

FOI disclosure by the [Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme](#) dated 3 March 2021:

Summary:



This seal (ref # M45-20) was killed by The Scottish Salmon Company at Taranais on the Isle of Lewis in January 2020.



Class	Subclass	Event	National Reference	M reference	Event number in Year	Species scientific	Species common	Species uncertain	Date Found	Date Certainty	Month	Year	Location
Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/37/M45/20		45	Halichoerus	Grey seal	FALSE	16/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Taranais Great Bernera Lewis.

2. Grey seal confirmed by photos of live animal prior to shooting Taranais, Great Bernera, Lewis 16/01/20 NB 1626539463 carcasse sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.

These seals (ref # M61-20) were killed by The Scottish Salmon Company at Miavaig on the Isle of Lewis in January 2020:



Class	SubClass	Event	National Reference	Reference	Event number In Year	Species scientific	Species common	Species uncertain	Date Found	Date Certainty	Month	Year	Location
Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/48	M61/20	61	Halichoerus	Grey seal	FALSE	22/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Miavaig Uig Lewis

3. Grey seal confirmed by photos at Miavaig, Uig Lewis NB12555 34433 22/01/20 carcase sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.

4. Grey seal confirmed by photos at Miavaig, Uig Lewis NB12555 34433 22/01/20 carcase sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.

Norwegian giant Scottish Sea Farms was responsible for the vast majority of the information disclosed but the company - who refer to the killing of seals as an 'execution' - does not appear to have a culture of taking photos.

From: (REDACTED) <@scottishseafarms.com>  
Date: Sun, 10 May 2020 at 14:50  
Subject: Seal Cull  
To: (REDACTED) <@sruc.ac.uk>

I would like to report a seal cull (Site Co-ordinates - 57.3854 N 5.6142 W) on 08/05/2020. No photos have been taken during this execution.

(redacted)  Scottish Sea Farms

The Scottish Salmon Company - who use the euphemism "dispatched" for the killing of seals - appears to be more cooperative in sharing photos.

From: (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>  
Sent: 22 January 2020 15:42  
To: (redacted) <@sruc.ac.uk>  
Cc: (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>; (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>  
Subject: Seal dispatched

I am writing to inform you that we have recover two seals that we regrettably had to dispatch from within our farm pens earlier today. Please could you get in touch to provide further instruction on whether or not you require the carcass?

Regards

(redacted)

(redacted)

Miavaig Pier, Uig  
Isle of Lewis HS2 9HW  
(redacted)  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



The Scottish  
Salmon Company  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



TARTAN  
SALMON



LOCHLANDER™  
SALMON

HARRIS & LEW

The Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme guesses that seal carcasses are "just sunk":

From: (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
Sent: 17 March 2020 16:57  
To: (redacted)@st-andrews.ac.uk  
Cc: (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
Subject: RE: seal carcasses

Hi (redacted)

We have seen a modest increase in cases reported to us. But that's only a handful of cases. I believe they get divers in when possible to recover the animals shot in pens, but that may not be for some time after the animal is shot. We have had cases recovered from pens submitted to us but I can't tell you what happens to those that aren't, my guess is they are just sunk. We've only had one shot seal reported to us in February. It was reported as shot and sunk in Shetland.

The Scottish Salmon Company refers to "a lot of hassle and extra cost" in sending seal carcasses away.

**From:** (redacted)@scottishsalmon.com>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2020 11:32  
**To:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted) @scottishsalmon.com>; (redacted) @scottishsalmon.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal dispatched

Hi (redacted)

It would save a lot of hassle and extra cost if we don't need to send the carcass away. I will send you photos later today.

Regards

(redacted)

Seals are being reported inside salmon pens.

**From:** (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 February 2020 14:47  
**To:** (redacted)@st-andrews.ac.uk  
**Cc:** (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: seal carcasses

Hi (redacted),

We haven't had any shot animals submitted to us recently i.e. this year, we have had 5 reported to us, all supposedly grey seals though we aren't able to verify that in 2 cases, 3 from Lewis and 2 from Shetland. The Lewis cases were all from Scottish Salmon and were all shot in sea pens. The Shetland cases were both from Scottish Sea farms and I don't know the circumstances of these. The last submitted case was a grey seal from Cooke Aquaculture at Uyea sound Shetland, this was one of two animals found inside the fish pen. What I said to (redacted) was that there seemed to be an increase in reporting over the last few months.

Loch Roag on the Isle of Lewis (The Scottish Salmon Company) is cited as "having lots of issues":

**From:** (redacted)<@st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 07 February 2020 12:01  
**To:** (redacted)<@sac.co.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted)<@sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** seal carcasses

Hi (redacted)

I was talking to (redacted)yesterday and she suggested I contact you about carcasses you've had in or sampled recently - I understand several from Shetland? It's interesting because they seemed to be having success with the new tougher nets. Loch Roag (Scottish Salmon Company) also having lots of issues this winter but I don't know if you've had anything from them?

The Scottish Government conceded that "it is a shame to see that no carcasses have been recovered":

**From:** (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 10:14:16 PM  
**To:** (redacted)<@sac.co.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal shot under licence - reporting

Hi (redacted),

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly on this. It really has helped.

It is a shame to see that no carcasses have been recovered and sent to you (pre-covid of course) so it is something that we will be following up.

The Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme bemoans that the lack of data or samples means they cannot "confirm the 'identity' of cases shot and reported vs those shot illegally" suggesting that "it is made incumbent on those issued with licences to recover at least a proportion of cases and courier them to us for necropsy". "The current system doesn't allow assessment of the welfare aspect of seal management or help establish if the culling of suspect 'rogue' seals as a measure of last resort even works".

**From:** (redacted),@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 April 2020 14:46  
**To:** (redacted)@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** (redacted)<@sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal shot under licence - reporting

Hi (redacted),

Just to follow up on this, as (redacted) points out the information provided to us on seals shot under licence is limited, so meaningful oversight is not possible under the current system. Whilst it is appreciated that recovery of a grey seal from the water for examination isn't trivial, the lack of data or samples means we cannot assess species, confirm the 'identity' of cases shot and reported vs those shot illegally, establish if the animal was shot humanely, or assess stomach contents for prey analysis.

If and when the legislation around seal management is reviewed, can we suggest that a requirement of the licence is all, or almost all (eg 80%) of shot animals are photographed and reported to SMASS, and it is made incumbent on those issued with licences to recover at least a proportion of cases and courier them to us for necropsy? The current system doesn't allow assessment of the welfare aspect of seal management or help establish if the culling of suspect 'rogue seals' as a measure of last resort even works.

On Mon, 27 Apr 2020 at 10:27, (redacted) <@sac.co.uk> wrote:

We have had 14 reports the majority from Scottish Sea Farms Ltd. None were recovered and sent to us for necropsy none were sampled. Five animals, all grey seals were confirmed with photos, the remainder 9 were not. Details of all the cases are below.

10. Reported as harbour seal shot at Shuna, Loch Linnhe 09/01/20 grid ref NM 925497 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

11. Reported as grey seal shot at Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 04/04/20 grid ref HU485676 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

12. Reported as harbour seal shot at Shuna, Loch Linnhe 03/04/20 grid ref NM 925497 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

13. Reported as grey seal shot at Wyne, Orkney 16/04/20 grid ref HY456253 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

14. Reported as grey seal shot at Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 21/04/20 grid ref HU485676 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

Most of reports we receive are like this "I am writing to report the sinking of a seal carcass at Vidlin (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 21.04.2020. 1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA. Unfortunately there are not photos available."

I always ask for a photo of the animal when we get a report, though as you can see they aren't particularly good at providing them.

A spreadsheet of data on seals shot contains missing data due to the lack of photographs:

**From:** (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2020 16:01  
**To:** (redacted)@gov.scot; (redacted)@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Seal figures

Hi (redacted) & (redacted),

Please find attached a spreadsheet with all seals reported as shot under licence, from 2015 – end June 2020. There is a column for "examination level" which indicates which ones were necropsied, and which ones were not.

To summarise, see table below:

Species	Necropsied	Not necropsied	Total
Halichoerus grypus	5	25	30
Phoca vitulina	1	5	6
Pinniped (indeterminate species)		2	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>

Please note that the species is sometimes uncertain; this is the case when animals are reported to be a particular species, but there were no photographs to confirm them as such. The column "Species uncertain" indicates this.

In November 2020 the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme cautioned:

As you can see, the majority of cases we see have been shot cleanly, in that the cranial vault was destroyed by one shot and death is therefore taken to be effectively instantaneous. From a welfare aspect therefore >90% of these cases have been euthanised in an acceptable fashion. This however comes with a vital caveat- the information provided to SMASS regarding seals shot under licence is limited, and I would therefore be exceedingly wary of treating these data on their own as any validation or audit of the current system. Due to the small number of cases recoverable for necropsy and the risk that the submitted cases could be biased, either intentionally or unintentionally, to animals shot 'cleanly', the conclusions from these examinations should be treated with caution.

