



Marlene Baillie
Area Chief Inspector
Police Service of Scotland
Argyll & West Dunbartonshire
Oban Police Station
Albany Street
Oban
PA34 4AL

23 October 2020

Dear Area Chief Inspector,

Legitimate Public Concerns re. Filming at Salmon Farms in Scotland

Scottish Salmon Watch is certainly satisfied with the way Police Scotland handled our [complaint dated 29 July 2020](#) and accept the explanations, assurances and apology [provided by Police Inspector Stephen in September 2020](#) and [via your letter dated 2 October 2020](#).

However, there are unresolved issues related to the activities of salmon farms which Scottish Salmon Watch has raised repeatedly and which demand urgent attention. Would it be possible to arrange a roundtable discussion in Oban next month so as to avoid unnecessary confrontation and police involvement in the future?



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Landmark Victory for Surveillance of Salmon Farms - Police Scotland apologises for wrongly protecting @scotseafarms from public access for filming & diving tinyurl.com/yywaxm25 @policescotland



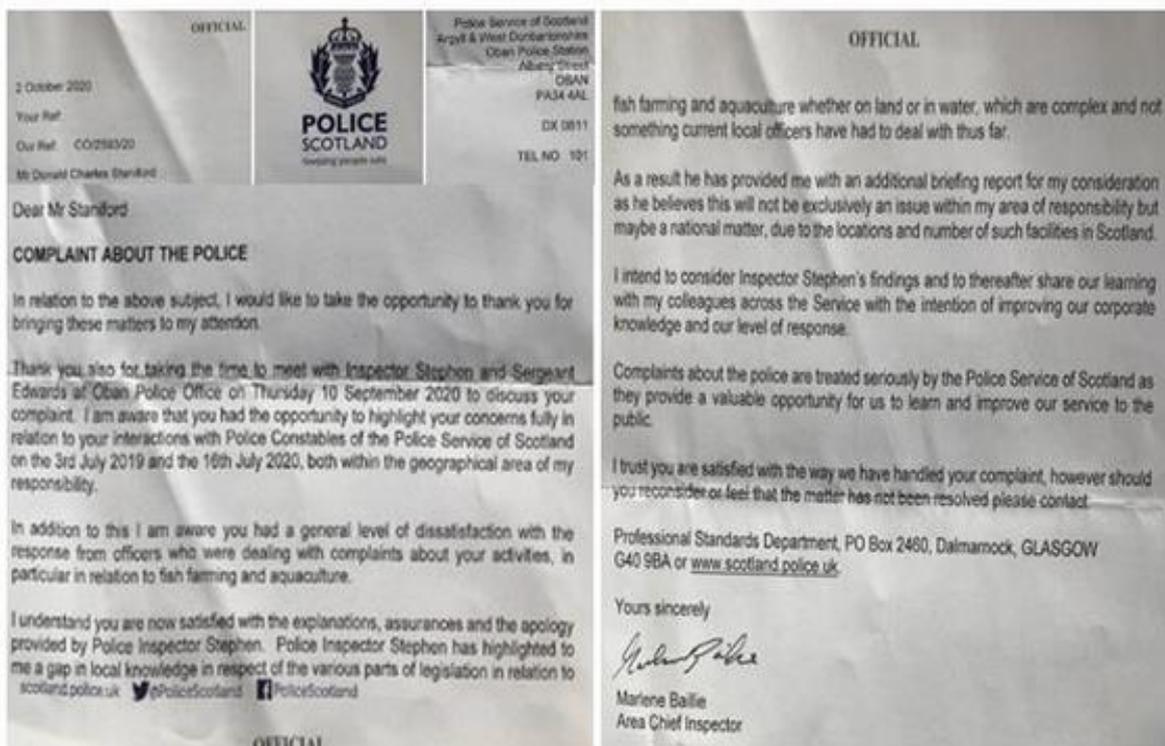
Don Staniford and his daughter Elseanne

6:01 PM · Oct 15, 2020



Your [letter dated 2 October 2020](#) included:

"Police Inspector Stephen has highlighted to me a gap in local knowledge in respect of the various parts of legislation in relation to fish farming and aquaculture whether on land or in water, which are complex and not something current local officers have had to deal with thus far. As a result he has provided me with an additional briefing report for my consideration as he believes this will not be exclusively an issue within my area of responsibility but maybe a national matter, due to the locations and number of such facilities in Scotland. I intend to consider Inspector Stephen's findings and to thereafter share our learning with my colleagues across the Service with the intention of improving our corporate knowledge and our level of response."



