

**SCOTTISH
SALMON WATCH**



WELFARE



January 2020

1) Close down sea cage salmon farms by 2025

Scottish Salmon Watch calls on the Scottish Government to follow the lead of Canada and close down all marine salmon farms within five years. In December 2019, the Canadian Government [committed to close all sea cage salmon farms in British Columbia by 2025](#).



In July 2019, Mowi [pledged to close down two 'contentious' salmon farms in Loch Duich and Loch Ewe](#). Scottish Salmon Watch believes that ALL salmon farms located along wild fish migration routes should be closed down. In November 2018, [the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee recommended](#):

384. RECOMMENDATION 45

The Committee shares the view of the ECCLR Committee that the siting of farms in the vicinity of known migratory routes for wild salmon must be avoided.

385. The Committee understands that there is at present only limited empirical scientific evidence to suggest that wild salmon are infected by sea lice as they pass salmon farms. However, it is noted that the Norwegian Government has taken the decision to act decisively on this matter. It applies a strict precautionary approach and does not issue licences for salmon farms in the vicinity of wild salmon routes.

386. RECOMMENDATION 46

The Committee is of the view that a similar precautionary approach must be taken in Scotland to assist in mitigating any potential impact of sea lice infestation on wild salmon. It therefore recommends that there should be an immediate and proactive shift towards siting new farms in more suitable areas away from migratory routes and that this should be highlighted in the strategic guidance on the siting of salmon farms.

Read more via [Memo to MOWI - You Got to Move it, You Got to Move it Mowi!](#) and [Producers should be barred from opening new fish farms near wild salmon routes, say MSPs](#)

2) Stop using toxic chemicals, antibiotics & artificial colourings

Salmon farms are dependent upon a cocktail of toxic chemicals, drugs, antibiotics, disinfectants, medicines, artificial colourings and anti-parasitics. Peer-reviewed science has shown lethal impacts on shellfish such as lobsters as well as chemical contamination under salmon farms and in the flesh of farmed salmon.



Read more via [Cleaning Tox-Sick Scottish Salmon](#); [Silent Spring of the Sea](#); [The Sunday Times: "Salmon industry toxins soar by 1000 per cent"](#); [Scottish Salmon's Lethal Legacy - Ten-fold Increase in Toxic Chemical Use in Ten Years](#) and [Effects of pharmaceuticals used to treat salmon lice on non-target species: Evidence from a systematic review](#)

3) Conduct unannounced inspections of all salmon farms

Over 90% of salmon farms inspected by the [Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#) in 2017 were unannounced and [Marine Scotland conducted only one unannounced inspection of a marine salmon farm in 2018](#). A [petition by SumOfUs](#) calling on Marine Scotland "to conduct immediate, unannounced on-the-spot inspections of all Scottish salmon farms to assess fish welfare" has been signed over 44,000 people.



Sign the petition [online here](#)



4) End the use of 'cleaner fish'

Salmon farms use so-called 'cleaner fish' (wrasse and lumpsuckers) to help reduce the lice burden on farms - with both wild caught and farmed 'cleaner fish' used on salmon farms. Mass mortalities and welfare abuse of 'cleaner fish' inside salmon farms has been well documented. Scottish Salmon Watch calls for an immediate ban now to end the torture.



Dying a Slow Death at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'
Don Staniford | 93 plays



Dead in the Water - Mowi's Bad Movie from Bagh Dail n...
Don Staniford | 35 plays



Dead Cleaner Fish at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'
Don Staniford | 16 plays



Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' (Bagh Dail nan Ceann)
Don Staniford | 25 plays

Read more via [Shocking Video Footage from Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' \(Bagh Dail nan Ceann\)](#); [Cleaner fish welfare on Scotland's salmon farms](#); [Sunday Times: "'Clean fish' bring danger of disease to salmon farms"](#) and [Salmon farming firm under fire over fish welfare after 700,000 deaths](#)

5) Stop killing seals

Over the last decade the salmon farming industry has [killed over 1,000 seals](#) (and at least one [whale](#)). Scottish Salmon Watch calls on salmon farms to [stop the slaughter now](#) - [before the U.S. ban comes into force in 2022](#).

