

**From:** Callander McDowell <relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 October 2022 04:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** reLAKSation no 1097

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# reLAKSation

by Dr Martin Jaffa

No 1097

29th October 2022

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**Lice, lice and more lice:** It has been a few months since Marine Scotland Science (MSS) published the sea lice sampling data collected by the west coast fisheries trusts from 1997 to 2019. The original spreadsheet had to be subsequently revised because the way the data was laid out gave the impression that three times as many fish had been analysed as actually had.

My analysis of these 21,000 plus sampled fish has taken a great deal of my time, not just because of other commitments, but also because the data is confusing. In total, there are 100 different sampling sites listed but further analysis has shown that many of the sites are the same, just that they have been spelled differently in different years. MSS don't seem to have made any attempt to rationalise the data. One site is not attributed to any fishery trust whilst another has been attributed to the wrong one. It has taken a great deal of effort to sort out. To give an example, 17 sites have been whittled down to just four. A further site seems to have been sampled by a different fisheries' trust at a different time.

In this commentary, I'm not even addressing the issue of sample sizes. I'll save that for another time.

What has caught my attention now is one sampling site that was netted in 2007 and caught 13 fish and again in 2009 but this time just two fish were caught. The lice count for these 15 fish are shown in the following table:

16
19
44
48
49
63
65
82
87
94
104
108
120
133
139

The two lowest counts were from the fish caught in 2009, the others were caught in 2007. What is clear that there are some really high lice counts at this sampling site. Why the site was never revisited after 2009 should become clear as I explain the location. First, I would like to refer to an article in Trout & Salmon magazine written by Andrew Graham Stewart of STA/STC/WFC in an article entitled 'Why Dr Jaffa is so wrong'.

In the article, he relates how catches of sea trout in Loch Hope remain healthy despite the presence of two salmon farms in adjacent Loch Eriboll. He says that the fish from the Hope System do not come into contact with the farms and swim straight out of the river into the open Atlantic where they survive and mature without encountering damaging sea lice. This is because the River Hope emerges into Loch Hope near its mouth and thus close to the sea. The Hope fishery district, which Mr Graham Stewart describes, is on Scotland's north coast which other than the two farms in Loch Eriboll is devoid of salmon farming.

Heading eastward away from Loch Hope, the next fishery district is Kinloch which includes the Grade 1 river Borgie. Continuing eastward, the next fishery district is the Naver fishery district including the Grade 1 river Naver. Next to the Naver is the Strathy with the Strathy river which is Grade 3, probably because of its small size and limited ability to produce juveniles. The next fishery district is the Halladale including the Grade 1 river Halladale.

The river Halladale had a catch last year of 451 salmon and 26 sea trout. Other catches from these rivers included 911 salmon and 129 sea trout from the Naver and 67 salmon and 744 sea trout from the Hope. The other significant fishery district on the north coast is the Grudie which is to the west of the salmon farms of Loch Eriboll. The river Dionard in the Grudie fishery district produced 152 salmon and 244 sea trout. Finally, to complete the picture of the north coast, the Thurso, a Grade 1 river located near the town of the same name, in the east produced 633 salmon. In 2021, these fishery districts saw 131 salmon and grilse and 32 sea trout retained by anglers. The north coast is considered to offer some of the best salmon fishing there is.

An estimate of the distance between Loch Eriboll and its salmon farms and for example, the Halladale River is about 45 km as the crow flies. The reason for mentioning the Halladale is that this is the location of the sampling site I referred to above. I have tried to check that the Halladale site is the river Halladale but am still waiting for a reply, However, there is no other location with this name so I believe that I can assume that this is the correct location.

The big question is why are there such high lice counts on fish caught from the mouth of this Grade 1 river that is located many miles from a salmon farm? The answer is probably that it is simply due to natural infestation. The likelihood is that these fish are not representative of the actual fish population, which is why so few were caught, especially the one that are free of lice.

The sea lice sampling programme focusses on the areas around salmon farms and of course, fish with lice are found. However, the programme is not extended to areas without salmon farms for comparison and so it is unclear whether the

lice infestations listed in the spreadsheet are natural or due to the presence of farming. There is at least one scientific paper that has compared lice counts from Scotland's east and west coasts. This is from 1997 and needless to say the researchers found high lice counts in the east. The researchers were from SOAEFD, a previous incarnation of Marine Scotland Science.

It is unclear why the Halladale data was included in the Marine Scotland Science dataset, but the few fish sampled there show that the narrative against salmon farming is clearly being somewhat selective.

**Note:** In the graph of sea lice counts from sites increasingly distant from a salmon farm which appears later in this commentary, the site of furthest distance is the Dionard, which also is shown to have high lice counts.

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**Where's the catch:** STV News have reported that the salmon season has been celebrated as anglers catch plenty of whoppers. Salmon weighing up to 28lb have been landed from the Cargill beat on the river Tay. It has been estimated that more than 5,500 salmon were caught from the river this year. This compares with 4,505 landed last year.

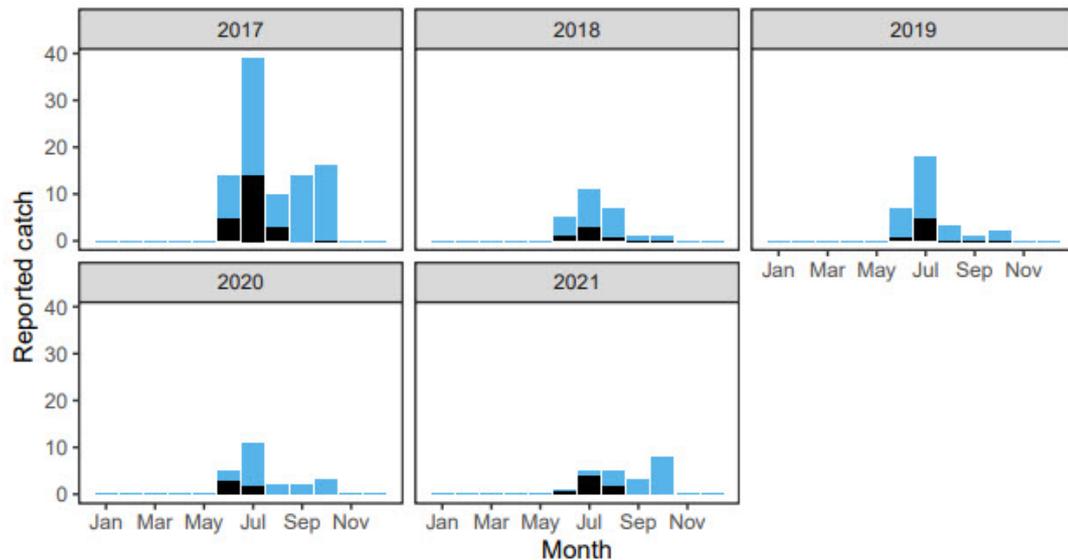
This year has been the first year without restrictions on travel and hospitality since the Covid pandemic and according to STV, anglers and guests have returned in high numbers. It could therefore be that the improvement in catches is due to increased fishing effort rather than any resurgence in salmon numbers. Whilst STV News have been advised on catch numbers well before the end of October, we must wait until around April 2023 before the official catch statistics are published. In these times of immediate news, why the reporting of angling catches remains firmly rooted in the Dark Ages continues to be a mystery? Surely, river proprietors must be capable of reporting catches once a week, if not daily. After all, for most proprietors this is a business, and it is now time that they treat it as such. How can catches be assessed if we could be waiting over eighteen months before the official data is made available?

Regular readers may remember that I have already fought one long battle with Marine Scotland Science over the reporting of catch data. They wanted to reduce the number of reporting areas by approximately half, in order to protect the privacy of river proprietors. They argued that it is possible to calculate the proprietors' earnings from the number of salmon caught and thus data needed to be consolidated into fewer reporting areas. I argued in response, that if fishery districts were being merged into fewer reporting areas, how could the status of salmon be assessed. Fortunately, the Information Commissioner agreed with me so Marine Scotland Science were forced to revert to reporting catches from all 109 fishery districts.

Whilst catches from 109 fishery districts is preferred to fifty or so larger reporting areas, it would be much more useful to obtain catches from individual rivers rather than the wider fishery districts. It has always been made clear to me that such information is not available due to the protection of the private interests of the river proprietors, so I have never sought to obtain such detailed catch data.

Since 2016, the Scottish Government has been assessing the conservation status of initially just the fishery districts but now of another seventy river systems. Some fishery districts have been broken down into separate areas of assessment, which generally means separate rivers. As part of the conservation assessment, it is first important to know how many fish have been caught as this provides an estimate of the total stocks. As part of this process, MSS publish details of how the final grade has been calculated. This includes publication of the catch data for the most recent five years. One example of this is the River Ba from the Baa fishery district on the Isle of Mull.

**Reported Catches (black = retained, blue = released)**



The river Ba is a grade one river, whilst the three other rivers in the Baa fishery district, are all Grade 3. Even though the river is in the heart of the salmon farming area, the black bars clearly show that salmon are being caught and killed for sport. More importantly they are being caught and killed relatively near one of the highest risk protection areas established by SEPA for the risk- assessed framework. How can such fish be considered at risk yet killed for sport?

However, the relevant aspect of these graphs is that Marine Scotland Science has published the catch data from specific rivers. In doing so they have established a precedent because they clearly have not considered the private interests of river proprietors. If they can publish catch data for the river Ba (and many other rivers too) for the last five years, then surely, older data should be published too, especially as it has less relevance to current proprietor incomes.

In my opinion, the time has come to publish catch data for every river in Scotland. If wild salmon are in so much trouble, we need to see this reflected in catches. In the large rivers, I would like to see beat data published, but I recognise that this is a hope too far.

I have initiated a discussion about river catch data with Marine Scotland Science and should there be no accommodation of my request, I will revert the matter

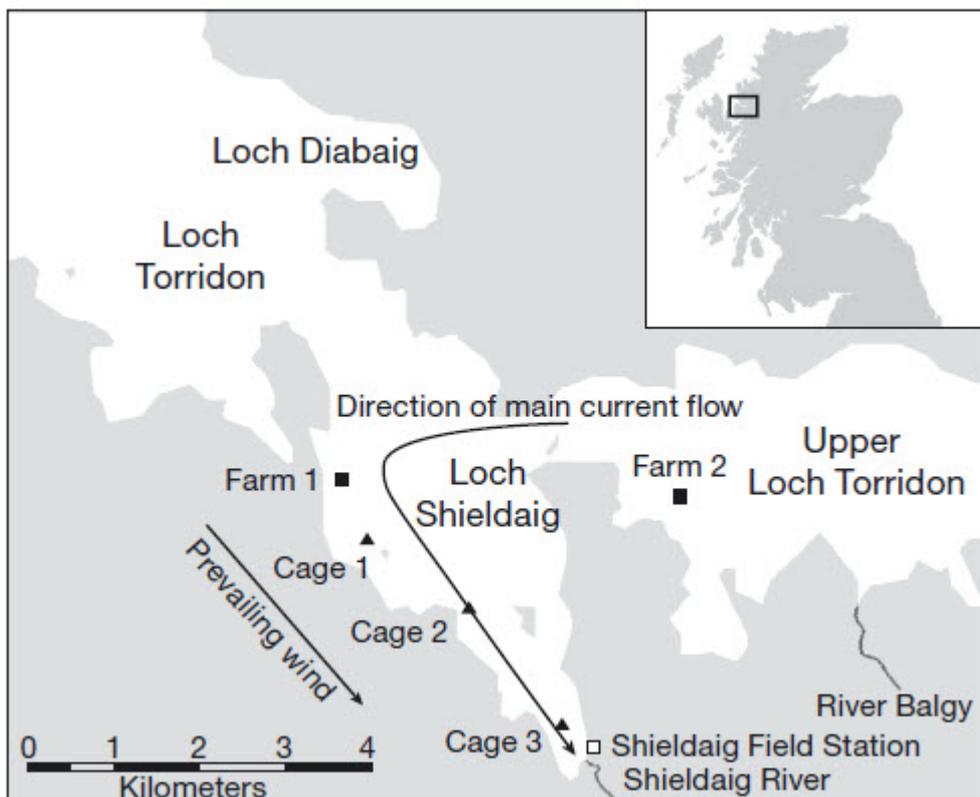
back to the Information Commissioner. After all, data cannot be published on the Scottish Government website for them to then claim it is private.