The experience of Scottish Salmon Watch and others investigating salmon farms has also shown gaps in the knowledge of salmon farm workers when it comes to the law.

Would it be possible for Police Scotland to share Inspector Stephen's findings and briefing report directly with the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO), Mowi, The Scottish Salmon Company, Scottish Sea Farms, Loch Duart, Kames Fish Farming, Grieg Seafood, Cooke Aquaculture and Hendrix Genetics?

"I hope this sends the message loud and clear to the fish farm companies, from top management right down to the cage workers, that we are lawfully entitled to observe and film from as close as we see fit, without fear of intimidation from the police or physical harm from the workers," [said Andrew Holder of Dip in the Blue in reaction to Police Scotland's apology.](#)

"As citizens we have the right to walk on open land and to navigate on the open sea, even if the result is that people get to see the toxic realities behind aquaculture," [said former lawyer Ewan Kennedy in reaction.](#)

Instead of wasting precious police resources on phoney incidents such as in [Loch Creran in July 2020](#) and in [Loch Linnhe in July 2019](#), surely Police Scotland would be better off investigating breaches of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) by salmon farms?



For example, in Loch Creran this week there [appears to be ongoing welfare abuse by Scottish Sea Farms](#) that could constitute a breach of the law via ["Unnecessary Suffering"](#) (Section 19) and ["Ensuring Welfare of Animals"](#) (Section 24)?



Welfare abuse by Kames Fish Farming in Loch Tralaig led to an investigation in September 2020 by the Animal & Plant Health Agency [following secret filming by Scottish Salmon Watch](#).



With [rising mass mortalities](#) and [infectious diseases compromising fish health and welfare](#), surely Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit should be investigating [welfare abuse by salmon farms across Scotland](#)?



If Police Scotland is seriously interested in upholding the law then why are police officers not investigating the theft of a public beach and [plastic pollution at Teithil Beach](#) - just yards from where Scottish Salmon Watch was [harassed in Loch Creran in July 2020](#)?



Or looking into how salmon farming companies such as Mowi have appropriated public space and [block public navigation](#)?



Or perhaps Police Scotland should invest time investigating salmon farms for the [unrecorded use of toxic chemicals](#) such as [carcinogenic Formaldehyde \(Formalin\)](#) which has been [used by Kames Fish Farming in Loch Tralaig](#) without safety equipment?



Scottish Salmon Watch is appalled at the increasing level of hostility including verbal abuse and physical assaults by salmon farmers and would like to discuss this directly with Police Scotland and the salmon farming industry in an effort to prevent escalation of conflicts.

For example, Scottish Salmon Watch is horrified that the [assault by Kames Fish Farming worker Gregor Maclellan in August 2020](#) appears to have [resulted in only a warning not a prosecution](#) even though [shocking video evidence was given to Police Scotland](#).



"You cunt - I will fucking murder the fuck out of you," said the Kames employee [Gregor Maclellan](#) as he attacked a local resident and smashed his phone for filming the use of the carcinogenic chemical Formaldehyde in Loch Tralaig. "You fucking film me again I will fuck you up you cunt. Fuck off. You fucking arsehole," threatened the Kames employee who [features in new advertising for Kames](#) and is shown prominently on [Kames's web-site](#).



Why did Police Scotland decide only to give the Kames employee a warning (it was apparently the same officer - PC Campbell - who [wrongly warned Scottish Salmon Watch against filming in Loch Creran in July 2020](#)) and fail to pursue a prosecution? Surely a death threat, assault and vandalism is enough to warrant a prosecution?