In May 2020 the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme wrote that salmon farmers "have no willingness, intention or, to be fair in some cases, capacity to collect any more detailed information". "In some cases we get photos of damaged stock or seals in the water but nothing at a resolution which can assess if these culls are being undertaken in adherence with regulations".

**From:** (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 10 May 2020 16:25  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Seal Cull

Hi (REDACTED)

And another one. I appreciate these reports are perhaps better collated and sent periodically as you suggested, but this report highlights the recurrent theme. Given the proforma nature of these reports, we asked if it may be possible to get more information from these cases. Short answer was no; they have no willingness, intention or, to fair in some cases, capacity, to collect any more detailed information. In some cases we get photos of damaged stock or, as you say, seals in the water, but nothing at a resolution which can assess if these culls are being undertaken in adherence with regulations.

All the best

(REDACTED)

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(REDACTED)  
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
SRUC Northern Faculty  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus, IV2 5HA  
(REDACTED)

Scottish Sea Farms were specifically asked to provide photographs:

**From:** (Redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 May 2020 10:33 am  
**To:** (Redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Thank you for this report, as well as the report of the seal that was shot at Vidlin on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The same grid reference is listed for both reports (HU485 676) which is at Vidlin. Would you be able to provide us with a new grid reference for this seal at Swarta Skerry when you get a moment please?

I do appreciate the at sea conditions make it difficult especially when carcasses sink, but if every attempt could be made to get some photographs of the shot seals so we can at least confirm the species next time that would be greatly appreciated.

Scottish Sea Farms claimed to "have encouraged all site managers to take photos prior to a cull":

**From:** (Redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 04 May 2020 11:09  
**To:** (Redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>; (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Hiya,

My mistake the grid reference for Swarta Skerry is - HU473623.

I have encouraged all site managers to take photos prior to a cull and will continue to do so.

Kind Regards,  
(Redacted)

Freya in the Orkney office of Scottish Sea Farms claimed that "the seal sunk before they had a chance to recover it and take photos" and SSF in South Shian claimed that "the site has very rarely seen the culprit of the damage so no photos have managed to be taken":

**From:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 11:46  
**To:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal Carcass

Hi there,

Unfortunately not, the seal sunk before they had a chance to recover it and take photos.

Kind regards,  
Freya

(redacted) | (redacted)  
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, KW15 1SD, Orkney  
Tel: (redacted)

**From:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 13:03  
**To:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Good Afternoon

I am sorry the site has very rarely seen the culprit of the damage so no photos have managed to be taken.

**Best Regards**

(redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB  
**Tel** (redacted)  
[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

The culling of seals at Scottish Sea Farms is sanctioned by RSPCA Assured (read the RSPCA's policy on condoning the killing of seals by salmon farms [online here](#)):

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 30 March 2020 10:15  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Shuna (Grid Reference - NM925497) on 28/03/2020.

1 Harbour seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)



Scottish Sea Farms did share a photo of a seal inside a salmon farm at Swarta Skerry on Orkney before it was culled:

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 26 March 2020 09:21  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass notification

I regret to inform you that another seal has been weighted and sunk at Swarta Skerry (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 25/03/2020.

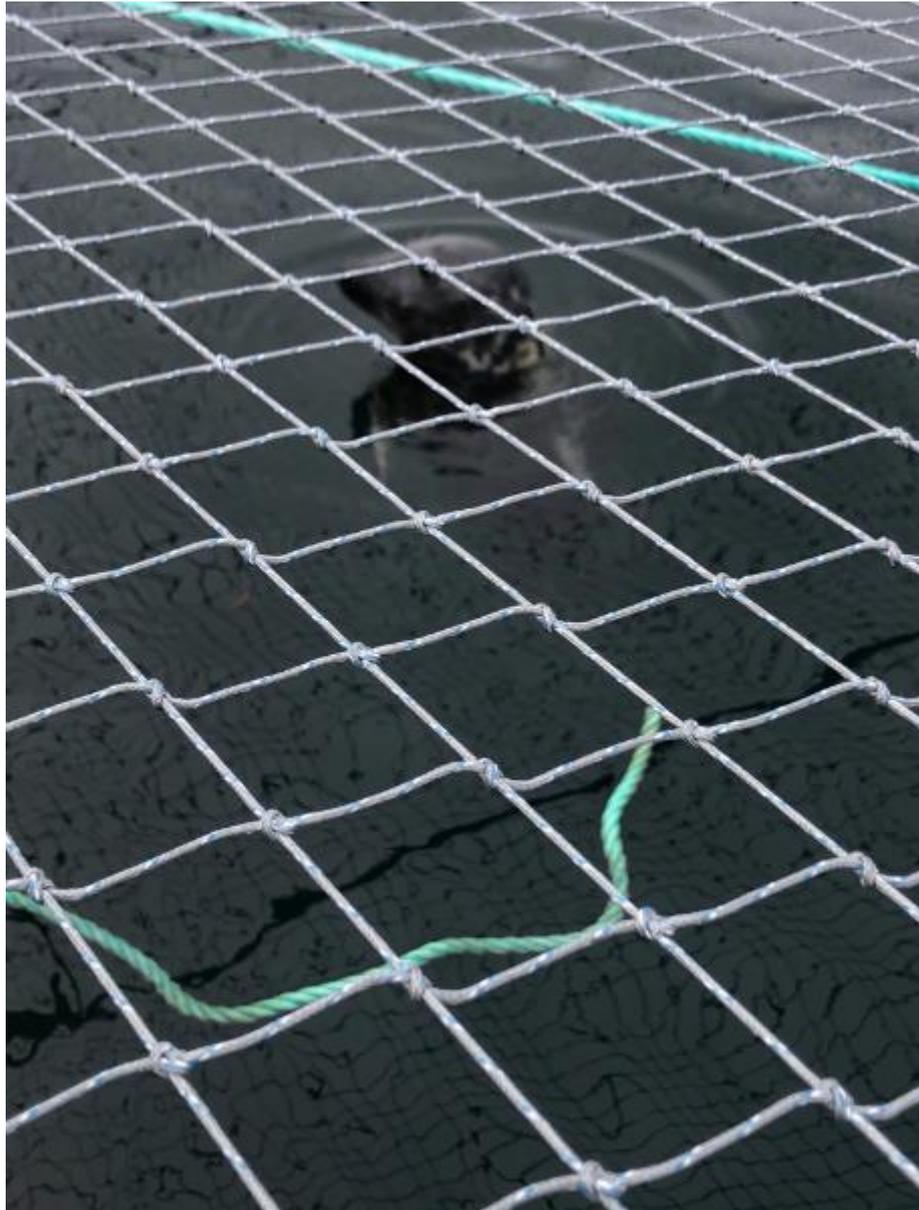
1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Attached is a photo of the seal pre-cull.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)





Scottish Sea Farms in Shetland pledged to "make a note to the site staff to take photos if there are any future occurrences":

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

**Sent:** 04 February 2020 09:48

**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal Reporting

Hi (redacted),

Unfortunately there are no photos from this event. I will make a note to the site staff to take photos if there are any future occurrences.

"Due to seal decomposing and starting to smell we have disposed of the carcass," wrote The Scottish Salmon Company in relation to a seal killed at Taranaish.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 21 January 2020 09:52  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Hi (redacted)  
Due to seal decomposing and starting to smell we have disposed of the carcass  
Regards  
(redacted)

"We have had a seal in a cage for about a week and we have had to shoot it this morning," wrote The Scottish Salmon Company. "The seal has sunk in the cage".

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 09:42  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Seal carcass Taranaish site

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi  
We have had a seal in a cage for about a week and we have had to shoot it this morning (Taranaish-W108/2019/02w licence number). The seal has sunk in the cage, but we will have divers coming out to site on Monday so we can recover it then if you want it.  
Regards  
(redacted)

(redacted)

Breasclate Pier, Breasclate  
Isle of Lewis HS2 9ED  
Tel: (redacted)  
DD: (redacted)

Mob: (redacted)  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

The FOI disclosure included two post-mortem reports:

## **SEAL POSTMORTEM REPORT FORM**

### **Interim report**

NATIONAL REFERENCE NUMBER: SS2018/530

POST MORTEM NUMBER: M806/18

HISTOLOGY NUMBER:

SPECIES: Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

SEX: Male

AGE GROUP: Juvenile

DATE FOUND: 13/12/18

LOCATION FOUND: Uyea sound, Shetland

NATIONAL GRID NUMBER: HU5844099298

DATE OF POSTMORTEM: 25/01/2019

### **8. OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS:**

This juvenile grey seal was shot under special licence as it has entered a salmon sea pen on a Shetland fish farm. The projectile had entered the right temporal region and obliterated the cranial vault. There was no evidence of a second shot and the visceral organs were all intact. The animal was otherwise grossly unremarkable, in good body condition with low parasite burden and appeared to have been healthy prior to killing. The stomach contained 2.6kg of fish digesta, comprising several fish skeletons with pink flesh. No fish heads were detectable. It would appear in this case that the animal was killed appropriately, with death being almost instantaneous from a single shot to the head. The large volume of ingesta resembling salmonid flesh would support the allegation that this animal was predated on farmed fish.