If the wild fish sector is so passionate about saving wild salmon, they will readily endorse this request for more detailed data to be published so we can really see what is happening to salmon in Scotland's rivers.

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**Risk framework:** The debate over the Risk Assessment Framework continues, especially in relation to the use of sentinel cages. The level of risk has been assessed from Norwegian sentinel cage data but in ensuing discussions, I was sent a MSS paper which measured sea lice levels in sentinel cages placed in Loch Torridon.

The paper includes the following visual:

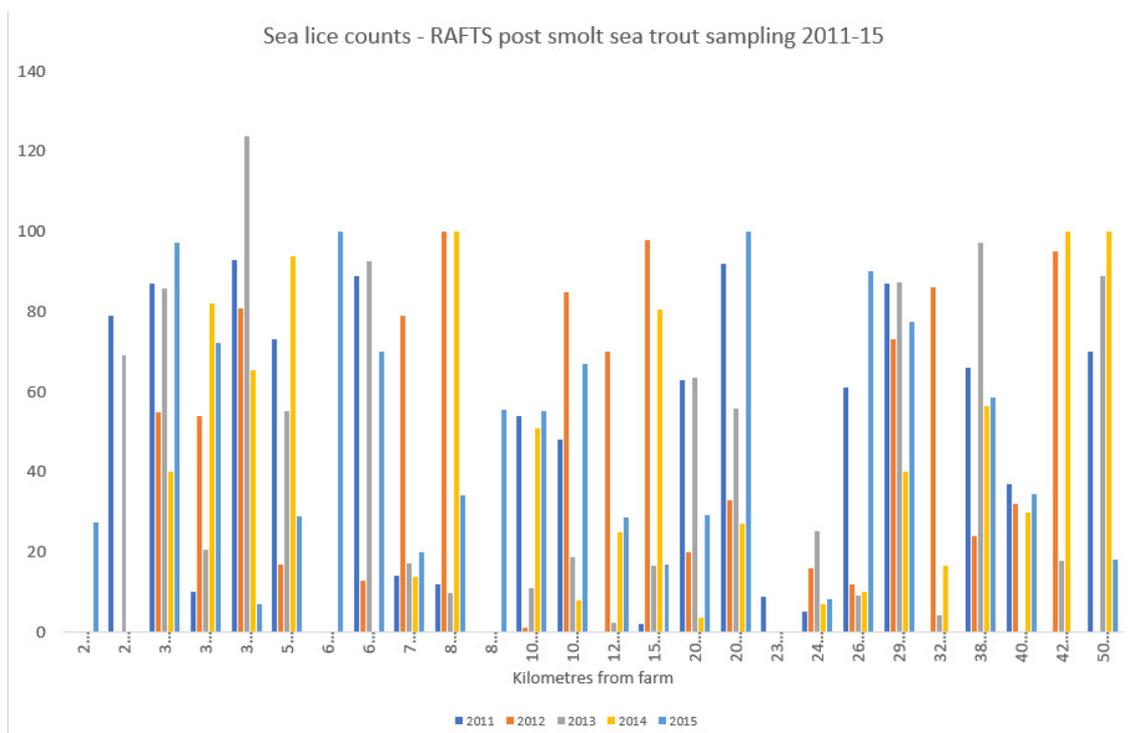


The first aspect of this illustration that caught my attention was that the main current flow is in the direction of the head of Loch Shieldaig and the River Shieldaig. I cannot see where the flow then goes. It might head up the other side

of the loch but then will hit the flow across the loch and effectively be directed in never ending circles. It appears that there is a paper about the flows in this loch system which suggest that the above view of current flow is extremely simplistic.

The second point relates to the location to the farms and the three sentinel cages. A paper by Middlemas and others from MSS, although clouded by the language used, suggests that wild fish sampled near to salmon farms will have a higher lice burden and this tails away with increasing distance from the farm. The fish in cage 1 would therefore be expected to have higher lice levels, followed by cage 2 and then cage 3. In fact, this work shows the opposite to be true with cage 3 showing the highest (two) lice levels. This does not make sense. These two papers, from MSS, appear to contradict each other.

I would mention that whilst I didn't have access to the data used by Middlemas, I did have data for the years 2011 to 2015 from the same source. I placed the lice levels recorded in order of distance from the farm ranging from 2 km to over 50km. I have had great difficulty in seeing any pattern in the results as illustrated:



**Mortality:** Salmon Farm industry critics have always stated that if the mortality rates of salmon (coldblooded animals) were repeated in traditional agriculture such as with pigs and chickens, then there would be a massive public outcry.

This month, several articles have appeared concerning animal mortality within traditional agriculture. The Guardian reported that scientists are rushing to create a vaccine to hit the world's biggest disease outbreak. Since 2018, over 100 million pigs have succumbed to African Swine Fever, including in parts of Europe. Yet this is a disease that has failed to arouse the public's awareness.

This week, the Times headlined the devastating pandemic that's flown under the radar. This is bird flu. Already some 3.5 million chickens, ducks and turkeys have been destroyed in the UK with 48 million across Europe. This is not forgetting the millions of wild birds that have succumbed and hardly a murmur from the public.

Also in the Times, columnist and TV personality Jeremy Clarkson has written that our beautiful birds are falling from the skies and 'nobody seems to care'. He points out that the problem is most acute in Scotland where thousands upon thousands of terns, gannets and guillemots have died. And yet, there is no public outcry that the salmon farm critics suggest there would be.

These ill-informed individuals appear to suggest that salmon farmers don't care and just accept the mortality as long as they are making money. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sadly, as I have pointed out many times, these so-called social media experts try to find anyway to criticise salmon farming, but when offered the opportunity to talk face to face and substantiate their claims, they run a mile.

It is only in recent years that mortality has become an issue, this is because the angling fraternity, having failed to persuade consumers to stop eating farmed salmon, opted to highlight mortality in the hope of raising concerns from the public that way. It is interesting that Wild Fish Conservation have resorted to trying to deter consumers from eating farmed salmon again, because their campaign to highlight mortalities has failed too.

This week, critic Donald Staniford continued to highlight mortality by pointing out that SEPA have failed to update the Scotland Aquaculture website since

December 2021. The salmon farm industry also publishes mortalities, so he is not without a source of data. What interests me more is that SEPA have been appointed to administer the risk assessment framework. How is this going to work out for the industry if they can't even publish mortality data on a monthly basis?

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**Beyond disgust:** It must be extremely difficult living in Alexandra Morton's world where everything seems to be black or white. She has equated the decline of wild salmon numbers with the presence of salmon farms. No matter that salmon stocks in areas where there are no salmon farms are also in decline. No matter that other factors can be correlated with the declines. It is salmon farms that are responsible, even though data about sea lice collected by her own research station tells a very different story. In her world, there is no point discussing the issues with anyone else because it is clear salmon farms are to blame. A former Fisheries Minister appears to have bought into Alexandra Morton's world, which made her extremely happy.

Now the current fisheries minister has been out to see for herself what is going on and taken the opportunity to talk to industry people especially those from the first Nations. She has decided that the Government need to work with the industry to explore the transition that Alexandra Morton demands.

In response, Alexandra Morton has written that she is beyond disgusted. She says that the Federal Liberals have decided to betray the BC Coast and have bowed to the wishes of Norwegian based salmon farm companies. She adds that the Minister has now turned and is going to work with the industry to make sure that salmon farms remain on the coast. Ms Morton claims that this will ensure that pathogens will continue to be poured over precious wild salmon.

In the real world, it makes sense that everyone starts talking and working out the best way to safeguard wild fish, not to follow the advice of someone who refuses to talk to anyone except those who she believes are less knowledgeable than her.

Sadly, Ms Morton's approach is repeated across all the areas that salmon farming operates. In the UK, the wild fish interests remain firmly out of sight, refusing to talk to anyone who has a different view to theirs. Perhaps the time has come to learn something from the latest developments in Canada. Hopefully, if the Canadian Fisheries Minister is willing to have open and frank discussions, she will begin to realise that salmon farming is just a convenient scapegoat, and that the removal of salmon farms is not the solution to saving wild salmon.

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**From:** Callander McDowell <relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 April 2022 04:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** reLAKSation no 1071

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# reLAKSation

by Dr Martin Jaffa

No 1071

30th April 2022

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**Loch Maree revisited:** Salmon & Trout Conservation recently tweeted that salmon farms are a breeding ground for sea lice which have a devastating impact on wild fish. This was part of yet another fund-raising exercise. Seemingly, mention of sea lice is all it takes to induce their membership to dip their hands in their pockets. The fact that there is no firm basis in S&TC's claims appears to make little difference. As the years pass by, the foundation of their narrative is being slowly eroded away so it's not surprising that S&TC simply refuse to acknowledge any emerging developments.

A few years ago, S&TC made a short film about the impact of sea lice, specifically about the demise of the Loch Maree sea trout fishery. The film was later updated to include an introduction by TV personality Jeremy Paxman and posted in January 2019. The video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AawqvXqla5M&t=3s>

Loch Maree has been of interest to me since I started to research the claims made by the angling sector as it was the subject of one of the first papers about the impacts of sea lice in Scotland. The loch subsequently became one of the main emblems of the fight by the wild fish lobby against salmon farming.

The main narrator of the film is Dr Craig MacIntyre, then a director of the Argyll Fisheries Trust. I have transcribed some of his comments below (in italics) about which I would like to respond.

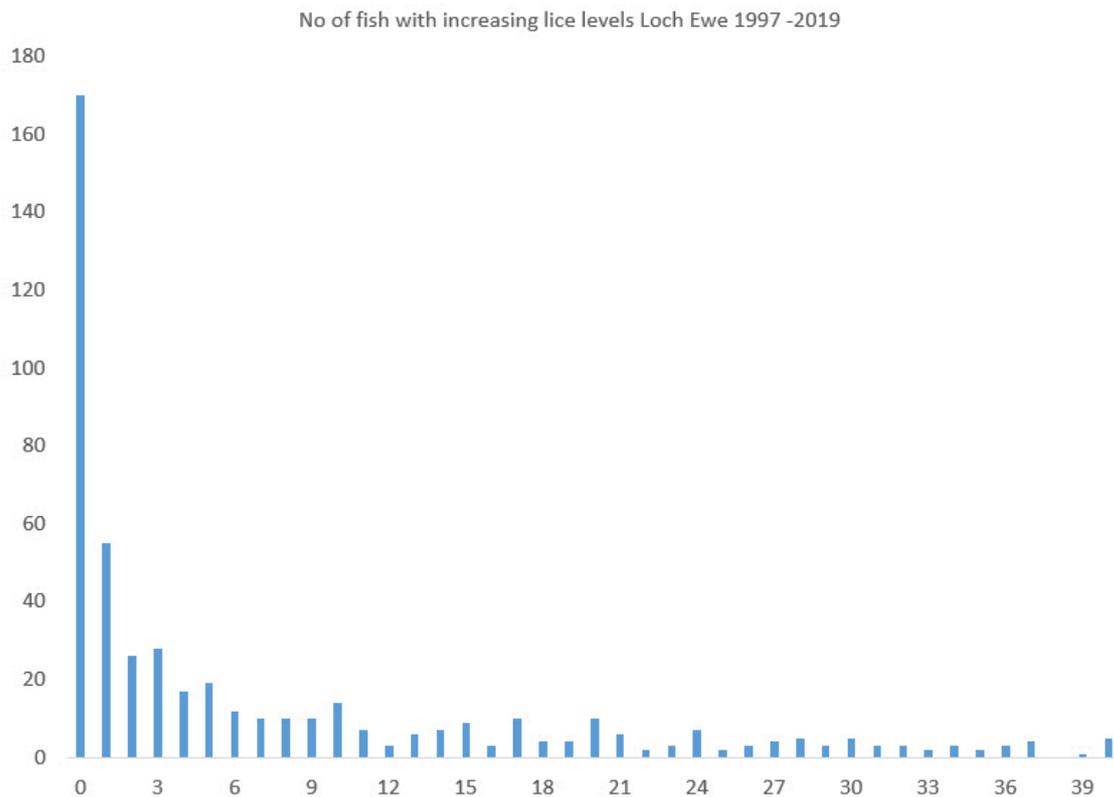
*Salmon farming has had a huge impact on sea trout fisheries on the west coast of Scotland and the evidence for this is pretty overwhelming.*

*As a sea trout smolt migrates out to sea, it has got a very good chance of being infected by sea lice. In fact, it would be doing very well not to be infected by sea lice*

As regular readers know, I have been delving into the data set of sea trout sampled by the various west coast fishery trusts and analysed the infestation levels of sea lice of the nearly 65,000 fish recorded. The latest analysis is of fish sampled in Loch Ewe. The data set runs from 1997 to 2019 but there are gaps such as 2001 and from 2004 to 2006.