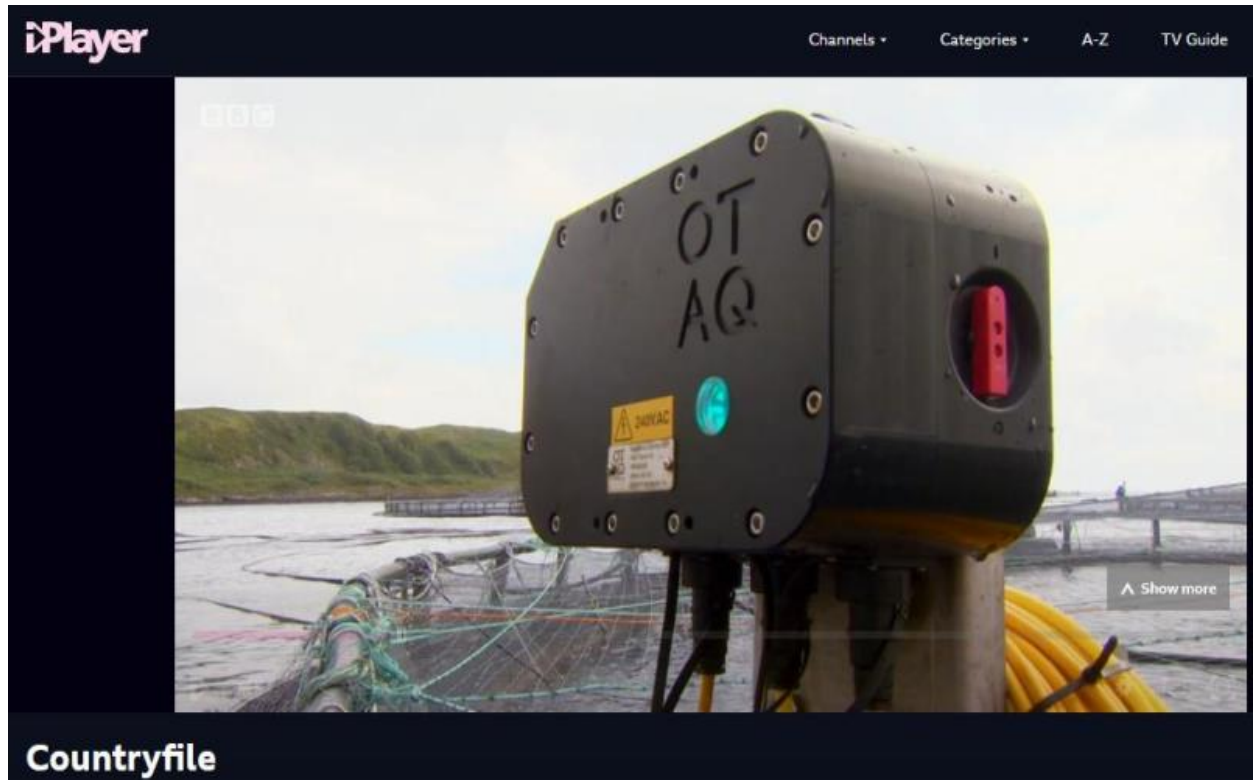


Seal Killing Salmon Farms (2011-2017)								
Operator	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	Total
Scottish Sea Farms	12	14	15	33	33	45	37	189
The Scottish Salmon Company	7	2	11	14	14	38	54	140
Hjaltland Seafarms (Grieg Seafood)	1			7	32	50	50	140
Marine Harvest	13	26	20	7	5	16	34	121
Loch Duart	15	12	9	13	11	20	10	90
Northern Isles Salmon						16	21	37
Balta Island Seafare		1	7	6	4	2	6	26
Dawnfresh			3	4	4	7	6	24
Meridian				1	8	12		21
Lakeland							18	18
Bound Skerries Salmon				3	4	5	4	16
Wester Ross Fisheries		2	2	4	3	1	1	13
Cooke Aquaculture	1	8	3					12
Kames Fish Farming			2		1			3
Thompson Brothers			1					1
Total	49	65	73	92	119	212	241	851

Read more via [Sunday Herald: "Revealed: Scottish Government bid to exempt salmon farming from US seal-killing ban"](#); [Time to Stop the Seal Slaughter](#) and [Silent Slaughter: The Shooting of Scotland's Seals](#)

6) Ban the use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices

Calls for a ban on the use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices has fallen on deaf ears [despite scientific research reporting significant impacts on cetaceans](#) and a [blatant breach of the EU Habitats Directive](#). Scottish Salmon Watch [calls for an immediate ban](#).



