



Followup Measures for Fish Farmers Affected by Plankton Bloom

The incidence of plankton bloom at Pasir Ris and Pulau Ubin in late December 2009 resulted in 34 fish farms off Pasir Ris and Pulau Ubin reporting losses of about 400,000 fish. This accounts for about 0.5% of overall fish consumption.

2 Investigations showed that the cause was due to plankton bloom. Plankton blooms can happen very quickly under certain conditions. For example, a combination of factors like sudden shifts in the weather between bouts of sunshine and heavy rain; nutrients from the land washed into the sea by the rain; and little water exchange from rising and ebbing tides.

3 Such adverse conditions are part of the risks associated with farming, especially in the sea. Nevertheless, AVA is helping farmers that were affected by the plankton bloom by :

- i. Bearing the cost of disposal of the dead fish;
- ii. Linking farmers up with reputable suppliers of good quality fries so that farmers can explore bulk purchasing to reduce cost of restocking;
- iii. Continuing with on-site monitoring at the farms to monitor water conditions; and
- iv. Providing technical advice to the farmers.

4 In addition, AVA will work with the farmers to formulate contingency plans to prepare for similar situations including putting in place appropriate aeration systems and sourcing for insurance coverage. AVA will also work with the relevant experts to :

- i. Identify potential triggers for plankton bloom;
- ii. Carry out research and development to explore technological solutions to address potential risks of aquaculture production; and
- iii. Develop an early warning system.

5 AVA has informed the farmers of these measures and will be working closely with them to facilitate resumption of operations as soon as possible.

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