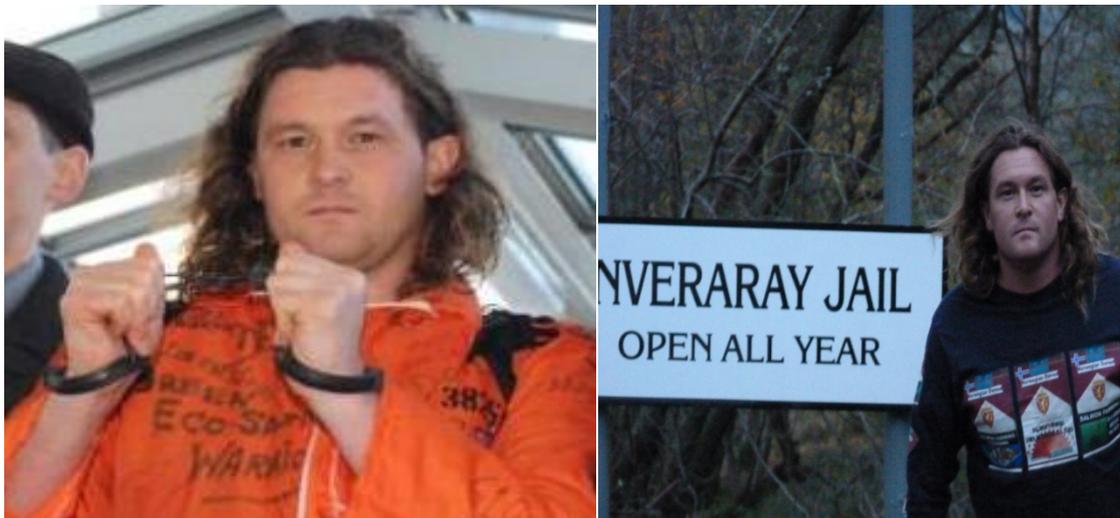


[Who's Calling Who a "Convicted Criminal"?](#) (11 April 2012)



The [Scottish Salmon Producers' Organization](#) (SSPO) – the trade body representing salmon farmers in Scotland - has been forced into an embarrassing apology following false claims that [award-winning campaigner](#) and [author Don Staniford](#) is a “convicted criminal”.



The SSPO's press officer apologized via email last week (2 April) and agreed to notify [industry members](#) of his error of judgment:

From: Ken Hughes [mailto:KHughes@scottishsalmon.co.uk]
Sent: 02 April 2012 21:25
To: 'Don Staniford'
Subject: RE: Defamation

Don

Thank you for your email. I have spoken to freelance journalist Iain Ramage to try to obtain a number to speak to you personally, but I understand that you do not have a mobile phone and are 'on the road', hence the email.

When asked by Iain to participate in a potential TV interview, I explained that it was unlikely that SSPO would take up this opportunity.

As Iain was unaware of the initial trial for defamation and the appeal, I made him aware of the initial trial and encouraged him to seek clarification as to whether or not the damages were paid because I could not recall the details of the appeal as I had not been asked about them for some time.

My intention was to ensure Iain was fully aware of the circumstances regarding the decision not to participate rather than make any comments that may cause offence, so I apologise for my remark. I suspect it came from my own interpretation from the Canadian court cases.

I had previously explained the above to Iain by email (see attached) and I have also spoken with him this evening. I have not spoken to any other journalist about this. I am happy to advise SSPO members.

Best regards

Ken

In an email to journalist Iain Ramage last month (20 March), the SSPO refused to participate in a television interview on Don Staniford's return to Scotland claiming that "the industry position will still be to not to waste time with this convicted criminal."



Media Centre

Up to date news and comment

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and comment from the Scottish salmon farming industry. For all press enquiries please contact:

Julie Edgar

e: jedgar@scottishsalmon.co.uk
t: 01738 587000 or 0789 987 5151

Ken Hughes

e: khughes@scottishsalmon.co.uk
t: 01738 587006 or 0797 417 3739



SSPO [member companies](#) Marine Harvest, Loch Duart and Wester Ross also all refused to be interviewed – despite a litany of charges which are nothing short of criminal.

YET ANOTHER RSPCA FREEDOM FOOD SALMON FARM INFESTED WITH LICE

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Monday 21 October 2014
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Award-winning fish farm in pollution row
EXCLUSIVE: BY ROSE EDWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDITOR
30 Oct 2014

RSPCA FREEDOM FOOD SALMON FARM INFESTED WITH LICE

A HIGHLAND salmon farm that was granted £630,000 of taxpayers' money, given an environmental prize and labelled as a "Freedom Food" producer has been accused of lice infestation and pollution that breach official guidelines.

Wester Ross Fisheries near Ullapool is under investigation by Government and voluntary agencies following complaints from a local landowner, Jenny Scobie. She says sea lice from caged salmon are contaminating wild fish on the River Ullapool, which flows through her land on the Rhidorroch Estate.

The SSPO is not shy to trumpet all their ‘[awards](#)’ and boasts that it is a “[trusted source of information](#)”.

Scottish Salmon
SSPO

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Members

All member companies participate in the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture

SSPO Membership comprises fish farming companies involved in the freshwater and marine stages of salmon production and all member companies are required to participate in the [Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture \(CoGP\)](#).

Awards

SSPO members have scooped several national awards recently, including [Scottish Sea Farms Ltd](#), sole supplier of Lochmuir™ Salmon to Marks & Spencer which was given double recognition in M&S' annual Plan A awards ceremony at the Royal Highland Show. The company's Marine Farm Manager at Loch Spelve, Geoff Kidd, was a finalist the BBC Farming Today "Farmer of the Year" category for the Food Awards. [Grieg Seafood Hjalmland UK Ltd](#) won the 'New Business Award' in the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards in 2010 and "Best Fish and Seafood Product" for its Wild Waters smoked and marinated salmon range at both the 2010 and 2011 Scotland Food & Drink Excellence Awards. [Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd](#) were winners of the "Partnerships for Success" Award at the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards 2010.

In 2011, [Loch Duart](#) was winner of the seafood product line in the 2011 Seafood Prix d'Elite new products competition in Brussels. The line features three smoked salmon products made with Loch Duart's Scottish salmon.

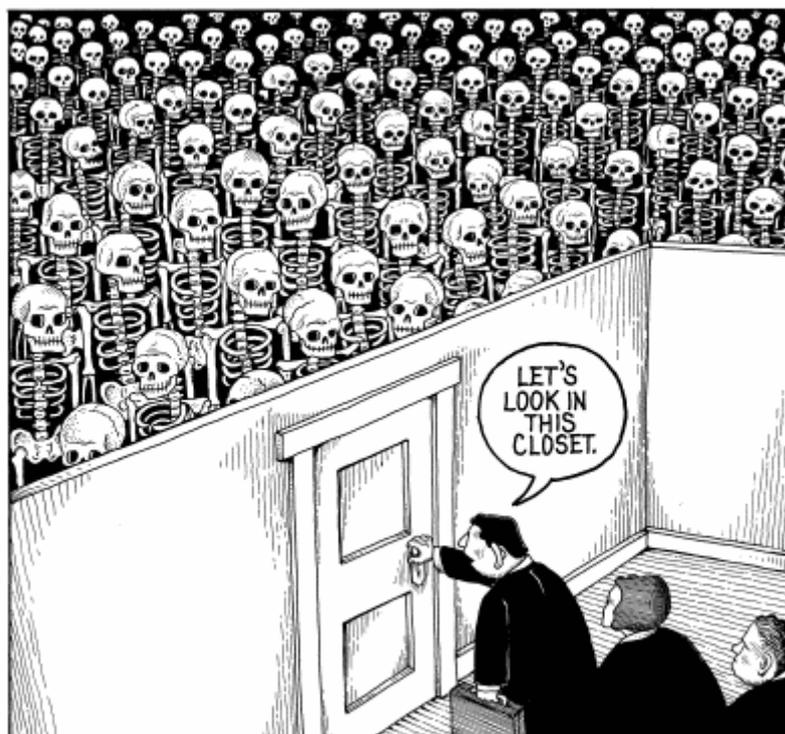
At the [Crown Estate Marine Aquaculture Awards](#) on June 9th 2014, SSPO members were prominent among the winners. Scottish Sea Farms won the award for Best Finfish Farm in Scotland and also for best Farm Manager. Wester Ross Fisheries were winners in the Stewardship category; Hjalmland took the Business Development Award and the Scottish Salmon Company were crowned Best Marine Aquaculture Company. Marine Harvest were also rewarded, taking the prize for Innovation for their contribution to advancements in fish health.

Just today (11 April), Marine Harvest were extolling the virtues of Scottish farmed salmon with The Daily Record reporting on how “[Scots Salmon Farmers Reveal the Secrets of Their Booming Success Story](#)”.

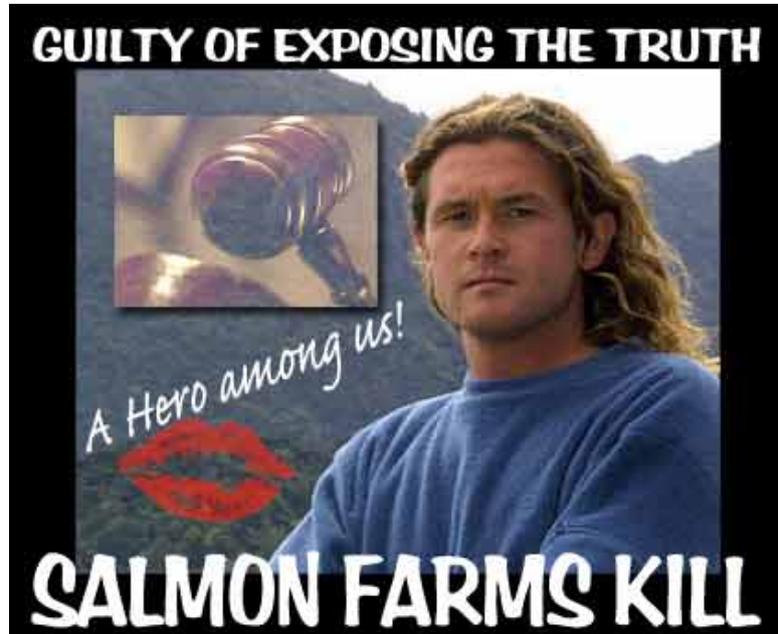


“The perception is of a very high quality product,” claimed Steve Bracken, business support manager for Marine Harvest Scotland. “If we could be in the same league as something as iconic as Scotch whisky, I’d be absolutely delighted. We have this great reputation in - Scotland for top quality products, such as shellfish and whisky, and now salmon is very much part of the group.”