Why this data is missing is unclear.

The graph of this analysis from 619 fish is shown below: This is expressed as the infestation for each fish as a percentage of the total number of fish caught. Yet again, the graph is a classic aggregate distribution.



Many of the fish caught were lice free which rather suggests that rather than having a good chance of being infested as Dr MacIntyre stated, most sea trout are likely to be not infested at all or have lice counts well below the level for claimed mortality.

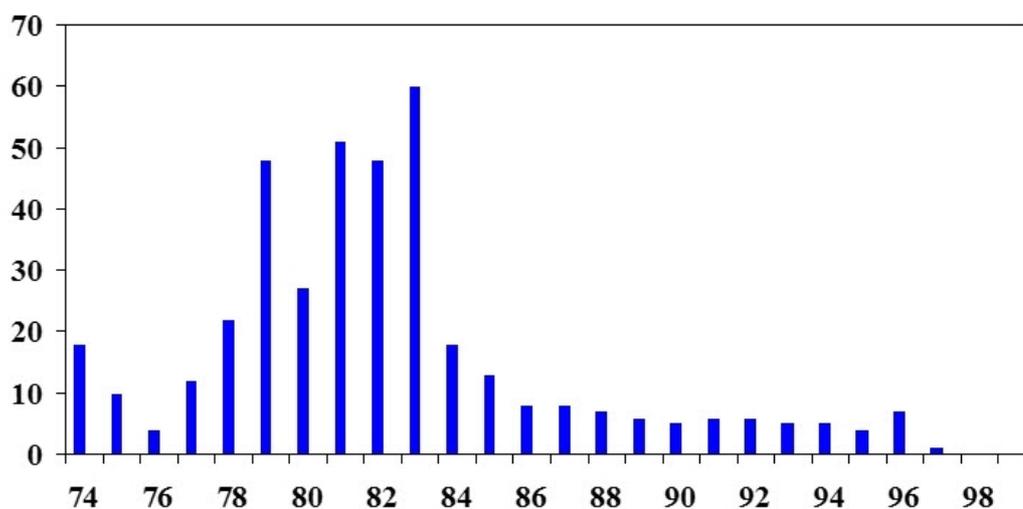
Simply, the actual sea lice data does not support any of the claims made by Salmon & Trout Conservation and the wider wild fish sector. How many more of these graphs are required before there is a proper discussion. I would argue that the Salmon Interactions Working Group should be recalled, and this evidence should be properly discussed rather than being buried as before.

Dr MacIntyre repeatedly refers to the importance of large mature sea trout to the fishery during the film:

*The Loch Maree fishery is a classic example of what can happen when aquaculture is put in the wrong place. The Loch Maree fishery used to catch over one and half thousand sea trout every year – a salmon farm was put in the sea loch – there was a dramatic decline in the number of mature sea trout that were being caught by anglers and that just demonstrates the impact that fish farming*

can have on a fishery especially on one as famous as the Loch Maree fishery.

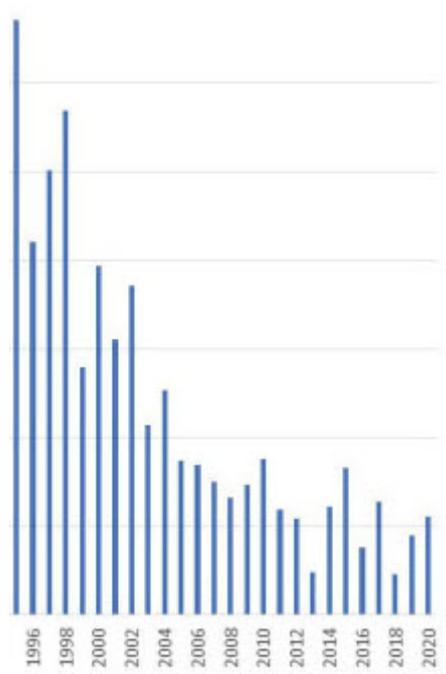
Although I referred to this in my book – Loch Maree’s Missing Sea Trout, I will repeat the graph here, the data for which was taken from the Loch Maree Hotel catch book. The farm was registered in November 1987, which was after catches of 3lb plus fish had increased during the 1970s and then had plummeted.



Finally, Dr MacIntyre refers to the bottlenecks that cause fish populations to collapse: He stated:

*When we're dealing with a collapse of a fish population it is important to identify the bottle neck in production - what is it that is causing the problem - all the evidence that has been collected from the Loch Maree fishery points towards sea lice from aquaculture being the problem – therefore if you remove the problem, you should allow the sea trout to recover.*

Dr MacIntyre has moved on from Argyll and is now director at the Esk Salmon Fishery Board. What is interesting is that the River Esk used to be a really good sea trout river with a peak catch of around 3400 fish in 1996. Since then, catches have collapsed to 10,198 in 2020 with a ten-year average of 538 fish. This collapse of the South Esk sea trout fishery can be seen in the following graph:



Although I have looked at the limited information that is published about the River South Esk, there is no mention as to why this sea trout fishery has collapsed or what is being done to help the fish recover. What is clear is that this fishery does not seem to be on Salmon & Trout Conservation’s radar. Certainly, S&TC have not made a video to explain this collapse nor have invited a TV personality to highlight it.

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**Canada:** I just want to acknowledge the news from Canada regarding the outcome of the judicial review into the closure of 19 farms around the Discovery Island. The judge found that the Minister breached procedural fairness when she announced the closures in a press release and failed to explain the reason for her decision.

The judgement has been widely discussed in the industry media and is very welcome. However, the mainstream press has been slow to take up the story as observed by industry advisor Mary Ellen Walling. She said that its about being fair after all. The media is often quick to report stories that are negative yet drags it feet about good news stories. This is not just in Canada.

Meanwhile, chief anti-industry proponent Alexandra Morton initially wrote that the

decision is not a great look for the salmon farm industry - sue your host country to force your industry into the world's biggest wild salmon migration route... and for what?

She then continues that it's like the movie Groundhog Day – all this means is that the minister has to make the decision over again.

However, its nothing like Groundhog Day because this time the Minister will have to consider the science and consult with others before making a decision rather than relying on the word of those opposed to farmed salmon. Equally, opting to sue for a just decision reflects a country that is a free democracy rather than some narrow-minded dictatorship. As it happens, the news just broke that Kellogg's is to sue the UK Government over its recent decision on retail sales.

Ms Morton subsequently released a short video in which she says that the judgement is confusing especially as the industry went to such an effort to achieve so little. She continues by implying that the previous minister was surrounded by staff who undermined her by withholding information from her in particular that the farms were infecting Fraser River sockeye with bacterial disease killing up to half of them. Together with an issue about licences, Ms Morton, claims that the Minister was thrown under the bus. All this means, as already stated, is that the next Minister must make the decision all over again.

Ms Morton says that the Fraser River salmon have collapsed and are now just 2% of what they were. She asks whether the Norwegian companies should be allowed to continue 'holding their grip' on the BC coast and infect the waters until the salmon in the pens are the only salmon left on the BC coast.

What Ms Morton continues to ignore is that there could be many other reasons why Fraser River salmon are a shadow of their former numbers and that whilst she continues to focus on salmon farming, she is simply deflecting attention away from understanding what is really causing the loss of these fish. She has repeatedly ignored the fact that salmon stocks in areas away from salmon

farming are also in deep trouble. Currently, Ms Morton and her colleagues remain the biggest threat to the future of wild salmon in Canada.

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**Aviemore:** It's the Scottish salmon farming exhibition at Aviemore next week and I will be there on the first day and look forward to saying hello to friends old and new.

Unfortunately, I will miss the opportunity to tackle salmon farming critic Don Staniford who some weeks ago said that he will be there too protesting against the industry. However, he has not mentioned his attendance since so perhaps, he has changed his mind. After all, it is one thing to skulk about on someone's property at dawn or dusk or even protest outside an isolated feed mill, but something else when everyone who passes by will be from the industry and ready to challenge him.

I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, no word from the handful of very vocal critics who hide behind social media. Here is their opportunity to have their voice heard in person but I doubt any of them have the 'bottle' to attend the exhibition.

A regular reader directed me to look at a Twitter exchange in which it was pointed out that one of the more vocal critics had tweeted over 8,000 times and that this level of activity could only be achieved by someone paid to tweet (because of the incredible time commitment). This critic ignored the question and deflected the thread towards something else. The critic was also offered the invitation to meet at Aviemore.

However, it struck me that this critic must be considered an amateur by comparison to someone who tweets as Salmon Scotland, although this has been one of many aliases used. This account has tweeted over 18,500 times about the 'evil salmon farming industry'. This must be a full-time job.

I would offer to meet these critics at Aviemore, but I doubt they will be there. I have previously offered to meet them face to face for an informal chat and they have all refused outright. This is because they have nothing to say except to repeat the same message that salmon farming is bad.

And what about those who are paid to campaign against the industry? For example, will Salmon & Trout Conservation be at the show? Surely, if they feel so strongly about the industry, then this is an opportunity to be at the heart of it and to make their views known.

I have found that it makes no difference as to whether it is a leading scientist from Norway or the most vocal critic, they all have one thing in common and that is their unwillingness to engage in a proper discussion about the issues. Seemingly, they all have their narrative, and nothing is going to persuade them otherwise.

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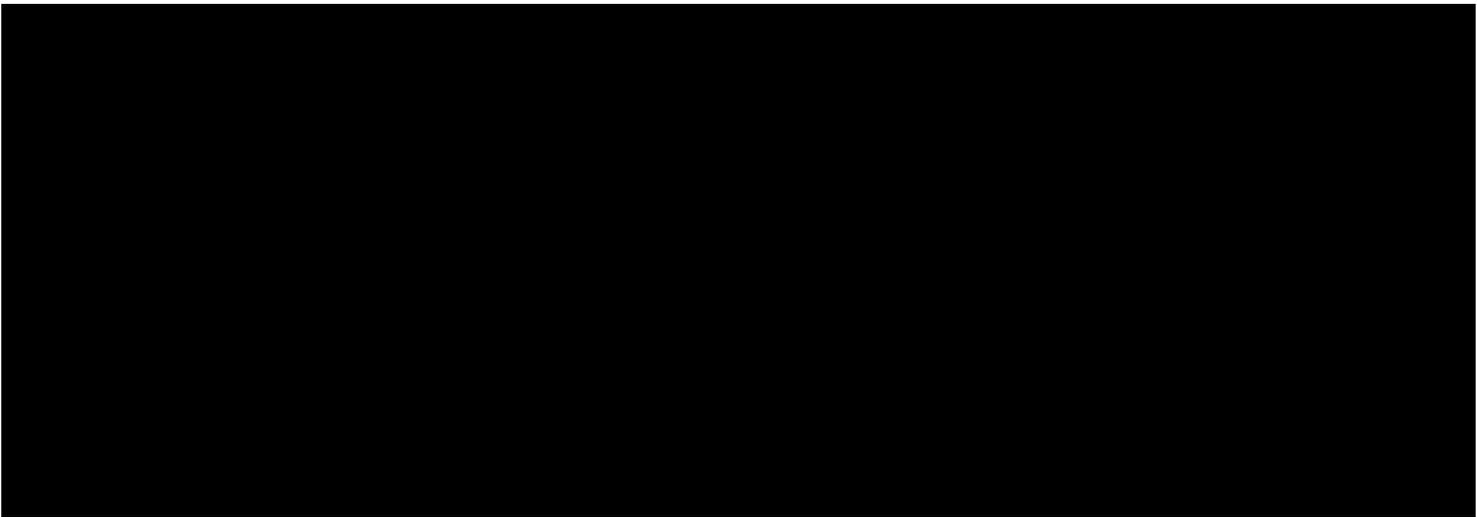
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**From:** Neil Greig <Neil.Greig@associatedseafoods.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:09 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Victor West <victor.west@associatedseafoods.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Don Staniford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Staniford is an anti-salmon farming “activist”. This is not about Russia/Ukraine.  
We believe he will turn the agenda and focus on salmon farming if he sees an opportunity.