- a. **Significant diseases or conditions thought to contribute to the death of the animal: Shot (known)**
  
- b. **Incidental diseases or conditions not thought to contribute to the death or condition causing it**

### **9. DIAGNOSIS: SHOT (KNOWN)**

**10. CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT UNDER LICENCE (SHOT KNOWN)**

**11. CAUSE OF DEATH CATEGORY: PHYSICAL TRAUMA, SHOT (KNOWN)**

**12. CAUSE OF DEATH CLASS: TRAUMA**

**13. CONFIDENCE IN DIAGNOSIS: 5**

# **SEAL POSTMORTEM REPORT FORM**

## **Interim report**

NATIONAL REFERENCE NUMBER: SS2020/47

POST MORTEM NUMBER: M60/20

HISTOLOGY NUMBER: 01102005331

SPECIES: *Phoca vitulina*

SEX: Male

AGE GROUP: Juvenile

DATE FOUND: 13/01/2020

LOCATION FOUND: Poolewe, Little Loch Ewe. Highland

NATIONAL GRID NUMBER: NG 8440481509

DATE OF POSTMORTEM: 28/01/2020

### **4) Musculoskeletal system**

Skull: Single entry wound to top of skull consistent with ballistic trauma, skull fractured into >5 sections, cranial vault destroyed. No other trauma evident

### **5) Nervous system**

Brain: Massive trauma due to ballistic trauma, intracranial haemorrhage and loss of structure- death likely almost immediate

## **8. OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS:**

This juvenile male common seal was shot on request of the SSPCA by a local marksman from the Mowi aquaculture unit, due to a 'substantial wound to the rear flipper' and submitted for necropsy as a fresh case. The animal was in thin condition and appeared to have been shot with a single bullet to the top of the skull, which obliterated the cranial vault and caused severe trauma to the brain. Death was likely almost instantaneous. The wound in the left hind flipper was a superficial skin defect, 12-14mm square across in the webbing, with indication of tissue healing but no unusual inflammatory reaction or indication of infection. Draining lymph nodes from the left flipper were unremarkable. There was indication of pneumonia with congestion and focal consolidation to the lungs. There was no patent parasite burden detected grossly however, histology showed variable pulmonary congestion, patchy alveolar oedema and moderate atelectasis. Multifocal, mild, lungworm burden (suspected *Parafilaroides* species). There was also minimal, eosinophilic and granulomatous, necrotising hepatitis and mild to moderate reactive lymphadenosis with medullary histiocytosis. These changes are considered within normal limits. Bacterial examination did not reveal any significant isolates. The animal otherwise appeared healthy and there was indication of successful feeding, however the absence of ingesta in the stomach suggests the animal did not feed for a few hours prior to death.

Email regarding this case:

31 Jan  
2020,  
08:02)

SMASS <redacted @sruc.ac.uk>  
to redacted

All,

We recently received for necropsy a juvenile male harbour seal (ref M60/20), submitted to us by Mowi Scotland, shot apparently on welfare grounds and under instruction from the SSPCA, due to a 'substantial wound to the rear flipper'.

Upon examining the animal there was no clear pathological reason for this animal to have been euthanized. The wound was a superficial skin defect, <20mm across in the webbing of the hind flipper, with no associated inflammatory reaction or indication of infection. The animal was in thin body condition, with evidence of congestion and focal consolidation to the lungs, possibly suggestive of pneumonia. Parasite burden was however low and otherwise the animal appeared healthy and had been recently feeding.

If possible, could you clarify why this animal was euthanized, who made the decision and on what basis? For example was the animal particularly lethargic, exhibiting neurological signs or otherwise unsuitable for rehabilitation?

Whilst it is appreciated this was likely all done in good faith and with the animal's welfare in mind, given the protected nature of this species it is concerning from both an individual and population basis if animals are being removed unnecessarily.

Many thanks

Redacted



The FOI disclosure attached 27 PDF files of emails - including:

**Email #3:**

**From:** (redacted) [@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)  
**Sent:** 29 January 2020 10:20  
**To:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal dispatched

Hi (redacted),  
Can you send through the photos of these two shot seals please? We can't list them as grey seals in our quarterly report to Marine Scotland if we aren't able to confirm the species.

Please do let us know if you find any more.

**From:** (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2020 11:32  
**To:** (redacted) [@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>; (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal dispatched

Hi (redacted)

It would save a lot of hassle and extra cost if we don't need to send the carcass away. I will send you photos later today.

Regards

(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2020 10:12  
**To:** (redacted) [@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>; (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal dispatched

Hi (redacted)

They were Grey Seals at Grid reference NB 12555 34433.

I will get photos of the location today.

Can you confirm the address where you want the seals delivered to?

Regards

(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>  
**Sent:** 22 January 2020 15:42  
**To:** (redacted) <@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>; (redacted) <@scottishsalmon.com>  
**Subject:** Seal dispatched

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi

I am writing to inform you that we have recover two seals that we regrettably had to dispatch from within our farm pens earlier today. Please could you get in touch to provide further instruction on whether or not you require the carcass?

Regards

(redacted)

(redacted)

Miavaig Pier, Uig  
Isle of Lewis HS2 9HW  
(redacted)  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



The Scottish  
Salmon Company  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)



TARTAN  
SALMON



LOCHLANDER™  
SALMON

HARRIS & LEW

#### Email #4:

**From:** (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 March 2020 16:57  
**To:** (redacted)@st-andrews.ac.uk  
**Cc:** (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: seal carcasses

Hi (redacted)

We have seen a modest increase in cases reported to us. But that's only a handful of cases. I believe they get divers in when possible to recover the animals shot in pens, but that may not be for some time after the animal is shot. We have had cases recovered from pens submitted to us but I can't tell you what happens to those that aren't, my guess is they are just sunk. We've only had one shot seal reported to us in February. It was reported as shot and sunk in Shetland.

Cheers

(redacted)

(redacted)  
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme,  
SRUC Northern Faculty,  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus,  
Inverness  
Scotland  
IV2 5NA  
(redacted)

**From:** (redacted)<[@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:@st-andrews.ac.uk)>

**Sent:** 09 March 2020 15:01

**To:** (redacted)<[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Cc:** (redacted)<[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: seal carcasses

Hi (redacted)

Thanks for your message and sorry for not getting back to this earlier. It's interesting to hear how little has been reported over the winter months, despite what sounds like quite a high rate of shooting.

Have you noticed any change recently in reporting rate? Along with the new licences (which started in February) site managers have been asked to report all shooting to you, so that carcasses can be accounted for.

Do you know what happened to the carcasses of seals shot in pens? They must have been recovered presumably?

Best,  
(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) [@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Sent:** 11 February 2020 14:47

**To:** (redacted)[@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:@st-andrews.ac.uk)

**Cc:** (redacted) [@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: seal carcasses

Hi (redacted),

We haven't had any shot animals submitted to us recently i.e. this year, we have had 5 reported to us, all supposedly grey seals though we aren't able to verify that in 2 cases, 3 from Lewis and 2 from Shetland. The Lewis cases were all from Scottish Salmon and were all shot in sea pens. The Shetland cases were both from Scottish Sea farms and I don't know the circumstances of these. The last submitted case was a grey seal from Cooke Aquaculture at Uyea sound Shetland, this was one of two animals found inside the fish pen. What I said to (redacted) was that there seemed to be an increase in reporting over the last few months.

Best wishes

(redacted)

(redacted)

Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme,  
SRUC Northern Faculty,  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus,  
Inverness  
Scotland  
IV2 5NA  
(redacted)  
[www.strandings.org](http://www.strandings.org)

**From:** (redacted)<[@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:@st-andrews.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 07 February 2020 12:01  
**To:** (redacted)<[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted)<[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** seal carcasses

Hi (redacted)

I was talking to (redacted)yesterday and she suggested I contact you about carcasses you've had in or sampled recently - I understand several from Shetland? It's interesting because they seemed to be having success with the new tougher nets. Loch Roag (Scottish Salmon Company) also having lots of issues this winter but I don't know if you've had anything from them?

You might remember the project I'm working on is trying to quantify the efficacy of different anti-predator techniques, so I'm trying to stay on top of where the most serious problems are happening.

Happy to talk on the phone if it's easier.

Best,  
(redacted)

--

(redacted)  
Sea Mammal Research Unit  
Scottish Oceans Institute  
University of St Andrews  
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 8LB

Tel: (redacted)

#### **Email #5:**

**From:** (redacted)[@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 10:14:16 PM  
**To:** (redacted)<[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted)[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal shot under licence - reporting

Hi (redacted),

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly on this. It really has helped.

It is a shame to see that no carcasses have been recovered and sent to you (pre-covid of course) so it is something that we will be following up.

As per (redacted) email today, if you could keep me update on all future reports, that would be great. Thank you.

