without delay. All equipment must be checked and mended immediately following a storm.

23.7 The internal control system must be available at the aquaculture facility and the operations manager and employees at the site must be familiar with its contents.

23.8 Internal control systems will be regularly checked during inspection visits or on request. Internal control systems must be inspected at least every 5th year.

23.9 The Chief Veterinary Officer may decide that the requirements in Arts. 23.1 to 23.7 shall apply wholly or partially to new forms of aquaculture, or lay down specific requirements for each form of aquaculture.

Emergency response plan

Art. 24

24.1 The license holder must draw up an emergency response plan for each aquaculture facility. This plan must include a detailed description of any hazards and any measures to be rolled out in case of accidents.

As a minimum, emergency response plans must cover the following in detail:

1) Accidents that lead to the escape of fish, animals, algae or helper fish.
2) Algal blooms, contamination and the like, which can lead to high mortality or cause fish, animals, algae or helper fish to become unfit for human consumption.
3) Diseases in fish or animals that may cause high mortality.
4) Slaughter for animal health reasons of large volumes of fish including helper fish or animals over a short period.
5) The disposal of large volumes of fish or animals over a short period.
6) Sections of the emergency response plan must encompass concrete activities in individual farming fjords or nurseries separately.

24.2 The emergency response plan must also include information about the following:
1) Organisational chart,
2) name and telephone number of employees in positions of responsibility, their job descriptions and a description of their competences and qualifications, and
3) names, telephone numbers and addresses of the various authorities, companies, and others that should be notified as part of an emergency response.

24.3 The emergency response plan mentioned in Arts. 24.1 and 24.2 requires the approval of the Food and Veterinary Authority.

24.4 If any changes are made to the emergency response plan or to operations, these must be notified to the Food and Veterinary Authority. The Food and Veterinary Authority shall determine whether the changes warrant a re-approval of the emergency response plan.

24.5 The emergency response plan must be available at the aquaculture facility and the operations manager and employees at the site must be familiar with its contents.

24.6 Emergency response plans will be checked regularly during inspection visits or on request.

Operations logbook

Art. 25

25.1 It is the licence-holder's responsibility to ensure that a digital operations logbook is kept of aquaculture activities, including stripping, fertilization, hatching, set out, harvest and other factors relevant to the specific type of aquaculture, pursuant to Annex 2.

25.2 For aquaculture of new species of animals or algae records must, as a minimum, be kept of:
1) Which animals and which algae enter and exit the aquaculture facility, the amount in weight or number and their origin,
2) mortality in each production unit, and
3) the date and results of health inspections, any diagnoses and their treatment.

25.3 Operations logbooks must contain the information in Annex 2 and be kept at aquaculture facilities for at least 5 years.

25.4 Operations logbooks must be available to the Food and Veterinary Authority and the veterinarian of the aquaculture facility in conjunction with inspection of the aquaculture facility.

Notification

Art. 26

26.1 It is the license holder's responsibility to ensure that the Food and Veterinary Authority receive a digital copy of the digital operations logbook, pursuant to Art. 25.3, weekly, it should be submitted every Tuesday or on request from the Food and Veterinary Authority. The information must be submitted via the database Aliskipanin.

26.2 Any veterinarian issuing a prescription will submit information about the medication used to the database Aliskipanin using a format stipulated by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

26.3 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may order the submission of other operations data, as mentioned in Arts. 25.2 and 25.3, and the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority will draft rules for this procedure.

Database

Art. 27

27.1 The Food and Veterinary Authority manages, updates and develops a database with the capacity to receive, categorise and store the information required pursuant to Art. 26, so that the information can be processed statistically.

27.2 The database must be designed to guarantee full traceability throughout production from brood fish to harvested fish.

Publication of information and other provisions

Art. 28

28.1 The following information must be published on the website of the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority:

1) Aquaculture facility. A number and place name.
2) Name of aquaculture company.
3) Species of fish and purpose, e.g. salmon for industrial purposes.
4) Number of fish at each aquaculture facility.
5) Increase or decrease in numbers set out compared to the most recent production cycle.
6) Treatment for disease and sea lice for each aquaculture area, type and quantity of medication.

7) Information about sexually mature female lice for each aquaculture area, average per fish, and when the count took place.

28.2 Decisions made by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority regarding slaughter or a reduction in animals set out and similar decisions or information must be published in summarised form on the Authority's website.

28.3 Information required pursuant to Arts. 28.1 and 28.2 will be updated daily on the website in line with entries in the database Aliskipanin.

28.4 Information required pursuant to Arts. 28.1 and 28.2 must be on the website no later than 7 days after they become available to the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

28.5 The information published on the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority's website must be available on the website for at least 5 years.

Art. 29

29.1 In conjunction with animal and algae aquaculture the following information must be published on the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority's website:

1) Aquaculture facility. Letter for type and aquaculture farm number and place name.
2) Aquaculture company name.
3) Species of aquaculture animals or algae and purpose.

29.2 Information about any decisions made by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority will be published in summarized form on the Agency's website.