[REDACTED]

Thanks  
N

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** Bill Hazeldean <[bill.hazeldean@associatedseafoods.com](mailto:bill.hazeldean@associatedseafoods.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Associated Seafoods

**Date:** 19 April 2022 at 13:54:51 BST

**To:**

[REDACTED]

Victor West <[victor.west@associatedseafoods.com](mailto:victor.west@associatedseafoods.com)>

Gentlemen,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Today an email has been circulated with the following title; “Yuriy Lopatinsky -owner of Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters: money launderer and closely connected to Russian spy agencies and a web of Russian linked tycoons”. The email was sent to Marks and Spencer and Ocean Beauty, our major US customer, and was sent from Don Staniford, from an organisation called Salmon Farming Kills – the purpose of which is self-explanatory! Most within the industry (including M&S) regard him as a crank, it is a direct attack on ASL and, in the hands of negative press, could be dangerous.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bill

[REDACTED]

**From:** Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 19 April 2022 04:46  
**To:** information;sales;info@lochfyne.com;sales@lochfyne.com  
**Cc:** Steven.Mclean@marks-and-spencer.com;Steve.Rowe@marks-and-spencer.com;food.pressoffice@marks-and-spencer.com;M&S Executive Office;info@oceanbeauty.com;Enquiries;info@scottishsalmon.com  
**Subject:** Yuri Lopatinsky - owner of Associated Seafoods & Loch Fyne Oysters: money launderer and closely connected to Russian spy agencies & a web of Russian linked tycoons

Do you have an official statement on your owner (via [Scottish Seafood Investments/Northern Link/Farm Originals LLF/Farm Originals](#)) Yuri Lopatinsky?

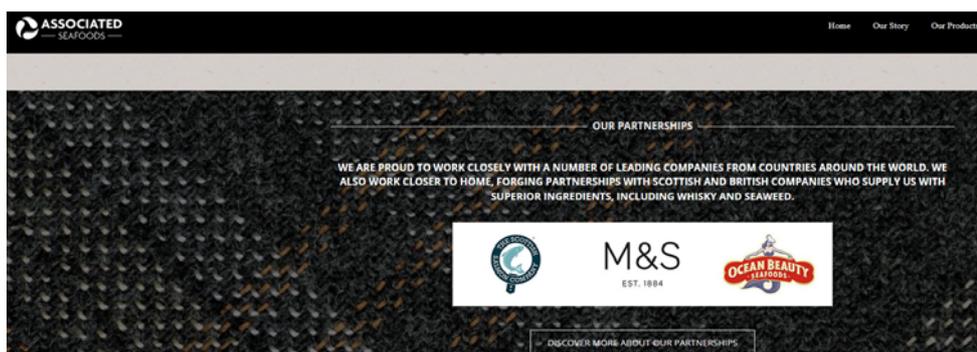
Please find information published today on the secret owner of Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters:

[Press Release: Lopatinsky's Laundromat: How Dirty Russian Money Corrupted Scottish Salmon](#) (19 April 2022)

You may also have read how Liam Byrne MP outed your owner as "someone with close connections to the SVR and FSB" and associated with Mohamed Amersi in the context of "illegal business operations and participation in the military and economic annexation of Georgia" (House of Commons, 17 January 2022):  
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-01-17/debates/1B80906A-58DD-4618-9AA2-DBFED140143C/ElectionsBill>

Read more via "Mysterious millionaire oligarch with links to Russian spy owns property next to Nicola Sturgeon's official residence":  
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mysterious-millionaire-oligarch-links-russian-26565113>

Your website features M&S, Ocean Beauty and The Scottish Salmon Company (all copied in here) and claims that Associated Seafoods "was founded by some of the country's foremost experts in seafood":  
<https://www.associatedseafoods.com/>



Your website also claims under 'Integrity': "At Associated Seafoods we believe Integrity is the basic building block for business, and is an absolute given in our everyday. Integrity ensures we adhere to our values, in a transparent, honest and complete manner": <https://www.associatedseafoods.com/our-story/values-missions>

In view of the lack of integrity, morality and financial propriety of your owner perhaps your website should have a makeover? Has Associated Seafoods told its suppliers, shareholders and staff that your owner was 'instrumental' in an "immense Russian bank money-laundering scheme"?

In what world is it fit and proper for Yuri Lopatinsky - described to me by someone who knows him well as a "fiscal rapist", "crooked" and a "fraud" - to be associated with the ['Pride of Scotland'](#)?

"Scottish Seafood Investments is a joint venture company recently established by The Scottish Salmon Company PLC (SSC) and Northern Link and was set up to invest into companies engaged in the value-added processing of salmon and other seafood," [reported The Fish Site in 2011](#). "Lossie Seafoods currently purchases the majority of its salmon from SSC and its acquisition by Associated Seafoods will provide even closer synergies between the two companies."

Scottish Seafood Investments "was launched last year as a joint venture between private equity firm Northern Link and the Oslo-listed Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), in which Northern Link holds a major stake," [reported The Scotsman in 2012](#). "Edinburgh-based SSC produces about 20 per cent of Scotland's salmon. Last year SSI used £600,000 from its £15m war chest to buy a 50 per cent stake in Associated Seafoods, a Glasgow-based business set up by former SSC chief executive Bill Hazeldean."

Why wasn't Associated Seafoods honest and transparent in revealing the ownership of Yuri Lopatinsky?

Why didn't Associated Seafoods notify the public when Northern Link [transferred ownership of Scottish Seafood Investments in 2019 to Farm Originals](#)?

**Scottish Seafood Investments S.à r.l Limited Liability Company**

**23, Rue Aldringen L - 1118 LUXEMBOURG**

**RCS Luxembourg N B 225369**

**EXTRACT OF TRANSFER OF COMPANY SHARES**

It follows from a deed of transfer of shares signed under private signature that: **Northern Link Ltd** transferred, with effect from June 05, 2019, the 6,782,795 (six million seven hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty -fifteen) shares it held in Scottish Seafood Investments S.à r.l in **LLF Farm Originals SA**, a public limited company under Luxembourg law, with registered office at 23, rue Aldringen in L-1118 Luxembourg and registered in the Register of Commerce and Companies of Luxembourg under the number B 218647.

Following this transfer, the shares are held as follows: **LLF Farm Originals SA** 6,782,795 shares  
**Scottish Salmon Company PLC** 1,423,187 shares ===== **TOTAL 8,205,982 shares** For fair and compliant extract Luxembourg, the

**Trade and Companies** Register RCS number: B225369 Filing reference: L190095258 Filed and registered on 06/11/2019

Note that Farm Originals - registered via Companies House - is owned by Yuri Lopatinsky at an address listed as 10A Charlotte Square in Edinburgh: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/SC521798/filing-history>

And [accounts for Farm Originals filed in Luxembourg reveal that Yuri Lopatinsky is the controlling owner](#):

Name	Responsibilities		
LOPATYNSKYY Yuriy in FARM ORIGINALS PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY	Current responsibilities		
	Responsibility	Start Date	Announcement Number
	Shareholder (50-75%) (Shareholder (50-75%))	Feb 21, 2017	14521798
Individual or entity with 50-75% of voting rights (Individual or entity with 50-75% of voting rights)	Feb 21, 2017	14521798	

#### 42. Company history for LOPATYNSKYY Yuriy (8)

Companies in which this person holds, or has held, positions

- SEL HOLDINGS SCI (Luxembourg)
- SOPICA PARTNERS LIMITED (United Kingdom)
- NL EURASIA S.à r.l (Luxembourg)
- LLF Financial S.A. (Luxembourg)
- LIGHTHOUSE OF SCOTLAND LIMITED (EDINBURGH, United Kingdom)
- FIRST MERCANTILE PARTNERS LLP (EDINBURGH, United Kingdom)
- CHATEAU DE LA COMBE LIMITED (ENFIELD, United Kingdom)
- FARM ORIGINALS LIMITED (EDINBURGH, United Kingdom)

Yuri Lopatinsky was [named in the Paradise Papers](#) as working with [convicted Russian spy Arne Treholt](#) at [BAMI First Mercantile in Cyprus](#). Perhaps that's where the owner of The Scottish Salmon Company learned to [spy on activists](#)?

Your owner also bought shares in GM salmon giant AquaBounty in 2020. Intrafish [reported in February 2020](#):

"A public filing by AquaBounty has revealed that Edinburgh-based tycoon Yuriy Lopatynskyy has invested in the genetically modified (GM) salmon producer. Luxembourg-based LLF Financial, half-owned by Lopatynskyy, purchased just under 3.2 million shares via two companies -- Sopica Special Opportunities and Sopica Global Retail Growth Fund -- giving the group 9.9 percent of the outstanding shares. The other half of LLF Financial is owned by Ukraine-based Hennadiy Lopatynskyy. It's unclear the relation between the two men. The UK-based Lopatynskyy is linked to several investments and properties around the globe, [including multiple offshore groups cited in the Paradise Papers](#), among them Uraslib Russia Select Fund, USB Asset Management, Sopica CIS Small Cap Fund, FMIG and BAMI First Mercantile. Lopatynskyy also owns Northern Link, which was the largest shareholder of the Scottish Salmon Company. Northern Link is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Virgin Islands-based Sopica Global Retail Growth Fund, which is advised by LLF Financial. [Lopatynskyy took a controlling interest in Scottish salmon farmer Lighthouse Caledonia in 2009 through his private equity firm Northern Link](#), right before it was acquired by SSC. Northern Link has held in the past several other investments in aquaculture and marine-related companies in Norway, Peru and Russia, including stakes in Leroy Seafood, Codfarmers, Marine Farms, Copeinca and Villa Organic."

Is Associated Seafoods planning on selling GM salmon? Or maybe farmed salmon laced with cannabis?

Vext Science [reported in February 2021](#) that Yuri Lopatinsky's Sopica - managed by LLF Financial in the British Virgin Islands - had bought a Doobie-sized stake in the [cannabis operator](#).

Did management at Associated Seafoods - and [investment managers at the Royal Bank of Scotland who have bankrolled operations](#) - become so intoxicated by the promise of jobs that they forgot to ask if Yuri Lopatinsky's money was dirty Russian roubles?

And how can Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters justify reeling in [£177,452 of public money via Covid grants](#) to line the pockets of a money launderer?

[Home](#) » [Publications](#)

PUBLICATION - FACTSHEET

## Seafood Producers Resilience Fund: beneficiaries

Published: 22 July 2021

Last updated: 27 July 2021 - [see all updates](#)

Details of awards made under the Seafood Producers Resilience Fund.

