

## U.S.-CHILE COOPERATION ON SALMON AQUACULTURE

*The United States and Chile share common:*

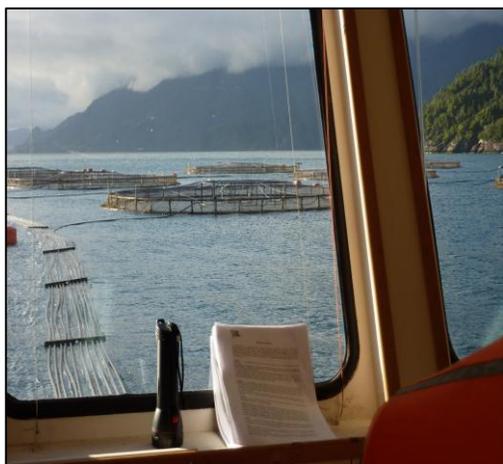
- *Histories of infectious salmon anemia*
- *Needs for efficient and effective disease surveillance*
- *Standards for global market access*
- *Reliance on healthy aquatic environments*

**Aquaculture –the farming of fish and other organisms—is a very important part of Chile’s export economy.** In 2007, an outbreak of infectious salmon anemia (ISA) reduced salmon production by over 60 percent in some regions. Following the disease outbreak, local unemployment rates increased to as high as 50 percent in some of the affected regions. Though on a smaller scale, the United States experienced similar events in the early 2000s. Fortunately, effective disease surveillance and response can minimize the occurrence and impact of diseases and improve the sustainability of aquaculture systems for the future.

Under the **U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement** the United States and Chile are working together to improve the long-term health of aquatic animal populations. With support from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working directly with Chile’s National Marine Fisheries Service (Sernapesca), the salmonid producer organization Intesal, and Universidad Austral de Chile to strengthen disease detection and response in farmed salmon populations.

Through this partnership, APHIS and Sernapesca have:

- Identified risk factors and obstacles to disease control;
- Developed cost-effective surveillance strategies to quickly detect disease in salmonid aquaculture;
- Provided science to support decisions on population management and trade; and
- Strengthened bilateral cooperation on animal health issues.



*Photos from Chilean aquaculture site visits by APHIS officials in April 2011  
Photos courtesy of Marta Remmenga (APHIS)*