Data transfer

Art. 30

30 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may transfer any data collected pursuant to Art. 26, provided that the requesting authority is entitled by law to request such data.

Art. 31

31 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority has a mandate to transfer any data collected for research purposes.

Prudent operations

Art. 32

32.1 It is the license-holder's responsibility to ensure that aquaculture facilities operate prudently in terms of the health and welfare of fish and animals, this includes environmental and technological factors and conditions.

32.2 It is the license-holder's responsibility to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of employees with the necessary skills and competences, time to discharge their duties and adequate equipment in order to meet the conditions laid down in Art. 32.1.

Fish and animal welfare

Art. 33

33.1 The operation and design of any aquaculture facility and of all units used in aquaculture must offer a guarantee of the best possible fish and animal welfare.

33.2 The equipment and layout must be such that care, inspections, handling and treatment can be carried out optimally and without causing any unnecessary stress or suffering to fish or animals. If more than one species of fish or animals are present in the same unit, these must be considered.

33.3 All fish and all animals in one aquaculture unit or at one aquaculture facility, which are at the same stage of development and of the same size must enjoy the same conditions in relation to space, level of water quality, feeding and care.

33.4 Any handling of fish must be carried out in a manner that causes the least possible stress to the fish.

33.5 In conjunction with any treatment that can be expected to be tough on fish if it is not in good condition before treatment, the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority can require a certificate from a veterinarian that the fish does not have any disease, lesions or other conditions that can make it vulnerable to this treatment.

33.6 Notwithstanding Art. 33.5, the license-holder has ultimate responsibility for any treatments, including if, when and how treatment is carried out, that the fish can withstand the treatment and that convincing proof of this is available.

Art. 34

34.1 The license-holder is responsible for ensuring that fish, including helper fish, are sedated before slaughter or disposal, so that the fish loose consciousness before the procedure to kill them is initiated. The sedation must last until the fish is dead.

34.2 The requirement for sedation in Art. 34.1 does not apply if fish are slaughtered using a method that ensures that fish die the instant they are slaughtered.

Cleaning and other provisions

Art. 35

35.1 Aquaculture facilities, including land-based facilities, aquaculture vessels and feed boats, feed barges and other aquaculture equipment must be kept clean daily in accordance with internal control systems, pursuant to Art. 23.

35.2 It is only permitted to use aquaculture boats and feed boats to sail between an aquaculture facility's own land-based facilities and its brood areas or aquaculture areas.

35.3 An official veterinarian may grant derogations from Arts. 35.1 and 35.2 for other aquaculture species than fish.

Clothes

Art. 36

36.1 All employees, services providers and other persons at any aquaculture facility must wear clean clothes and footwear. Entry to production rooms or production areas must be through a sluice room, pursuant to Art.15.2, where they must change into separate work uniform and footwear. Hands must be washed and disinfected. Any service providers' equipment must also be brought trough the sluice room and, if necessary, washed and disinfected.

36.2 Divers that provide services to aquaculture facilities must be authorised, subject to supervision by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority and have an approved protocol for washing and disinfecting suits and gear.

Monitoring fish and feed

Art. 37

37.1 Fish must be monitored daily and fed every day, except if weather prevents this. For other species the Chief Veterinary Officer may stipulate special requirements.

37.2 Notwithstanding Art. 37.1, it is permitted to starve fish and animals before slaughter, delousing and when otherwise reasonable or necessary, e.g. before separation, transport, vaccination, sampling and in case of storms or exceptionally hot or cold weather.

Strength, characteristics and inspections of equipment and installations

Art. 38

38.1 Any equipment and installations used in aquaculture must be, at the very least, of such strength and quality as to be adequate and fit for purpose, of sound construction and shall be used with the necessary oversight and care.

38.2 Floating aquaculture installations, anchors, moorings, aquaculture equipment and technical installations at aquaculture facilities must be regularly inspected for technical faults and defects. Any faults or defects must be repaired immediately.

Transport of fish, animals and aquaculture equipment

Art. 39

39.1 The transport of live fish or animals, and fish or animal kill, as well as aquaculture equipment to or from aquaculture facilities shall be carried out according to the rules and regulations in force on transport of aquaculture animals and similar provisions.

39.2 Internal transport within aquaculture facilities of live fish or fish kill and aquaculture equipment may be carried out without seeking authorization, provided that the rules and regulations in force on the transport of aquaculture animals and other provisions are followed.

Fish kill

Art. 40

40.1 Fish kill must be collected at least 5 days a week from ocean-based aquaculture facilities and daily from land-based aquaculture facilities, provided that weather conditions allow it. If necessary, fish kill shall be collected more frequently.

40.2 Runts, weak fish and fish with several or large lesions, with no prospects of cure or survival must be harvested and must not be kept in the aquaculture units.

40.3 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may order corrective measures, including increased inspections and harvest or disposal of runts and fish that are weak or have lesions.

40.4 Any fish kill collected must immediately be ground and acidified to below 3.7 pH before it may be removed from a land-based facility. Silage must be below pH 3.7 for a minimum total of 24 hours, calculated from time at the land-based facility, during transport and in storage.