**From:** (redacted),@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 April 2020 14:46  
**To:** (redacted)[@gov.scot](mailto:(redacted)@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** (redacted)<@sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal shot under licence - reporting

Hi (redacted),

Just to follow up on this, as (redacted) points out the information provided to us on seals shot under licence is limited, so meaningful oversight is not possible under the current system. Whilst it is appreciated that recovery of a grey seal from the water for examination isn't trivial, the lack of data or samples means we cannot assess species, confirm the 'identity' of cases shot and reported vs those shot illegally, establish if the animal was shot humanely, or assess stomach contents for prey analysis.

If and when the legislation around seal management is reviewed, can we suggest that a requirement of the licence is all, or almost all (eg 80%) of shot animals are photographed and reported to SMASS, and it is made incumbent on those issued with licences to recover at least a proportion of cases and courier them to us for necropsy? The current system doesn't allow assessment of the welfare aspect of seal management or help establish if the culling of suspect 'rogue seals' as a measure of last resort even works.

Happy to discuss this in more detail if you wish, appreciate this is politically very complex, especially given the wider issue of ADD and the MMPA, but it probably needed flagging.

Best

(redacted)

---

(redacted)  
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
SRUC Northern Faculty  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus, IV2 5NA  
(redacted)  
[Email](#) - [Web](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

On Mon, 27 Apr 2020 at 10:27, (redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:(redacted)@sac.co.uk)> wrote:

We have had 14 reports the majority from Scottish Sea Farms Ltd. None were recovered and sent to us for necropsy none were sampled. Five animals, all grey seals were confirmed with photos, the remainder 9 were not. Details of all the cases are below.

1. Reported as grey seal shot at Wyre, Shetland 09/01/20 grid ref HU456253 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
2. Grey seal confirmed by photos of live animal prior to shooting Taranaish, Great Bernera, Lewis 16/01/20 NB 1626539463 carcass sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.
3. Grey seal confirmed by photos at Miavaig, Uig Lewis NB12555 34433 22/01/20 carcass sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.
4. Grey seal confirmed by photos at Miavaig, Uig Lewis NB12555 34433 22/01/20 carcass sunk. Scottish Salmon Ltd.
5. Reported as grey seal shot near Hawn, Shetland 03/02/20 grid ref HU456253 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
6. Reported as grey seal shot at Wyne, Orkney 03/02/20 grid ref HY456253 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
7. Reported as grey seal shot at Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 28/02/20 grid ref HU485676 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
8. Grey seal confirmed by photos of live animal prior to shooting Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 25/03/20 grid ref HU484676 carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
9. Grey seal confirmed by photos of live animal prior to shooting Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 26/03/20 grid ref HU484676 carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
10. Reported as harbour seal shot at Shuna, Loch Linnhe 09/01/20 grid ref NM 925497 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
11. Reported as grey seal shot at Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 04/04/20 grid ref HU485676 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
12. Reported as harbour seal shot at Shuna, Loch Linnhe 03/04/20 grid ref NM 925497 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
13. Reported as grey seal shot at Wyne, Orkney 16/04/20 grid ref HY456253 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.
14. Reported as grey seal shot at Swarta Skerry, Vidlin, Shetland 21/04/20 grid ref HU485676 no photos to confirm the species carcass sunk. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

Most of reports we receive are like this "I am writing to report the sinking of a seal carcass at Vidlin (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 21.04.2020. 1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA. Unfortunately there are not photos available."

I always ask for a photo of the animal when we get a report, though as you can see they aren't particularly good at providing them.

**From:** (redacted) @gov.scot  
**Sent:** 24 April 2020 17:03  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) [@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)  
**Subject:** Seal shot under licence - reporting

In February you kindly provided me with details of the number of seals shot under licence that has been reported to SMASS. I am working on a number of issues in relation to seals and it would be really helpful to get the following information from you, preferably in a table.

- Number of seals reported to the scheme in 2020, including species, date of reporting/shooting and location (name of farm or river board)
- Number of seals recovered for necropsy (if not, it would be helpful to know why we couldn't, although I appreciate that this has not been possible since the lockdown was announced)
- Number of seals which were sampled or photo's provided.

I am conscious that we made a concerted effort when the 2020 licences were issued, for people to recover carcasses where possible and report them to you for reporting and collection purposes. It would be good to know if this message has got through.

(redacted)

(redacted)  
Marine Scotland – Marine Planning and Policy

Scottish Government | Area 1A South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Mob: (redacted)  
e: (redacted)

#### **Email #6:**

**From:** (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 July 2020 15:03  
**To:** (redacted)@gov.scot; (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Cc:** (redacted)@gov.scot; (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal figures

Hi (redacted) and (redacted),  
Please also be aware that we had a seal reported as culled on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July also from Scottish Sea Farms at Loch Kishorn/Loch Carron. They did not specify the species.

The animal that is stored frozen at Thurso (M285/19) was reported as shot under licence.

**From:** (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2020 16:01  
**To:** (redacted)@gov.scot; (redacted)@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Seal figures

Hi (redacted) & (redacted),

Please find attached a spreadsheet with all seals reported as shot under licence, from 2015 – end June 2020. There is a column for “examination level” which indicates which ones were necropsied, and which ones were not.

To summarise, see table below:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Necropsied</b>	<b>Not necropsied</b>	<b>Total</b>
Halichoerus grypus	5	25	30
Phoca vitulina	1	5	6
Pinniped (indeterminate species)		2	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>

Please note that the species is sometimes uncertain; this is the case when animals are reported to be a particular species, but there were no photographs to confirm them as such. The column “Species uncertain” indicates this.

Finally, I am not 100% certain whether the animal that is stored frozen in Thurso pending PM (M285/19) was actually reported as shot under licence- or found to be shot. I am pretty sure it was reported and the carcase washed up later, but (redacted) was dealing with this stranding and recovery of the carcase at the time, and the 2019 book which would tell me is at the office (and I am working from home). (redacted) is on leave at the moment, and won't be able to confirm this until Monday. My apologies for that, I hope this is not too much of an inconvenience.

Hopefully this is useful and what you were after; if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Hope you are both well, and have a lovely weekend (and time on leave!) when it comes.

Cheers,  
(redacted)

(redacted)  
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
Department of Veterinary and Animal Science  
Northern Faculty, SRUC  
An Lòchran  
10 Inverness Campus  
Inverness, IV2 5NA

**From:** (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 July 2020 14:44  
**To:** (redacted) <@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted)@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Seal figures

Could someone let me know the figures for the number of necropsies carried out on seals that were retrieved and reported as being shot under licence from 2015 to now, as soon as possible please.

I've cc'd in (redacted) as she needs the figures for a report and I will be on leave next week.

Thank you in advance.

Best wishes

(redacted)

*(Please note: I am currently working from home and am available by email, Skype or mobile)*

(redacted)

Marine Conservation | Marine Planning and Policy

Scottish Government | Area 1B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

#### **Email #7:**

From: (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

Date: Jul 10, 2020 17:49

Subject: Seal Cull Kishorn North

To: (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

Cc: (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>, (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

I would like to report the cull of a seal carcass at Kishorn North (Site Co-ordinates 57.3779 N 5.6763 W) on 09/07/2020.

1 Common seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

No photos or video footage was captured on this occasion.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

**Best Regards**

(redacted) **Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

**Tel** (redacted)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

#### **Email #8:**

**From:** (redacted) @sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 11 November 2020 13:47  
**To:** (redacted) @st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted) @gov.scot>; (redacted) @sac.co.uk>; (redacted) @st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal management cases - request for data

Hi (redacted)

Ok, some data you may find useful for now, I can do more specific analysis if you need.

Attached the annual seal management reports we submitted to Marine Scotland for the period 2012-2015. Since 2015 there have only been 9 cases reported to us which were logistically possible to recover for necropsy so there was little point in continuing the analysis at that level.

I have mapped the data we have 2007-current here. Password is 'Salmon' You can view those data by any of the variables and each datapoint contains the full data for that case. I have also attached the same data as an excel file. The column you may be interested in is the **findings** column BK and is coded as follows:

- **Physical Trauma: Shot (known) = Reported as shot**  
Cases which could be **definitively linked** to a particular seal management event, e.g. reported directly to SMASS by the marksman.
- **Physical Trauma: Shot = Diagnosed as shot**  
Cases which could **not** be definitively linked to a particular seal management event but had **pathology consistent** with gunshot trauma as the primary cause of death.
- **Physical Trauma: Shot (suspected) = animal not necropsied**  
Cases which could not be linked to a particular seal management event and where there was **good but not definitive** evidence that gunshot trauma was the primary cause of death. e.g. photographs of cases not examined at necropsy.