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Salmon farmer charged by @policescotland with assault over filming of carcinogenic chemicals obantimes.co.uk/2020/08/24/man... @obantimes @kamesfishfarm



Man charged after alleged assault at loch | The Oban Times
Thirty-one-year-old charged after an incident on Saturday August 22 at around 10.30am.
obantimes.co.uk

4:14 PM · Aug 25, 2020



Kames Exposed: Assault, Welfare Abuse & Unrecorded Use of Carcinogenic Chemicals
from Don Staniford

The webpage shown on the screen features the KAMES SCOTLAND logo and the text "WORK FOR US". Below this, there is a large image of a man in a yellow high-visibility jacket, and a smaller image of a document with the heading "WORK FOR US". The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 04:16, and standard video controls like volume, settings, and full screen.



Stop!
@SaveOurLochs



This is my phone after I was assaulted and thrown to the ground. It was my Christmas present from my lovely wife, very sad, loved my phone, I was even using my old phone so as not to scratch my new one but ironically took my new one yesterday..



12:57 PM · Aug 23, 2020



Stop!
@SaveOurLochs



This was today's barrage of Formaldehyde 6 drums in total. I can't put videos of what happened today as advised by the Police but I was attacked and assaulted by one of the employees. I now fear for my life as I was told by the police that I was lucky because they all carry knives.



1:32 PM · Aug 22, 2020





Stop!
@SaveOurLochs



I have just spoken to POLICE SCOTLAND that has now told me that the Kames Fish Farm LTD employee that assaulted me was given a "warning".. He was not charge for vandalism as we were told that him smashing my phone was "an accident" I feel physically sick now.

6:12 PM · Sep 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Andrew Holder
@andrholder



Replying to [@SaveOurLochs](#)

Absolutely shocked by your news. It was clearly assault, why has he not been brought before the court. Disgusted and fearful how our legal system has failed you.

8:08 AM · Sep 30, 2020 · TweetDeck



Stop!
@SaveOurLochs



Replying to [@tweetipy](#)

Thank you I cant accept this decision at all its unbelievable, I put my faith in the system and the system failed me..

8:24 PM · Sep 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Stop!
@SaveOurLochs



Replying to [@TractorAngus](#)

I feel so utterly let down by the Police. they are actually coming out tonight to talk to us.. Because I said I felt threatened by this guy back working here. Wonder what the advise will be ?

7:12 PM · Sep 29, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Last month, Scottish Salmon Watch encountered a hostile reception to filming on a public beach and road surrounding Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery (owned by Hendrix Genetics) in Argyll - including [an assault by the General Manager Jarl van den Berg \(believed to be the son of CEO Antoon van den Berg\)](#) and [harassment by James Lithgow \(heir to the Baronetcy of Ormsary and Chairman of Lithgows\)](#). Police Scotland were called out to both incidents and gave warnings to Jarl van den Berg (General Manager of Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery) and James Lithgow - not Scottish Salmon Watch.



Don Staniford

September 13 at 9:58 PM · 🌐

Police Scotland just issued a warning to the Ormsary Estate (who lease their land at Loch Caolisport to a salmon farm operated by Dutch-owned Hendrix Genetics) for intimidation and harassment. Earlier this week the MD of Hendrix Genetics assaulted me for filming and taking water samples of waste effluent. The police officer said he used to work for Norwegian salmon farming giant Scottish Sea Farms!





