

RECORD VIEW

Salmon farms must act quickly

GRAPHIC images showing death and disease rife on one Scottish salmon farm are deeply concerning.

The footage and pictures reveal skips full of dead rotten fish at the Shuna Point site in Loch Linnhe, near Oban.

Underwater filming shows mutilated salmon missing eyes and flanks due to lice and disease, with some floating dead in the water.

More troubling still is that the operator running this farm is also the exclusive supplier of M&S.

Industry bosses can wring their hands and complain that the activists who embarked on covert filming at this facility are picking out the worst cases to make their case against salmon farming.

But the camera doesn't lie. And what it shows is evidence of widespread lice infestations, fish riddled with disease and lesions – and incinerators working overtime to discard the dead.

It's grim, and we know it's not an isolated issue. Latest stats show more than 16million salmon died prematurely on farms last year.

Scotland's salmon industry is world-renowned, a crucial cog in our economy and responsible for thousands of jobs. But these mass mortalities are untenable and must be addressed.

Why this is happening is a major bone of contention. Campaigners claim it's down to overcrowding and welfare neglect, while sector voices insist there's more to it – such as swarms of micro-jellyfish parasites plaguing caged salmon, thought to be linked to climate change.

Whatever the case, whatever the excuses, everyone with a stake in this issue must now get around a table to figure out a solution. Quickly.

It's time for this industry to clean up its act – because Scotland's reputation as a home of quality produce is under threat.

DEAD IN THE WATER - PAGES 10-11

Polarised politics

IT'S fair to say there is a lot of heat in Scottish politics but not always enough light.

Joani Reid, the granddaughter of the famous trade union leader Jimmy, says he would be saddened by the state of public debate in 2023.

As a shop steward during the celebrated 1971 work-in on the Clyde, he had to win a public relations battle with an uncaring Tory government in London.

That meant talking to people who were not Reid's natural political allies.

It's a principle that too few people in politics today seem to forget.

Scottish politics has become increasingly polarised over the last decade.

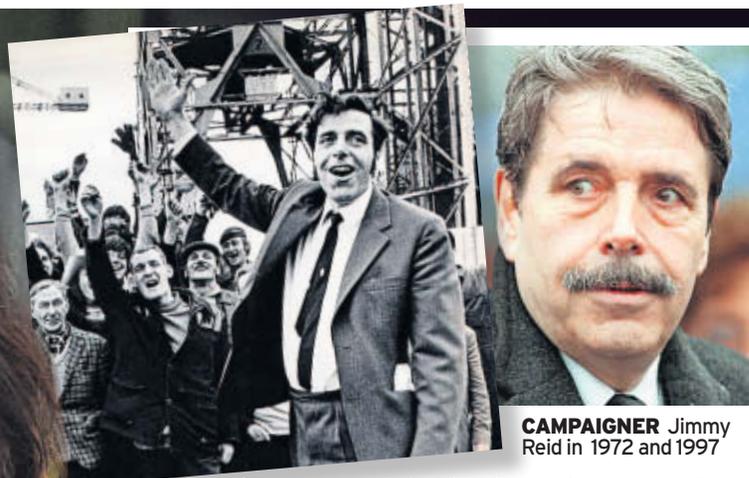
And not just on the big constitutional question. Too many issues see parties choose to go it their own way instead of trying to build consensus.

Devolution was meant to usher-in a new era of collaborative working.

Maybe it's time to finally give it a try.

REID'S GRANDCHILD RUNS AS CANDIDATE

AMBITIOUS
Joani Reid
will stand for
Labour in
East Kilbride



CAMPAIGNER Jimmy Reid in 1972 and 1997

Joani says Red Clydesider would not have approved of toxic divides

LEGENDARY trade unionist Jimmy Reid would be "saddened" by the polarisation in Scottish politics today, his granddaughter has said.

BY CHRIS MCCALL

Joani Reid, the Labour candidate for East Kilbride at the next general election, described the town as a "sleeping giant" with enormous potential.

The mum of two moved back to Scotland after spending eight years as a councillor in London to be nearer to her family.

She was close to her granddad, who died in 2010, while growing up in the southside of Glasgow.

Jimmy achieved international fame in 1971 when he co-led a successful campaign to fight the closure of shipyards along the Upper Clyde.

He twice failed to become an MP in the 70s after standing for both the Communist party and Labour.

In later life, he was a journalist and broadcaster and eventually joined the SNP after becoming disillusioned with Labour under Tony Blair.

But Joani said principles always mattered more to him than parties. She described her upbringing as "political in the sense of ideas, principles and political philosophy".

"But it was my decision, based on the values I was raised on, to join Labour," she added.

Joani said a famous speech made by her grandfather at Glasgow University in 1972 still had relevance today. "His legacy as a public person was

perfectly encapsulated in his alienation speech, which is a world away from where we are now in terms of the way society is," she said.

"But it's as relevant now as it ever was. We are still impacted by blind economic forces beyond our control.

"The causes are different but the consequences are exactly the same."

She added: "Scotland has a rich history of good debate with proper respect, where you would listen to one another. It wasn't polarised – there might have been a wee bit of aggression but you could buy each other a pint after. This name-calling is insulting to the public."

Asked how her granddad would view the state of Scottish politics, she said: "I think he would be really saddened with the polarisation and the binary nature of the debate."

"He was ecumenical. He would talk to Tories. He wouldn't call someone a Tory as a form of abuse."

Joani said she had suffered more abuse on social media "in one day" since moving back to Scotland than she did in eight years in London.

She added: "I'm a devolutionist. I want to see power in local people's hands."

"One of the forgotten parts of the alienation speech was about proper devolution and communities. There's been a concentration of power with ministers at Holyrood."

"Glasgow and East Kilbride were better off under a Labour government."

LABOUR'S BLOCK ON OIL AND GAS



BAN Keir Starmer

LABOUR will ban new oil and gas developments in the North Sea if Keir Starmer becomes the next prime minister.

The party leader is set to make the announcement when he visits Scotland next month to outline his net zero energy policy. The move would be significant as North Sea exploration

licenses are reserved to the UK Government.

A Starmer-led government would only borrow to invest in green enterprises. Labour expects its plans to create up to half a million jobs in the renewables industry, including 50,000 in Scotland.

A Labour source said: "We are against the

granting of new licences for oil and gas in the North Sea.

"They will do nothing to cut bills, as the Tories have acknowledged."

"They undermine our energy security and would drive a coach and horse through our climate targets. But Labour would continue to use existing oil and gas wells over the

coming decades and manage them sustainably as we transform the UK into a clean energy superpower."

Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said: "First it was the SNP, now Labour want to abandon the north east and the thousands of jobs that support North Sea oil and gas."