40.5 If there are no specific rules regarding the requirements in Arts. 40.1 and 40.2 for species other than fish, the Chief Veterinary Officer may stipulate more detailed requirements for the disposal of animal and algae kills for each individual aquaculture species.

Escaped fish and measures to prevent fish from escaping

Art. 41

41.1 The license-holder must take all necessary steps to prevent fish from escaping aquaculture units.

41.2 If fish escape, or there is a suspicion that fish may have escaped, the license-holder must notify the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority immediately and implement measures to prevent more fish from escaping. The license-holder must make concrete attempts to recapture escaped fish as well as provide guidance to the public on human and animal health precautions in relation to catching, handling and disposing of the escaped fish.

Protection from birds and marine mammals

Art. 42

42.1 Land-based outdoor aquaculture units must be fitted with nets or other equipment preventing birds from accessing fish.

42.2 Ocean-based aquaculture units must be fitted with nets or other equipment that prevent birds and marine mammals from accessing fish and also prevent fish from escaping.

42.3 In order to prevent lesions and prevent fish from getting caught as a result of Arts. 42.1 and 42.2 protection nets must not lie on or sag onto the water surface, unless this is part of the intended and approved design of the aquaculture unit.

42.4 Nets and similar protection equipment pursuant to Arts. 42.1 to 42.3 must be designed to minimize the risk of birds and marine mammals getting caught in them. If such animals do get caught, then the aquafarmer must make sure that they are immediately freed again. If this is not possible, or if they have sustained serious injuries, they must be killed in a prudent manner. Such incidents must be documented in the aquaculture facility's operations logbook.

42.5 An official veterinarian may grant exemptions from Arts. 42.1 and 42.2 if the equipment, aquaculture method used or other circumstances mean that there is no rational purpose for the requirement.

Ban on certain feeds

Art. 43

43.1 It is not permitted to use protein from farmed fish for the same fish species.

43.2 Fish and animal feed must be produced at plants that are licensed for this purpose.

43.4 The Chief Veterinary Officer may grant exemptions from Art. 43.2 for feed given to animals other than fish.

Bleeding and gutting

Art. 44

44.1 It is not permitted to bleed and gut fish or animals at aquaculture facilities without special permission from the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

44.2 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may authorise the bleeding and gutting of fish or animals at an aquaculture facility, provided that the aquaculture facility meets the standards and conditions in force for food production and disinfection of wastewater.

44.3 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may authorise the bleeding and gutting of a limited quantity of fish for trials or pilots, on the condition that they are collected and processed in their entirety through grinding and silage.

Medication

Art. 45

45.1 It is only permitted to use licensed medicine in the treatment of fish and animals in aquaculture. Licensed medicine is medicine registered by Skrásetingarráðið - the Faroese medicines registration board.

45.2 The provisions in Art. 45.1 also apply to medicines that do not require a prescription from a veterinarian.

Art. 46

46 In the event that medicine is used, signage must be affixed to the relevant aquaculture unit giving notice of such. The signage must be displayed during treatment and until the withdrawal period is completed.

Disinfection agents

Art. 47

47.1 Any disinfection agents used at aquaculture facilities must be approved by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

Operating brood farms

Art. 48

48.1 Brood farms may only be used to breed brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae.

48.2 Brood fish, breeder animals or brood algae farmed in too large quantities may, on application, be slaughtered or harvested for human consumption or technological purposes.

Art. 49

49.1 Brood farms may only purchase or receive milt, unfertilized or fertilized roe, fry, parr, smolt and older life stages of brood fish or breeder animals from other brood farms.

49.2 Land-based brood farms must not purchase or receive:

1) Milt, unfertilized or fertilized roe, fry, parr, smolt or other younger life stages originating from brood fish or breeder animals farmed at ocean-based brood farms, or
2) brood fish or breeder animals from ocean-based brood farms.

49.3 In special cases and in relation to development plans that are part of or aimed at populating or renewing broodstocks, an official veterinarian may grant exemptions to Arts. 49.1 and 49.2.

Art. 50

50.1 Brood farms may sell or transfer:

1) Milt, unfertilized or fertilized roe, fry, parr, smolt and other ocean-ready fish and brood fish, breeder animals or brood

algae at all their life stages to other brood farms, with due regard for the provisions in Art. 49.2
2) fertilized roe, fry and parr to land-based nurseries,
3) smolt and other ocean-ready fish, animals and algae for land-based aquaculture farms and ocean-based aquaculture farms, and,
4) fish or animals pursuant to Art. 48.2, which are ready slaughter at a slaughter facility.

Art. 51

51.1 Freshly fertilized roe at land-based brood farms must be disinfected before they swell.

51.2 Eyed eggs must be disinfected immediately on reception at a land-based brood farm.

Art. 52

52.1 Roe of different ancestry must be kept separate during hatching.

52.2 Broodstock of different ancestry must be kept separate throughout the entire aquaculture cycle.

52.3 An official veterinarian may issue requirements stipulating any separation of other breeder animals and brood algae and their spores.

Operating nurseries

Art. 53

53.1 Nurseries may only be used to farm fish, intended for human consumption or technological purposes. Live fish, roe and milt from nurseries may not be used to farm brood fish.