Sadly, you’d have to be blind drunk to honestly believe that Scottish salmon farming is at the top of the league for anything other than environmental pollution. A forensic inspection of the SSPO’s ‘Room 101’ reveals criminal charges, violations, prosecutions and water pollution offences rattling like skeletons in the closet (see below for specific details).



In refusing to be interviewed (and scuppering the news report in the process), the SSPO cited the civil court case involving Don Staniford and Creative Salmon. “Please find attached details of the court case when activist Don Staniford was convicted of defamation,” wrote their press officer Mr. Hughes. “He was found guilty of making defamatory statements in January 2007 about a salmon farming company in Canada.”



Yet, the SSPO failed to mention that Don Staniford won on appeal in the Supreme Court of British Columbia in 2009 overturning the [2007 judgment](#). Moreover, Creative Salmon were denied leave of appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada later in 2009 (read the court documents online [here](#) and [here](#)). Nor was the case a criminal case.



The apology from the SSPO followed an email sent by Don Staniford on 31 March threatening legal action:

From: Don Staniford [<mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>]

Sent: 31 March 2012 07:11

To: 'khughes@scottishsalmon.co.uk'

Cc: 'enquiries@scottishsalmon.co.uk'; 'jedgar@scottishsalmon.co.uk'; 'slandsburgh@scottishsalmon.co.uk'

Subject: Defamation

Next

Last

Ken,

It has come to my attention from a journalist that you recently defamed me referring to me as a "convicted criminal".

As you are no doubt aware, the 2007 case you refer to involving Creative Salmon was overturned on appeal in 2009 and the company was refused leave of appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. And in any case it was not a criminal case.

To refer to me as a "convicted criminal" to a member of the press is thoroughly distasteful and unprofessional – especially when you, as a press officer for the Scottish Salmon Producers Organization, represent salmon farmers across Scotland.

I do not want to engage any further in litigation with the SSPO but am prepared to strongly defend my reputation. Hence, could you please provide an apology to myself, retraction of your defamatory comments to any member of the press you have made the defamatory comments to and notification to all the members of the SSPO?

As you know, I am currently in Scotland and will be working in Europe for the foreseeable future so I think it is important to clarify this issue. If you could do so by the end of the day on Monday (2nd April) it would be much appreciated and this matter need not proceed any further.

Many thanks.

Don

This is not the first time that the Scottish salmon farming industry has been caught [spinning farmed salmon](#) or smearing Staniford. In 2007, Creative Salmon was even "[honoured](#)" for suing Staniford at the 'Fit for the Future Awards' in Edinburgh (shortlisted in the 'Contribution to Aquaculture Category' category). "I applaud Creative Salmon for taking the stance that it has, as during Don Staniford's time working for the Salmon Farm Protest Group in Scotland, I believe there were occasions when the industry felt that it was bedeviled by often ill-informed criticism which did not serve to advance debate," said Sid Patten, chief executive of the SSPO.

Read more via '[Creative Salmon Honoured for Suing Staniford](#)'

"This ruling could set a precedent," continued the former SSPO boss in an interview with [Fish Farmer magazine](#). "Critics who make exaggerated and unsubstantiated claims about the industry will now, more than ever, be aware of the need to be accountable."

However, it is the Scottish salmon farming industry which needs to be held to account – and which ought to be investigated for exaggerated and unsubstantiated claims as well as [false advertising](#).

“This is not the first time Scottish salmon farmers have been caught telling porkies,” said Don Staniford. “Such is the level of deceit surrounding Scottish salmon farms that drivers on the West Coast of Scotland are even warned about flying pigs.”



Staniford [toured](#) around Scotland last month including salmon farms owned by SSPO member companies. Norwegian companies control over half of Scotland’s salmon farming production with [Marine Harvest](#) (owned by Norway’s richest man – so-called ‘[Viking Raider](#)’ John Fredriksen) leading the way followed by [Scottish Sea Farms](#) (owned by the Norwegian giants [Leroy and Salmar](#)) and [Hjaltland](#) (owned by [Grieg](#)).



Speaking to the Nairnshire Telegraph (3 April) he said: "I'm meeting local communities and opponents of salmon farms and opening a can of worms."

The Nairnshire Telegraph, April 3, 2012

Scourge of the fish farms is heading north

An eco warrior visiting Nairn has warned the fish-farming industry to expect a wave of protests in the coming months.

Former Friends of the Earth spokesman Don Staniford was speaking on the latest leg of a global crusade to expose alleged environmental risks associated with salmon farms.

Campaigners from the UK and Norway - which owns most of the sector - are planning a demonstration and series of public meetings in the Highlands to highlight their concerns.

Salmon farmers have consistently refuted criticism of their business amid long running claims about its impact on human and marine life and alleged effects on the migration of wild stocks.

Mr Staniford, who stopped off for breakfast in Nairn last week, is however persisting with allegations that have twice landed him in the Canadian courts where he has faced writs for defamation.

The first case, stemming from comments he made in 2005, was quashed. The other ended a few weeks ago and he awaits the verdict.

The Liverpool-born campaigner has been a thorn in the side of the aquaculture sector for many years.

He has spent the past week gauging opinion on the northwest coast and delivered a petition from Canadian counterparts, telling Wester Ross-based Loch Duart Ltd that there is considerable opposition in Nova Scotia to its plans for expansion there.

Mr Staniford told the Nairnshire: "I'm meeting local communities and opponents of salmon farms and I intend opening a can of worms."

"The Green Warriors of Norway are spearheading a campaign that's going global.

"We're going to establish the 'Green Warriors of the World' and we'll focus on where salmon is farmed. The big four are Chile, Norway, Canada and Scotland."

He continued: "The industry wants to expand in Norway, but is limited by Norwegian Government regulation. So they're seeking to expand in Scotland, Ireland and eastern Canada. That's where the new protests will come."

He described Nairn as "a microcosm of what's happened over the past 100 years, as the fishing industry shifted from fishing to farming".

Mr Staniford declared: "The letter I've delivered is a crystal clear message from the people of Canada that the Loch Duart expansion is not welcome because of the same concerns elsewhere - the waste impacts, the displacement of the wild fishery including lobsters and shellfish.

"The use of chemicals is a big issue in Canada where one company was caught using a banned substance which killed lobsters in an area with a high investment in lobsters, so the fishermen are very concerned about the impact of expansion."

Loch Duart has not responded to the letter despite several approaches by the Nairnshire.

Auldearn-based fish-farmer Gilpin Bradley, who operates Wester Ross Fisheries declined to comment.

Asked if consumers should have any concern about Scottish farmed salmon, a spokeswoman for the Food Standards Agency said: "Scottish farmed fish must be produced in compliance with all relevant EU and UK food law and, where this is the case, the FSA would have no food safety concerns."



Don Staniford and Nairn's iconic Fisherwoman

Read more via '[Scourge of the Fish Farms is Heading North](#)'

Staniford was [deported](#) from Canada at the end of February following a defamation case Vs. the Norwegian Government-owned corporation [Cermaq](#) (who sold their Scottish operations to the Polish company [Morpol](#) in 2010). [The Canadian Press](#) reported (5 March): "Staniford began his journey back to Europe in the same over-the-top theatrical style that inflamed his targets: He arrived at Vancouver International Airport clad in an orange Guantanamo Bay-like jump suit and fake, rubber chains."



Since 2005, British-born activist Don Staniford has been a divisive force in British Columbia's ongoing salmon farming debate. (CP)

Read more via [‘Anti-Fish Farm Activist Deported’](#) and [‘Don Staniford: Salmon Farming Critic Removed from Canada’](#)

The global salmon farming industry’s clumsy attempts to [‘criminalize’](#) Staniford backfired badly as the ‘Salmon Farming Kills’ campaign went [viral](#).

Don Staniford Salmon Farming

Page: 1

Green Activist Ejected From Canada In Guantanamo Jumpsuit

CP | Keven Drews, The Canadian Press | Posted 03.05.2012

Read More: [Don Staniford](#), [Don Staniford Fish](#), [Don Staniford Salmon](#), [Don Staniford Canada Deported](#), [Don Staniford Deported](#), [Don Staniford Fish Farming](#), [Don Staniford Norway](#), [Don Staniford Canada Ejected](#), [Don Staniford Canada](#), [Don Staniford Ejected](#), [Don Staniford Salmon Farming](#), [Canada Politics News](#)

VANCOUVER - Only days after he was removed from Canada for overstaying a visitor's permit, a controversial salmon-farming critic says he has settled i...

[Read Whole Story](#)



If the Norwegian-owned industry were trying to silence Staniford they succeeded only in opening the doors in Europe where the activist is now working for the [Green Warriors](#) focussing on the salmon farming industry in Norway, Scotland and Ireland.



Read more via [‘So Long & Thanks for All the Fish: Goodbye Canada, Hello Norway’](#)

The stench coming from the Scottish salmon farming industry certainly leaves a bad taste in the mouth. To paraphrase Shakespeare in his play 'Hamlet': Something is [rotten](#) in the state of Scotland.



Last week (3 April) salmon cages in Shetland “[went missing](#)” (yet again) – following the farcical situation over the festive period when officials chased around like the Keystone Cops trying to catch [escaped salmon cages](#).

Salmon on the Lam: Fish Farms Suffering from a Spate of Escapes

It's estimated that nearly 3 million salmon escape from farms worldwide each year.

By Clare Leschin-Hoar January 6, 2012 Comment



Read more via ‘[Salmon on the Lam: Fish Farms Suffering from a Spate of Escapes](#)’

Writing in [The Scotsman](#) (2 April), Alastair Robertson lambasted the Scottish salmon farming industry:

“The farms generate huge quantities of lice which eat the passing wild salmon – an EU protected species. They also affect local sea trout. Yet under present agreements we, the

public, are not allowed to know how bad infestations are in our fish farms. It all comes under the bogus heading of “commercial confidentiality”.



Read more via [‘The Farms Generate Huge Quantities of Sea Lice Which Eat the Passing Wild Salmon’](#)

Writing in [The Scotsman](#) last month (26 March), Angus Pirie also fired a broadside against the Scottish salmon farming industry when he said:

“Their commercial activities have severely negative consequences for the “public” wider environment, including fish escapes, the impact on wild juvenile salmon and sea trout, degrading of the seabed and so on. Marine Scotland and the Scottish Government have legal responsibilities to protect the wider environment and ensure sustainable development. No other comparable food production industry has such an adverse effect on the wider environment as salmon farming – and that is why it urgently needs credible regulation.”



