International Standard

ISO 17273

Waste management and reduction from aquaculture facilities in natural water bodies — Principles and guidelines

Gestion et réduction des déchets des installations aquacoles dans les plans d'eau naturels — Principes et lignes directrices

First edition
2024-03

Reference number
ISO 17273:2024(en)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture*.

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Introduction

A productive, healthy, and clean aquatic environment is vital for aquaculture. It is therefore essential to avoid littering and other types of pollution to reduce the environmental footprint of marine sectors. Despite of this, marine and fresh waters are recipients for litter and other pollutants, intentionally or unintentionally.

Waste and litter occurring in marine and fresh waters are to a large extent transported over large distances, often following the ocean currents. Problems due to marine pollution therefore need to be solved at an international level as well as at a national one. Reduced release of waste into the marine and fresh water bodies will also make a significant contribution to improved resource management, increased sustainable food-production and improved circular economy.

Waste management in aquaculture could contribute to:

— Reduction of litter and other pollutants from aquaculture.

— Reduced macro and micro plastic levels in marine and fresh waters, and on the seabed.

— Reduction of litter in the littoral zone and nearby terrestrial areas, as well as on recreation areas.

— Reduced environmental impact from the seafood industry, e.g. on fish species, invertebrates, reptiles, birds and mammals.

— Increased contribution to circular economy, e.g. reuse and recycling of equipment from aquaculture.

— Healthy aquatic ecosystems.