53.2 The Chief Veterinary Office may issue equivalent requirements for the farming of breeder animals or brood algae.

53.3 The Chief Veterinary Office may in special cases grant exemptions to Art. 53.1.

Art. 54

54.1 Land-based nurseries may only purchase or receive fertilized roe, fry and parr of salmonids and other younger life stages of fish or animals from brood farms.

54.2 An official veterinarian may on application grant exemptions to Art. 54.1.

Art. 55

55.1 Land-based nurseries may only sell or transfer:
1) Fry, smolt and other ocean-ready fish and younger life stages of fish and animals to land-based aquaculture farms and ocean-based aquaculture farms, and
2) fish or animals ready for slaughter to slaughter facilities or equivalent harvest facilities.

55.2 The Chief Veterinary Office may in special cases grant exemptions from Art. 55.1.

Art. 56

56.1 Eyed salmon eggs must be disinfected immediately on reception at land-based nurseries.

56.2 The Chief Veterinary Office may lay down similar disinfection requirements for other aquaculture fish than salmon and other aquaculture animals.

Art. 57

57.1 Before light-managed smoltification of salmon is initiated, appropriate categorisation by size must be carried out to ensure uniform smoltification.

57.2 Appropriate analyses and examinations consistent with good animal welfare practices shall document that fish that are to be transferred for growing out have completed the smoltification process.

57.3 Fish intended for growing out must be of a size suitable to the conditions they will be transferred into and generally robust enough to withstand transfer to seawater.

57.4 Fish and animals with visible lesions, including significant fin rot, sexually mature male fish or fish and animals, which are of poor quality for other reasons, must be separated and discarded, also in accordance with Art. 34.1.

Operating aquaculture farms

Art. 58

58.1 Aquaculture Farms must only be used to farm fish, animals and algae for human consumption, feed, technological purposes or as aids in other types of aquaculture.

58.2 Live fish, animals or algae from aquaculture farms or roe and spores from these must not be used in brood farming.

58.3 The Chief Veterinary Officer may grant exemptions from Arts. 58.1 and 58.2 for populating or renewing brood stocks, as well as stock improvement efforts in this context.

Art. 59

59.1 Ocean-based aquaculture farms and land-based seawater aquaculture farms may only purchase or receive fish from brood farms, land-based nurseries and land-based seawater aquaculture farms.

59.2 For ocean-based aquaculture farms total growing-out time must not exceed 4 months.

59.3 The Chief Veterinary Officer may stipulate requirements similar to those in 59.1 and 59.2 encompassing animals other than fish.

59.4 The Chief Veterinary Officer may in special circumstances grant exemptions from Arts. 59.1, e.g.:

1) In conjunction with the coordination of operations plans, so that aquaculture farms may be laid fallow simultaneously, and

2) in conjunction with the population and renewal of brood stocks and stock improvement efforts in this context.

Art. 60

60.1 Nurseries may transfer fish to:

1) Seawater aquaculture farms on land with a license to pump in seawater,
2) ocean-based aquaculture farms,
3) slaughter facilities, or
4) disposal facilities.

60.2 Land-based seawater aquaculture farms may only transfer fish to ocean-based aquaculture farms, slaughter facilities or to disposal facilities.

60.3 Ocean-based aquaculture farms may only transfer fish to slaughter facilities or to disposal facilities.

60.4 The Chief Veterinary Officer may in special circumstances grant exemptions to Arts. 60.1, e.g.:

1) In conjunction with the coordination of operations plans, so that aquaculture farms may be laid fallow simultaneously, and
2) in conjunction with the population and renewal of brood stocks and stock improvement efforts in this context, and
3) in conjunction with animals or algae being used as aids in other types of aquaculture.

Welfare, water conditions and density

Art. 61

61.1 Fish density at brood farms, nurseries and land-based aquaculture farms must be consistent with the best biological and technical industry practices and shall not exceed a density that would jeopardize the continuous maintenance of optimal water parameters or that would have a negative impact on the welfare of fish.

61.2 Water quality shall be continually documented by measuring and recording all relevant physical and chemical water parameters.

61.3 Water density at brood farms and ocean-based aquaculture farms must be:

1) When average fish weight is below 2 kg, the maximum fish density is 15 kg per cubic metre.
2) When average fish weight is between 2 and 3 kg, the maximum fish density is 20 kg per cubic metre.
3) When average fish weight is over 3 kg, the maximum fish density is 25 kg per cubic metre.

61.4 The cubic measurements in Art. 61.3 are calculated as surface x depth. The depth of a fish cage is calculated from the water surface and down to the led weight line, up to a maximum of 15 metres.

61.5 An official veterinarian may in special cases grant exemptions from the provisions in Art. 61.4 on the maximum depth of 15 metres, e.g. for open ocean aquaculture.

Cleaning, disinfecting and fallowing

Art. 62

62.1 Following each production cycle when an aquaculture facility or operating unit is emptied of fish and the nets removed, any unnecessary equipment must be removed, so that the aquaculture facility or operating unit may be cleaned, disinfected and fallowed, pursuant to Arts. 65.1 and 65.2 before fish is set out again.