Loch Duart – who market themselves as the ‘[Sustainable Salmon Company](#)’ - was recently exposed as a company guilty of allowing multiple escapes and using a cocktail of toxic chemicals to combat sea lice infestation problems.



Read more via ‘[Loch Duart’s ‘Sustainable Salmon’ Scam Exposed](#)’

Nevertheless, Scottish salmon farming companies are gearing up for expansion with 86% of companies planning increases in production. “We must work with government to maintain the high levels of confidence in our industry,” blustered the SSPO’s chief executive Scott Landsburgh in [The Scotsman](#) (5 April). BBC News (5 April) claimed that “confidence in the sector continued to grow” (read more via ‘[Confidence ‘rising’ in Scottish Salmon Farming Sector](#)’).



Meanwhile, it can be predicted with 100% confidence that further expansion will inevitably lead to pollution problems. Salmon farmers in Scotland are certainly no strangers to violating environmental, health and safety laws and regulations.



A damning report published by [The Sunday Herald](#) in August 2011 revealed that over 50 of Scotland's fish farms were classified by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) as "poor" (search [online here](#)). According to Rob Edwards:

"Scotland's 1 billion salmon farming industry also came out badly, with 51 fish farms classed as poor in 2010. Many were accused of polluting the seabed with waste. SEPA's assessment was described as a damning indictment of the fish farming industry by Paul Knight, the chief executive of the Salmon & Trout Association, which campaigns to protect wild fish. We are constantly assured by the industry's representatives that Scotland's salmon farmers operate to the highest environmental standards, he said. But SEPA's official report gives the lie to this contention."

Read more via '[The Companies on Scotland's Dirty List](#)'

In April 2011, a shocking report from the [Salmon & Trout Association](#) revealed dozens of breaches by salmon farms in Scotland. [BBC News](#) reported:

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Scotland Politics Scotland Business Edinburgh, Fife & East Glasgow & West Highlands & Islands NE, C

7 April 2011 Last updated at 15:41

Inspections reveal 'sea lice breaches' in salmon farms

Official inspections of Scottish salmon farms have raised concerns over high levels of sea lice and the proper containment of fish, a report claims.

The Scottish government Fish Health Inspectorate reports were obtained by the Salmon and Trout Association.

The anglers' body said there were 68 instances of fish farms having sea lice above recommended threshold levels.

The reports relate to inspections of Scottish salmon farms over the past two years

“Guy Linley-Adams, who compiled the [dossier](#) and is solicitor to the association's aquaculture campaign, said the information “gives the lie to the bland reassurances we are given by the salmon farming industry that the industry is properly regulated”. He added: “The devil is in the detail - now we have seen at least some of that detail and it is not pretty, revealing the true extent of the threat to wild fish conservation from sea lice emanating from Scottish salmon farms.”

Read more via [‘Salmon & Trout Association Expose the Sham of Salmon Farming’](#)



Paul Knight, chief executive of the association, added: “This dossier lays bare the reality of what is happening on Scotland's marine fish farms. The breaches of the industry's own Code of Good Practice are so widespread as to call into question the code's basic credibility.”

Read more via [‘Inspections Reveal ‘Sea Lice Breaches’ in Salmon Farms’](#)

So serious is the problem in Scotland that [The New York Times](#) reported last year that:

“Current levels of salmon farming are already harming wild stocks and that any increase could prove disastrous. Andrew Flitcroft, editor of the British magazine Trout & Salmon, wrote in an op-ed article last month in the British Sunday newspaper [The Observer](#) that any

contemplation of increased salmon production was “recklessly irresponsible,” unless existing problems with conditions were improved.

“The implications of increasing significantly, let alone doubling, farmed salmon production in Scotland are terrifying,” Mr. Flitcroft wrote. In particular, the spread of sea lice, parasites that breed in the marine cages of farmed salmon, can contaminate wild salmon as they migrate along routes dotted with marine cages. The wild salmon are ill-equipped to resist the lice. “The fish are literally eaten alive,” Mr. Flitcroft wrote. “Make no mistake — there is no such thing as ‘sustainable’ farmed salmon, no matter what the evocative packaging on the supermarket shelves tries to convey.”

Read more via [‘An Opportunity, and Peril, for Scotland's Salmon Farmers’](#)

The brazenly misleading advertising of Scottish farmed salmon is no more apparent than in the M&S’s [‘Lochmuir’](#) brand – Lochmuir is a fictional construct and figment of the imagination of advertisers (rather like the industry’s ‘sustainability’ claims).

Lochmuir salmon? It doesn't exist: How supermarkets invent places and farms to trick shoppers into buying premium food

By AMY OLIVER

UPDATED: 00:32, 15 February 2012

Comments (130) | Share +1 Tweet 0

Salmon from 'Lochmuir' may sound extra special.

But don't go looking for the farm on the map - it doesn't actually exist.

Marks & Spencer, which sells 11,000 tonnes of 'Lochmuir' salmon a year, invented the location as part of branding. The fish actually comes from farms all over Scotland.

Similarly, the supermarket's 'Oakham' chickens are not from a farm in Rutland, but from farms across Anglia, Scotland and Northern Ireland, according to a Which? investigation.



Read more via [‘Lochmuir salmon? It doesn't exist: How supermarkets invent places and farms to trick shoppers into buying premium food’](#)

The Scottish salmon farming industry have waged a public relations war for decades with the SSPO's predecessor, Scottish Quality Salmon, even winning a [PR award](#) following the 2004 paper published in [Science](#) which revealed that farmed salmon was contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals. [Fish Update](#) reported in 2005 that the industry's 'Scottish Quality Salmon: The Facts' campaign "beat off stiff competition from all over the globe to win the Recovery From Crisis category in the 2005 International Public Relations Association's Golden World Awards".

Read more via '[Spinning Farmed Salmon: Scottish Quality Salmon's PR and Lobbying](#)'

Not everyone is so easily duped. Andrew Flitcroft (editor of the British magazine Trout & Salmon) writing in [The Observer](#) newspaper last month viewed Scottish salmon farming as an "environmental calamity" and Scotland as a battleground where there is a "war between the salmon farming industry on the one hand and those trying to protect wild salmon and sea trout runs on the other."

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



BEFORE



AFTER

S&TA Newsletter/November 1998

Read more via '[You're so Wrong about Salmon, Mr Salmond](#)'

In the 'war on sea lice' the Scottish salmon farming industry is fighting a losing battle as resistance renders many of the [chemicals designed to kill](#) sea lice useless. Sadly, Scottish salmon farmers are resorting to more and more toxic chemicals to combat sea lice infestation. According to last year's BBC Scotland investigation – '[Salmon: A Dirty War](#)': "Salmon farming is a major Scottish industry, but the battle over its environmental impact is becoming more bitter every day."



[BBC News](#) reported that “the level of chemicals used by fish farmers to treat sea lice infestations has risen dramatically”.



28 January 2011 Last updated at 01:13

363 [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [p](#)

Sharp rise reported in Scots fish lice chemical

The level of chemicals used by fish farmers to treat sea lice infestations has risen dramatically, a BBC Scotland investigation has learned.

Scottish government figures showed that over the past five years, the industry used a broader range of chemicals and more of them.

Campaigners claim the figures are evidence the natural parasite is becoming resistant to the treatments.



Salmon farmers have been using chemicals to control the level of sea lice

Andrew Wallace, from the Association of Salmon Boards, told [BBC News](#) that: “the numbers of lice coming off of these farms is horrendous at times.”

More background on toxic chemicals via ‘[Silent Spring of the Sea](#)’ and ‘[Toxic Toilets Revealed](#)’

Salmon farmers in Scotland are not merely waging war on sea lice but there is a full frontal assault on the environment. Scotland’s environmental agency – the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) – has struggled to cope but even this toothless watchdog (some would say [lapdog](#)) has successfully prosecuted salmon farmers for an orgy of offences under the Control of Pollution Act.

The following prosecutions in Scotland were compiled by the [Pure Salmon Campaign](#) and presented publicly during the Seafood Summit and WWF’s Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue in Barcelona in 2008:

Water Pollution Prosecutions in Scotland, 2005 to 2007

Source: SEPA

- **Marine Harvest Scotland (12th Dec 2007)** - combination of breaching their water use licence, an unauthorised discharge of effluent to a river, depositing sludge on land and burning waste. Fined £25,000.
- **Lakeland Marine Farm (27th April 2006)** - cause or knowingly permit a trade effluent namely effluent containing **uneaten fish food and fish faeces** to be discharged to controlled waters by way of the nets of said fish farm cages...Fined £1,000.
- **Kames Fish Farming (12th Jan 2006)** - **poisonous/noxious/polluting matter** - fish faeces & uneaten fish feed, to Loch Lochy, by way of nets of fish farm cages...Fined £8,000.
- **Marine Harvest Scotland (27th July 2005)** - cause or knowingly permit **poisonous, noxious or polluting matter** or any solid waste matter namely fish viscera, blood and congealed fat deposits, scum & grease to the River Lochy...Fined £4,000.
- **Hoganess Salmon (6th July 2005)** - s30F(1) CoPA - **Emamectin Benzoate** to the Gruting Voe by way of administering to salmon in fish cages...Fined £2,000.
- **Wester Sound Salmon (6th July 2005)** - 2 charges under s30F(1) - **Emamectin Benzoate** to the Vaila Sound...Fined £2,000.
- **Pan Fish Scotland (17th February 2005)** - causing or knowingly permitting **diesel oil** to enter Loch Torridon)...Fined£10,000.

Read more via ‘[Gaining Transparency: Using the FOI Process to Track Down Data on Fish Farming](#)’

Gaining Transparency:



Using the FOIA Process to Track Down Data on the Impacts of Fish Farming

“From time to time, fish farming multinationals run afoul of government regulations and are slapped with various financial penalties,” wrote Sarah Cox in a [report](#) published in 2004 by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation in British Columbia, Canada.

Track record: regulatory compliance

From time to time, fish farming multinationals run afoul of government regulations and are slapped with various financial penalties. In British Columbia, out-of-court fines typically range from \$115 to \$1,000, and it appears that, for salmon farming companies, these fines are a small cost of doing business. The Big Five are also involved in various legal and jurisdictional disputes as they try to extend their influence worldwide. In some cases, multinationals have been charged with significant breaches of the law.