As you can see, the majority of cases we see have been shot cleanly, in that the cranial vault was destroyed by one shot and death is therefore taken to be effectively instantaneous. From a welfare aspect therefore >90% of these cases have been euthanised in an acceptable fashion. This however comes with a vital caveat- the information provided to SMASS regarding seals shot under licence is limited, and I would therefore be exceedingly wary of treating these data on their own as any validation or audit of the current system. Due to the small number of cases recoverable for necropsy and the risk that the submitted cases could be biased, either intentionally or unintentionally, to animals shot 'cleanly', the conclusions from these examinations should be treated with caution. As routine we get reports that animals have been shot but the carcass was not recoverable or it sank. Whilst it is appreciated that recovery of a grey seal from the water for examination isn't trivial, the lack of data or samples means we cannot assess species, confirm the 'identity' of cases shot and reported vs those shot illegally, establish if the animal was shot humanely, or assess stomach contents for prey analysis. As a solution to this we suggest that a requirement of any licence that all cases are photographed, even if in the water and reported to SMASS, and it is made incumbent on those issued with licences to recover at least a proportion of cases and courier them to us for necropsy.

On Wed, 11 Nov 2020 at 10:26, David Thompson <(redacted) [@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:(redacted)@st-andrews.ac.uk)> wrote:

Just to confirm that essentially we only need your assessment of the proportion of the necropsied seals that you think were likely to have been rendered unconscious or killed instantaneously.

It would be good to know which shot seals were reliably linked to reports of seals shot under licence, but I realise that there is often some doubt about that identification.

We now have the ballistics report from Elaine, so no need to send that.

On Tue, 10 Nov 2020 at 17:05, <(redacted) [@gov.scot](mailto:(redacted)@gov.scot)> wrote:

We have sought some advice from SMRU in relation to methods available for lethally removal of seals. To assist them in compiling this advice, are you able to provide (redacted) and (redacted) with the data you have for all seal management cases (e.g., including the full necropsy) you have dealt with since the new licensing scheme came into force in 2011?

(redacted)  
Marine Scotland – Marine Planning and Policy

Scottish Government | Area 1A South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Mob: (redacted)  
e: [\(redacted\)@gov.scot](mailto:(redacted)@gov.scot)

## Email #9:

**From:** (redacted) [@sac.co.uk](mailto:(redacted)@sac.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 16 October 2020 16:19  
**To:** (redacted) [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:(redacted)@scottishseafarms.com)>; (redacted) [@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:(redacted)@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Reporting

Dear (redacted),

Thank you for this report and letting us know; we have logged it under reference number M532/20.

Cheers,  
(redacted)

(redacted) Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
Northern Faculty, SRUC  
An Lòchran, 10 Inverness Campus, Inverness, IV2 5NA  
(redacted)  
[www.strandings.org/](http://www.strandings.org/) <https://www.facebook.com/Strandings>

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 16 October 2020 14:13  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Seal Reporting

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the sinking of a seal carcass at Wyre (Grid Reference - HY456253) on 14.10.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA. Unfortunately no photos were taken.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD

(redacted)  **Scottish  
Sea Farms**

#### **Email #10:**

**From:** (REDACTED)[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 20 July 2020 15:24  
**To:** (REDACTED)[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:**(REDACTED)[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (REDACTED)[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Cull Kishorn North

Good Afternoon

It was a common seal that was culled

**Best Regards**

(REDACTED)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB  
**Tel** (REDACTED)  
[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

**From:** (REDACTED)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:)>  
**Sent:** 10 July 2020 17:50  
**To:** (REDACTED)<[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:)>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:)>; (REDACTED)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:)>  
**Subject:** Seal Cull Kishorn North

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Good Evening

I would like to report the cull of a seal carcass at Kishorn North (Site Co-ordinates 57.3779 N 5.6763 W) on 09/07/2020.

1 Common seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

No photos or video footage was captured on this occasion.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

**Best Regards**

(REDACTED)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

**Tel** (REDACTED)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

## **Email #11:**

**From:** (REDACTED)@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 May 2020 11:17  
**To:** (REDACTED)@scottishseafarms.com>; (REDACTED)@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED)@Scottishseafarms.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Dear (REDACTED),

Thank you for this report. We have logged the case in our database under reference number M261/20.

Cheers,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme

Department of Veterinary and Animal Science

Northern Faculty, SRUC

An Lòchran

10 Inverness Campus

Inverness, IV2 5NA

[www.strandings.org](http://www.strandings.org)

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 28 May 2020 16:18  
**To:** (REDACTED)<[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED)<[@Scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@Scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Wyre (Grid Reference - HY456253) on 28.05.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Unfortunately there were no photos taken.

Kind Regards,

(REDACTED)| (REDACTED) **Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (REDACTED)



## Email #12:

**From:** (redacted)[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 19 May 2020 14:18  
**To:** (redacted)[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) [scottishseafarms.com](mailto:scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I am writing to inform you of a seal carcass at Swarta Skerry (Grid Reference - HU473623) on 17/05/2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

I have attached a photo from the in cage cameras however it is rather blurry.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

(redacted)| (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)



**Email #13:**

**From:** (REDACTED) @gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 May 2020 07:30  
**To:** (REDACTED) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Cull

Hi (REDACTED),

Thank you for sending this on to me. We are due to contact licence holders in the next couple of weeks so will consider from our end.

If you could also collate and send weekly/fortnightly that would be great so we do not miss any. Many thanks.

I hope that you are keeping well.

Best wishes

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 10 May 2020 16:25  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Seal Cull

Hi (REDACTED)

And another one. I appreciate these reports are perhaps better collated and sent periodically as you suggested, but this report highlights the recurrent theme. Given the proforma nature of these reports, we asked if it may be possible to get more information from these cases. Short answer was no; they have no willingness, intention or, to fair in some cases, capacity, to collect any more detailed information. In some cases we get photos of damaged stock or, as you say, seals in the water, but nothing at a resolution which can assess if these culls are being undertaken in adherence with regulations.

All the best

(REDACTED)

---

(REDACTED)  
Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
SRUC Northern Faculty  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus, IV2 5NA

(REDACTED)

[Email](#) - [Web](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)

From: (REDACTED) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
Date: Sun, 10 May 2020 at 14:50  
Subject: Seal Cull  
To: (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

I would like to report a seal cull (Site Co-ordinates - 57.3854 N 5.6142 W) on 08/05/2020. No photos have been taken during this execution.

1 Common seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

(REDACTED)

Scottish Sea Farms Limited

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

#### Email #14:

**Date:** Friday, 08 May 2020, 10:06 am  
**To:** (Redacted) <[gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Good morning (Redacted),

That does sound quite challenging indeed; hopefully the situation will soon stabilise, allowing for children to go back to school at least...

There have been another two shot seals reported since my last email (one again on Shetland, the other in Loch Linnhe which Andrew forwarded to you already). Neither had photos of the carcass, though one underwater photo of a seal pulling a fish at a net was provided (photo attached). Would you like us to forward each individual report to you, or is a "weekly summary" for the weeks we get shot seals reported easier? Just let us know what works.

Summary of all four cases that have been reported since 30-04-2020 at the bottom of this email.

M226/20	30/04/2020	01/05/2020	Grey seal	No	Vidlin, Scottish Sea Farms Limited Shetland
	HU485676	no	Shot under licence		Scottish Sea Farms Limited. Carcass sank before photos were taken. Reported to MS
M228/20	03/05/2020	04/05/2020	Grey seal	No	Swarta Skerry, Scottish Sea Farms Limited Shetland
	HU473623	no	Shot under licence		Scottish Sea Farms Limited. Carcass sank before photos were taken. Reported to MS

M230/20 04/05/2020 05/05/2020 Grey seal No Vidlin, Scottish Sea Farms Limited Shetland HU485676 yes (ish, alive - attached) Shot under licence Scottish Sea Farms Limited. Carcase sank before photos were taken. Reported to MS  
M233/20 05/05/2020 07/05/2020 Grey seal No Loch Linnhe, Scottish Sea Farms Limited Argyll & Bute NM 82199 40801 no Shot under licence Scottish Sea Farms Limited. Carcase sank before photos were taken. Reported to MS

**From:** (Redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Sent:** 04 May 2020 13:41

**To:** (Redacted) <[@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Seal Carcass

As you can see in the email below, we have requested them to try and make sure they get some photographs of the shot seals so we can at least confirm the species next time.

**From:** (Redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, 4 May 2020 10:33 am

**To:** (Redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Thank you for this report, as well as the report of the seal that was shot at Vidlin on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The same grid reference is listed for both reports (HU485 676) which is at Vidlin. Would you be able to provide us with a new grid reference for this seal at Swarta Skerry when you get a moment please?

I do appreciate the at sea conditions make it difficult especially when carcasses sink, but if every attempt could be made to get some photographs of the shot seals so we can at least confirm the species next time that would be greatly appreciated.

**From:** (Redacted) <(Redacted) [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

**Sent:** 04 May 2020 10:09

**To:** (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** Seal Carcass

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I am writing to inform you of a seal carcass at Swarta Skerry (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 03/05/2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Unfortunately there are no photos available.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

(Redacted) | (Redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD

Tel (Redacted)



**From:** (Redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 04 May 2020 11:09  
**To:** (Redacted) <[@sac.co.uk](mailto:@sac.co.uk)>; (Redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Hiya,

My mistake the grid reference for Swarta Skerry is - HU473623.

I have encouraged all site managers to take photos prior to a cull and will continue to do so.