62.2 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority must be notified as soon as the aquaculture facility or operating unit have been emptied of fish.

62.3 For forms of aquaculture other than fish farming, an official veterinarian may in concrete cases and following an assessment order fallowing between each production cycle or at other suitable intervals.

Art. 63

63.1 Aquaculture facilities and operating units must be washed and disinfected according to guidelines issued by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

63.2 Washing and disinfecting land-based aquaculture installations must include:

1) Rooms,
2) hatching trays and other hatching equipment,
3) tubs and tanks,
4) water supply lines and any filters, including biofilters, in case of fallowing ordered in relation to infectious disease,
5) other operating equipment, and
6) outdoor areas.

63.3 Washing and disinfecting floating aquaculture installations at sea must include:

1) Steel cages and other floating aquaculture equipment, which can be washed and disinfected at sea, and
2) nets and similar equipment, which must be washed and disinfected on land. Any wastewater must be treated according to the rules and regulations on disinfection of wastewater from aquaculture facilities and aquaculture plants.

63.4 Before the fallowing period of aquaculture facilities or operating units can begin, the cleaning and disinfection operation must be approved by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority, including the detergents and disinfectants used.

Art. 64

64.1 If an aquaculture facility has been ordered to dispose of or slaughter stock owing to infectious disease, the Chief Veterinary Officer may order cleaning and disinfection to commence immediately after the aquaculture

facility or operating unit has been emptied of fish, and stipulate a deadline for when this must be completed.

Art. 65

65.1 The minimum fallowing periods for aquaculture facilities and operating units between each production cycle are

1) 1 week for aquaculture facilities and operating units farming in vats, tanks or the like on land.
2) 2 months for aquaculture facilities and operating units farming in aquaculture pens, cages and the like at sea calculated from the day the aquaculture facility or operating unit was emptied and the nets removed, but at least 1 month from the day when the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority approved the cleaning and disinfecting operation of the aquaculture facility.

65.2 Aquaculture facilities and operating units with fish located less than 5 kilometres from other aquaculture facilities must be fallowed for at least 1 month simultaneously, calculated from the day the aquaculture facility or operating unit was emptied and the nets removed.

65.3 The Chief Veterinary Officer may extend the fallowing period mentioned in 65.1 if infectious disease was detected at the aquaculture facility in question.

65.4 the Chief Veterinary Officer may shorten the fallowing period for any aquaculture facilities or operating units mentioned in Art. 65.1 No. 1, which are designed in a way that permits effective drying, washing and disinfection.

65.5 For aquacultures other than fish farming, the Chief Veterinary Officer may in concrete cases and following an assessment grant exemptions from Arts. 65.1 and 65.2 or stipulate other requirements for each form of aquaculture.

Health inspections

Art. 66

66.1 All aquaculture facilities with fish or animals must have a veterinarian, who carries out regular animal health inspections at said aquaculture facility.

66.2 The license holder must inform the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority of the veterinarian's name and address.

66.3 The inspections carried out by the veterinarian pursuant to Art. 66.1 must at least include:

1) 12 annual inspections of brood farms,
2) 12 annual inspections of nurseries,
3) 12 annual inspections of aquaculture farms producing 1,000,000 or more fish, or farming more than one fish species, including helper fish,

4) 6 annual inspections of aquaculture farms that produce fewer than 1,000,000 fish and farm only one fish species, including helper fish, and
5) for aquaculture animals other than fish, the Chief Veterinary Officer will determine the number of annual inspections.

66.4 In conjunction with animal health inspections the veterinarian is required to:
1) Check that operations logbooks are kept in accordance with Art. 25,
2) review logbooks to detect potential problems,
3) visually inspect all operating units for welfare and any symptoms of disease, and
4) dissect recent fish kill or animal kill that display symptoms of potential disease and collect any samples needed for a diagnosis.

66.5 From aquaculture units with increased mortality or signs of clinical disease at least 10 specimens of kill or slaughtered fish or animals of each species must be dissected and analysed.

66.6 Following each visit the veterinarian must write up an inspection report, which must be submitted to the license holder and a person responsible for the aquaculture facility no more than 2 days after the inspection.

66.7 Aquaculture facilities must keep archives of all veterinary inspection reports from both ordinary and extraordinary inspections.

66.8 All veterinary inspection reports from both ordinary and extraordinary inspections must be available to the inspection authorities during their inspections, even when the person responsible is unable to be present during an inspection.

66.9 The Chief Veterinary Officer may stipulate animal health inspection requirements, including extraordinary inspections and the type of samples to be taken and the number of fish or animals, which should be taken for inspection.

Art. 67

67 In the event of increased mortality or other reason to suspect the presence of disease, aquaculture facilities must immediately notify a veterinarian of this fact.

Art. 68

68.1 It is not permitted to transport, slaughter or sell fish, animals or algae with visible signs of infectious disease.

68.2 Notwithstanding Art. 68.1, the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may grant dispensation for transportation of fish to slaughter.