Fines in B.C. and worldwide

Four of the five multinationals that dominate B.C.’s salmon farming industry received violation tickets or warning letters in 2002: the Omega Salmon Group (Pan Fish) EWOS Aquaculture (Cermaq), Nutreco, and Connors Bros (Heritage). Stolt was the only one of the five that did not receive a warning or violation ticket. Omega received the most tickets – five – for contravening provisions of the provincial fisheries act. Each Omega ticket carried a \$115 fine. Nutreco received the highest ticket – \$173 for failing to keep drug records – while Cermaq and Heritage were given more warning letters – six and seven, respectively – than other companies. Cermaq received warning letters for failing to keep drug records, while Heritage was sent warning letters for failing to comply with the conditions of its license under the provincial fisheries act.¹⁰¹

¹⁰¹ B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

In 2003, Nutreco received more warning letters and violation tickets than any other salmon farming company – five violation tickets of \$115 each for contravening fisheries act regulations.

EWOS Canada, a Cermaq subsidiary that manufactures fish feed pellets in Surrey, B.C., was convicted three times in six years for fish oil spills in B.C. The company was fined a total of \$90,000.

In 2003, EWOS/PNA pleaded guilty to 11 charges and was fined a total of \$3,110 for regulatory violations.

Read more via [‘Diminishing Returns: An Investigation into the Five Multinational Corporations That Control British Columbia’s Salmon Farming Industry’](#)

When it comes to Scotland it seems like salmon farming companies are running afoul of regulations all the time. A report – ‘Scottish Farmed Salmon Exposed’ - compiled by the Pure Salmon Campaign in 2008 opened the can of worms of Scottish salmon farming.

Scottish Salmon Farming Environmental Impacts



A Summary of Data Provided by Scottish Government Agencies to the Pure Salmon Campaign via FOI Requests, 2006 and 2007

Scottish salmon farming companies, for example, routinely breach the consented amount of biomass (farmed salmon stock) permitted on the farm – with Marine Harvest the biggest culprits in 2005.

Breaches of Discharge Consent 2005

Companies that reported exceeding consented biomass (monthly)

Marine Harvest, Pan Fish, Fjord, Stolt reported 64% of exceedances

Rank	Company	# Consented Biomass Exceedances in 2005	% of Total Exceedances
1	Marine Harvest	22	24
2	Pan Fish	18	20
3	Fjord Seafood	9	10
3	Stolt SeaFarms	9	10
4	Mainstream	8	9
5	Atlantic West	5	6
5	North Atlantic-Westside	5	6
6	Lakeland	4	4
7	MJM Salmon	3	3
8	Collafirth	2	2
8	Orkney SeaFarms	2	2
9	Glendale Salmon	1	1
9	Kames	1	1
9	Scottish SeaFarms	1	1
	TOTAL	90	

Salmon farms reported 500 breaches of pollution limits since 2003

More background via [‘Farmed Salmon Exposed: Global Statistics’](#)

According to information obtained from SEPA, prosecutions under the Control of Pollution Agct (CoPA) between 1998 and 2006 totalled £69,000 and included:

Lakeland Marine Farm (April 2006) - cause or knowingly permit a trade effluent namely effluent containing uneaten fish food and fish faeces to be discharged to controlled waters by way of the nets of said fish farm cages, having caused or knowingly permitted the total biomass contained in the south cage group to exceed the maximum biomass permitted for said cage group in terms of the consent issued by SEPA on 11 August 2004, namely 750 tonnes: CONTRARY to the Control of Pollution Act 1974, Section 30F(3). Fined £1,000.

Kames Fish Farming (January 2006) - poisonous/noxious/polluting matter - fish faeces & uneaten fish feed, to Loch Lochy, by way of nets of fish farm cages. Alternative charges under s30F(1) & (3) CoPA. Fined £8,000.

Marine Harvest Scotland (July 2005) - cause or knowingly permit poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter namely fish viscera, blood and congealed fat deposits, scum & grease to the River Lochy contra s30F(1) CoPA 1974. Fined £4,000.

Water Pollution Incidents in Scotland



Marine Harvest pollution in the River Lochy for which it was fined £ 4,000.

Hogness Salmon (July 2005) - s30F(1) CoPA - Emamectin Benzoate to the Gruting Voe by way of administering to salmon in fish cages. Fined £2,000.

Wester Sound Salmon (July 2005) - 2 charges under s30F(1) - Emamectin Benzoate to the Vaila Sound, by administering to salmon in cages at Burrastow and Cloudin sites. Fined £2,000.

Pan Fish Scotland (February 2005) - causing or knowingly permitting diesel oil to enter Loch Torridon by way of a leak from compressor with no boom, bund, drip tray or impermeable base in place & no procedure in place for dealing with diesel spills- contra s30F(1) CoPA. Fined £10,000.

Wester Ross Salmon Hatcheries (August 2004) - effluent from fish farm cages discharged to Loch Tollaidh contra s30F(3) CoPA, alternatively s30F(1). Fined £12,000.

Scottish Sea Farms (September 2003) - causing or knowingly permitting trade effluent, namely effluent arising from Ardtornish Fish hatchery, to be discharged into the River Rannoch at Ardtornish, Morvern, Argyll by way of a pipe leading from a discharge treatment drum - contra s30F(3) CoPA 19. Fined £1,000.

WISCO Processing (June 2003) - contravention of s30F(1) CoPA 1974 - sodium hypochlorite solution to controlled waters - the Glen River, Stornoway. Fined £8,000.

Scottish Sea Farms (December 2002) - Contra s30F(1) CoPA 1974 - diesel oil to Loch Kishorn. Fined £3,000.

Kames Fish Farming (February 2002) - fish-processing wastes to the Eas 'a Chaorainn, also known as the Kames Burn, in contravention of section 30F(1) or (3) CoPA 1974. Fined £5,000.

Setter Ness Salmon (January 2002) - Two charges of contravening section 30F(1) CoPA 1974 - ivermectin from fish cages to controlled waters. Fined £3,000.

Corrie Mhor Salmon (February 2001) - Trade effluent from fish tanks/grader to controlled waters in contravention of 30F(3) CoPA 1974. Fined £3,000.

Aquascot Group (October 2000) - Contravention of Section 30F(1) CoPA 1974 - unconsented trade effluent from fish cages to controlled waters. Fined £500.

Marine Harvest Scotland (August 2000) - Section 30F(3) CoPA 1974 - trade effluent (fish processing effluent) to controlled waters. Admonition.

Marine Harvest Scotland (June 2000) - Contravention of section 30F(3) CoPA 1974 - trade effluent from a fish farm in the form of fish fat and fish oils to controlled waters. Fined £500.

Shetland Intensive Smolts (May 2000) - section 30F(3) COPA trade (fish hatchery) effluent to controlled waters. Fined £3,000.

Aquascot Group (December 1999) - section 30F(1) or 30F(3) COPA 74 - discharge of fish feed/faeces to Inner Loch Clash in contravention of consent. Fined £2,500.

Wadbister Offshore (April 1998) - section 30F(3) COPA. Illegal use of Cypermethrin. Fined £1,000.

EWOS (February 1998) - Discharge of trade effluent (heavy fuel oil) from fish food factory to controlled waters contrary to Section 30F(3) COPA 1974 (as amended). Fined £2,000.

EWOS (undated) - section 30F(3) COPA - trade effluent from fish food factory to controlled waters. Fined £500.

As [EWOS](#) (a subsidiary of Cermaq) proclaim in their advertising campaign: knowledge makes the difference.



Read more via '[Scottish "Quality" Salmon Scam](#)'

Information on further prosecutions since 2006 has been requested via a Freedom of Information request but is known to include the following incidents (and criminal charges):

West Minch Salmon (November 2011) – guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Fined £70,000.

[Hebrides News](#) reported: “A Western Isles fish farming company faces a criminal charge after a man drowned when an allegedly overloaded boat capsized on an island loch. West Minch Salmon is due to appear in court charged with failing to ensure the safety of its employees including Peter Kenneth Duce who died when the dingy overturned on Loch na Creige at Soval in South Lewis on 26th February 2008.”

Hebrides News

Salmon farmer fined after worker drowns

9/11/11



West Minch Salmon has been fined £70,000 after a fish farm worker drowned when an overloaded boat was swamped by a wave.

Peter Kenneth Duce, 61, died when the dingy overturned and sunk on Loch na Creige at Soval in South Lewis on 26th February 2008.

Read more via [‘Salmon Farmer Fined After Worker Drowns’](#)

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that risk assessments prepared by West Minch Salmon Ltd for workers travelling to and from the fish cages were not suitable or sufficient and that the company had failed to provide operating instructions for safe use of the boat used for the task. The court heard that the boat had been overloaded on a regular basis as the manufacturer's recommendation was that it should carry a maximum of three people.

After the hearing, the Health & Safety Executive said: “If West Minch Salmon Ltd had carried out a sufficient risk assessment and either provided a higher capacity boat or provided

and implemented a safe procedure for using the boat that was provided to travel to and from the fish cages in the loch, then this incident would not have happened.”

Read more via ‘[Scottish Salmon Farming Company Fined After Worker Drowns](#)’

Scottish Sea Farms (July 2011) - guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 following the death of two fish farm workers on a barge moored at a salmon farm on Loch Creran, Argyll & Bute. Fined £600,000.

Commenting at the conclusion of the case the Health & Safety Executive said: “The deaths in this case should have been avoided - the risks should have been identified and a clear and safe system of work prepared.”

The image shows a screenshot of the BBC News Glasgow & West Scotland website. At the top, there is a red navigation bar with the BBC logo and links for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, and Radio. Below this is a large red banner with the text 'NEWS GLASGOW & WEST SCOTLAND'. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, World, UK, England, N. Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Business, Politics, Health, Education, and Sci/Envir. A third navigation bar below that lists regional links: Scotland Politics, Scotland Business, Edinburgh, Fife & East, Glasgow & West, Highlands & Islands, and NE, O. At the bottom left of the screenshot, it says '4 July 2011 Last updated at 17:27'. At the bottom right, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email, along with a 'Share' button.

Firms fined £640,000 over Loch Creran barge deaths

Two companies have been fined a total of £640,000 over the deaths of two men on a fish farm barge in Argyll.

Maarten Pieter Den Heijer, 30, and 45-year-old Robert MacDonald died on Loch Creran, near Oban, in May 2009.

Both men lost consciousness in a low oxygen environment below deck while trying to help a colleague who had passed out but survived.



Maarten Den Heijer and Robert MacDonald died on the barge

Read more via ‘[Companies Fined £640,000 for Double Fish Farm Deaths](#)’

Following an appeal by the companies concerned the £600,000 fine for Scottish Sea Farms was subsequently reduced to [£333,335](#) – it appears the life of a salmon farm worker has been devalued in line with the Scottish salmon farming economy.

