



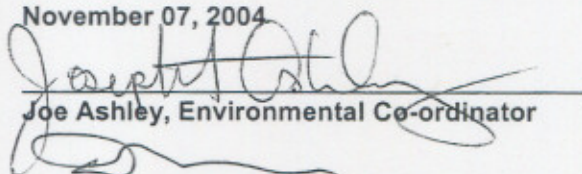
GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Environment and Conservation
Pollution Prevention Division

Guidance Document

Title: Disposal of Fish, Shellfish and Fish Offal

Revision Date: November 07, 2004

Revised By: 
Joe Ashley, Environmental Co-ordinator

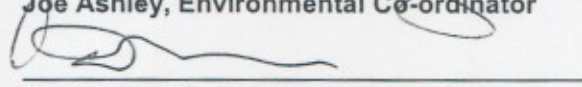
Approved By: 
Derrick Maddocks, Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	LEGISLATION	1
3.0	DEFINITIONS	2
4.0	EXEMPTION	2
5.0	STORAGE REQUIREMENTS	2
6.0	TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS	2
7.0	DISPOSAL OPTIONS	3
8.0	SPILLS	5
 APPENDICES		
A.	Endnotes	6
B.	GSC & Department of Environment & Conservation Contacts	7

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Fish, shellfish and fish offal wastes generated by fisher persons and fish plants have, on occasion, caused health and environmental concerns due to improper/poor storage, handling and/or disposal practices. Some of the problems created include water pollution, fouled beaches, insect/rodent infestations and noxious odors. In some cases, traffic hazards have been created due to spillage onto roadways from overloaded offal transport trucks. Also, contaminated liquids leaking from containers on transport vehicles or the tailgate of dump trucks create slippery road conditions and threaten public and domestic water supplies along the route.

These guidelines provide environmentally acceptable alternatives for the storage, transport and disposal of fish, shellfish and fish offal in the Province and are intended for internal use by Departmental agents at the Government Services Center. The guidelines may also be used as environmental guidelines for the general public.

These guidelines apply to fish, shellfish and fish offal as wastes generated within the Province. Importation of such waste is restricted except as may be authorized by an environmental Certificate of Approval.

2.0 LEGISLATION

Applicable legislation:

- *Environmental Protection Act, SNL 2002 and Regulations*
- *Water Resources Act, SNL 2002 and Regulations*

The following is a list of additional legislation, (and appropriate mandated agencies), which may be applicable when dealing with the storage, transport and disposal of fish, shellfish and fish offal.

- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, Part VI (Environment Canada)*
 - *Ocean Dumping Regulations, 1998*
- *Fisheries Act (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)*
- *Fish Inspection Act and Fish Inspection Regulations (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)*
- *Load and Drugs Act and Sanitation Regulations (Department of Health and Community Services)*
- *Highways Traffic Act and the Load Security Regulations section 3(5)(h), (Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Department of Government Services and/or respective Municipal By-Laws).*

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Approval	Approval means a Certificate of Approval issued under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act or Water Resources Act.
Department	Newfoundland Department of Environment and Conservation
GSC	Government Service Center, Department of Government Services

Offal	All parts of an animal which are removed from the carcass when it is dressed for food, e.g. entrails, heart, liver, head, tail.
Owner/Operator	A person that owns or is responsible for or has the charge, management or control of the operation of a waste management system. A person includes a council, firm, committee or franchise holder.
Waste	Waste includes rubbish, offal, slime, tailings, effluent, sludge, sewage, garbage, refuse, scrap, litter or other substances or waste products that would or could cause an adverse effect.
Waste Disposal Site	A site designated for handling, storage, processing, treatment, and/or disposal of waste and for which a certificate of approval has been issued under the provisions of the <i>Environmental Protection Act, May 22, 2002</i> .

4.0 EXEMPTION

4.1 Individual fisher persons splitting/filleting fish on a beach or on a stage head may only deviate from these guidelines to dispose of fish offal in traditional ways; disposal in the water or for use as fertilizer on fisher person's residential garden(s).

5.0 STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 All fish, shellfish and fish offal waste shall be loaded into leak-proof containers.(e.g. fish bins) Note: A dump truck with a **proper liner or proper gasket on the tailgate** can serve as a leak-proof container.
- 5.2 These containers shall be covered (tarpaulin or equivalent cover) at the completion of loading operations to minimize flies and odours.

6.0 TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 Waste shall be transported in leak-proof covered containers.
- 6.2 These wastes shall be transported to an authorized site within 24 hours after loading operations are completed. In cases where transportation of the waste may be delayed, refrigeration or ice cover shall be used as necessary to reduce the rate of decomposition and to minimize noxious odours and fly infestation of these wastes.
- 6.3 Fish, shellfish and fish offal transport trucks shall not be overloaded. Consideration shall be given for steep inclines along the route to an offloading or disposal site. Spillage from transport vehicles is prohibited.

7.0 DISPOSAL OPTIONS

7.1 Disposal of wastes shall be to predetermined/authorized sites. Environmentally acceptable alternatives for the disposal of fish, shellfish and fish offal are listed in order of priority and not limited to:

Option 1: Delivery to a Fish Waste/Meal Processing Plant

Offal shall be transported to a fish waste/meal processing plant daily between May and October and at least every other day between November and April. Plants utilized for chitin production, sauce production, crafts and ornaments (cod skin leather, earrings, scallop shell

items, etc.), are considered processing plants and are acceptable alternatives for fish, shellfish and fish offal disposal.