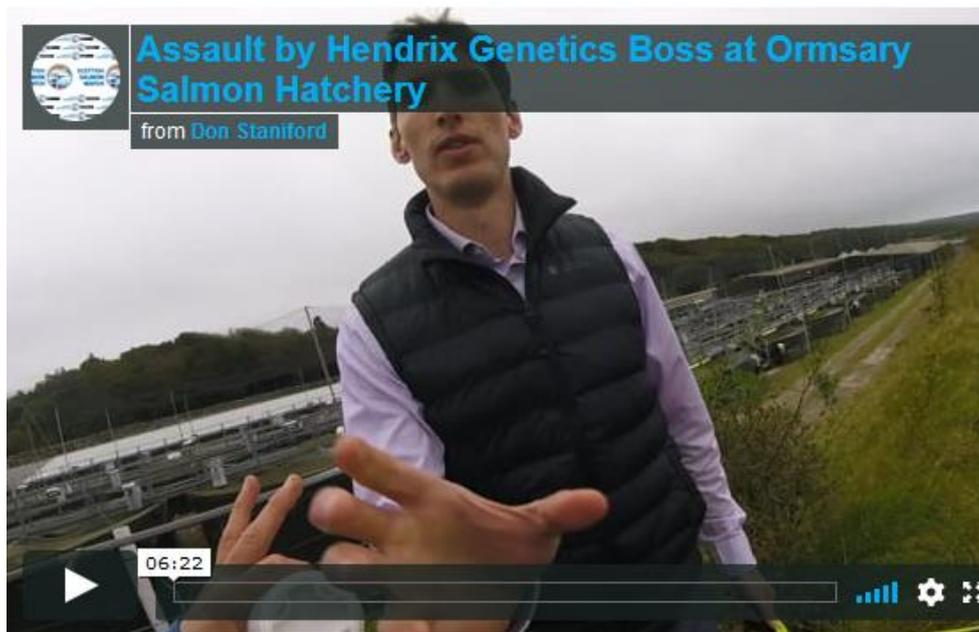
Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Hendrix boss Jarl van den Berg plays it heavy like Jimmy!
tinyurl.com/yxcrd6xe When filming at Landcatch's salmon hatchery at Ormsary I was assaulted by @HGSalmonUK & @policescotland issued a warning @BetterBreeding Is Jarl the son of Hendrix CEO Antoon van den Berg?



11:46 AM · Sep 18, 2020



Read more via:

[Lithgow Baron Warned by Police for Threatening Behaviour Over Filming at Hendrix Genetics](#)

[Hendrix Boss Plays It Heavy Like Jimmy!](#)

In August 2020, [I complained to Police Scotland after being verbally abused by a salmon farming proponent in a supermarket near Fort William](#) (Police Scotland subsequently issued a verbal warning although explained a case could have been filed with the Procurator Fiscal).

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Verbal Abuse by Salmon Farming Proponent Prompts Police Scotland Warning - does this abusive man work at the sawmill or @MowiScotlandLtd @scotseafarms @salmon_scottish @SSPOsays @Ferguson_TPT ? tinyurl.com/y445usds @policescotland @pressjournal @HamishMacdonell



3:09 PM · Aug 18, 2020

 **Verbal Abuse by Salmon Farming Proponent Prompts Police Scotland Warning**
from Don Staniford



01:04

The right to roam and public right of navigation and access are enshrined in law. However, salmon farming companies such as Mowi have [warned the public to stay away from salmon farms](#) with the SSPO has [suggesting that the public keep 15 metres away from salmon farms](#). The Scottish Salmon Company has even erected [signs warning the public to keep 15 metres away](#) but this is clearly not backed up legally.



For example, a Scottish Law Commission "[Discussion Paper on the Law of the Foreshore & Seabed](#)" in 2001 included:

Part 4 Public Rights

Introduction

4.1 As we have seen in Part 3, the Crown and any grantee from the Crown are obliged to respect the public rights to use the sea, seabed and foreshore. Indeed, the Crown, albeit the owner of the seabed and foreshore, is under a duty to assert these rights on behalf of the public.¹⁰⁵ In addition, a member of the public may assert the rights in an *actio popularis*.¹⁰⁶ In this section, we explore the nature and extent of these public rights.