Hoganess Salmon (January 2011) – BBC News reported that: “Two fish farm managers have been charged with animal cruelty at a salmon farm in Shetland after the death of thousands of fish.”

Read more via [‘Cruelty Charges Over Shetland Salmon Deaths’](#)



The two managers are said to have poisoned over 6,000 farmed salmon. (Photo: FIS)

Salmon farm managers charged with animal cruelty over salmon deaths



UNITED KINGDOM

Friday, January 28, 2011, 15:00 (GMT + 9)

Two managers of a Shetland salmon farm have been charged with animal cruelty after poisoning more than 6,000 farmed salmon that then died on 15 August 2010.

Fisheries Information Service (FIS) reported: “The men - regional manager Graham McNally and site manager Ross Morrison - were reported to the procurator fiscal following a five-month inquiry into the chemical poisoning of fish at Burrastow in western Shetland. Both culprits are employed by Hoganness Salmon.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) has been investigating the possible animal welfare crimes itself, and four government agencies have been trying to determine whether illegal chemicals were used to kill the fish, reports *Shetland Marine News*.

“Following an extensive investigation by the Scottish SPCA in relation to an incident at a salmon farm in Shetland, two men have been reported to the procurator fiscal relating to charges under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 for allegedly causing unnecessary suffering and failing to ensure welfare of livestock,” said an SSPCA spokesperson.

Additionally, other investigations are being run by the Scottish government agency [Marine Scotland](#), the [UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) (DEFRA), the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and [Shetland Islands Council](#)'s environmental health department.”

Read more via [‘Salmon Farm Managers Charged with Animal Cruelty over Salmon Deaths’](#) and [‘Salmon Farm Facing Prosecution Over Thousands of Fish Deaths’](#)

However, the SEPA case was dropped in October 2011 following a bungled investigation which allowed the salmon farming company to slip through the net.

Read more via [‘Court action against salmon farm abandoned after legal error’](#)

In yet another case, SEPA reported in their 2008-2009 [‘Enforcement Report’](#):

In another case reported by SEPA in March 2011, a former fish farm owner was fined £600 at Lochmaddy Sheriff Court after failing to remove waste cages and other assorted fish farm waste from a freshwater loch on the Isle of South Uist. The waste included metal cage structures, wooden components of cage structures, rope, nets, polystyrene flotation blocks, compressed gas cylinders, pumps, waste feed and plastic bags. Hazel MacLeod, SEPA's investigating officer, said: "This case clearly demonstrates that fish farmers must take responsibility for the impact that abandoned cages have on the environment and must take prompt action to remove these to avoid further environmental impact if the cages are broken up by the action of the weather.

Read more via [‘Fined for South Uist Fish Farm Waste’](#)

In 2011, [Wester Ross](#) (a member of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organization) was “accused of lice infestation and pollution that breach official guidelines.” The Sunday Herald reported that:

“Reports from Government inspectors, released under freedom of information laws, show sea lice concentrations at three of the firm’s sites on Loch Broom and Little Loch Broom have exceeded levels recommended in the industry’s good practice code six times this year. Evidence released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) also shows that pollution of the sea bed beneath the three sites – Corry, Ardmair and Ardessie – has been rated “unsatisfactory” 20 times in last 10 years, and “borderline” eight times. The weight of caged fish licensed under environmental rules was also breached five times at Ardessie in 2006 and 2007.”

Edinburgh 4.8°C

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SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2011

TEXT SIZE

Award-winning fish farm in pollution row

EXCLUSIVE by Rob Edwards Environmental Editor

A HIGHLAND salmon farm that was granted £630,000 of taxpayers' money, given an environmental prize and labelled as a "Freedom Food" producer has been accused of lice infestation and pollution that breach official guidelines.

Read more via '[Award-winning Fish Farm in Pollution Row](#)'

Wester Ross is a serial salmon farming polluter – and was suspended from the Scottish salmon farming industry's quality scheme back in 2004 following a £10,000 fine for water pollution.

Read more via '[Scottish "Quality" Salmon Scam - company suspended from SQS's Tartan Quality Mark scheme](#)'

Ardessie Salmon was also [kicked out](#) of the Scottish salmon farming industry's 'Tartan Quality Mark' scheme in 2000 following revelations in [The Observer](#) newspaper and [BBC News](#) of illegal chemical use.

Scottish salmon farms are also leaking like sieves with [mass escapes](#) polluting rivers and impacting on [wild fish](#). Escapees have also been shown to be contaminated with toxic chemicals. A report compiled by the [Pure Salmon Campaign](#) in 2008, sourced via data obtained via Freedom of Information from the Scottish Government, showed that over 100,000 escapees between 2002 and 2006 had been treated with toxic chemicals such as Emamectin benzoate (SLICE), Cypermethrin (EXCIS) and the antibiotic Oxytetracycline.

Chemically Contaminated Escapees

According to Scottish Executive data

Between 2002 - 2006

- 12 escape incidents occurred from salmon farms where toxic chemicals were used
- In these incidents, 120,365 chemically-contaminated farmed salmon escaped
- Of these, less than 0.5% were recovered

Pan Fish's Glenan Bay site (24th - 27th December 2006) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 16,868 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Marine Harvest's Ardintoul site (15th July 2006) - farmed salmon treated with **Oxytetracycline and Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 1,950 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Pan Fish's Ardmaddy site (5th April 2006) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 5,500 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Fjord Seafood's Tolsta site (2nd December 2005) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 8,500 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Loch Duart's Badcall Bay site (14th to 17th October 2005) - farmed salmon treated with **Excis (Cypermethrin)**: 3,000 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Scottish Sea Farm's Kishorn B (North) site (11th to 13th January 2005) - **Emamectin** used on site: 43,453 escaped (600 escapees recovered)

Stolt Sea Farm's Eilean Dubh site (22nd September 2004) - farmed salmon treated with **Excis (Cypermethrin)**: 15,946 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Marine Harvest's Loch Ewe site (27th April 2003) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 16,000 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Stolt Sea Farm's Ferramus site (27th August 2003) - farmed salmon treated with **Excis (Cypermethrin)**: 500 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Marine Harvest's Lamlash Bay site (30th September 2003) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 1 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Loch Duart's Badcall Bay site (End May to June 2002) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 8,147 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

WISCO's Vuia West site (17th October 2002) - farmed salmon treated with **Slice (Emamectin benzoate)**: 500 escaped (Zero escapees recovered)

Meanwhile, it was revealed earlier this month by Rob Edwards writing in [The Sunday Herald](#) newspaper (1 April) that Marine Harvest is attempting to bribe islanders to the tune of £50,000 for a new salmon farm off Colinsay.

Read more via [‘What’s the Catch? Fish Firm Offers Island £50,000 Bribe for Salmon Farm Site’](#)

In 2009, Rob Edwards also revealed that Marine Harvest suggested sending “some sides of smoked salmon” to staff at SEPA after they processed applications to dose salmon cages with the toxic chemical deltamethrin in a matter of days.

Read more via '[Company Says Sorry for Offering Environment Officials Free Salmon](#)'

In 2004, it was revealed that Marine Harvest gave the First Minister of Scotland (whose brother operated a Marine Harvest salmon farm) "[a pair of gold salmon cufflinks worth more than £100](#)". Marine Harvest is used to paying out money – racking up a raft of regulatory violations, water pollution offences and infractions around the world.



In a [complaint](#) to the UK's Office of fair Trading in 2006, Marine Harvest was accused of having a "long history of pollution and environmental impacts in Scotland" including:

Both Marine Harvest and Pan Fish have a long history of pollution and environmental impacts in Scotland. Below are a few examples of the most recent incidents involving Marine Harvest and Pan Fish operations in Scotland.

In November 2005, *The Sunday Express* named Marine Harvest Scotland as shooting and killing seals at their farm within the Loch Alsh Special Area of Conservation.⁴⁸ According to *The Sunday Express* (27 November 2005):

Horried marine experts have demanded an inquiry after viewing our shocking images of dead and injured seals. Carcasses have been found washed up on beaches around Skye and tourists on boat trips claim to have watched injured animals die from their wounds. Amsterdam-based Marine Harvest--which is predicting an annual turnover of one billion euros--insists staff have to shoot the animals to stop them attacking their salmon-packed cages at their fish farm.

In 2007, Marine Harvest Scotland pled guilty at Stornoway Sheriff Court to five counts, including failure to comply with water use licence; depositing controlled waste, depositing controlled waste by way of burning, knowingly causing controlled waste and activity likely to

cause pollution of the water environment at their Amhuinnsuidhe Hatchery, Harris. Marine Harvest was hit with a £23,500 fine.

Read more via '[Marine Harvest Fine](#)'

SEPA [reported](#) in their 'Court Report':

Court report December 2007 to February 2008

One of the world's largest fish farming companies was fined a total of £23,500 at Stornoway Sheriff Court on 12 December 2007 for breaches of both water and waste legislation. Marine Harvest Scotland Ltd pled guilty to five charges, which included breaching water user licence conditions, the unauthorised discharge of untreated effluent to the Abhainn Mhor river and the burning of plastic waste feed bags. The offences, which all took place at the Amhuinnsuidhe Hatchery site on the Isle of Harris, were reported to the Procurator Fiscal by SEPA.

In 2007, Marine Harvest was exposed as overproducing at one of their sites on the Isle of Arran. Investigative journalist Nick Underdown reported for [The Arran Voice](#):

Marine Harvest's St Molio's fish farm: the figures

January 2007

- used 100,800.00 grams of SLICE (active ingredient is Emamectin benzoate)
- 1,628 kg of mortalities

February 2007

- exceeded SEPA's biomass limit (i.e. breached its discharge consent) by 6.95%
- used 119,700.0037 grams of SLICE (active ingredient is Emamectin benzoate)
- 634 kg of mortalities

March 2007

- exceeded SEPA's biomass limit (i.e. breached its discharge consent) by 14.56%
- 1,455 kg of mortalities

April 2007

- exceeded SEPA's biomass limit (i.e. breached its discharge consent) by 20.72%
- 733 kg of mortalities

May 2007

- exceeded SEPA's biomass limit (i.e. breached its discharge consent) by 10.37%
- 962 kg of mortalities

June 2007

- exceeded SEPA's biomass limit (i.e. breached its discharge consent) by 10.90%
- 589 kg of mortalities

[Source: Obtained under the Freedom of Information Act from SEPA]

"Figures released under Freedom of Information laws have revealed consistent over-stocking at St Molio's fish farm site during the course of 2007. Marine Harvest has exceeded the legal

‘discharge consent’ in every month between February and June by as much as 20% . The ‘discharge consent’ is the maximum allowable biomass of farmed salmon permitted by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) on the site. In April, Marine Harvest was farming 239 tonnes of fish more than it was allowed by law. The previous month the farm suffered 1,455kgs of mortalities.”