Over 21,000 people have [signed a petition calling for a ban on ADDs](#)

SAVE DOLPHINS, PORPOISES AND SEALS FROM SCOTTISH SALMON FARMS



21,908 have signed. Let's get to 25,000!



 Sofia Pianciola signed this petition

 Dr Ian Miller signed this petition

Read more via [BBC Countryfile on ADDs impacting on cetaceans](#) and [Sounding Off On Salmon Farms - Acoustic Deterrent Devices evade Marine Noise Registry](#)

7) Prosecute farmers via the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

[Photographic evidence](#) and [video surveillance](#) has shown [widespread welfare abuse on salmon farms across Scotland](#).



Photos: Scottish salmon from Mowi's Stulaigh Island farm in Loch Eynort



Read more via [Sunday National/Ferret: "Salmon company Mowi rapped over fish welfare after 700,000 deaths"](#) and [Welfare Abuse at Scottish Salmon Farms - Why No Legal Enforcement Or Prosecutions?](#)

8) Test salmon for Piscine Reovirus and other diseases/viruses

Scottish salmon - [despite being marketed as 'healthy'](#) - has been found to be infected with diseases, pathogens, bacteria, parasites and lice by inspections [conducted by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate](#). Scottish Salmon Watch calls on the Scottish Government to test salmon at every farm inspected.

Summary: 'Case Information' [published online on 19 December 2019](#)

Mowi - Port na Cro: *Pasteurella skyensis*, Anaemia & lice loads of 20 causing head damage



Read more via [The Case Against Scottish Salmon](#) and [Virus-Laden Farmed Salmon: FOI reveals over half of samples test positive for Piscine Reovirus](#)



9) Sample waste water effluent for toxic chemicals, contaminants & diseases

Salmon feedlots have been exposed as reservoirs for infectious diseases and viruses yet waste water effluent is not routinely tested by the Scottish Government or SEPA.



Over 43,000 people have [signed a SumOfUs petition](#) calling on SEPA and the Scottish Government to "start routinely testing effluent from salmon farms and processing plants for deadly viruses that threaten wild salmon".



Read more via [Sick Scottish Salmon - Are Farms Spreading Infectious Diseases, Pathogens & Viruses to Wild Fish?](#) and [Campaigners at Scottish parliament call for wastewater testing at salmon farming operations to save wild fish](#)

10) Take photos of farmed salmon during every site inspection

Gruesome photographs of salmon farmed in Scotland have been published by the Scottish Government via Freedom of Information since June 2018 ([despite legal threats from the industry](#)). Scottish Government calls on the Fish Health Inspectorate to take photos during every inspection rather than the current situation where only some farmed salmon are photographed.



Read more via [EXPOSED: Photo Disclosures Opens Floodgates to More Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon](#) and [EXPOSED: Gruesome Photos of Deformed & Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

11) Introduce CCTV monitoring of salmon farms

Salmon farming companies have [warned the public against coming closer than 15 metres to their feedlots](#).



If the salmon farming industry has nothing to hide, Scottish Salmon Watch believes that every salmon in Scotland should [introduce 24 hour video surveillance inside cages and make CCTV footage publicly available online](#).



Read more via ["Leave Our Farms Alone" Demand Mowi. Here's What They're Hiding & Why Mowi Want the Public to Keep Away!](#) and ["Don't stress our fish, campaigners told"](#)

12) Give SEPA & SNH stronger powers

SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage are [little more than lapdogs](#) - environmental watchdogs without bark or bite.

SEPA's Shame on Salmon Farming



Summary:

There has not been a single successful prosecution of a salmon farm since November 2008 (between 1998 and 2008 there were at least 23 prosecutions with fines totalling at least £106,500)

91% of site inspections by SEPA to salmon farms are announced (i.e. only 9% are unannounced)

51 fish farms were assessed as "Very Poor", "Poor" or "At Risk" in 2016

Damning Report by the Scottish Parliament in March 2018

SEPA staff joining Marine Harvest as 'Head of Environment & Regulatory Affairs' and 'Applications Manager'

Toxic chemical ban on Emamectin benzoate reversed following lobbying by industry despite damning report showing lethality to lobsters

Rubber-stamping of expansion with new 'super-size' salmon farms over 2,5000 tonnes in the pipeline (despite over 858 biomass exceedances between 2002 and 2016)

The use of the toxic chemicals Azamethiphos, Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin and Emamectin benzoate increased 1000% between 2006 and 2016

Chemical pollution of Scottish lochs - testing between 2006 and 2016 showed 45 lochs contaminated with Emamectin benzoate and Teflubenzuron

The SSPO's 'Director of Sustainability' (Anne Anderson) - who is giving the 'Setting up for Success' introduction and welcome at the event on 23 January 2020 - was [poached from SEPA in September 2019](#).