Navigation

4.11 The public has a right of navigation on the sea and public (tidal) lochs and rivers.¹³⁵ The right is basically one of passage from A to B.¹³⁶ It does not give the public the right to sail over "every square inch" of the surface of the sea.¹³⁷ Thus, for example, the seabed can be used for fish farming provided it does not amount to a material interference with the right of passage: the fact that this use of the seabed is a nuisance or inconvenience is not enough to constitute material interference.¹³⁸ The public right of navigation will prevail over a use of the sea or solum that is a hazard or danger to vessels.¹³⁹

A Scottish Law Commission "Report on Law of the Foreshore & Seabed" [published in 2003](#) included:

Public rights in respect of the sea and sea bed

3.18 In terms of the draft Bill, the statutory public rights in respect of the sea and sea bed consist of the right of navigation, the right to fish and the right to use the sea and sea bed for recreational purposes. This does not innovate on the rights recognised at common law.

3.19 As at common law, the proposed statutory right of navigation includes a right of passage from one point to another and a right to do anything of a temporary nature for or ancillary to the exercise of the right of passage. Consistent with our policy that the statutory public rights should be no less extensive than the rights recognised at common law,³⁶ unlike access rights in inland waters,³⁷ the statutory right of navigation can be exercised in any type of craft or vessel and can be used for commercial as well as recreational purposes.³⁸ The right to fish is the right to fish in the sea and on the sea bed for sea fish other than salmon. It also includes the right to gather shellfish on the sea bed. At common law, the right to gather mussels and native oysters is excluded, but for the reasons discussed above,³⁹ we recommend that the statutory public right should include such a right. There is no reason why the right should not be exercised for commercial purposes or profit. We propose that the opportunity should be taken to provide an express statutory right of recreation on or in the sea and sea bed, which we believe was implicit in the common law decisions on the right of recreation on the foreshore. This right would include bathing, swimming, yachting, canoeing, surfing and diving.

3.20 We therefore recommend that:

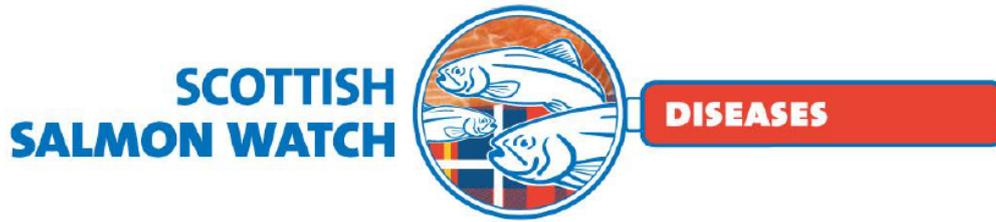
8. **There should be a statement of the statutory public rights which apply in respect of the sea and sea bed.**

Some salmon farming companies seem to be more aware of the legal regime than others. Scottish Sea Farms, for example, [admitted in a letter to Scottish Salmon Watch in August 2019](#) that: "Scotland's right to roam extends to the marine environment".

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager at Crown Estate Scotland (formerly employed by salmon farming company Lighthouse Scotland) advised Scottish Salmon Watch in March 2018:

"Crown Estate Scotland leases cannot preclude the public right of navigation and, as the Scottish Law Commission paper indicates, that right is the ability to navigate from a starting point to a destination. That does not mean it has to be a straight line/shortest route or that the route cannot be subject to change, but simply that the ability remains to get from one point to another. Therefore the presence of an installed salmon farm doesn't impinge on the public right if someone has to go round it to get where they are going, as long as they can do so (and I daresay without unreasonable risk). The rights conferred by a salmon farm lease are exclusive with respect to the ability to exercise statutory consent to install and operate a development but are not exclusive as far as navigational access within the leased area is concerned. Therefore it is my view that a third party may navigate within the boundaries of a lease area."

Scottish Salmon Watch's [complaint against Police Scotland in July 2020](#) re-enclosed previous correspondence which went unanswered - including the [suggestion in August 2019](#) of a protocol and guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms.