### Aquaculture Fund

Business	£
Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd	27452

### Scottish Seafood Business Resilience Fund (SSBRF)

Company	Grant awarded
Loch Fyne Oysters Limited	100,000.00
Associated Seafoods Limited	50,000.00

You can read more on the 'Moscow broker' via:

[Yuri Lopatinsky: His Story \(Chronology/Biography\)](#) (12 April 2022)

[Yuri Lopatinsky: The \\$py Who Laundered \\$almoney for the Russian/Norwegian \\$almafia \(& is a neighbour of the First Minister of Scotland\)?](#) (8 April 2022)

Best fishes,

Don Staniford

Director, \$camon \$cotland

**From:** Undercurrent News <campaigns@undercurrentnews.com>  
**Sent:** 11 October 2021 09:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Daily seafood recap, Oct. 8



A banner for Undercurrent News (UCN) featuring an underwater scene. On the left is the UCN logo. The text "Tailor your seafood news by species" is followed by a list of species with checkboxes: Pelagics, Salmon, Shrimp, and Tuna. To the right, it says "FREE NEWSLETTER" and "SUBSCRIBE HERE" with a blue button.

**Big salmon players avoid RAS; Mowi takes activist to court;  
Judge bins Subway lawsuit**

Here's a recap of the daily seafood news from Friday, Oct. 8



**Norway salmon price leaps, Scottish follow, Chile's remain stable**

Spot prices for Norwegian farmed salmon have taken a strong step up for this week -- week 41 of 2021 -- seemingly pulling Scottish prices up with them, sources told *Undercurrent News*. Chilean prices, meanwhile, continue to hold steady at the level they fell to over the past 10 weeks or so.

[Read more](#)

## **Nutreco exec: Why net pen salmon farmers are steering clear of RAS grow-out**

Norway's largest salmon farmers are conspicuous by their absence from the rush to farm salmon on land using new recirculating aquaculture systems technology. Speaking on a recent *Undercurrent* webinar on the topic, Erik Tveteraas -- an investment director with feed company Nutreco -- said there is "no single answer" for why this is the case, but it hasn't deterred his firm from land-based aquaculture's long-term potential.

[Read more](#)

## **Mowi Scotland seeks permanent injunction against anti-salmon campaigner**

Mowi's Scottish division is seeking a permanent interdict (injunction) against anti-aquaculture campaigner Don Staniford on health and safety grounds. Staniford, despite repeated requests not to do so, has continued to put himself and the company's employees and animals at risk, the company claimed.

[Read more](#)

## **Judge dismisses lawsuit alleging Subway used fake tuna**

A US federal judge has dismissed a civil-court lawsuit alleging that deli restaurant giant Subway failed to use 100% real tuna in its sandwiches. Plaintiffs Karen Dhanowa and Nilima Amin failed to provide evidence that Subway mislabeled its products or attempted to defraud its customers, US District Court judge Jon Tigar said in his eight-page ruling.

[Read more](#)

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** Henry Angus  
**Sent:** 26 April 2021 12:56  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Seaspiracy - a response from the salmon farming industry

[REDACTED]

**Seaspiracy:** A lot has already been written about this film except the one real issue. Ali Tabrizi expresses concerns about plastics, sharks, whales, forage fish and other matters affecting the marine environment but misses the point. He can argue that we should reduce plastic or that we should stop harvesting forage fish for feed but ignores the fundamental problem. These are all concerns induced by humans. It is not the issues of the oceans that need to be highlighted, but rather it is us that are the problem. There are simply too many of us over-exploiting the world's resources. If we are not plundering the oceans, then we are ripping up the forests. We simply cannot have it all and eat it. Perhaps, this is the film that Mr Tabrizi should really be making.

Having said that, there was one issue raised during the film that caught my eye but is likely to have gone unnoticed by salmon farming critic, Corin Smith, who is described by Salmon Business as an online betting millionaire and, who featured in the film. This is the concern that over-fishing was having a detrimental effect on marine life such as coral reefs. The film highlighted that overfishing led to a huge reduction in the nutrients that fuelled the growth of the flora and fauna of the seabed. These nutrients arrive in the form of the faecal waste generated by the fish. The loss of fish meant no faeces and therefore no nutrients to maintain the cycle of life and the death of the life of the seabed.



Mr Smith, who was oddly described by Mr Tabrizi as a whistle blower despite never having worked for the salmon farming industry, related how net pen salmon farms produced huge amounts of fish waste equivalent to the waste from 10-20,000 people and that the waste from of the whole of the Scottish salmon industry is equivalent to the waste of the entire population of Scotland.

Unfortunately, Mr Smith is not a biologist. He did enrol on a biology course at the University of Edinburgh, but soon dropped out. The following entry comes from the

website European Graduates, a database of people who attended university which lists Mr Smith's experience and skills, none of which relate to salmon farming.

## Corin Smith

Perth, United Kingdom

Fly Fishing Guide at The Wild Rise Company  
Leisure, Travel & Tourism

### Education

London Business School 2003 — 2003  
Young Professionals Programme

Perth College 1996 — 1998  
Audio Engineering

Edinburgh University 1995 — 1995  
Biology

### Experience

C. SMITH IMAGES September 2015 - Present

The Wild Rise Company May 2014 - Present

Megalops Ltd September 2009 - July 2014

FlyCastaway.com January 2007 - September 2009

Betfair January 2006 - January 2007

Betfair February 2005 - January 2006

Betfair February 2005 - January 2006

Betfair June 2004 - February 2005

Betfair June 2003 - June 2004

Betfair May 2001 - January 2003

### Skills

Online Gaming, Management, Fly Fishing, Photojournalism, New

Business Development, Product Management, Team

Management, Casino, Commercial Photography, Gaming, Start-

ups, Gambling, Cross-functional Team..., Marketing Management,

Online Gambling

Mr Smith comes to this issue as an angler who blames salmon farming for the decline of wild fish stocks. As he is not a biologist, he happily compares human waste to that from fish even though they are totally different, but more importantly fish waste is part of the natural marine ecosystem. Three and a half trillion fish defecate into the world's oceans every day. The waste produced from salmon farms is no different. Of course, the fish waste is deposited in a small area, but it does get absorbed into the local ecosystem, which is why there are not mountains of waste under even the longest established salmon farms.

Mr Tabrizi incorporates a graphic in his film to illustrate the amount of waste produced by Scottish salmon farms. He was clearly not advised by Mr Smith that the salmon farming industry can be found just along the west coast because the graphic shows the waste spreading even to the seashore outside Edinburgh. Interestingly, the area around Orkney is waste free, despite being home to many salmon farms.



Like much of the film, this graphic is so misleading and so different to the reality. If all the salmon farms in Scotland, were placed together, they would take up the space of two eighteen-hole golf courses. To put this into perspective, the following map highlights the spit of land outside the town of St Andrews on Scotland's east coast. This is the home of Scottish golf and the spit of land is covered by five separate gold courses belonging to the golf club. If this district is viewed on an online map and then a wider area is brought into view, the spit of land quickly disappears so by the time the map of Scotland shown on the film is viewed, salmon farming takes up an area less the size of a pin head. It is totally infeasible for the whole of the salmon farming industry to produce waste that covers even a small area of that shown in the video. Mr Smith has completely exaggerated the impact of the waste, let alone understand that it forms part of the natural ecosystem.



Mr Smith comes from the angling sector, and is quick to highlight, but fails to understand, any of the issues concerning the salmon farming industry. This is not surprising. His former employers, Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland have been criticising the salmon farming industry for years, based on their belief that the industry is responsible for the decline of wild fish. About three years ago, they concluded that their attempts to dissuade consumers to stop eating farmed salmon in order to protect wild fish to enable their members to catch and kill them instead, was not working. They decided to focus their efforts on highlighting mortality levels on salmon farms even though farm mortality has no bearing on wild fish

numbers. They thought that images of dead salmon would be more likely to deter consumers from buying the fish in stores.

Mr Smith subsequently extended this brief by swimming out to farms to obtain images of lice infested fish taken by hanging on to the structure and taking photos just below the surface. It is these images that have dominated the negative narrative against salmon farming. In a comment dated 10<sup>th</sup> February Mr Smith says that he has been to more salmon farms than most salmon farmers, most salmon farm employees, regulators, journalists, scientists and activists, totalling way over 100. He also says that he has spent hundreds of hours diving and filming in the water around salmon farms, yet it is the same handful of images that he uses in the media. None of his photos are date stamped, nor give a location so the assumption is that if he has indeed spent many hours in the water around salmon farms across Scotland, his efforts have not been rewarded with many other examples of similar infested fish.

It is worth pointing out that the few fish in his photos do not represent the majority of the fish in the pens. In the still of early morning, the few weakened fish swim in less frequented surface layers, where they are easily photographed. It might be assumed that they would be also easy to catch and remove but there is a massive difference between taking a photo in the early morning stillness dressed in a dark wet suit and farm staff walking round the pen trying to remove these handful of fish with a hand net. The fish are soon spooked and descend out of sight to join the main body of fish, where they are also out of reach. Mr Smith might be able to photograph one of these fish, but he could never catch one. The difficulty for farm staff is weighing up the removal of a few fish against stressing thousands. Such choices are never considered in the negative coverage.

In his comment of February 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr Smith states that “every day, I research, listen and learn more about salmon farming and there’s plenty more for me to understand but I’m comfortable that my views are relatively informed and reasonable.” He also said that he would be happy to debate the issues as he did during the townhall tour around Scotland in 2019 (with the Patagonia film). However, he and Andrew Graham Stewart were less willing to do so at the premiere of the film in London where I was specifically asked not to pose any questions during the event on the understanding that Patagonia would arrange a separate meeting with me. This of course failed to materialise.

Mr Smith says he will be organising more of these townhall presentations once the pandemic is over so the discussion, debate and arguing can continue. The question is what does he want to talk about? We know fish, whether farmed or wild, defecate into the sea. We know salmon, whether farmed or wild get infested with sea lice. We know that salmon, whether farmed or in the wild eat small fish. The question, given Mr Smith’s angling background, is whether salmon farming has any impact on the environment? Whether it is responsible for the decline of wild salmon and sea trout? Whether the welfare of farmed salmon is compromised more than wild fish when they are dragged round by a hook in the mouth for the sport of anglers. However, I suspect that these are issues that Mr Smith is

not so willing to discuss because he fundamentally knows that his attack on salmon farming is just a smokescreen for the wider problems of the wild fish sector.

**Dyeing to paint:** The Seaspiracy film returns to Mr Smith where he continues to demonstrate that his knowledge of salmon farming is severely lacking. He talks about salmon's pink colour:

"Farmed salmon without colourant being added to the feed would be completely grey to the extent that salmon farmers can actually select from a colour chart much like you get when you are painting your house. You can select the pinkness of the salmon that you get to produce. So, it would not be for me to say, but it does seem like that people are eating grey fish that have been painted pink

He says that it would not be for him to say that people are eating painted salmon, but he still manages to do so. He equates the pink colour to the colour on a paint chart, but he would realise he is incorrect just by looking up the definition of paint – a coloured substance which is spread over a surface and dries to leave a thin decorative or protective coating. However, if Mr Smith were to cut through the flesh of a salmon, he would see that it is not a surface coating but is spread throughout the flesh.

Whilst Mr Smith refers to the pink colour as paint, the other critic in the film Don Staniford, like many others, often refers to salmon as being dyed pink. Dying is a chemical reaction that is usually irreversible and occurs when something, usually a textile, is soaked in a solution of chemical dyes. Hair can also be dyed, and this is because it is akin to a textile fibre. In cases, where dyes accidentally are applied to the skin, it is not absorbed into the body but remains on the surface.

Mr Smith says that farmed salmon are naturally grey, but seemingly he fails to realise that the wild salmon he so covets, are also naturally grey. Of course, Mr Smith has probably only seen salmon flesh from fish that has returned from their feeding groups, which he has caught and killed for his sport and thus assumes that all salmon are pink. Returning salmon have grown fat by gorging on shrimp and other crustaceans which are naturally rich in a pink pigment called astaxanthin. The shrimp do not look pink when alive because the astaxanthin is chemically bound to a protein called crustacyanin, but when the shrimp is cooked, the protein is destroyed and the astaxanthin is released. This then turns the shrimp pink.

In the wild, when salmon eat the shrimp and other crustaceans, the protein is broken down during digestion and the astaxanthin freed to be absorbed by the salmon's body and laid down in the flesh. Interestingly, other fish eat similar crustaceans but don't lay down the pigment in the flesh. It is likely that evolutionary pressure of the salmon's anadromous migratory behaviour.