Maggot-infested Scottish salmon farming is enough to make you sick.



Read more via [‘Marine Harvest Overstocking in St. Molios’](#)

In 2006 the Sunday Herald named Marine Harvest as “[the worst pollution manager in Scotland](#)” after being put on formal notice by SEPA to clean up pollution from their processing plant in Fort William. An ‘Enforcement Notice’ ordered Marine Harvest to address a range of problems or face further fines and even imprisonment for Marine Harvest staff.

Marine Harvest
The Worst Pollution Manager in Scotland in 2005

SCOTLAND'S WORST POLLUTION MANAGERS		
COMPANY	PROBLEMS	SEPA SCORE (lower = worse)
Marine Harvest fish processing plant Fort William	Eight breaches of pollution permit	12
Norbord chipboard plant Cowie, Stirling	Increased pollution after equipment failure	14
Dales dry dock Aberdeen	Unauthorised discharges	14
Scottish Power sewage sludge plant Daldowie, Glasgow	Legal action to curb emissions	16
Ibstock brick works Uddingston	Breaching pollution limits	16
Pig finishing unit Lower Inchdrewer Farm, Banff	Legal action to curb smell	16
Norboard board plant Nairn	Discharges after equipment failure	17
Total Waste Management Alliance Peterhead	Inadequate maintenance	18
Alcan aluminium smelter Fort William	Breaches of pollution permits	18
Tullis Russell paper mill Glenrothes	Legal action to curb emissions	18
Grieve Groundwork landfill Mairs of Taymouth, Aberfeldy	Failure to submit waste returns	18
Barr Garlaff landfill Skares, Cumnock	Fires burning inside waste	21
SCL carbon fibre plant Muir of Ord, Ross-shire	Breaches of pollution permit	24

Source: 28 May 2006. Environment protection agency reveals Scotland 'dirty dozen'. *Sunday Herald*. Available at: http://www.robedwards.com/2006/05/environment_pro.html

In 2005, Marine Harvest was fined **£4,000** “for allowing fish guts, blood, scum and grease to enter the River Lochy in Fort William”. [SEPA](#) reported that: “This was a serious incident.

The discharge was of a highly offensive and polluting nature. Sewage fungus present in the River can smother the bed of a watercourse, and can damage invertebrates and insect life. Secondary problems associated with smell from decaying matter were also reported to SEPA. The outfall to the River Lochy is immediately adjacent to a number of houses and Lochside Primary School.”



The Sunday Herald [reported](#):

“The lowest-ranked company was fish farming multinational [Marine Harvest](#), which also failed Sepa’s assessment the previous year. The company’s Blar Mhor plant in Fort William has been served an enforcement notice for breaching eight conditions of its pollution permit, including a “no odour management plan”. Fish farming campaigners called on the company to clean up its act. “By discharging fish guts, blood, scum and grease into the River Lochy, Marine Harvest has jeopardised not only the health of wild salmon but also the already tarnished reputation of Scottish farmed salmon,” said Don Staniford of the [Pure Salmon Campaign](#).”

**Dive at Marine Harvest salmon farm site, Loch Hourn,
West Highlands of Scotland, 31st December 2004**



**Seabed under cages and in surrounding seabed area outwith SEPA
'allowable zone' devoid of life, other than beggiatoa mat**

More background via the video [‘Shame Below the Waves’](#)

The industry gave themselves a pat on the back for promoting pollution by awarding Marine Harvest’s Loch Hourn farm the ‘Best Site’ at the 2007 [‘Scottish Salmon Farming Awards’](#).

In 2009, The Sunday Herald once again named Marine Harvest in [‘Scotland’s Dirty Three Dozen’](#). Marine Harvest’s processing plant in Fort William suffered a “deterioration of performance” in 2008 due to “changes to the company management structure”, said SEPA. Marine Harvest’s technical manager Dougie Hunter, said he was “disappointed” by the assessment which was partly due to “intermittent odour issues”.



Appropriately enough, Marine Harvest's billionaire owner John Fredriksen (72nd richest man in the world according to [Forbes](#) worth \$10.7 billion) knows the inside of a jail cell all too well and is used to buying his way out of trouble.



In the 1980s in Norway, Marine Harvest's owner was arrested and jailed on charges of insurance fraud – the case was settled out of court and he paid a fine of 2 million NOK and had to pay the insurance company over US \$ 800,000 (read more [online here](#)).

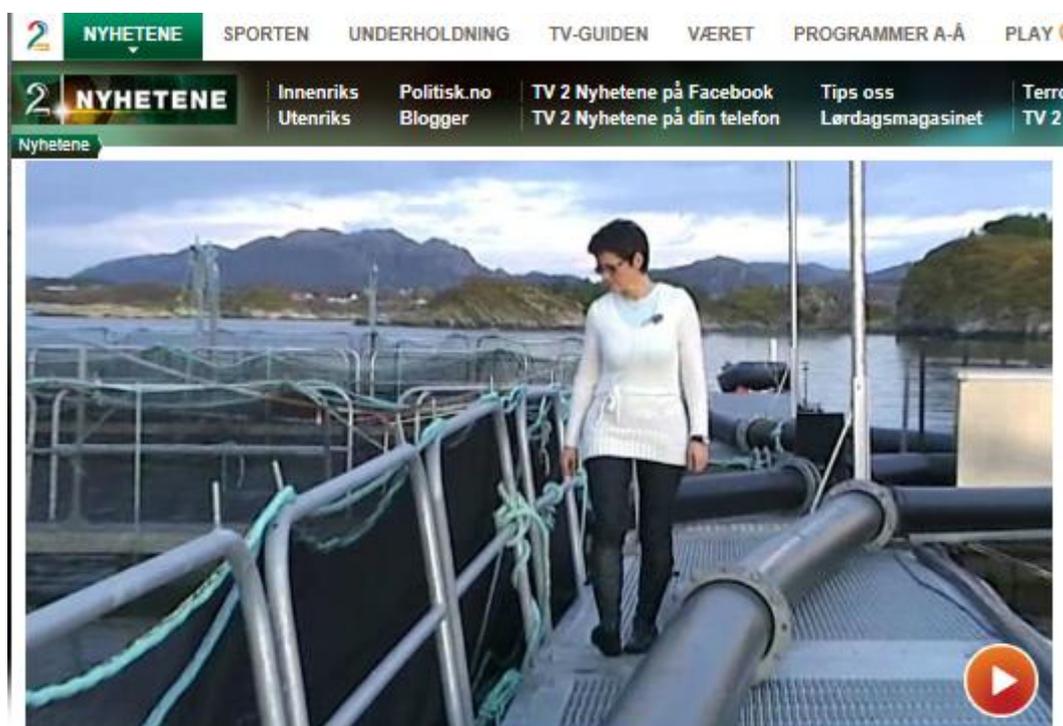
More background via [‘Salmonopoly’](#)

In Norway, salmon farming companies including Marine Harvest and a salmon farming company part-owned by Norway's Fisheries Minister (Lisbeth Berg-Hansen) were recently criticised in a report published by the Green Warriors of Norway (available in English [online here](#)).

Report on the Environmental Impact of farming of North Atlantic Salmon in Norway



TV2 reported in 2010 that Økokrim (the Norwegian Environmental Crime Police) that the salmon farming company (Sinkaberg Hansen) owned by the Norwegian Fisheries Minister was being investigated for under-reporting of an escape (read more [online here](#)).



Økokrim etterforsker Berg-Hansens oppdrettsanlegg

Økokrim setter i gang egen etterforskning av Fiskeriministerens oppdrettsanlegg.

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Yvonne Fondenes
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Publisert 04.01.2010 21.09

Last month, Norway's Office of the Auditor General slammed the salmon farming industry for a series of pollution offences, escapes, sea lice problems and infectious diseases (available [online here](#) – in Norwegian only).

More background via '[Norway's Salmon Shame: Auditor General slams industry in damning new report as MPs tour Canada](#)'

The Norwegian-owned salmon farming industry has also been the subject of growing dissent in British Columbia, Canada, following the spread of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) – as well as the lies spread by the industry.



Read more via '[Norwegian Blues: Monty Python's Dead Farmed Salmon](#)' and '[Lies, Damned Lies & Salmon](#)'

Mainstream Canada (a subsidiary of the Norwegian Government-owned company [Cermaq](#)) was caught in 2008 blatantly violating the terms of its licences in British Columbia via “years of unlicensed over-production”. According to the [Vancouver Sun](#), fines range from \$100 to \$2,000 per day (if the Government had chosen to act). “This demonstration of contempt for Canadian regulations by Norwegian multinational Cermaq, Mainstream’s parent company, and Cermaq’s major shareholder, the Government of Norway, is appalling,” said Catherine Stewart, Living Ocean’s Salmon Farming Campaign Manager.

Read more via '[Mainstream Salmon Farms Blatantly Violate Licenses](#)'

Earlier this year, Marine Harvest Canada was “fined \$5,000 after pleading guilty to a charge of failing to properly return Pacific herring to the wild”. [Alexandra Morton](#), who filed a private prosecution against Marine Harvest, told [The Courier-Islander](#) (20 January):

“I believe it's the first charge ever laid successfully against this industry. I really thought salmon farming was above the law, so this was the first hard evidence that I've had that the law can, on occasion, deal with this industry. I'm hoping that the public will realize that they can do this. If they see wild fish being killed by the salmon farming industry, they will step forward, because a further charge for this company would be an aggravation. Five thousand dollars is small, in terms of the corporation Marine Harvest, but it's actually large when you compare it to case law. Commercial fishermen that have been charged for similar type infractions, this was higher than a lot of the ones that they cited.”



Read more via [‘Company Handed \\$5,000 Fine for Wild Fish Infraction’](#)

This is certainly not the first time [Marine Harvest](#) has flouted the law in Canada. Marine Harvest Canada was [fined \\$75,000](#) in 2010 for negligence in relation to the death of a diver at one of its farms. WorkSafeBC said as the prime contractor of a multiple-employer workplace, Marine Harvest failed to coordinate the health and safety activities of employers, workers, and others at the workplace, and it failed to establish and maintain a system to ensure compliance with the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Marine Harvest has also been guilty of causing the deaths of workers in Chile. In [2005](#), the labour inspector for the Los Lagos Region of Chile fined Marine Harvest over the death of a diver working as a sub-contractor repairing anti-predator nets around salmon pens. Marine Harvest had neither an emergency plan for work-related injuries, nor a plan for transporting workers to a center for medical assistance, both of which are health and safety norms in Chile. That same month in another incident, a Marine Harvest worker drowned in Llanquihue Lake, because he had not been issued a life jacket. The regional labour inspector cited Marine

Harvest for failing to have an up to date accident log and for failing to report the worker's death to authorities, both violations of Chilean labour code.