Ban on sailing and fishing

Art. 69

69.1 No unauthorized persons are permitted to:

1) Sail closer than 50 meters to the outermost visible marking of aquaculture areas at sea,
2) fish or catch in any other manner in aquaculture areas,
3) fish or catch in rivers or lakes from which brood farms take in water, or
4) fish or catch less than 50 meters from any brood farms' seawater inlet.

69.2 The Chief Veterinary Officer may tighten or grant dispensations from the requirements in Art. 69.1 based on the specific circumstances.

Catching from and stocking rivers and lakes

Art. 70

70.1 The official veterinarian must approve fish, animal and algae stocking rivers and lakes before they may be used for this purpose. This process must follow the rules in Art. 10 with any necessary adaptations.

70.2 It is not permitted to release fish, animals or algae into rivers or lakes, this includes transferring them between rivers or lakes, without the approval of an official veterinarian.

70.3 Any application for approval must be submitted using a set form from the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

70.4 Official veterinarians may only grant permission to stock rivers or lakes with fish, animals or algae, if that no closely related species, which may become threatened or extinct due to such activity, has its natural habitat in said rivers or lakes.

Art. 71

71.1 Fishing in rivers and lakes where the course of water runs towards land-based aquaculture farms and in land-based aquaculture farms' discharge areas is banned.

71.2 Stocking lakes must meet the same spacing conditions with regards to infection hazards as nurseries, in accordance with Art. 9.1 No. 2.

Art. 72

72.1 Any fish, animals or algae used to stock lakes or rivers must originate from brood farms or nurseries approved pursuant to this Executive Order.

72.2 Fish, animals and algae intended to stock lakes or rivers must not display any symptoms of or be suspected of carrying any infectious disease nor must they have any visible lesions.

72.3 The transport of fish, animals, algae or equipment to lakes or rivers must be carried out in accordance with the rules laid down in the Executive Order on Transport of Aquaculture Animals and Other Provisions.

72.4 Used fishing rods and other used equipment must be cleaned and disinfected following approved procedures before they are moved between different rivers and lakes.

72.5 For licensed stocking rivers and lakes it is the license-holder's responsibility to ensure that:

1) The provisions in this Chapter are followed,
2) any employees, helpers, customers and other users are thoroughly briefed about the rules and regulations in force in the area,
3) guidance and materials are supplied that make it effortless to clean and disinfect fishing rods and other equipment on arrival and departure, and
4) ensure that the rules and regulations are followed.

72.6 Before any license is granted or renewed, and before any transportation permits are issued, the license-holder must apply for the approval of written internal procedures or registration system, which require the approval of and are subject to supervision by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

Art. 73

73.1 Any activity that encompasses releasing fish, animals or algae into rivers or lakes requires a designated veterinarian, who shall carry out regular animal health inspections of fish and any other animals released.

73.2 The license-holder must notify the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority of the veterinarian's name and address.

73.3 The veterinarian shall carry out inspections at least twice a year. One of these inspections must take place before and in conjunction with stocking.

73.4 Following each visit the veterinarian must write an inspection report, which must be issued to the license-holder no more than 2 working days after the inspections.

73.5 The license-holder must keep records of the veterinary inspection reports.

73.6 The veterinarian's inspection reports must be available when a public inspection authority carries out an inspection visit.

73.7 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority monitors stocking rivers and lakes into which fish, animals or algae are released.

73.8 The Chief Veterinary Officer may lay down regulations governing animal health inspections, including what type of samples should be collected and the number of fish, animals or algae that must be taken for analysis.

Chapter 4

Oversight, implementation and sanctions

Oversight pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases

Art. 74

74.1 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority oversees compliance with and makes implementing decisions regarding the provisions in the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases related to preventing and combating disease in aquaculture fish and other aquaculture animals, as well as the provisions in this Executive Order pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases and may, pursuant to these, issue bans and orders.

74.2 In this work the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority must have access to all parts of aquaculture facilities.

74.3 The license-holder must ensure that a responsible person is present during inspections.

74.4 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority writes inspection reports, which are sent to license-holders once inspections have been completed.

Withdrawal of approvals

Art. 75

75 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may withdraw the approval of an aquaculture facility in case of serious breaches of the provisions in this Executive Order pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases.

Payments and reimbursements

Art. 76

76 License-holders must, without cost to the government or any public authority, make available any necessary crews, auxiliary boats and other equipment and facilities in conjunction with animal health inspections, sampling and other controls and any related tasks in accordance with this Executive Order pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases.

Art. 77

77.1 There will be no reimbursement paid by the government or other public bodies for any expenses that aquaculture facilities, stocking rivers or lakes, or any other aquaculture-related activities may incur in relation to this Executive Order pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases.

77.2 License-holders pay for approvals, inspections and the like carried out by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority, as well as for taking samples and analysing samples according to the rates in force.

77.3 License-holders pay for inspections and the like carried out by veterinarians according to the veterinarian's rates.

77.4 Services provided by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority to recreational organisations with aquaculture licenses that are authorised in accordance with this Executive Order, pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases, to stock rivers or lakes, or run other activities

related to brood fish, and which do not produce farmed fish for profit, will be provided free of charge.