Police Scotland: Contactus@scotland.pnn.police.uk
Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Animal & Plant Health Agency: APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate: ms.fishhealth@gov.scot
Scottish Environment Protection Agency: terry.ahearn@sepa.org.uk
Crown Estate Scotland: Alex.Adrian@crownestatescotland.com
Health & Safety Executive: Penny.Falconer@hse.gov.uk
Marine Concern: mc@marineconcern.com

6 August 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Protocol & Guidelines for Filming Salmon Farms

Further to [Scottish Salmon Watch's letter of 21 July](#), would it be possible to draft a protocol and guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms?



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Would you like to draft a protocol & guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms? tinyurl.com/y4aox9es @policescotland @APHAgovuk @marinescotland @ConcernMarine @SSPOsays @ScottishEPA @H_S_E @ArranCoast See you soon! @MowiScotlandLtd @scotseafarms @salmon_scottish



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Aug 6, 2019

Make a splash for salmon, cetaceans, lobsters & seals tinyurl.com/y6au4cqy
@TheSoundOfJura @ArranCoast @SealScotland @SeaShepherdScot @ciwf @SumOfUs @scotgp @ScotSalmonTank @CreelScff @salmontr @ScotLINK @crab_welfare @whalesorg @HWDT_org @SealifeA @onekindtweet @TheOpenSeas



4:27 PM · Aug 6, 2019 · Twitter Web App

A [letter from Scottish Salmon Watch in July 2019](#) addressed to Police Scotland and other stakeholders first suggested the drafting of a protocol and guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms.

Scottish Salmon Watch would like to engage with the appropriate authorities to establish a safe and bio-secure zone for filming, diving and sampling. We believe we have followed bio-security and disinfectant guidelines to the letter and last year [sought the advice of the Scottish Government](#) who advised following the [SSPO's Code of Good Practice](#) and the [Disinfectant Guide](#).

However, there appears to be a grey area in terms of proximity and [Police Scotland's recent advice](#) (which Scottish Salmon Watch has questioned) with respect to requiring explicit permission from the salmon farming company raises serious concerns. Indeed, you could argue that by blocking navigation between rows of cages with plastic feed pipes that salmon farms are infringing upon public rights in navigable waters.



In conclusion, Scottish Salmon Watch would appreciate your thoughts on drafting a protocol and guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms. We appreciate that this is a controversial subject but we want to ensure safety and bio-security as well as enshrine ancient public rights to water and navigation.

To avoid confrontation and litigation, I would be happy to meet with the Police Scotland and representatives from Mowi, The Scottish Salmon Company, Kames and Scottish Sea Farms prior to filming, sampling, swimming and diving during the weekend of 31 August/1 September.

Read more via:

[The Oban Times: "Protestors make waves for salmon farms"](#)

[The Herald: "Citizen science activists target salmon farms"](#)

In August 2020, the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation [claimed that activists filming at salmon farms were guilty of harassing and intimidating staff](#).

 Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation
@SSPOsays

Throughout the last few months Scotland's salmon farmers have worked incredibly hard to ensure people across the UK and beyond have access to fresh, healthy food. They deserve to be able to work free from harassment, fear and intimidation.



4:10 PM · Aug 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

A blog - "[Irresponsible Activism, Consent and Public Support](#)" - by the SSPO's Director of Strategic Engagement, Hamish Macdonell (which also was [published in Fish Farmer magazine in August 2020](#)) included:

Scottish Salmon
PRODUCERS ORGANISATION 

Also, the law is quite clear. The rights of navigation allow journeys from any single point to another on the sea, except if there is a structure in the way (like a fish farm), in which case, the marine user has to go around the structure - not try to stop, tie up, clamber on board or dive underneath it.

The law against aggravated trespass on land (the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act of 1994) also covers a similar offence on marine structures.

But the key here is not legal strictures but consent. We are only going to dissuade this sort of threatening activity in the long run if we can get other marine users to recognise the dangers of intruders entering sites which are a danger to them and others.

We need every responsible marine user to act for all by notifying the authorities and acting as witnesses whenever there is illegal activity going on.