Marine Harvest's name is mud in Chile.



According to an article published in the Norwegian newspaper Dagbladet in 2010, Marine Harvest paid off the widow of a dead diver in Chile (with a figure of 7.2 million Norwegian kroner – or around £800,000 – cited in the article).

Dagbladet
mer å snakke om

DØMT til rekord- erstatning LAKSEOPPDRETT

DØMT til rekord-erstatning

LAKSEOPPDRETT

Etter flere års kamp i rettsapparatet ble den chilenske lubavermoren Jenka Álvarez (28) utkjært rekordbeløp 7,2 millioner kroner i erstatning, etter at ektemannen døde på arbeid for Marine Harvest.

Marine Harvest

– Vi føler ansvar for dødsfallet

Marine Harvest vil ikke anerkjenne noe ansvar for dødsfallet, men er villig til å betale erstatning til den døde fiskerens enke og barn.

Mmm... Luftig hvit sjokolade dekket med deilig melkesjokolade

Stratos

Nestlé

The global salmon farming giants may be able to buy people's silence but they cannot shake the smell of blood on their hands.

Read more via '[Fish Farmageddon: The Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse](#)'

In 2009, [Dagbladet](#) also named over a dozen dead workers associated with the salmon farming operations of Marine Harvest and Cermaq in Chile in the period 2005-2009 – with over 50 dead workers in total since 2005.

Omkomne chilenerne i Marine Harvest og Mainstream/Cermaq 2005-2009

13/5-01, Valentin Ordenes, dykker,
Mainstream/Cermaq

7/8-05, Juan Miranda, dykker, oppdrettsanlegg
Quichao, Marine Harvest

15/8-05, Claudio Torres, arbeider,
oppdrettsanlegg Llanquihue, Marine Harvest

17/11-05, Roque Álvarez, båtmannskap,
Queilén, Mainstream/Cermaq

17/11-05, Franklin Delgado, båtmannskap,
Queilén, Mainstream/Cermaq

17/11-05, Héctor Millalonco, båtmannskap,
Queilén, Mainstream/Cermaq

14/11-05, Javier Velasquez, fabrikkarbeider,
Puerto Montt, Marine Harvest

24/6-07, Francisco Bernabé Vera, tekniker,
Caniglia, Mainstream/Cermaq

22/8-07, Pedro Alvarado, dykker, Chiloé,
Marine Harvest

16/7-08, Samuel Arturo, dykker, Calbuco, Mainstream/Cermaq

20/10-08, Cristian Campos, dykker, Mainstream/Cermaq

31/3-2009, Nilo Rafael, mellomleder oppdrettsanlegg, Llancahue, Marine Harvest

31/3-2009, Raul Villegas, operatør oppdrettsanlegg, Llancahue, Marine Harvest.

Read more via [‘New Report Blasts Chile Salmon Industry: More Than 50 Industry Workers Dead Since 2005’](#)

Deaths of workers in Scotland is also sadly a cost of doing business and Scottish salmon farming companies have been found negligent by the [UK’s Health & Safety Executive](#) on numerous occasions. Prosecutions undertaken under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 include:

- Lighthouse of Scotland: fined £8,000 in 2004 following an investigation of a fatality by the Health and Safety Executive. The [Health and Safety Executive](#) summarized the case as:

“Failure to provide and maintain plant and systems of work that were so far as reasonably practicable safe with respect to fish husbandry operations on a fish farm at sea and failure to ensure that life jacket provided was maintained in an efficient state, working order and in good repair and that employees were provided with information, instruction and training re maintaining life jackets.”

- Loch Duart (also known as ‘The Sustainable Salmon Company’): fined £2,000 in 2000 at Dornoch Sheriff Court.

Other health and safety concerns reported by the [Health & Safety Executive](#) include cases involving Marine Harvest, Lighthouse of Scotland (Pan Fish), Corrie Mhor Salmon, Landcatch, Kinloch Damph and Kames Fish Farm. Marine Harvest, for example, has been served with several ‘improvement notices’ by the Health and Safety Executive. One notice served to Marine Harvest Scotland in 2002 read: “Wavemaster cages in the 30 cage group are not so far as is reasonably practicable, in a condition that is safe and without risks to health indicated by the twisting and submerged walkways, rusting walkway mesh and damaged/missing guard rails.”

Another notice served in 2002 against Marine Harvest in Loch Ewe read: “That on 22 May you failed so far as was reasonable to ensure that the diving at work regulations were complied with in that the diving team hired by you from Seahorse Aquaculture was undersized, underqualified, wrongly equipped and did not carry employer's liability insurance. They also failed to produce a diving project plan.”

In 2006, it was reported by [The Scotsman](#) that an inexperienced diver had died at Marine Harvest's salmon farm in Loch Ewe, Wester Ross, after becoming entangled in a rope attached to a cage as he attempted to clear out dead fish. Seahorse Aquaculture was fined £5,500 for failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare of an employee, and for failing to insure employees against bodily injury.

In January 2007, Marine Harvest was criticized by Sheriff Desmond Leslie after a ten-day inquiry into the death of Martin Blackley - a Royal Marine. [BBC News](#) reported that at the time of the accident Marine Harvest had failed to "police its health and safety procedures and practices adequately". On the day of the accident Mr. Blackley was diving to remove dead farmed salmon from a pen owned by Marine Harvest in Loch Ewe.

BBC NEWS

LIVE BBC NEWS CHANNEL

Last Updated: Monday, 22 January 2007, 14:21 GMT

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Dive death marine 'ill-equipped'

A Royal Marine who died on a dive at a fish farm was ill-equipped and not adequately supervised, according to a sheriff's determination.



Martin Blackley was based at HMS Condor in Arbroath

Martin Blackley, 26, of Aultbea, drowned while working at a fish pen in Loch Ewe, Wester Ross, in May 2002.

Sheriff Desmond Leslie said Seahorse Aquaculture "ignored" regulations by allowing Mr Blackley to carry out dives in exchange for a £300 dry suit.

The commando based in Arbroath was on sick leave after injuring a leg.

Marine Harvest, the company whose fish farm Seahorse Aquaculture had been contracted to work on, have also been criticised.

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[The Scotsman](#) reported:

“In his judgment, Mr Leslie said no risk assessment had been undertaken and there was no two-way communication system between staff. The inquiry at Dingwall Sheriff Court also heard there had also been no back-up oxygen and no diving plan. Mr Leslie said: ‘This project was ill-fated from its inception. The safe systems of work designed to prevent an occurrence of this nature were disregarded at every level of the operation. The approach taken was casual in the extreme. Diving industry standards and procedures were ignored and

no effort was made either on behalf of Marine Harvest or Seahorse Aquaculture to implement fundamental provisions, which, if adhered to, would have avoided Mr Blackley's death'.”

[The Scotsman](#) continued:

“Speaking of Marine Harvest, the sheriff said: "The lack of management procedures, a casual or token regard for health and safety issues, no managerial rigour in enforcing recognised best practice and little on-site awareness or concern for health and safety issues all contributed to a blase approach to diving operations." A Marine Harvest spokesman last night said: "We deeply regret this tragic accident and our thoughts are with Martin's family." He added that all company diving procedures were reviewed immediately after the accident. Mr Blackley's mother, Jeanette, said: "The judgment tells us what we knew, that the death could have been avoided. There should have been no accident because there should have been no dive."

In 2008, Mainstream (then owned by the Norwegian company Cermaq) was fined [£14,700](#) for a series of health and safety failings uncovered following the death of one of its employees who fell overboard. [The Shetland Times](#) reported:

“The company pleaded guilty to having no continuous guardrail on the starboard side of the 20-metre *Conquest*, no guard rail around raised work platforms and no guard rail or sufficient high raised edge around the hold hatch. They also pleaded guilty to not ensuring life jackets were in working order and failing to implement a maintenance system to ensure the automatic inflation mechanisms were in an efficient state. The company also accepted that it had failed to ensure the ship operated in a safe manner. As well as having no side railing on the starboard side over a distance of three metres, the deck on the starboard side was obstructed by two large-diameter hoses. There was no lighting on the main deck and no suitable assessment of the risk to workers had been made.”



The screenshot shows the website for The Shetland Times. At the top, the masthead reads "The Shetland Times" in a large, black, serif font. To the right of the masthead is a logo for "HAY'S DOCK" featuring a stylized flag design. Below the masthead is a navigation bar with several menu items: "HOME", "BOOKSHOP", "SHETLAND LIFE", "SHETLAND DIRECTORY", and "SHETLAND". Underneath this bar is a secondary navigation bar with links for "News", "Sport", "Weather", "Readers' Views", "Situations Vacant", "Motors", "Properties", and "Features". Below the navigation bars is a breadcrumb trail: "Where am I? Home > News > Fishing & Sea > Salmon farm company fined heavily after worker's death". The main content area features a large, bold headline: "Salmon farm company fined heavily after worker's death". Below the headline is the date and author information: "September 26th, 2008 by Shetland Times". There are three interactive options: "Leave A Comment", "Print this article", and "Email to Friend". The article text begins with: "A SALMON farm company was fined £14,700 this week for a series of health and safety failings uncovered following the death of one of its employees who fell overboard from the vessel *Conquest*." The text continues: "Mainstream Scotland Ltd was not charged in connection with the death of employee Martin Ramsay, 44, who was not wearing a lifejacket when he plunged into the water as the boat returned to the harbour at Voe after working at Aith on 19th March last year." On the left side of the article, there is a sidebar with a "SUSTAINABLE SHETLAND Members Meeting" notice. The notice specifies the location as "TINGWALL HALL" at "7.30pm" on "Tuesday 10th April". It also states: "New members welcome or anyone who shares our concerns on the Viking Energy Wind Farm". At the bottom of the sidebar is a small logo for "HAY'S DOCK".

The Scottish salmon farming industry have blood on their hands too in relation to the [deaths of marine mammals](#). Scottish salmon farmers are permitted under the law to kill seals – with over 1,000 seals licensed to be killed during [2011](#).