Oversight pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Fish Farming and Other Provisions

Art. 78

78.1 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority oversees compliance with and makes decisions to implement the provisions in Arts. 9 and 10 and Arts. 16 and 17 in the Parliamentary Act on Fish Farming and Other Provisions and in Art. 23.3. No. 4 and 23.3. No. 6, Art. 38, Art. 41, Art. 69 of this Executive Order and is mandated to issue prohibitions and orders pursuant to the mentioned provisions.

78.2 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may revoke aquaculture licenses in case of serious breaches of the provisions in Art. 23.3 No. 4 and 23.3 No. 6, Art. 38 and Art. 41 in this Executive Order, or of any prohibitions or orders issued pursuant to the provisions mentioned.

78.3 The provisions in Art. 74.3 and 74.4, Art. 76 and Art. 77.2 shall apply concordantly in conjunction with oversight pursuant to 78.1.

Oversight pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Welfare

Art. 79

79.1 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority oversees compliance with and makes decisions to implement the provisions in the Parliamentary Act on Animal Welfare in relation to the animal welfare of aquaculture fish and other aquaculture animals as well as the provisions in this Executive Order on animal welfare.

79.2 The provisions in Art. 76 and Art. 77.2 shall apply concordantly in conjunction with oversight pursuant to Art. 79.1.

Transitional provisions

Art. 80

80 Existing aquaculture farms that were approved pursuant to the rules in the Executive Order on The Disease Prevention Operation of Fish Farming Facilities are not required to apply for a new approval pursuant to the rules in Art. 10.

Art. 81

81 The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority may grant a fixed period for existing aquaculture facilities to achieve compliance with the provisions in this Executive Order.

Appeals

Art. 82

82 Any decisions made by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority pursuant to this Executive Order may be appealed to the Commercial Appeals Board (*Vinnukærunevndin*).

Sanctions

Art. 83

83 Unless stricter penalties can be imposed pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases or other legislation, anyone violating the rules stipulated by the provisions in this Executive Order or failing to comply with any prohibitions or orders issued in accordance with this Executive Order pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases will be fined.

Art. 84

84.1 The power granted to the minister in Art. 50 of the Parliamentary Act on Animal Diseases to adjudicate criminal cases without legal proceedings is conferred on the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

Art. 85

85 Unless stricter penalties can be imposed pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Fish Farming and Other Provisions, anyone who intentionally or owing to gross negligence breaches Arts. 23.3 No. 4 and 23.3 No. 6, Art. 38, Art. 41, Art. 69.1 or who fails to comply with any prohibitions or orders issued pursuant to the mentioned provisions, will be penalised with a fine, mitigated imprisonment or imprisonment for up to 1 year.

Art. 86

86 Unless stricter penalties can be imposed pursuant to the Parliamentary Act on Animal Welfare or other legislation, anyone who breaches Art. 32, Art. 34 and Art. 57.2 in this Executive Order or who fails to comply with any bans or orders issued pursuant to the mentioned provisions will be penalised with a fine.

Entry into force

Art. 87

87.1 This Executive Order will enter into force on the day after its publication.

87.2 Upon its entry into force this Executive Order shall supersede Executive Order No. 134 dated October 16th, 2009, on the Disease Prevention Operation of Fish Farming Facilities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, June 14th, 2019.

Poul Michelsen (signed)

Minister of Government

Herálvur Joensen (signed)

Annex 1

Operations plan

Operations plans for all forms of aquaculture at all types of aquaculture facilities must, when relevant considering the specific form of aquaculture, in accordance with Art. 22.9 No. 10, contain the following information for 2 production cycles:

A Brood farms, nurseries and other aquaculture facilities:

1) Farm registration number and-or unequivocal and meticulous identification of the corresponding area.
2) Operating unit registration number.
3) Dated term of the operations plan.
4) Production process flowchart.
5) Fish, animal or algae species.
6) For all individual processes, e.g. transport, sale, reception, striping, fertilization, incubation, grading, hatching, starter feed, on-growing, production, harvest and fallowing:
    a) When each of these processes is planned to start, take place and end,
    b) origin, meaning brood farm registration number or identification of the equivalent area of origin,
    c) projected number or quantity of each sex, when the process beings,
    d) planned temperature limits during hatching and starter feeding,
    e) the plan for monitoring, regulating and recording the values mentioned in Annex 3 heading I,
    f) projected or planned size on reception, sale, transfer to water or seawater and at harvest,
    g) mortality forecast for each process,
    h) expected number, quantity and total biomass when the process ends,
    i) highest projected total biomass during the production cycle,
    j) maximum density projected in kg per m3,
    k) recipient, meaning registration number of the receiving farm or name and location of the plant.