Kind Regards,  
(Redacted)

**Email #15:**

**From:** (redacted)@sac.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 May 2020 09:18  
**To:** (redacted)@scottishseafarms.com>; (redacted)@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Cull

Dear (redacted),

Many thanks for forwarding this report to us.

Can I just confirm this case was shot in Loch Linnhe?  
We have logged this case under SMASS reference number M233/20.

We appreciate the at sea conditions make it difficult especially when carcasses sink, but if every attempt could be made to get some photographs of the shot seals so we can at least confirm the species next time that would be greatly appreciated.

**From:** (redacted)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

**Sent:** 07 May 2020 16:29

**To:** (redacted)<[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** Seal Cull

[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon

I would like to report a seal cull (Site Co-ordinates - 56.5087 N 5.5412 W) on 05/05/2020. No photos have been taken during this execution.

1 Common seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Best Regards**

(redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

(redacted)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)

## Email #16:

**From:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>

**Sent:** 06 April 2020 13:03

**To:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Good Afternoon

I am sorry the site has very rarely seen the culprit of the damage so no photos have managed to be taken.

**Best Regards**

(redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

**Tel** (redacted)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)



**From:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 11:48  
**To:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to [ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com)

Hi (redacted)  
Thanks for the report, are there any photos of the seal that would allow us to confirm the species?

This case is logged in our database under M198/20.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 11:30  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** (redacted) t: Seal Carcass

**[NOTE]** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Shuna (Grid Reference - NM925497) on 03/04/2020.

1 Harbour seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

**Best Regards**

(redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

South Shian, Benderloch, Argyll & Bute, Scotland, PA37 1SB

**Tel** (redacted)

[www.scottishseafarms.com](http://www.scottishseafarms.com) | [www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms](https://www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms) | [www.twitter.com/scotseafarms](https://www.twitter.com/scotseafarms)



**Email #17:**

**From:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 11:46  
**To:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal Carcass

Hi there,

Unfortunately not, the seal sunk before they had a chance to recover it and take photos.

Kind regards,  
Freya

(redacted) | (redacted)  
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, KW15 1SD, Orkney  
Tel: (redacted)

**From:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 11:41:09 AM  
**To:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to [ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com)

Hi (redacted),  
Thanks for the report, are there any photos of the seal that would allow us to confirm the species?  
This case is logged in our database under M197/20.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 06 April 2020 10:54  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

I would like to report the sinking of a seal carcass at Vidlin (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 04.04.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)  
Scottish Sea Farms Limited  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)



**Email #18:**

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 31 March 2020 10:03  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Hi (redacted),

Unfortunately we don't have a photo for this seal.

Kind Regards,  
(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 March 2020 10:01 am  
**To:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>; (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to [ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:ITSUPPORT@scottishseafarms.com)

Hi (redacted),

Thanks for the report, are there any photos that would allow us to confirm the species?  
This case is logged in our database under M184/20.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 30 March 2020 10:15  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Shuna (Grid Reference - NM925497) on 28/03/2020.

1 Harbour seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)



**Email #19 (#20 is the same):**

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 26 March 2020 09:21  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass notification

I regret to inform you that another seal has been weighted and sunk at Swarta Skerry (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 25/03/2020.

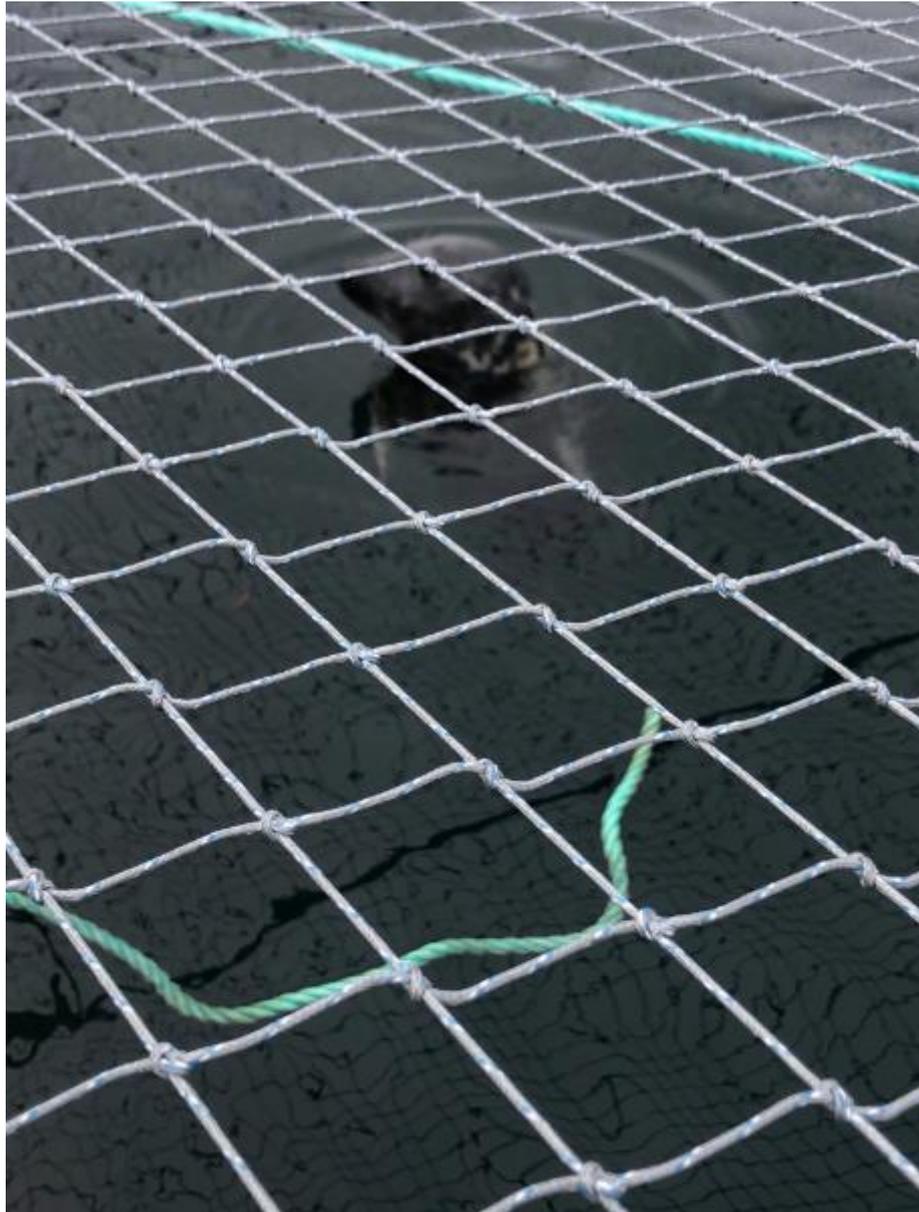
1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Attached is a photo of the seal pre-cull.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD  
Tel (redacted)





**From:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 26 March 2020 10:12

**To:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>; (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>

**Cc:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>

**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass notification

Hi (redacted),

Thanks for the report, it has been logged in our database under this ref M179/20.

**Email #21:**

**From:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 25 March 2020 13:31  
**To:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>; (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Carcass

Hi (redacted),  
Thanks for the report. I can see it's a grey seal. This animal is logged in our database as M176/20.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Sent:** 25 March 2020 12:10  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:scottishseafarms.com)>  
**Subject:** Seal Carcass

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Swarta Skerry (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 24/03/2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Below is a photo of the seal pre-cull. Apologies that is not very clear.

(redacted) | (redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

Scapa Regional Office, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SD

**Tel** (redacted)





**Email #22:**

**From:** (redacted)@sruc.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 28 February 2020 12:40

**To:** (redacted)@scottishseafarms.com>; (redacted)@sruc.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Vidlin Seal Reporting

Hi (redacted),

Thanks for the report.

Do you have any photos so we can confirm the species please?

**From:** (redacted)<[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

**Sent:** 28 February 2020 12:32

**To:** (redacted)<[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** Vidlin Seal Reporting

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Vidlin (Grid Reference - HU485676) on 28.02.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

Blackness Pier, Scalloway, Shetland, ZE1 0TQ

**Tel** (redacted)

#### **Email #23:**

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:@scottishseafarms.com)>

**Sent:** 04 February 2020 09:48

**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal Reporting

Hi (redacted),

Unfortunately there are no photos from this event. I will make a note to the site staff to take photos if there are any future occurrences.

**From:** (redacted) <@scottishseafarms.com>  
**Sent:** 03 February 2020 11:59  
**To:** (redacted) <@sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Seal Reporting

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Wyre (Grid Reference - HY456253) on 02.02.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)  
**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**  
Blackness Pier, Scalloway, Shetland, ZE1 0TQ  
Tel +44 7471 032604



**Email #24:**

**From:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 09 January 2020 16:51  
**To:** (redacted) @scottishseafarms.com>; (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal Reporting

Hi (redacted),  
Thanks for letting us know, it's been logged by us under ref number M28/20.