Read more via '[Licence to Kill – Salmon Farmers in Firing Line During 2011 Scottish Slaughter of Seals](#)'

In January 2012, the Scottish Government issued 58 licences to kill seals including 30 licences covering a total of 227 fish farms - the maximum number of seals involved is 805 grey and 274 common (more details [online here](#)). In Shetland, seven salmon farming companies (Meridian Salmon Group, Hjaltland Seafarms, Scottish Sea Farms, Thomson Brothers Salmon, Balta Island Seafare, Uyeasound Salmon Company and Bound Skerries Seafoods) have been [permitted](#) to kill 115 seals in 2012.

The killing of marine mammals is no laughing matter.



Last month, two salmon farm managers (Graham McNally and Ross Morrison) in Shetland were charged under the European Habitats directive with unlawfully killing seals at Lerwick Sheriff Court. The two men are accused of using nets for the purpose of taking or killing grey and common seals at two sites off Shetland's west mainland run by Meridian Salmon Group.

Read more via [‘Salmon Farm Managers Charged with Seal Deaths’](#)

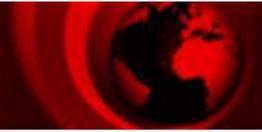
In 2008, headless seal corpses washed up on the shore near Marine Harvest's salmon farm in Loch Alsh – a Special Area of Conservation. [Nigel Smith](#) who runs Seaprobe Atlantis Wildlife Cruises around Skye and Lochalsh, said he discovered the two carcasses, which had their heads missing, on a beach at Kyleakin close to Srom Fish Farm run by Marine Harvest. Mr Smith said: “One reason could be that the heads had bullet holes in them and they didn't want people to see they were shot, or they may have been shot with the wrong calibre of weapon. The seals were relatively fresh, so I don't believe that the heads could have decayed and fallen off.” A spokesman for Marine Harvest said: “Regrettably, from time to time we do need to shoot seals that attack our stocks. This is done as quickly and humanely as possible and in strictly controlled circumstances.

The evidence: photos of wounded seals



Read more via [‘Skye cruise operator raises suspicions over headless seals’](#)

In 2005, Marine Harvest was also “accused of recklessly shooting seals”.

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Last Updated: Monday, 21 November 2005, 22:51 GMT

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Seal killing concern at fish farm

Scotland's leading fish farm operator has been accused of recklessly shooting seals near one of its sites at Kyle of Lochalsh in the west Highlands.



The company said it shot seals to stop them attacking salmon cages

Since the 1970s, seals have been a protected species but can be shot, under licence, to protect fish farms.

There are concerns about the way Marine Harvest is carrying out the killings.

However, the company said it had to shoot the seals to stop them attacking the salmon cages and denied it was responsible for causing any woundings.

Marine Harvest, part of the multinational company Nutreco, owns fish farms up and down the west coast.

Read more via [‘Seal Killing Concern at Fish Farm’](#)

The slaughter of seals by Marine Harvest made a splash in the Scottish Sunday Express via the article [‘Suffering in the Culling Fields’](#).

Read more via [‘Scottish fish farmers 'conducting secret seal slaughter’](#)

Scottish Sea Farms, another member of the SSPO, was also accused of killing seals in a Special Area of Conservation in 2006. “I honestly believe that Scottish Sea Farms, the company involved in the slaughter and based at South Shian by Oban, engaged in what can only be described as a mass slaughter of seals,” wrote Mark Carter of [Marine Concern](#). I estimate that the total number of seals shot in and around the Lismore SAC to be in excess of sixty.”



Read more via [‘The Illegal Killing of Scotland's Seals: Further Eyewitness Accounts’](#)

The slaughter of seals may be permitted under Scottish law but is illegal under the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (details [online here](#)).

US to block seal cull farm salmon

EXCLUSIVE
By **Meg Milne**

US Government officials are set to ban the import of Scottish salmon from fish farms where seals are shot. The move follows Scottish Sunday Express revelations that seals are being slaughtered in the sea around Skye.

A secret cull is being carried out by marksmen for a multi-million-pound salmon giant in a bid to protect their fish stocks. Yesterday it was revealed government lawyers in Washington are studying a legal opinion warning that under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act it is illegal to sell fish produced on farms that shoot seals.

Amsterdam-based Marine Harvest, which predicts an annual turnover of one billion euros this year, ordered the cull after losing around 3,000 fish.

Marine Harvest, part of the giant Nutreco multi-national, which employs 6,000 people in eight countries, insist seals have must be shot to stop them attacking salmon at their Hebrides fish farm.

Yesterday, Don Staniford, the European co-ordinator of Pure Salmon, a fish-farming pressure group, applauded the American move.

Mr Staniford said: "Either the company stops killing seals or they potentially lose access to one of the world's largest farmed salmon markets. "The simple solution to the problem – as well as escapes, waste pollution and discharges – is to enclose the cages."

On Friday, Mr Staniford attended a Nutreco meeting in Amsterdam and presented a dossier of our revelations to the company's board.

Nutreco bosses were also given a copy of the legal opinion warning of US prohibition on the importation of salmon from their fish farm.

The controversial cull, to the west of Sron an Tairbh at Loch Aish, has been condemned by campaigners demanding seals are given more protection.

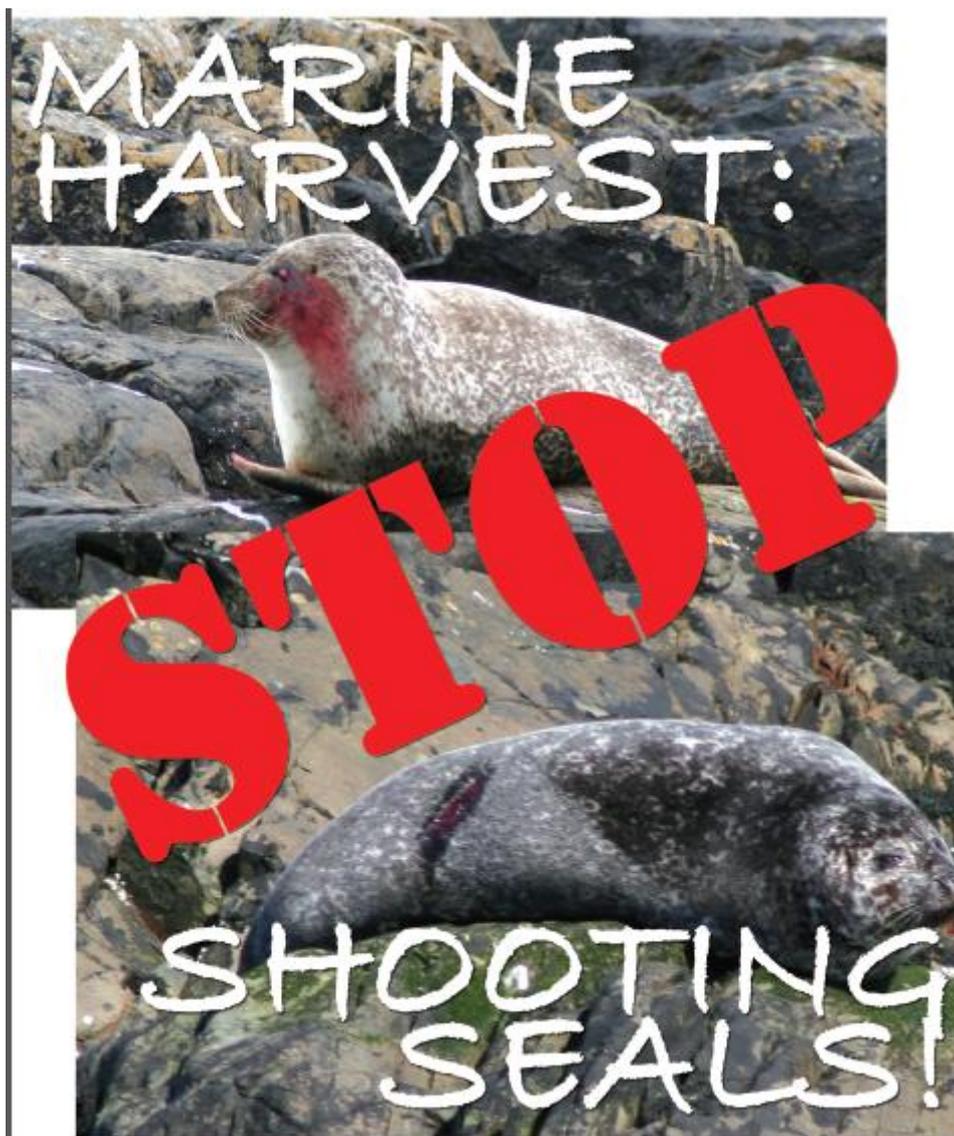
Local businessman Nigel Smith, who runs a local wildlife tourist business, photographed some of the dead animals.

Mr Smith said: "When I went past with a boat load of tourists, all they could see was carcasses rotting on the beach. Marine Harvest insist they only shoot seals "as a last resort".

SEAL CULL: The animals are being shot to protect fish farms

Last month, the Scottish charity [Save Our Seals Fund](#) called on the U.S. Government to ban the import of Scottish farmed salmon into the United States. John Robins, Secretary of Save Our Seals Fund, said in a press release (17 March):

“We have asked the American Department of Commerce to use existing legislation to ban the import of Scottish salmon to the USA. It is unfair to US salmon farmers who protect wildlife to allow them to be undercut by Scottish farmers who are allowed to use the cheap option of shooting seals. I hope the American Government can force Scottish salmon farmers to install seal exclusion nets, something the Scottish Government and the RSPCA have disgracefully failed to do. At the moment when you buy Scottish salmon, even RSPCA endorsed Scottish salmon, you pay for bullets to shoot seals. That has got to stop.”



Read more via [‘Farmed Salmon in Firing Line – Complaint Filed Under U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act’](#)

In British Columbia, Canada, in February 2012 the Norwegian-owned salmon farming company Grieg was charged with violating the Fisheries Act. According to [The Globe & Mail](#) (22 February): “A court document filed by Gregory Barton Rusel, a fishery officer

based in Gold River on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, states the company “did unlawfully destroy marine animals ... by drowning.” Seven counts deal with the deaths of an unspecified number of sea lions, and two counts are related to the deaths of an unspecified number of seals.”

Given the trigger-happy use of toxic chemicals and shotguns, it is little wonder then that salmon farmers are labelled as ‘aquatic terrorists’.



So who’s calling who a “convicted criminal”?



See you in court sometime soon!

Online via: <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/blog/whos-calling-who-convicted-criminal>