Annex 2

Operations logbooks

Operations logbooks for all forms of aquaculture at all types of aquaculture facilities must, when relevant considering the specific form of aquaculture, and when possible considering the form of aquaculture, in accordance with Art. 26.2 and 26.3, contain the following data:

A. For brood fish, breeder animals and brood algae and their gametes or spores, in conjunction with transport, sale, reception, stripping, incubation, grading or hatching of roe, on-growing and out growing to harvest:
   1) Date when the process took place.
   2) Farm registration number.
   3) Aquaculture unit registration number.
   4) Species.
   5) Number, weight or quantity of each sex.
   6) Origin, meaning registration number of brood farm or identification of the equivalent area or origin.
   7) Number and sex of brood fish and, if relevant, of breeder animals or brood algae.
   8) Live number and quantity.
   9) Discards number, quantity, cause and at what stage they were removed, e.g. unfertilized, cripple, dead.
   10) Registration number of unit transferring into and out of.
   11) Result of laboratory analyses.

B. When fish, animals or algae are transferred to aquaculture units, for each separate unit:
   1) Farm registration number.
   2) Operating unit registration number or area.
   3) Aquaculture unit number.
   4) Cubic measure used or other relevant measurements of the aquaculture unit.
   5) Date of transfer to the unit.
   6) Species, including helper fish.
   7) Number and quantity transferred, including helper fish.
   8) Average weight on transfer to the unit.
   9) Total weight, meaning biomass and density in kg per m3 on transfer to the unit.
   10) Origin:
      a) Brood farm registration number or identification of equivalent area or origin,
      B) in case of internal transfer, aquaculture unit registration number.

C. Daily entries for each separate aquaculture unit used to farm fish at all forms of aquaculture farms at sea and on land:

1) Date.
2) Live number, at end of day, including helper fish.
3) Average weight at end of day.
4) Total weight at end of day.
5) Daily mortality.
6) Average weight.
7) Total weight, meaning biomass of dead fish.
8) Feed use.
9) Type of feed.
    a) Date of internal controls.
    b) Date of health inspections, who carried out the Inspection, whether it is a regular inspection, reference to more detailed information about any suspected disease or infection, to the findings, recommendations and any measures implemented.

D. For each aquaculture unit when fish, including helper fish, animals or algae at all life stages are transferred internally to another aquaculture unit at the farm or to another aquaculture facility, to grow out at sea, released to stock rivers or lakes, or disposed of:

1) Date.
2) Number.
3) Average weight.
4) Total weight, meaning biomass, transferred.
5) Registration number of the aquaculture unit transferred to and the name and location of the area.
6) Registration number of the receiving aquaculture area, farm or plant.
7) Coordinates and name of the location of transfer to grow out at sea or release to stock rivers or lakes.

E. When fish, including helper fish, escape, for each separate unit:

1) Date.
2) Number of fish escaped or lost.
3) Average weight.
4) Total weight.
5) Cause.

F. Parasite counts pursuant to the Executive Order on Monitoring and Controlling Sea Lice on Aquaculture Fish (the Sea Lice Executive Order).

G. When there are symptoms of disease or increased mortality in all species of fish or animals, for each separate unit:

1) Date.
2) Symptoms.
3) Diagnosis.
4) Who made the diagnosis:

a) Aquaculture facility's veterinarian or
b) The Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority.

5) In case of diseases requiring notification:
   a) Date when disease was first suspected, and
   b) Date when the aquaculture farm's veterinarian was called, or
   c) date when the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority was called.

H. In case of treatment with medication or vaccines for each separate unit:

1) Treatment start date.
2) Treatment end date.
3) Diagnosis.
4) Name of medication or vaccine.
5) Dosage.
6) Batch number.
7) Required withdrawal period according to the manufacturer.

I. In conjunction with silage and collection of fish kill:
1) Date and time when the last fish was added to the tank.
2) Date and time of collection of the tank content in accordance with No. 1.

J. Continuous daily digital recording of water quality in each aquaculture unit at all types of aquaculture facilities at sea and on land, and increased surveillance in case of increased mortality or a reduction in welfare until the causes have been identified by a veterinarian:
1) Date.
2) Oxygen, meaning 02 at sea and on land, as a minimum in representative vats or aquaculture units with the worst expected conditions for each row of vats or aquaculture units, or for each frame with a row of aquaculture units.
3) Carbon dioxide, meaning C02, in vats or aquaculture units on land, as a minimum in representative vats or aquaculture units with the worst expected condition for each shared pipe to a row of vats or aquaculture units.
4) Acidity (pH) in vats or aquaculture units on land where water or brackish water is used, as a minimum for each hall or aquaculture department with shared water supply and recirculation system.
5) Salinity when seawater or brackish water is used.
6) Temperature in °C.
7) On land additionally: Volume flow rate, meaning volume in relation to time of water, seawater or a mixture of these.
8) On land in conjunction with recirculation of water, seawater or a mixture of these, additionally:
   a) Nitrate NO3-,
   b) Nitrite NO2-,
   c) Ammonium NH4+,
   d) Ammonia NH3,

e) Hydrogen sulphide H2S in conjunction with recirculation of water or seawater, in case of increased mortality or a decrease in welfare at sea, if bubbles are observed rising from the seabed, and at maximum live weight at ocean-based aquaculture facilities, before the aquaculture cycle ends,
f) Ozone 03, if ozone is used,
g) Any relevant toxins where salt is used in the water.