Salmon produce fewer but much larger eggs than many other fish. These enable the fry to feed off a yolk sack that affords them more time before they must swim free and seek food. It also means that the fry are larger and have a better chance of survival through the early days. The larger eggs and longer development time require the extra protection of high carotenoid and antioxidant loads. These come from the pigment stored in the flesh during development of the ovaries. It is only when salmon have returned to freshwater to breed that the changes needed to produce eggs begin. Not only does the external appearance of the fish change but the ovaries grow, and the pigment migrates from the flesh into the eggs, which is why salmon eggs are bright red. If the pigment was painted or dyed in place as Mr Smith suggests, it would be permanent, but it isn't. The movement of the pigment from the flesh to the eggs means that the flesh returns to its greyish colour.

Of course, farming means that the fish must be supplied with all the nutrients they require including antioxidants such as astaxanthin which is supplied in a natural identical format. Astaxanthin is not a paint or a dye but a nutrient, in fact it is a precursor to Vitamin A. Astaxanthin has between 100 – 500 times the antioxidant capacity of Vitamin E and prevents degradation of the fat cells which are crucial in protecting poikilothermic (cold blooded) species such as salmon.

If it is a paint as Mr Smith suggests, he might seek it at the local DIY warehouse but in fact, it is also available as a food supplement for human consumption due to its strong antioxidant properties and can be bought freely from health food shops.



Salmon are not the only animal to require carotenoids in their food. Laying hens also benefit from the addition of carotenoids to help with yolk development. The nutrition company also produce a colour fan for egg yolks, but I don't hear Mr Smith suggesting egg yolks are painted, despite being exactly the same process.

Interestingly, whilst Mr Smith denigrates grey flesh salmon, some consumers value its appearance. In North America, some King (Chinook) salmon – about one in twenty – have white flesh due to a genetic determined inability to metabolise the pigment. For many

years, these pale flesh coloured fish were considered of less value but more recently, the fish marketed as Ivory Kings bring a much higher price. Interestingly, salmon farming activist, Alexandra Morton recently wrote that during the late 1980s, she visited a salmon farm that was rearing Chinook salmon from eggs obtained from a public hatchery, and she was alerted to the fact that these fish were an abnormal colour – white. She wrote that no-one would tell her why the fish were that colour, implying that this was yet another dark secret of the salmon farming industry whereas the truth was that these hatchery-raised fish had a higher level of the genetic determined inability to metabolise pigments.



Lusamerica Foods

Finally, the Guardian newspaper has recently highlighted that Tate Britain will be bringing back their Art Now Cooking Sections exhibition when the gallery reopens in May. The exhibition is titled Salmon: A red herring.

The exhibition explores the relationship between how we eat, and the climate emergency as perceived by Daniel Fernandez Pascual and Alon Schwabe. Unfortunately, the two 'artists' have been listening to much too people like Mr Smith because it focuses on the changing colours of species as warning signs of an environmental disaster. Their installation questions what colours we expect in the 'natural' environment as the planet changes as illustrated by salmon which must be fed synthetic pigments to make them the expected colour. They claim that humans and animals ingest synthetic substances and the subsequent changes in flesh, scales, feathers, skin, leaves (sic) or wings provide clues to environmental and metabolic changes around and inside us.

Unfortunately, the whole basis of the installation and its focus on salmon pink is misplaced. Salmon are naturally grey, not the result of environmental or climate changes but what is most sad about this complete failure to understand the natural changes during the salmon's life, whether in the wild or farmed, is that prompted by the project, the Tate has decided to permanently remove salmon from its food outlets. All that can be said is that if they are so concerned about the inclusion of carotenoids in animal feeds, then maybe they should also act to remove all eggs and egg derived foods from all their outlets too.

Postscript astaxanthin: Since writing this commentary, it has been announced that a new book about the Tasmanian salmon industry is to be published imminently. The book is titled 'Toxic – The rotting underbelly of the Tasmanian salmon industry.

I haven't seen the book nor know its content although the title provides something of a clue. What I have seen is a short interview with the book's author Booker prize winning Richard Flanagan. His comments can be heard at <https://twitter.com/i/status/1385135002279632896> He states that salmon is an artificially dyed product, which demonstrates the extent to which his book has been researched.

**Ahead of time**: On his Facebook page, Mr Smith says his 'organisation' – Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots calls for the following:

1. The Scottish Government to deliver a regulatory framework which will ensure an immediate and continued reduction of total emissions of sewage, chemicals, plastics, parasites, and disease by the open cage salmon farming industry
2. The Scottish Government to commit to a closed containment and emission free salmon farming industry by 2030
3. The Scottish Government to make transformational investments in communications, transport, and facilities throughout Scotland to ensure the nation can compete globally in the production of closed containment farmed salmon

One of the regular claims made against the Scottish salmon farming industry is that everywhere else besides Scotland is now moving to closed containment and Scotland is likely to get left behind, remaining dependent on out-of-date open water net pen production.

Of course, being a relative newcomer to salmon farming, Mr Smith is largely unaware of the development of the industry before 2015. If he did some proper research, he might know that thirty years ago, eleven sites were rearing salmon in shore-based tanks or raceways. This amounted to about 6% of production. None of these eleven sites are producing salmon now and for very good reason. They didn't work out or were uneconomic.

Mr Smith claims that the Scottish salmon industry is blinkered to new development. I would suggest that the industry has tried the onshore option and found it to be somewhat wanting. The passage of time has not changed this.

For further information visit [www.callandermcdowell.co.uk](http://www.callandermcdowell.co.uk)

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**From:** callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk  
**Date:** 25 April 2020 at 07:10:18 BST  
**To:** callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk  
**Subject:** [CallanderMcdowell] reLAKSation no 966 - fish and seafood views

# reLAKSation

By Dr Martin Jaffa

## no 966

25<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Reputation:** At the beginning of the year, I was privileged to meet the new chairman of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation. I began the conversation by saying that I was glad that I wasn't a young person beginning their career now in the salmon farming industry because I am not convinced that there will be much of an industry left in twenty years' time. The thoughts behind my comments were that there is so much negativity spoken about the industry that it is difficult to see how the industry can grow and develop. In addition, the existing industry might find it increasingly difficult to operate

without ever more stringent regulation. It appears that the reputation of the salmon farming industry is becoming ever more tarnished.

Intrafish has now reported that a new survey conducted in Norway has found that the reputation of salmon farming has fallen over the last decade. The analytical company Kantar TNS undertook this survey measuring reputation using the TRIM index. Ten years ago, salmon farming industry gained a score of 48 whereas the latest score is just 36. By comparison, the fisheries and agriculture sectors attained scores of 52 and 49, respectively. Interestingly, by changing the words salmon farming to aquaculture increases the score by 10 points.

It is important to point out that it is salmon farming that is the issue not the salmon. When asked about the reputation of salmon as a food, the TRIM score was a more gratifying 69. This is not surprising given that salmon is one of the most popular fish chosen by consumers to buy.

However, those consumers who do regularly eat salmon are those who are becoming increasingly sceptical about the environmental impacts of salmon production. They are also concerned about how open the industry is about what they do. Yet at the same time, many consumers are not concerned enough to find out exactly what the salmon farming industry does for themselves.

The salmon farming industry, not just in Norway, has been working hard over recent years to address many of the concerns about any impacts on the environment so this increased scepticism might be surprising to some in the industry. However, I would suggest that the writing has been on the wall for some time, hence my comments to the SSPO chairman back in January.

The problem for salmon farmers is not that they are encountering a wider range of issues but rather that there is an increasing likelihood that consumers are being exposed to coverage about the issues. Unfortunately, many of the negative messages being spread are based on either misinformation or are factually incorrect. This is not of any surprise as many of these messages are based on other people's agendas.

Many of the concerns about salmon farming's impacts on the environment began when the big US charitable foundations funded a \$33 million campaign to demarket farmed salmon. These foundations were concerned that imports of farmed salmon would undermine the wild salmon fisheries in Alaska by competing for consumers in the marketplace. They funded about thirty environmental groups to spread messages such as 'Farmed and Dangerous'. They hoped that this campaign would deter US consumers from buying imported salmon and select locally caught fish instead. What those funding the

campaign did not anticipate was that consumers actually preferred the taste of imported Atlantic salmon to that of locally caught wild species so consumption actually grew rather than declining. Although the campaign eventually floundered, not least because it was exposed by independent researcher Vivian Krause, the negative messages about salmon farming persisted mainly because environmental groups identified that focusing on the environmental impacts, whether true or false was a sure fire way of fund raising. This is still very much the case today.

One of those who has benefited from using salmon farming as a cause to fight for the environment is award winning campaigner Don Staniford. In 2002, Mr Staniford was one of the winners of the now defunct British Environment and Media Awards as awarded by WWF. Mr Staniford has campaigned against salmon farming in Norway and Canada, from where he was eventually deported after losing a defamation case against salmon farming company Mainstream Canada. At the time the company told Fish Farming Expert that 'The soul of a company is its employees, and we need to stand up for them and defend them against malicious and defamatory attacks, and against cyberbullying'. Mr Staniford is now operating in the UK relying on Freedom of Information requests as a way of attacking the industry.

Criticism of the salmon farming industry comes from many quarters ranging from international NGOs to social media's keyboard warriors. However, they all have one thing in common. That is the knowledge that the salmon farming industry has been extremely reluctant to stand up and defend itself. Why this is, remains a complete mystery to me. It seems that the industry believes that standing up to the critics might draw even more attention towards the industry and lead to greater unjustified criticism. At the same time, there appears to be a belief that the way forward is to rely on good news stories only. I am not convinced.

I would argue that if the industry's reputation is being questioned, especially with misinformation and factual inaccuracies, then the only response is to make sure that those who are sceptical are provided with factually correct information.

The rise of social media has become one of the battlegrounds about salmon farming. Keyboard warriors have found that they can say what they like irrespective of the truth. My experience is that when I have provided a factual account to correct their critique, my response has never been challenged. Instead, they tend to resort to attacking me in person. At the same time, they refuse to emerge out from behind their keyboards to discuss the issues because they realise that they do not have the arsenal to counter the factual messages, other than to try to discredit the messenger. The minority who

make up their followers are unlikely to be swayed by any argument but as the Kantar survey has found, the increased scepticism about the industry comes from mainstream consumers not the keyboard warrior minority, whose views will never be changed.

The Coronavirus crisis has dominated the news, and rightly so, but this has meant that other news stories have taken second place. There has been a noticeable reduction of media coverage about salmon farming, especially in the mainstream press. However, even before the crisis, the press had already suffered a reduction in readers as more of the public sought their news online and consequently, the press has needed fewer journalists. As a result, those that are still working are happy to receive stories that require little input from themselves to fill up space. Salmon farming was one of the subjects that fell foul of this approach to journalism. Now that coronavirus has taken over the news, such space filling stories are not needed.

However, there will be a time when coronavirus no longer dominates the front pages and the old order returns. When this happens, the industry needs to take a much more proactive approach. I have always believed that the industry cannot avoid negative stories being written about it but when they appear, the industry should not accept them as fait-accompli.

Sometimes, journalists do approach the industry for comment but often this appears as a platitude rather than a rebuttal or a correction. This is often because the industry is at the mercy of the journalist. It is usually unlikely that a correction in the letters page will be published. Instead, I would argue that the industry should put out a statement that is sent to every journalist and editor correcting the story. If this happens every time a negative story appears, then eventually, journalist might start to check whether the story has any validity before it is published. It is the constant drip-drip of such negative stories that contributes to the increased scepticism of the industry by the public. Currently, the industry appears to allow stories to be published unchallenged.