Scotland's green watchdog wined and dined by polluters



The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has been repeatedly wined and dined by the fish farming, whisky and power industries.

The Ferret

Read more via ["The Scottish Environment Pollution Agency"](#); [SEPA's Shame on Salmon Farming](#) and [Leading fish farm watchdog joins fish farm industry](#)

13) Fine companies for escapes & tag all farmed salmon

Four million farmed salmon have escaped from Scottish fish farms since 1998 in over 200 incidents. Financial penalties and tagging would act to as a deterrent to escapes.

Scotland's aquaculture part of Scotland's environment Home Our Aquaculture Map Data Resources Glossary Help							
Escape Id	Escape Start Date	Escaped Species	Final Number of Fish Escaped	Site Id	Site Name	Operator	Actions
2000498	10/10/2019	Atlantic Salmon	23970	FS1261	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000481	12/11/2018	Atlantic Salmon	24,752	FS1261	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000469	11/02/2018	Atlantic Salmon	21,712	FS1309	Loch Snizort East	Isle of Skye Salmon Limited	More
2000456	15/08/2017	Atlantic Salmon	11040	FS0839	Geasgill	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000452	25/03/2017	Atlantic Salmon	17398	FS0964	Bloody Bay	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000422	02/06/2015	Atlantic Salmon	16,000	FS1176	Eilean Grianain	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000405	11/02/2014	Atlantic Salmon	25,259	FS0946	North Voe	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd	More
2000402	19/01/2014	Atlantic Salmon	154,569	FS1043	Ness of Copister	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000307	15/12/2012	Atlantic Salmon	25623	FS0597	Meil Bay	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000300	30/05/2012	Atlantic Salmon	8,700	FS0621	Loch A Chairn Bhain	Loch Duart Ltd	More
2000293	25/12/2011	Atlantic Salmon	33,755	FS0183	South Sound	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000292	25/12/2011	Atlantic Salmon	336,470	FS0871	Winna Ness	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000294	08/12/2011	Atlantic Salmon	8299	FS0914	Lismore West	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000304	07/10/2011	Atlantic Salmon	3317	FS0818	Ardcastle Bay	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000289	23/08/2011	Atlantic Salmon	15,000	FS0717	Balta Isle	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000256	02/03/2010	Atlantic Salmon	10,775	FS0150	Loch Lochy	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000248	13/09/2009	Atlantic Salmon	58,880	FS1056	Strone Point	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000245	25/08/2009	Atlantic Salmon	34227	FS0428	Loch Frise	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000232	28/06/2009	Atlantic Salmon	10534	FS0865	Marulaig Bay	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000225	17/05/2009	Atlantic Salmon	17766	FS0594	Aird	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000182	29/11/2007	Atlantic Salmon	23,805	FS1084	Isle Ewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000180	08/11/2007	Atlantic Salmon	10,400	FS0065	Loch Laxford	Loch Duart Ltd	More
2000161	28/05/2007	Atlantic Salmon	16,989	FS0230	Brunaness	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000153	21/03/2007	Atlantic Salmon	18,500	FS0502	Scotasay	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000138	28/12/2006	Atlantic Salmon	11,900	FS1042	Seaforth	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000137	24/12/2006	Atlantic Salmon	16,868	FS0590	Glenan Bay	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000045	29/05/2006	Atlantic Salmon	34,500	FS0645	Kirk Noust	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000023	17/02/2006	Atlantic Salmon	25,108	FS1020	Bay of Vady	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	More
2000072	24/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	22,500	FS0559	Ardyne	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000059	14/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	12,000	FS0304	Greinam Island	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000131	14/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	0 (160,000 dead)	FS0154	Hole Bay	Mowi Scotland Ltd	More
2000062	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	20,928	FS0998	Gousam	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000063	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	43,453	FS0804	Kishorn B (North)	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	More
2000066	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	17,614	FS0195	Loch Geireann	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000078	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	194,000	FS0862	Loch Grey (Loch an Eilean Liath)	Meavag Fish Farming	More
2000065	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	151,821	FS0642	South Loch Scadavay	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000074	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	80,000	FS0570	Strome	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000061	11/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	12,943	FS0411	Vuiabeag	The Scottish Salmon Company	More
2000073	07/01/2005	Atlantic Salmon	40,000	FS0570	Strome	The Scottish Salmon Company	More

