



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Inverurie Field Office  
Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire  
AB51 5YA

T +44 3000 600 708  
F +44 1467 626611  
www.gov.uk/apha

Scottish Sea farm  
Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park,  
Stirling  
FK7 9JQ

17th November 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

**Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009**  
**Animal Welfare Act 2006**  
**Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006**  
**The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010**

Thank you for your time and cooperation during my visit to Scottish Sea Farms at Loch Creran (Oban) with [REDACTED] Fish Health Inspector from Marine Scotland on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The visit was in response to a complaint about the very poor health and welfare state of the salmon in site B of Loch Creran. This complaint was due to sea lice infestation with a large number of fish found with big chunks of flesh missing, fin erosion and scale/skin loss.

At the time of my visit I found no evidence of unnecessary suffering (due to the sea lice issue reported) among the animals which I saw and that, as far as could be ascertained at that time, the welfare legislation appeared to be being complied with. As exception, during the inspection a minor issue was managed correctly, when three salmons were found as unrecoverable due to physical trauma. It was not a chronic disease problem and it was resolved immediately by culling those salmons.

Regarding the event that occurred during September and October 2020 it was clarified during the visit and supported by the records checked on 06/11/2020 that it is now under control as the salmon is responding satisfactory to the treatment. Although the treatment was complicated because following the algae bloom issue, the fish was not in the best condition (due to the gills were damaged) to commence treatment for sea lice, all the decisions made by the veterinary team and the head of Fish Health and welfare for SSF were appropriate according to the circumstances presented.

Please continue with the treatment plan outlined by [REDACTED] for SSF and take all the necessary actions such as rigorous inspection, thermolicer treatment and culling to ensure the safeguarding of animal welfare at all times.

If you wish to discuss these matters further please feel free to contact me as per the letterhead.

Yours sincerely,

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.



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