A recent example concerned the use of thermolicers to control sea lice. The National newspaper reported that Dr Lynne Sneddon, who has proved that fish feel pain, claims that according to a range of studies, the temperatures used are several degrees hotter than the fish can withstand. However, these studies refer to fish exposed to high temperatures for several minutes whereas fish passing through the thermolicer are exposed for seconds not minutes. The industry should have responded by challenging the science presented and shown it to be misleading in this instance. Instead, the industry response reported by the National was that the 'Scottish salmon farming sector continues to invest and innovate in the management of such challenges. Fish

health and welfare will always be our members top priority'. Unfortunately, this sounds like a standardised response rather than one that addresses the specific issue. It is not surprising that the public are increasingly sceptical. This is why immediate rebuttal is urgently needed.

I am not alone in this view. I heard on the grapevine that at least one salmon farming company in the UK thinks that more should be done but their attempt to do so floundered when it was put to the industry representatives. I am sure that those who represent the industry are extremely skilled in what they do but in recent years, they are less likely to have had any direct experience of the industry themselves. This has helped contribute to the increased scepticism about salmon farming. Whilst the Kantar survey took place in Norway, I would argue a similar outcome would emerge in the UK if the survey was conducted here.

However, it is not just the media that has contributed to the increased scepticism about salmon farming. There are ever more NGO's adopting a negative view of salmon farming. Their views can permeate throughout day to day life and influence wider opinion on salmon farming. For example, the Co-op has recently uploaded their details to the Ocean Disclosure Programme. This is intended to provide information about where the various retailer's seafood comes from. Although the entry for farmed salmon says that the fish is certified, the Coop also highlight the rating of the fish as provided by the Good Fish Guide, part of the Marine Conservation Society's activities. Salmon is listed as 'Think 3'. The Good Fish Guide says that their rating system has been developed by the MCS to help consumers choose the most environmentally sustainable fish. A rating of 3 means 'Think' there may be better rated alternatives available. Although farmed salmon is probably the Coop's best-selling fish, the question to be asked is, if these ratings are so important, why are they not stocking these better rated alternatives instead? In fact. The Coop's packs of salmon clearly state that 'All our farmed fish is responsibly sourced -meeting approved, independent standards.@ Why then do their customers need to 'think' about whether they eat salmon or not?



The trouble is that whilst the Marine Conservation Society has carved a niche for themselves in deciding whether fish are sustainable or not, they are not questioned as to what they say. In their guide, the Marine Conservation Society state that 'Salmon are farmed in open net pens in the sea. Producing fish in open systems can cause environmental impacts such as: impacts of chemical and sea lice treatment usage; nutrient and organic waste deposition; outbreaks of disease; impacts on wild salmonids by transmission of sea lice, and escapes from farms. Salmon are carnivorous fish and rely on wild capture

fisheries to produce their feed, MCS would like to see all these fish certified as sustainably managed. Due to the ongoing nature of yet unresolved environmental impacts of salmon farming MCS is advocating a halt in industry expansion until these can be resolved’.

I am not aware that the salmon farming industry has so far challenged the MCS about their ratings and their views. In the past, I have questioned some of the claims the MCS have made and like other critics, they failed to respond. The MCS make much about the use of fish in salmon feed but have consistently failed to express similar concerns about the use of fish in pet food. They know that this is a sure fire to alienate themselves from a public who are passionate about providing their pets with everything they need and that includes pet food containing fish. Like with other NGO’s, salmon farming is a much easier target.

Fortunately, consumers who do ‘think’ about the salmon they eat recognise that not only is salmon good to eat but that it is produced responsibly otherwise retailers like the Coop would not stock it. However, if the negative messages continue unchallenged the consumer response may in future be hugely different. The Norwegian Kantar TRIM survey should be the writing on the wall. Hopefully, someone will heed the message. If not, the younger people in our industry may find that their long-term career aspiration might disappear before their eyes.

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To unsubscribe or to comment - mail to  
[relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk](mailto:relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk)



**From:** CallanderMcDowell [<mailto:callandermcdowell-bounces@mailmanlists.uk>] **On Behalf Of**  
[callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk](mailto:callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk)  
**Sent:** 15 November 2019 16:28  
**To:** [callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk](mailto:callandermcdowell@mailmanlists.uk)  
**Subject:** [CallanderMcDowell] reLAKSation no 943 - fish and seafood views

# reLAKSation no 943

16<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## Eating seafood : Wildly wrong

**What a state?:** Seafood Source report that 55% of British adults would like to eat more fish and seafood. This is the finding of a new 'State of the Nation' study looking at attitudes and behaviours to seafood commissioned by trade body Seafish.

We, at Callander McDowell, would ask these 55% of adults what is stopping them? After all, fish and seafood in one form or another is available in almost every retail establishment in the UK from corner shop to out of town superstore. It is not as if fish and seafood is hard to find. If they don't want to cook it for themselves then there are hundreds of fish and chip shops not forgetting a wide range of cafes and restaurant. The UK is an island nation. We are surrounded by fish and seafood. It is there on a plate for all. There is absolutely no reason why anyone who wants to eat more fish and seafood cannot do it and cannot do it today.

The reality is that how the public responds to surveys and what they actually do are rarely the same thing. The likelihood is that these 55% of the public who say that they want to eat more fish and seafood aren't that bothered whether they do or not.

The State of the Nation report is full of lots of statistics and Seafood Source have highlighted a couple of issues which we believe merit further comment. The first is about fish and chips. The report suggests that 44% of UK adults eat fish and chips once a month or more often. However, the report found that fish and chips is increasingly being considered a treat rather than a regular meal choice. What this means is that the British public will be eating less fish and chips in future and this could further erode overall fish consumption in the UK.

The second point is the reason why people eat less fish than previously. Price is cited as a major factor with 49% of consumers wanting to see more money off offers on fish and seafood. Seafood Source also say that several consumers wanted to see more seafood sandwich and lunch options in takeaways and cafes. This is something to which we can relate as it is an issue we have raised within our industry.

Seafish, the trade body who commissioned this report, hold regular meetings such as the Common Language Group, the Aquaculture Group and the Discards Action Group, which we sometimes attend. Seafish kindly provide refreshments including lunch. This is typically four platters of sandwiches. These are meat, vegan, vegetarian and seafood. Given these are fish and seafood industry meetings, we often ask why the sandwiches should not be all seafood. After all, if people from the fish and seafood sector are not actively eating fish and seafood sandwiches, then how can we expect the public to do so?

**Love salmon:** Fish Farming Expert reports that student chef Paul McLean has won a day working in the kitchen of Michelin starred chef Martin Wishart. Mr McLean submitted the best recipe idea as part of the #LoveScottishSalmon challenge at the Scottish Chefs Conference. His recipe was baked salmon, creamed spinach and ricotta gnocchi. The dish was thought to demonstrate the versatility of the UK shoppers' most popular fish.

<image001.jpg>

What is surprising is that the prize is to visit Martin Wishart's kitchen because like many Michelin starred chef's Mr Wishart does not include salmon on his menu and yet this competition is all about this fish. Such chefs like to be more adventurous than to use the UK shoppers' most popular fish. These chefs like to be different, which is why Michel Roux's two Michelin starred Le Gavroche serves Var salmon. Rather than visit his restaurant, Paul Mclean might find it more interesting to visit Mr Wishart's Honours Brasserie because there he serves Loch Duart salmon in a champagne beurre blanc. This would give Mr McLean a better insight as to how salmon can be cooked.

The salmon industry has always aimed for a relationship with chefs, although only a minority of the public will see the results. One of the salmon industry's greatest achievements is to bring salmon to the wider public but there are still swathes of the public who have not recognised how good salmon is to eat. Chefs have only a limited ability to get their message across so perhaps a different approach away from the traditional is what is needed.

We don't expect that many of our readers watch the BBC music show Later with Jools Holland. The episode shown on November 1<sup>st</sup> (Series 54 :3) was co-hosted by the Birmingham rapper and freestyle queen Lady Leshurr.

<image002.jpg>

Aside from her music, what is interesting about lady Leshurr is that she is fanatical about salmon. She eats it every day and likes it whatever way it is cooked. She has even set up a Secret Salmon Society and more importantly has a massive reach to potential young consumers. It's not often that you hear of a younger consumer proselytising about salmon. This is something that the salmon industry should embrace.

**Not wild:** It seems that anti-salmon farming activist Don Staniford was invited to speak at the recent AGM of the River Spey Anglers Association. The aim of the invitation was to continue their scrutiny of the salmon farming industry. Apparently, last year's guest was another industry critic Corin Smith.

Of course, the recent declines in numbers of salmon caught from the Spey cannot be blamed on salmon farming because the Spey empties many miles from any farm. It might be considered that the River Spey Anglers Association would have more urgent matters to discuss than salmon farming. Last year, the Spey landed 3,178 salmon. The fishing report in the latest issue of Trout & Salmon magazine says that ghillies are anticipating a total of around 4,500 this year although we have heard anglers suggest that 2019 has been another poor year.

Instead of discussing what to do about such poor numbers from this famous river, the members of the RSAA were treated to a 82 slide presentation from Don. He has kindly loaded the whole presentation onto his website so anyone can make a judgement on his views.

<https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/spey-talk-4-nov-2019-2.pptm>

What is noticeable for anyone prepared to wade through this long presentation that although he was asked to speak to a meeting of anglers, there is nothing in his presentation about the impacts of salmon farming on wild fish. This is because his whole case against salmon farming is based on

some pictures of sick fish acquired through FOI requests and some dubious facts he has collected on his journey.

Readers of reLAKSation might remember that Mr Staniford together with SumOfUs organised a swim for salmon protest around Oban on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September, after which he went to Edinburgh to try to deliver some water samples he had collected to the Scottish Parliament. After telling security that he had toxic substances, they refused to let him deliver the samples. Instead, he wanted to send them to Marine Scotland for testing. They advised him that they didn't offer such a service. Clearly having gone to so much trouble to collect these samples, Mr Staniford would have had them independently tested and the results publicised. It's now two and half months on and not a word. Presumably, the samples were clear, or he didn't bother having them tested. It's all bluster rather than hard science.

Interestingly, Intrafish reported his week that 13,920 farmed fish were examined by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority last year. Ninety percent of these fish were salmon. No environmental toxin was found above levels set by the EU. Four samples tested positive for medicines but all four were at safe levels. No illegal substances, drugs or antibiotics were detected in any sample.

Apparently, Mr Staniford was asked about east v west coast debate. His response was that migrating salmon must pass by Orkney and Shetland where a third of Scottish salmon farms are located. This is the same response that appeared recently on the Tweedbeats website. This states that fish from the River Tweed swim north and west right into the eye of the sea lice storm from fish farms. It goes on to say that on the Tweed, they worry about the impacts of fish-eating birds and these impacts are probably over-estimated. Instead, Tweedbeats says that it is likely that the salmon farms in Orkney and Shetland do far more damage to Tweed smolts than any goosander or cormorant.

We would refer the author of the Tweedbeats website and Mr Staniford to a paper from the Rivers and Fishery Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) written in 2011. This includes the following graph:

<image003.jpg>

The original document is unfortunately no longer available on the web but RAFTS compared the catches from east and west coast rivers. They found that east coast rivers increased by 24% from 1970 to 2009 whereas west coast rivers fell by 42%. This difference is attributed to the presence of salmon farms on the west coast. However, during all of this time there were salmon farms on Orkney and Shetland and smolts from east coast rivers including the Tweed passed by them every year yet catches increased. There was never any mention of these farms having any influence on east coast rivers until catches from east coast rivers started to fall in 2010/2011. Why should they be to

blame now? We should all remember that salmon farming is the scapegoat whatever the issue.

**Roag:** Back in September, anti-salmon farming campaigner Corin Smith published a report 'An Autopsy of an All Clear' in which he draws his own conclusions about the events in Loch Roag in August 2018. This was prompted by the deaths of about 80 wild salmon in the Blackwater River after they became trapped in a sea pool by low water. The fish had developed a secondary infestation of sea lice and although the local farm had experienced problems with lice, the authorities did not connect the deaths in the Blackwater to the farm.

Mr Smith believes that the two events are linked and has written a seventy-one-page document in which he lays out his views. Mr Smith doesn't consider anything that would undermine his own narrative so there is no mention of sunburn which undoubtedly was the primary problems of the fish trapped in the Blackwater. He also refers to a 'standard distribution' that would suggest many more wild salmon would have suffered as a consequence of lice found on the farm, even though lice, like all parasites do not follow a standard distribution.