Read more via [Call to jail fish-farm bosses who allow escapes](#) and [Scottish Salmon's Great Escape](#)

14) Prohibit use of GM feed & Land Animal Protein

In the desperate search for alternative feed supplies, the salmon farming industry is looking to supplement wild fish with [GM feed](#) and '[Land Animal Protein](#)' such as [chicken feathers, blood and bones](#). Scottish Salmon Watch urges the Scottish Government to [uphold their ban on GM in Scotland](#) and resist the inclusion of Land Animal Protein.

The Mail on Sunday OCTOBER 23 • 2016

By Dawn Thompson

Coming soon to a fish counter near you, the salmon that's truly fowl...

INGREDIENTS: Salmon, chicken guts, blood, bones and feathers

SUPERMARKET salmon could be fed a 'revolting' mix of abattoir waste under plans that have renewed the debate over food standards in fish farming.

The proposals would see farmed salmon fed 'avian protein' – made up of poultry by-products including offal and blood, as well as ground up bone and feathers.

Supermarket giant Morrisons is taking part in a £68,000 project – involving scientists and feed companies – to discuss the idea and test the possible reaction of consumers.

The move would save fish farmers a fortune by turning a readily available waste product into a cheap food source. Researchers also say it will be more environmentally friendly and provide cheaper salmon.

Guidelines already permit the use of avian protein in feed but although it is widely used in other parts of the world, fears that consumers would find it unacceptable have always prevented its use in the UK.

That could change if the six-month study – part-funded by the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre, which has contributed £41,000 – finds public opinion has altered.

But critics condemned the idea. Don Staniford, director of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, said: 'Feeding chicken parts to farmed salmon is revolting. It's completely unnatural, a nutritional nightmare and compromises salmon welfare.'

Consumers will be appalled to learn that Scottish salmon could be fed on chicken waste.

If I wanted to eat chicken, I'd go to KFC.

The project is led by feed company BioMar, in partnership



Watch more via ['Mowi's Greed of Feed \(Continued\)'](#)



Read more via [Mail On Sunday: "Coming soon to a fish counter near you, the salmon that's truly fowl...."](#); [GM-fed salmon are being trialled in GM-free Scotland](#) and [Fishy Business](#).

15) Report mortalities, disease, lice, biomass & chemical use in real-time

The Scottish Government publishes some data on [mortalities](#), [diseases](#) and [lice](#) whilst [Scotland Aquaculture](#) publishes [data on biomass and chemical use](#).



The salmon farming industry also publishes [data on mortality](#) and [lice](#). However, there is a time-lag of many months before publication with problems often [reported first in the media](#).



Read more via [Update: Mortalities & Disease Decimating Scottish Salmon](#); ["Over 50" Lice Per Fish at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Kishorn](#) and [Mowi's Nightmare Before Xmas - The Unlucky 13](#)

16) End the import of ova from overseas & deceptive marketing of 'Scottish' salmon

Over 99% of 'Scottish' salmon is [controlled by six foreign-owned companies](#) with [over 90% of ova \(salmon eggs\) imported from overseas](#) (Norway, Ireland and Iceland).

99% OF 'SCOTTISH' SALMON COMES FROM SIX COMPANIES

Mowi  Read section on Mowi online here	Scottish Sea Farms  Read section on Scottish Sea Farms online here	Scottish Salmon Company  Read section on The Scottish Salmon Company online here
Cooke Aquaculture  Read section on Cooke Aquaculture online here	Grieg Seafood  Read section on Grieg Seafood online here	Loch Duart  Read section on Loch Duart online here



Read more via '[Scottish Scamon](#)'; [FOI Victory: Scottish Ministers Forced to Come Clean on 'Scottish' Salmon](#) and '[Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland](#)

17) Stop the certification of salmon farms as 'RSPCA Assured' & 'Organic'

Deceptive marketing and misleading labelling schemes should be replaced by more honest packaging [modelled on the new cigarette packets](#).