Responding via a blog - "[Fish Farmers Resorting to Some Extravagant Prose](#)" - published via West Coast Matters (24 August 2020), retired lawyer Ewan Kennedy wrote:

This last weekend drone footage from Loch Creran shows some of the mortality and pollution that results from the Thermolicer machines now active right along the coast. There is no sign of the operatives on the ship being harassed, or even aware of the footage being taken.

But isn't this illegal? Hamish seems to state that it is. Let's deconstruct what he says.

"This is a difficult area, not least because our rural police service is stretched and it takes time to react to the often swift interventions of some of more mobile critics. ..."

This implies that the activities of activists breaches the criminal law, otherwise what's it got to do with the police? We do know that fish farm companies have taken to calling the police on a few occasions. Correct me if I'm wrong, anyone, but I'm sure we would have heard if any prosecution had resulted. On the other hand I am aware that complaints have been made to Police Scotland about powers of individual officers being exceeded.

"Also, the law is quite clear. The rights of navigation allow journeys from any single point to another on the sea, except if there is a structure in the way (like a fish farm), in which case, the marine user has to go around the structure – not try to stop, tie up, clamber on board or dive underneath it."

Yes indeed, we, as members of the public, all have the constitutional right to use the surface of the sea for purposes that include navigation and recreation. Fish farming results in our rights being obstructed, but the Court of Session has held, in the seminal case of *Walford v David*, that we must tolerate this and find our way safely around.

I don't, personally, condone people "climbing aboard" but am not aware of any criminal law that might be broken, unless some damage were to be caused.

"The law against aggravated trespass on land (the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act of 1994) also covers a similar offence on marine structures."

This is a statute that was introduced to control raves, not to clamp down on solitary activists with Gopros in canoes!

In January 2020, Mowi Scotland's Director of Communications [warned against the public coming close to salmon farms](#).

Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

"Leave Our Farms Alone" Demand @MowiScotlandLtd
Here's What They're Hiding & Why Mowi Want the Public to Keep Away! tinyurl.com/vzhucs6 @H_S_E @ScottishEPA @APHAgovuk @marinescotland @nature_scot @MCA_media @FergusEwingMSP @strathearnrose @GreenerScotland @scotgp @SSPOsays

Fish Farmer
For all the latest industry news, markets and jobs in aquaculture
Comment: Leave our farms alone
By Ian Roberts - 16th January 2020

Photos: Scottish salmon from Mowi's Sulaigh Island farm in Loch Eynort

1:52 PM · Jan 17, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Writing in [Fish Farmer magazine \(16 January 2020\)](#), Mowi Scotland's Director of Communications (Ian Roberts) argued:

Comment: Leave our farms alone

By Ian Roberts - 16th January 2020



Ian Roberts - 'a company's staff and livestock must be safeguarded from potential hazardous interference'

It's time for government to protect workers' rights from protesters, argues Mowi Scotland's director of communications.

AS activists continue to sidestep the democratic process in favour of interrupting work spaces, governments must step up to protect the health and safety of employees working within the laws of the country.

A recent court decision in Scotland awarded an interim interdict (aka injunction) to Shell, intended to protect its work sites from trespass by Greenpeace members. The judge ruled that Greenpeace was unlawfully breaching Shell's property rights and also putting its own activists' safety at risk.

The decision mirrored that of a Canadian injunction against activists received by Mowi (then Marine Harvest) in 2018 that was required to protect the health and safety of its employees and livestock.

But this issue should be dealt with long before having to be heard in court.

There are democratic processes made available by all governments where salmon farms operate for people opposed to salmon farming to voice their concerns. Furthermore, government authorities are paid by working people to protect citizens and domestic food products.

Or put more clearly: farmers and the animals they raise should be protected by government authorities from the health and safety threat posed by direct action protesters (many living outside the country where they protest).

It is not for unqualified activists to 'inspect' salmon farms. To satisfy its obligations to regulators and the Crown, a company's staff and livestock must be safeguarded from potential hazardous interference.