**From:** (redacted) <@scottishseafarms.com>

**Sent:** 09 January 2020 14:39

**To:** (redacted) <@sruc.ac.uk>

**Subject:** Seal Reporting

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi there,

I would like to report the weighting and sinking of a seal carcass at Wyre (Grid Reference - HY456253) on 09.01.2020.

1 Grey seal was culled using a single shot to the head by a licenced marksman – this has been reported to Marine Scotland and RSPCA.

Kind Regards,

(redacted) | (redacted)

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

Blackness Pier, Scalloway, Shetland, ZE1 0TQ

Tel (redacted)



**Email #25:**

**From:** (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 21 January 2020 10:16

**To:** (redacted) @scottishsalmon.com>; (redacted) @sruc.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Ok (redacted),

No worries thanks for letting us know.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>

**Sent:** 21 January 2020 09:52

**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Hi (redacted)

Due to seal decomposing and starting to smell we have disposed of the carcass

Regards

(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) [@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>;

**Sent:** 17 January 2020 08:54

**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Hi (redacted)

We have now recovered the seal from the cage

Regards

(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>

**Sent:** 16 January 2020 10:38

**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Hi (redacted)

NB 16265 39463

NB162394

116265 939463

Regards

(redacted)

**From:** (redacted) [[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 09:56  
**To:** (redacted) <[J@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:J@scottishsalmon.com)>; (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Seal carcass Taranaish site

Hi (redacted),  
Thanks for the report, could you give us a grid reference for the location it was shot please? This website will help you pinpoint it <https://gridreferencefinder.com/>

If you can send us photo of the animal when you recover it we can then decide whether it's worth you sending it over to us.

Our ref for this animal is M45/20.

**From:** (redacted) <[@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 09:42  
**To:** (redacted) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Seal carcass Taranaish site

**[NOTE] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender email address and know the content is safe.**

Hi  
We have had a seal in a cage for about a week and we have had to shoot it this morning (Taranaish-W108/2019/02w licence number). The seal has sunk in the cage, but we will have divers coming out to site on Monday so we can recover it then if you want it.  
Regards  
(redacted)

(redacted)

Breascleite Pier, Breascleite  
Isle of Lewis HS2 9ED  
Tel: (redacted)  
DD: (redacted)

Mob: (redacted)  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**Email #26:**

**From:** (REDACTED) @sruc.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 February 2020 20:48  
**To:** (REDACTED) @gov.scot  
**Subject:** Re: Seal shot at Poolewe 22nd January

Hi (REDACTED),

I think the full email chain was attached to the original email. I've asked the SSPCA for an update and will forward you whatever they send.

Cheers

(REDACTED)

---

Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme  
An Lòchran, Inverness Campus, IV2 5NA

On Thu, 23 Jan 2020 at 12:18, (REDACTED) <[@mowi.com](mailto:@mowi.com)> wrote:

I will get it through this afternoon.

The grid ref is – NG 84352 81421

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED) Mowi Scotland

---

MOBILE: (REDACTED)  
DIRECT: (REDACTED)  
MAIL: (REDACTED) [@mowi.com](mailto:@mowi.com)  
OFFICE: Mowi Scotland

Loch Ewe Site

Boor, Poolewe

IV22 2LJ

**From:** (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 03 February 2020 14:39  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[@scottishspca.org](mailto:@scottishspca.org)>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED) <[@mowi.com](mailto:@mowi.com)>; (REDACTED) [@mowi.com](mailto:@mowi.com); (REDACTED) [@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) <[@gov.scot](mailto:@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Seal shot at Poolewe 22nd January

Just following up on my email from last week to ask if you may be able to supply the clinical information requested? Also attached two images of the flipper lesion



**From:** (REDACTED) <[@mowi.com](mailto:@mowi.com)>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2020 11:14  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>; (REDACTED) <[@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:@sruc.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Loch Ewe Seal

See attached photos of the seal we had to euthanise on welfare grounds.



**Email #27:**

**From:** (REDACTED) @scottishspca.org>  
**Sent:** 21 January 2020 15:32  
**To:** (REDACTED) @mowi.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Poolewe seal

After forwarding the photos to our vets at the wildlife centre they can confirm that the seal has a substantial wound to its rear flipper and on welfare grounds would need to be put to sleep as soon as practicality possible.

Many thanks,

(REDACTED)  
 ARO Scottish SPCA

**Excel spreadsheet:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Class	Subclass	Event	National Reference	M reference	Event number in Year	Species scientific	Species common	Species uncertain	Date Found	Date Certainty	Month	Year	Location
2	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2018/11/M224/18		224	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	09/04/2018	exact	4	2018	Near Vaia Island
3	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2018/52/M801/18		801	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	11/12/2018	exact	12	2018	Cooke aquaculture Unst
4	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2018/53/M806/18		806	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	13/12/2018	exact	12	2018	Cooke aquaculture Uyeasound
5	Pinniped	Pinniped (i)	Single	SS2019/11/M179/19		179	Pinniped (i)	Seal (indet)	FALSE	13/03/2019	exact	3	2019	Thula Geodha North Uist
6	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2019/33/M464/19		464	Halichoeru	Grey seal	TRUE	05/09/2019	exact	9	2019	Near the Bow of Hascosay
7	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/2/M28/20		28	Halichoeru	Grey seal	TRUE	09/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Wyne near Mousa
8	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/37/M45/20		45	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	16/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Taranaish Great Bernera Lewis
9	Pinniped	Harbour se	Single	SS2020/47/M60/20		60	Phoca vitu	Harbour se	FALSE	13/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Poolewe
10	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/48/M61/20		61	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	22/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Miavaig Uig Lewis
11	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/48/M62/20		62	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	22/01/2020	exact	1	2020	Miavaig Uig Lewis
12	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/57/M75/20		75	Halichoeru	Grey seal	TRUE	02/02/2020	exact	2	2020	Near Hawn Wyne
13	Pinniped	Pinniped (i)	Single	SS2020/10/M132/20		132	Pinniped (i)	Seal (indet)	FALSE	28/02/2020	exact	2	2020	Widlin
14	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/12/M176/20		176	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	24/03/2020	exact	3	2020	Swarta Skerry
15	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/12/M179/20		179	Halichoeru	Grey seal	FALSE	25/03/2020	exact	3	2020	Swarta Skerry
16	Pinniped	Harbour se	Single	SS2020/12/M184/20		184	Phoca vitu	Harbour se	TRUE	28/03/2020	exact	3	2020	Isle of Shuna Loch Linnhe

17	Pinniped	Harbour seal	Single	SS2020/13	M198/20	198	Phoca vitulus	Harbour seal	TRUE	03/04/2020	exact	4	2020	near Shuna Island
18	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/13	M197/20	197	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	04/04/2020	exact	4	2020	Vidlin
19	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/14	M215/20	215	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	16/04/2020	exact	4	2020	At sea Wyne near Hawn
20	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/14	M217/20	217	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	21/04/2020	exact	4	2020	At sea Vidlin
21	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/14	M226/20	226	Halichoerus	Grey seal	FALSE	30/04/2020	exact	4	2020	Vidlin Scottish Sea Farms
22	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/14	M228/20	228	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	03/05/2020	exact	5	2020	Swarta Skerry Scottish Sea Farms Limited
23	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/14	M230/20	230	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	04/05/2020	exact	5	2020	Vidlin Scottish Sea Farms Limited
24	Pinniped	Harbour seal	Single	SS2020/16	M233/20	233	Phoca vitulus	Harbour seal	TRUE	05/05/2020	exact	5	2020	Loch Linne Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
25	Pinniped	Harbour seal	Single	SS2020/16	M238/20	238	Phoca vitulus	Harbour seal	TRUE	08/05/2020	exact	5	2020	Loch Kisshorn Scottish Sea Farms
26	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/17	M261/20	261	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	28/05/2020	exact	5	2020	Wyre
27	Pinniped	Harbour seal	Single	SS2020/24	M356/20	356	Phoca vitulus	Harbour seal	TRUE	09/07/2020	exact	7	2020	Loch Carron
28	Pinniped	Grey seal	Single	SS2020/34	M532/20	532	Halichoerus	Grey seal	TRUE	14/10/2020	exact	10	2020	Wyre Scottish Sea Farms