In a podcast from last year, Mr Smith admits that sea trout suffer much more from sea lice infestations than salmon, so we were very interested to see a photo in the latest issue of 'Trout and Salmon' magazine. The photo was sent to the magazine for publication on its gallery page so no doubt the angler will be delighted if we share his success with a wider audience.

<image004.jpg>

The caption states that the fish is a twelve and quarter pound sea trout from Loch Roag. This was caught alongside two other fish of 4lb and 3lb respectively. The angler's boat partner also is recorded as having landed two decent fish.

Mr Smith's colleague at Salmon & Trout Conservation, Mr Andrew Graham Stewart has repeated many times that large mature sea trout are absent within the aquaculture zone due to the presence of salmon farming. Seemingly, he might be wrong.

**Climatic:** Fish Farming Expert reports that Mowi Scotland has given details of the problems they have suffered due to warmer than average sea temperatures that occurred during 2019. This followed an announcement that an algal bloom caused fish mortality at their site off the Isle of Rum. Mowi

Scotland say that their average survival across nine sites is 76%, which is below its 90% target. The company has said that the sea temperatures are the second highest annual average recorded over the last decade and this has exacerbated the challenges to fish health.

The anti-salmon farm lobby have rubbished these claims suggesting that the sea temperatures have not changed and cite monthly average temperatures based on data from the last ten years. Of course, one high year will not dramatically affect the 10-year average value.

Now a report in the Times newspaper highlights that red deer on Rum are giving birth earlier in the year due to warming climate. Researchers believe that milder conditions are changing the breeding cycle. This is changing at a rate of about three days earlier every year.

The researchers have also revealed that genetic changes caused by natural selection are playing a part. This is the conclusion after studying 45-years of data. The study is thought to help understand how populations respond to environmental change.

Interestingly, some of the anti-salmon farm lobby has rubbished this study too. It seems that anything that doesn't support their narrative has no merit. It comes as no surprise that the only science of interest to the anti-salmon farm lobby is the science that shows that salmon farming has a negative impact. May be this is why these critics restrict their views to social media and are unwilling to speak out in public.

For further information visit  
[www.callandermcdowell.co.uk](http://www.callandermcdowell.co.uk)  
[relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk](mailto:relaks@callandermcdowell.co.uk)

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 November 2019 09:04  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** Re: RSAA AGM 2019

I'm just out for the day so will send later but if you search don stanford typepad you should get it.

I was checking his crowdfunder page and the screen shot he used is from 2018. He doesn't have an active fund in process!!!! He is unbelievable at times.

Sent from my iPhone

On 6 Nov 2019, at 08:50, Henry Angus <henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com> wrote:

Morning [REDACTED]

I've just been onto his salmonwatch website and I couldn't find the presentation, can you send me the link? Does it reference the meeting on Monday night? The RSAA filmed the whole thing as well so I presume you can even listen to it as well if you want – I'll try and get a copy of it for you, unless that's what you've seen on his website?

Regards  
Henry

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 November 2019 20:38  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** Re: RSAA AGM 2019

Henry,

[REDACTED] He has uploaded to his website and wow what a complete mishmash. I see he ended with a fund request. I would have paid him to cut out most of the slides!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Nov 2019, at 15:14, Henry Angus <henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

I did challenge Don on the east coast v west coast debate and his answer was to say that migrating salmon to and from the Atlantic still have to pass through the Orkney and Shetland islands as a 1/3 of all Scottish farms are located there! Fairly tenuous answer I think.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Cheers  
Henry

[Redacted]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 30 October 2019 19:25

**To:** Henry Angus

**Subject:** RE: RSAA AGM 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

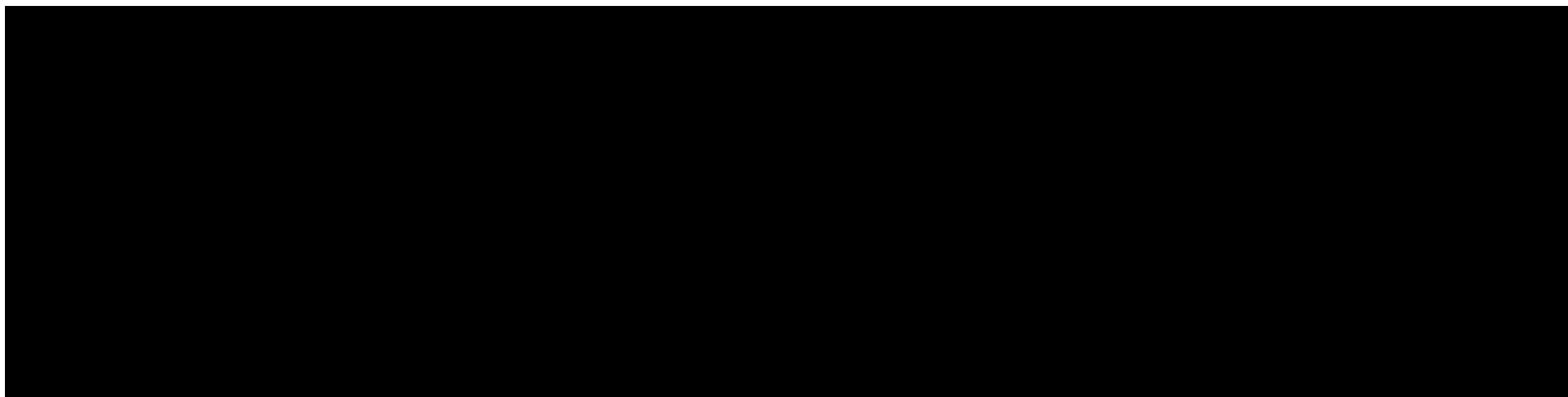
You can listen to Don and make your own mind up whether this is the voice of reason.

He will dwell on mortality [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 29 October 2019 17:53

**To:** Henry Angus

**Subject:** RE: RSAA AGM 2019

Hi Henry

I'll give it some thought but first comment sis this is an extremist who was deported from Canada for overstaying his visa and for failing to pay a fine received after he lost a defamation case. What he cant prove he makes up. His only interest is to destroy salmon farming.

I'll get back to you.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Henry Angus  
<[henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com](mailto:henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com)>

**Sent:** 29 October 2019 17:16

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: RSAA AGM 2019

[REDACTED]

I hope you are well. I am planning to attend this event and just wanted to get your opinion before I do.

[REDACTED]

The one person I don't know is Don Staniford. I'm certainly keen to hear what he's got to say and that's where I was wondering if you

could help me.

I  
guess I'll have to play it canny with Don Staniford –  
any thoughts or advice?

Cheers  
Henry

---

**From:** RSSA [<mailto:office@cmdesign.biz>]  
**Sent:** 29 October 2019 16:41  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** RSAA AGM 2019

[View this email in your browser](#)

<image001.jpg>

## INVITATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

<image001.jpg>

I refer to the above and cannot believe it has been a year since we last gathered at the Walled Garden Restaurant at Gordon Castle for our AGM.

We cordially invite you to join us once again as we celebrate all that has happened in the RSAA all year, the fish caught, the youths inspired, the campaigns fought.

We are delighted also to continue our scrutiny of the salmon farming industry with our very special guest speaker Don Staniford from Scottish Salmon Water. Don has over 15 years of experience of campaigning against Salmon feedlots all around the world and look forward to hearing what the current state of affairs of this industry is.

We also look forward to our annual “state of the nation” presentation by Roger Knight, Director of the Spey Board who will describe the year gone by including catch statistics and policies that might impact upon us all throughout the season to come.

There will be a welcome dram or glass of bubbly on arrival and will also be free tea and coffee and scones throughout the evening. The bar will also be open

evening.

So, we look forward to your company and questions for the panel at the end of the night and trust that you might join us to celebrate the year gone by.

**Yours Sincerely**

**C.J.S Mackay  
Chairman  
RSAA**

<image002.jpg>

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River Spey Anglers Association · 69 South Guildry Street · Elgin, Moray IV30 1QN · United Kingdom

<image004.jpg>

<image005.jpg>

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 November 2019 10:39  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** RE: RSAA AGM 2019

Hi Henry,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

The guest speaker is a total crackpot and I'd hope any serious minded people would see him as such. Unfortunately he's getting more an more air time which is crazy.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Henry Angus <[henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com](mailto:henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com)>  
**Sent:** 05 November 2019 10:26  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: RSAA AGM 2019

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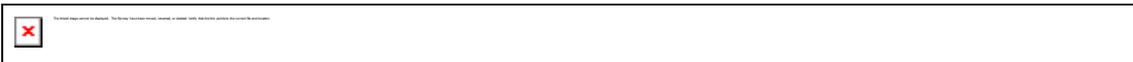
Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I actually wanted to be there to hear Don Staniford speak. Most of his ire was directed at SSC I have to be honest but he's an extremist and completely anti farmed salmon. [REDACTED]

Cheers  
Henry

**From:** RSSA [<mailto:office@cmdesign.biz>]  
**Sent:** 29 October 2019 16:41  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** RSAA AGM 2019

[View this email in your browser](#)



## INVITATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The graphic features a man in a red life jacket holding a sign that reads "SALMON FARMING IS CRIMINAL" with a Norwegian flag and a crown above it. The sign also says "Norwegian Owned". To the left, a blue box contains the text: "2019 RSAA AGM WITH SPECIAL GUESTS DON STANIFORD SCOTTISH SALMON WATCH ROGER KNIGHT DIRECTOR, SPEY FISHERY BOARD". To the right, the River Spey Anglers' Association logo is shown above the text: "7.30PM MONDAY 4TH NOV WALLED GARDEN RESTAURANT, GORDON CASTLE, FOCHABERS". Below that is the Scottish Salmon Watch logo and contact information: "WWW.RIVERSPEYANGLERS.COM INFO@RIVERSPEYANGLERS.COM 07813872818".

I refer to the above and cannot believe it has been a year since we last gathered at the Walled Garden Restaurant at Gordon Castle for our AGM.

We cordially invite you to join us once again as we celebrate all that has happened in the RSAA all

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**Yours Sincerely**

**C.J.S Mackay  
Chairman  
RSAA**





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This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses, spam and other unacceptable content.

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 04 November 2019 13:15  
**To:** Henry Angus  
**Subject:** RE: Salmon question

Hi Henry

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] the question however I would ask Dan Staniford is why have the wild fish catches on the East Coast declined significantly over recent decades. [Redacted]!

[Redacted]

Cheers

[Redacted]

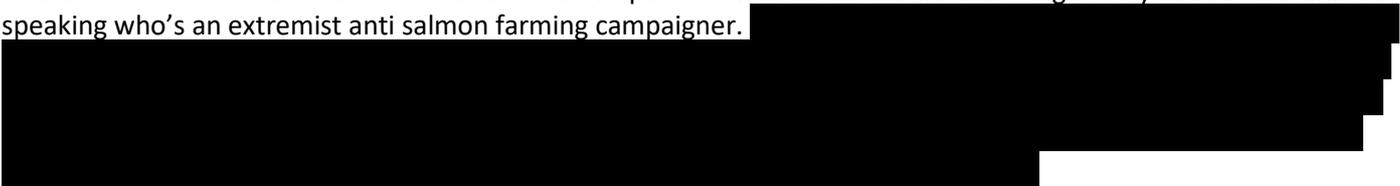
---

**From:** Henry Angus <henry.angus@associatedseafoods.com>  
**Sent:** 04 November 2019 12:39  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Salmon question

Hi [Redacted]

[Redacted]

It's a random email but tonight I'm attending the River Spey Angler's Association AGM at Gordon Castle in Fochabers. I'm an occasional fisherman but I know quite a few RSAA members and tonight they have Don Staniford speaking who's an extremist anti salmon farming campaigner.



I'm sure you still maintain a passing interest in the industry, can you help me with a challenging question for Don Staniford?

Cheers  
Henry