Read more via [Health Warnings for Farmed Salmon - Supermarkets Challenged to Introduce Plain Packaging Like Tobacco!](#); ["EXPOSED: Scottish 'Organic' Scamon"](#); [RSPCA Assured certification of Scottish farmed salmon](#) and [Scottish salmon firm drops 'sustainable' branding](#)

18) Ban the use of the Thermolicer



Scientific research [published in December 2019](#) reports welfare problems due to the use of the 'Thermolicer' (a heated torture chamber used on salmon farms to treat lice infestation).



Read more via [New Veterinary Science Papers Turn Up Heat on the Thermolicer](#)

19) Support 'Citizen Science' & video surveillance of farms

If the Scottish Government, SEPA and the salmon farming industry are not going to properly monitor salmon farms then the public should step in to conduct surveillance and sampling.



Read more via ['Salmonwatch' launched in Scotland](#); ['Salmonwatch' Exposes Scottish Salmon's Dirty Secrets](#); [The Fish Pharm Menace](#); [Caught on Camera - Mowi's Reckless Breaches of Health & Safety in Loch Alsh](#); [Fighting Mowi's Legal Action Over Filming at Salmon Farms](#); [The Herald: "Citizen science activists target salmon farms"](#); and [Citizen Science - if the Scottish Government won't sample salmon farm effluents then we will!](#)

20) Boycott Scottish Salmon

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Please make it your New Year's resolution to boycott diseased Scottish salmon! tinyurl.com/yj7rxnv2 Read & weep at freshly published photos of yummy 'healthy' Scottish salmon @rspcaassured @sainsburys @Tesco @asda @onekindtweet @SalmonTroutCons @SumOfUs @MowiScotlandLtd

Summary: 'Case Information' published online on 10 December 2019

Most - Port na Cre: *Parasitosis* (Anisakis & sea lice) of 21 varying load damage

Scottish Sea Farms - Kishorn: Last load of 50 with 'red and white head lice damage'

Grang - Bight of Forneway: Anisakidosis treatment caused 7,133 deaths

Corker - Fleskling: 5,000+ deaths due to a Thermophilic treatment not reported to FHO

Corker - Cliff: 14,270 deaths due to Bacterial Kidney Disease and fungal lesions

Kames - Loch Ailich: 75,000+ deaths (Parasitosis, Salmon Gill Peritons & Supercyclus)

Kames - Loch nan Leathann Mhor: Septicemia, Furunculosis and use of Oxytetracycline

The Scottish Salmon Company - Loch na Keel: Failed to carry out lice counts

Grang - Olla South: Salmon Gill Peritons, AGD and Parasitosis treatment

Grang - Cule Deep: 100,000+ deaths, Piscine Rickettsia, AGD, bleeding gills and lesions

Scottish Sea Farms - Knock: 127,810 mortalities due to fungus but not reported to FHO

F & M Aquaculture - Ardara: 110,000 longfinch deaths out of 147,471 eggs (75% mortality)

The Scottish Salmon Company - Tarasail: 39,660 deaths due to Parasitosis treatment

Most - Poll na Gille: Last loads of 15 with 10,000+ mortalities (*Parasitosis* (Anisakis))

Most - Bigh Dail na Creann: 100,000+ longfinch mortalities (Anisakidosis cited as cause)

Most - Loch Alport: PDCY (DSSD), PDCY (C/S), Parasitosis, Anisakis and Yersinia

Most - Caman Glas: 120,000+ mortalities (*Parasitosis* (Anisakis), CHS & AGD)

NIRI - Macbrannish: Complaints from neighbours about the smell

JS Salmon - All Mhor: Missing mortality data & chemical data not available for inspection

For more detailed information please read [1] and Appendix, Fish Health Inspectorate Case Information, published on 10 December 2019

 Scottish Sea Farms and 9 others

9:08 AM · Jan 6, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Take the salmon pledge [online here](#)



Read more via [Reasons Not to Eat Farmed Salmon](#); [Scottish Salmon Farming 101](#) and [25 Reasons to Boycott Scottish Salmon](#)