



## Banned Chemical Found in Stolt's Farmed Salmon

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For Immediate release

**Sointula, BC** - Stolt Sea Farms has confirmed that malachite green, a suspected carcinogenic chemical, has been found in the 320,000.00 Chinook salmon raised on their farms. Malachite green, an anti fungal chemical once widely used in the salmon farming industry, is a banned substance. Farmed salmon contaminated with malachite green have been found in Scotland and Chile in the past 2 years. And now Stolt Sea Farms confirms that it is in their fish in Canada. Malachite green is not permitted in fish sold for food in Canada.

"This is another reason for consumers not to eat farmed salmon," urged Jennifer Lash, Executive Director, Living Oceans Society. "The government has ignored this issue in the past but now they must take action. Health Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada must immediately investigate this matter and take what ever steps required to make sure malachite green never shows up in farmed salmon again."

Lash is also recommending that government bring in mandatory labeling distinguishing farmed salmon from wild so that consumers can make an informed decision.

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) of which Living Oceans Society is a member, has asked repeated questions of federal Ministers about the presence of this compound in fish sold to Canadians. CAAR wrote to the Health Canada Minister Anne McLellan in August 2003 requesting the following information:

- What are the Canadian standards for allowable residues of malachite green?
- What percentage of Canadian farmed salmon is tested for residues of this internationally prohibited carcinogen and what percentage has tested positive?
- What are the measures taken to safeguard Canadian consumers?

"We have repeatedly asked Health Canada to take steps to protect consumers from malachite green in farmed salmon but they have failed to even answer our letters, let alone respond to the problem," says Lash. "Both the salmon farmers and Health Canada must take steps to guarantee that there are no health threats from farmed salmon. Until then, consumers should stop eating framed salmon and look for healthy alternatives instead."

In the face of no response from any federal Minister, CAAR requested NDP MP Svend Robinson to take up this issue. He did so in an order paper question dated Feb. 26, 2004. Copies of the response to Mr. Robinson's question are available upon request. Contact Jennifer Lash 250-741-4006 for a copy.

Stolt Sea Farms is in the process of merging with Nutreco to form Marine Harvest, the largest farmed salmon producer in the world.

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