Option 2: Disposal as a Compost or Fertilizer

Fish, shellfish and fish offal used as fertilizer or compost is an acceptable alternative under certain circumstances.¹ The potential for noxious odors, flies and rodent infestation shall be considered. Watercourses, private and public water supplies and environmentally sensitive sites shall be avoided.

- (a) Written approval of the GSC (for the Department) is required prior to commercial composting or land disposal of shellfish, fish and/or fish offal.
- (b) Fish and offal stored for compost or fertilizer shall be covered to control flies and odour problems.
- (c) Drainage from waste storage areas shall be directed to an approved discharge site/system. Discharge to a watercourse is prohibited.
- (d) The use of offal as a fertilizer should be done after an assessment has been completed on the land where the offal is to be spread. Soil assay testing is recommended before any extensive quantity of offal is applied in a spreading program. The quantity of offal applied to land in a given period of time should meet only the soil requirement for beneficial use and therefore have least adverse impact on the environment.
- (e) Fish offal may not be spread within **thirty** meters of a watercourse/body of water. Distance requirements may be greater as local conditions vary, i.e. slope of land, soil conditions, etc.
- (f) Fish offal may not be spread within **ninety** meters of any well or public water supply and may not be spread on the watershed of any community water supply system.
- (g) Consideration shall be given to neighbouring properties and land use. Noxious odours generated from decaying fish, shellfish and fish offal wastes may adversely affect land use on such neighbouring properties.
- (h) Fish offal shall not be applied to snow covered and/or frozen ground.

Option 3: Ocean Disposal

A permit is required from Environment Canada for the disposal of any fish, shellfish and/or fish offal in marine waters (using a barge, vessel, netting, etc.)²

Option 4: Disposal at a Land Based Waste Disposal Site

Written approval must be obtained from the owner/operator of an approved waste disposal site and the appropriate regional GSC office prior to any offal disposal. All offal deposited at a waste disposal site must be into a prepared excavation. Liming prior to backfill is required (to control rodent/fly infestation and/or noxious odour problems associated with decaying wastes.)³

Note: Disposal in a waste disposal site is not permitted unless the generator of the offal demonstrates that meal, composting/fertilizer and ocean dumping options are either unavailable or economically prohibitive.

7.2 Unacceptable Disposal Methods

Methods of disposal of fish, fish offal, and shellfish waste which are **not acceptable** and are in violation of one or more of the previously mentioned Acts include;

- Over the wharf dumping.
- Dumping on a beach.
- Dumping at sea in an area other than a designated gurry ground for which the operator has an Ocean Dumping Permit from Environment Canada ².
- Dumping on land that is not part of an approved composting/land fertilization program "or" at any location other than an approved Waste Disposal Site (with the permission of the owner/operator).

8.0 SPILLS

In the event of spillage from a waste container or transport truck, the proponent must immediately notify the GSC via the environmental emergency phone number (772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089) and take all necessary steps to clean the affected area and restore the environment to the satisfaction of the Department.

All waste, damaged materials and debris generated at the spill site must be disposed in an approved waste disposal site. Authorization of the site owner/operator and the appropriate regional office of the GSC is required prior to disposal. Special disposal requirements and/or user fees may be applied by the disposal site owner/operator.

.....

APPENDIX A

Endnotes:

1. Guidelines for Compost Quality have been developed by CCME(Canadian Council Ministers of Environment); ref. 1996-CCME-SWMTG-106, #ISBN 1-895925-6. (Available from CCME at a cost of \$3./copy.) Composting activities may require a certificate of approval from the Department of Environment and Conservation. Contact should be made with the Department prior to conducting any composting activities.
2. Disposal at Sea: Offal loaded for the purpose of disposal at sea requires a permit issued by Environment Canada pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (Ocean Dumping Regulations, 1998).
3. A minimum of 0.6 m of fill material is required for the backfilling of offal wastes. Backfill material shall be compacted at the end of the disposal operations. Lime refers to hydrate of lime (not to be confused with "dolomite" lime used as a soil conditioner/fertilizer). Liming will assist in disinfection/decomposition as well as suppress odour, flies and rodent infestation.

APPENDIX B

For further information on the disposal of fish, shellfish and fish offal, contact any Regional Office of the GSC, Department of Government Services or the Department of Environment and Conservation, Pollution Prevention Division.

Regional Government Service Centre Offices

St. John's

5 Mews Place
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-3699
Fax: (709) 729-2071

Corner Brook

Noton Building
1 Riverside Drive, P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 6J8
Tel: (709) 637-2204
Fax: (709) 637-2681

Clareville

2 Masonic Terrace
P.O. Box 1148
Clareville, NL
A0E 1J0
Tel: (709) 466-4060
Fax: (709) 466-4070

Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Thomas Building
13 Churchill St.,
P.O. Box 3014, Stn B
Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1S0
Tel: (709) 896-2661
Fax: (709) 896-4340

Gander

McCurdy Complex
P.O. Box 2222
Gander, NL
A1V 2N9
Tel: (709) 256-1420
Fax: (709) 256-1438

Grand Falls-Windsor (field office)

9 Queensway
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 1W9
Tel: (709) 292-4206
Fax: (709) 292-4528

Department of Environment & Conservation
Pollution Prevention Division
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-2556,
Fax: (709) 729-6969