





Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Strategies

| | IMPACTS | MITIGATION |
|--|---|---|
| Impacts to Wild Stocks  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sourcing fry from the wild can have negative impacts on wild stocks as it extracts from and can decrease numbers of those stocks• Escapements can impact wild stocks by spreading diseases and diluting the genetic pool• Ocean cage equipment has potential to harm marine life by causing entanglement in gear• Feed type and feeding protocol can potentially increase nutrient loading and impact local environment that wild stocks rely upon | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Source the fry from hatcheries or stocks that are not being overfished• Properly maintain and service cage equipment to prevent fish escapes• Install cages away from marine mammal migration and sensitive spawning grounds• Proper commercial feed and feeding regimes must be used to minimize impact |
| Habitat Impacts  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitive marine environments can be impacted by excess nutrients if fish density or number of cages is too large for the area• Gear type, quantity, and condition may negatively affect local habitat• Collection of fish feces and uneaten feed can impact benthic environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site cages away from coral reefs and seagrass beds while accounting for currents• Properly service and maintain gear to avoid breakage and habitat damage• Site cage in area with enough depth and currents to flush away fish waste / excess nutrients and feed |
| Water Pollution  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed type (e.g. whole feeds) and improper feeding protocols that place too much feed in the water can potentially impact water quality• Cages with too many fish will produce large quantities of waste and excess nutrients that can reduce water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proper commercial feed and feeding regimes must be used to minimize impact• Site cage in area with enough depth and currents to flush away fish waste / excess nutrients and feed• Stock with an appropriate quantity of fish to avoid water degradation from waste |
| Disease  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Too high stocking densities can cause diseases and parasite outbreaks• Growth on cage nets can reduce water flow and harbor parasites that can infect fish• Disease and parasite outbreaks from one cage can infect neighboring cages | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stock cages with an appropriate quantity of fish to prevent outbreaks• Carry out regular net cleaning to prevent algae accumulation• Allow enough distance between cages to prevent potential contamination |