Local Authority	Region	Country	Gridref	GR100km	Easting	Northing	Latitude WGS84	Longitude WGS84	Sex	Length	Length Uncertain	Stranding Type	Condition Found	Sent For PM	Samples Collected	Examination Level	Age Group	
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 233 47	HU	423300	1147500	60.21132	-1.58135	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 584 99	HU	458400	1199200	60.67192	-0.933	U	NA	FALSE	dead strand	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 584 99	HU	458400	1199200	60.67192	-0.933	M	134	FALSE	dead strand	freshly dead	TRUE	FALSE	necropsied	juvenile	25/
Western Isles	Western Isles	Scotland	NF 764 74	NF	764000	874500	57.64389	-7.42583	U	NA	FALSE	live strand	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 544 92	HU	454400	1192300	60.61056	-1.00667	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 455 25	HU	445500	1125300	60.01	-1.18417	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Western Isles	Western Isles	Scotland	NB 162 39	NB	116200	939400	58.25194	-6.83833	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	adult	NA
Highland	Highland	Scotland	NG 844 81	NG	184400	881500	57.77111	-5.62694	M	111	FALSE	live strand	freshly dead	TRUE	FALSE	necropsied	juvenile	28/
Western Isles	Western Isles	Scotland	NB 125 34	NB	112500	934400	58.20472	-6.895	M	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	adult	NA
Western Isles	Western Isles	Scotland	NB 125 34	NB	112500	934400	58.20472	-6.895	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	adult	NA
Orkney	Orkney	Scotland	HY 456 25	HY	345600	1025300	59.11111	-2.95167	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 484 67	HU	448400	1167600	60.38944	-1.12194	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 485 67	HU	448500	1167600	60.39	-1.12111	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Shetland	Shetland	Scotland	HU 484 67	HU	448400	1167600	60.38944	-1.12194	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Argyll and Bute	Strathclyde	Scotland	NM 925 49	NM	192500	749700	56.59306	-5.38139	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	unknown	NA
Argyll and Bute	Strathclyde	Scotland	NM 925 49	NM	192500	749700	56.59306	-5.38139	U	NA	FALSE	at sea	freshly dead	FALSE	FALSE	not necropsied	Unknown	NA

PM Date	Condition at PM	Frozen	Pathologist	Body Weight kg	Length at PM cm	Girth cm	Ventral Blubber mm	Cause of Death	Cause of Death Category	Cause of Death Class	Comments	Findings	Findings for WEB	Reporter	Date Entered
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
25/01/2019	freshly dead	TRUE	Redacted	46	134	83	30	Shot (known)	Physical Trauma	Trauma	This juvenile	Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
28/01/2020	freshly dead	FALSE	Redacted	16.8	111	99	9	Shot (known)	NA	NA	This juvenile	Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		Physical Trauma	Physical Trauma: Anthropogenic		

[Download Copy of FOI Data Request Pinnipeds shot under license reported to SMASS 2018 - 2020](#)

**Appendix:**

From: **Devon Taylor** <Devon.Taylor@sruc.ac.uk>

Date: Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 1:48 PM

Subject: RE: Addendum: FOI re. seals killed and injured by salmon farms since 1 January 2018

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Dear Don

I refer to your emails below which have been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. **Our response** to your questions are below in red text and the attached files.

5 February FOISA:

Please provide information on seals killed and injured by salmon farms since 1 January 2018.

The shot seals are listed on our website database. If you search for “Physical Trauma, Anthropogenic” the short report associated with the pin does include Cause of Death: Physical Trauma: Shot(Known) <https://www.strandings.org/cgi-bin/smass/map.pl>

Please include any photos, data, emails, letters, autopsies, correspondence and any other information relating to seals and salmon farms.

Please see attached email trails and autopsy reports. I will need to send the photos in two separate emails as they are big files.

Please include any information on recovery of carcasses - including any data analysis of previous years

Please see attached spreadsheet.

Please also include details of any discussions with salmon farming companies, the SSPCA, RSPCA, RSPCA Assured, Scottish Government or any other parties in relation to seals killed or injured by salmon farming.

Please see attached correspondence.

12 February FOISA:

Further to Scottish Salmon Watch's FOI request filed on 5 February 2021 (enclosed below), please include any photos relating to Loch Dunvegan. Please therefore include any specific details on Loch Dunvegan in your FOI reply.

We do not have any information specifically related to Loch Dunvegan

**Right to review:**

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask SRUC to conduct a review of this decision. To do this please contact SRUC's Professional Services Director in writing at [gavin.macgregor@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:gavin.macgregor@sruc.ac.uk) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request to us. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to intervene. Details of how to contact the Commissioner and to make an appeal can be found here:

[www.itpublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itpublicknowledge.info/Appeal).

Kind regards

Devon

**Devon Taylor**

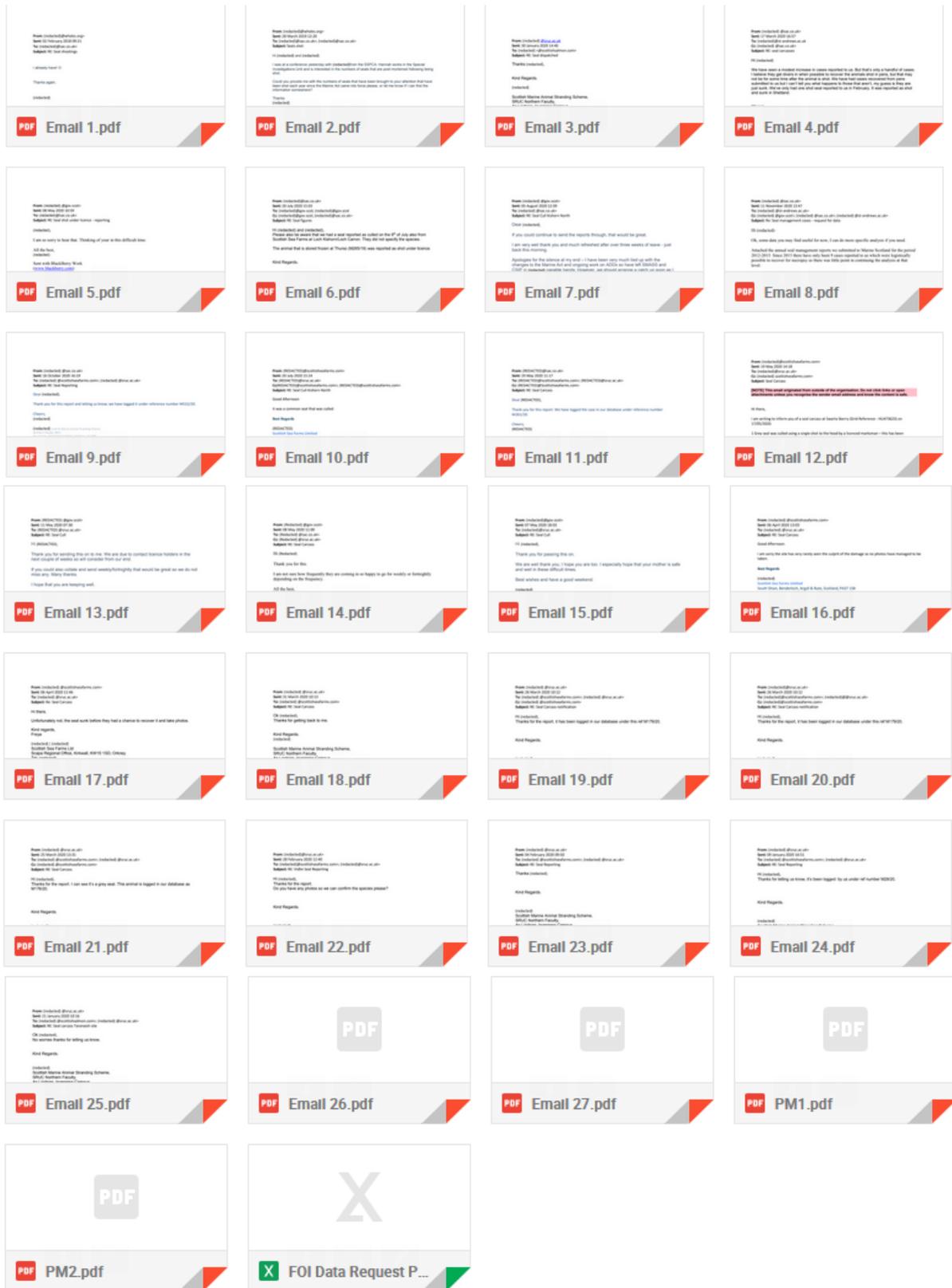
**Assistant Company Secretary**

(Pronouns: she/her)

SRUC, Peter Wilson Building, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG

T. 0131 535 4129

30 Attachments



From: **Devon Taylor** <Devon.Taylor@sruc.ac.uk>  
Date: Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 1:47 PM  
Subject: RE: FOI re. seals killed and injured by salmon farms since 1 January 2018 -

PHOTOS 1 of 2

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Dear Don

As outlined in our FOI response sent 3 March, this is email 1 of 2 with seal photos.

Kind regards  
Devon

**Devon Taylor**

**Assistant Company Secretary**

(Pronouns: she/her)

SRUC, Peter Wilson Building, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG

T. 0131 535 4129

**5 Attachments**



From: **Devon Taylor** <Devon.Taylor@sruc.ac.uk>

Date: Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 1:49 PM

Subject: RE: FOI re. seals killed and injured by salmon farms since 1 January 2018 -  
PHOTOS 2 of 2

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Dear Don

This is email 2 of 2 with the seal photos.

Kind regards  
Devon

**Devon Taylor**

**Assistant Company Secretary**

(Pronouns: she/her)

SRUC, Peter Wilson Building, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG

T. 0131 535 4129

**6 Attachments**