It is now time for government authorities to step up and protect their own turf: monitor and regulate a business the nation has permitted and endorsed, and also protect the country's workers and the food they produce.

In September 2020, [Mowi's lawyers threatened legal action against filming at salmon farms \(repeating similar legal threats issued during 2019\).](#)



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

...

Mowi Scotland: "will be forced to take further action unless you co-operate with its requests & desist from further unauthorised access....no choice but to take steps to protect the Company's Sites, and its rights in relation thereto, through the courts" tinyurl.com/yynmdqc7



Mowi Scotland and 3 others

10:29 AM · Sep 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App



In November 2019, the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation [warned of "abuse" and "harassment" of "unauthorised visits"](#):



Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation
@SSPOsays

"Unauthorised visits to fish farms place employees and the animals they care for at risk and subjects them to unnecessary stress... Fish farm employees should be able to work without fear of abuse or harassment."

Safety near salmon farms
Everyone in Scotland should be able to enjoy the countryside and the water safely. In order to achieve this, salmon farmers ...
scottishsalmon.co.uk

10:45 AM · Nov 2, 2019 · Twitter for Android

9 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 11 Likes

Replied to @SSPOsays

Niall McKillop @Badabrach · Nov 2, 2019

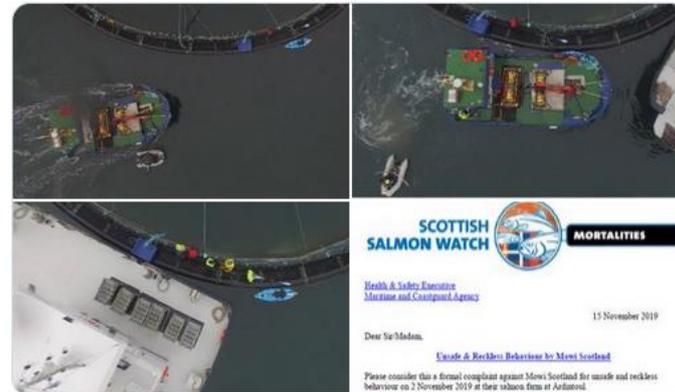
What are you worried about @SSPOsays ? Somebody might see something you don't want them to? What might that be? Hundreds of thousands of dead fish perhaps? @FergusEwingMSP @HamishMacdonell @D1HAJ

The SSPO's safety warning came after a visit in November 2019 by Scottish Salmon Watch to [Mowi's lethal salmon farm at Ardtinoul in Loch Alsh](#) which [triggered a complaint by Scottish Salmon Watch to the Maritime & Coastguard Agency](#).



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Caught on Camera - Mowi's Reckless Breaches of Health & Safety in Loch Alsh! tinyurl.com/yztbfwa2
Complaint vs @MowiScotlandLtd filed with @H_S_E & @MCA_media Who's policing salmon farms?
@policescotland @marinescotland @APHAgovuk @CrownEstateScot @ScottishEPA @HumzaYousaf



2:21 PM · Nov 15, 2019 · Twitter Web App



Niall McKillop
@Badabrach



That is a deliberate and very dangerous act. It's the most appalling seamanship and I'm contacting the MCA Office in Paisley directly about it. Somebody needs to lose their license over this and I'll do my best to ensure that happens.



Andrew Holder @andrholder

Making waves!

The hazards of filming at fish farms!



12:43 PM · Oct 5, 2020



Far from being reckless, Scottish Salmon Watch have repeatedly [emphasised the importance of safety as well as bio-security precautions.](#)



Don Staniford
@TheGAIA



Replying to @felix_the_helix and @scotseafarms

We follow the Scottish Government & industry recommended bio-security procedures
[@marinescotland](#) [@SSPOsays](#)



Biosecurity Precautions for Filming Salmon Farms

The vital importance of adhering to biosecurity precautions before, during and after filming at salmon farms cannot be stressed enough. Prior to filming in 2018, ...
[donstaniford.typepad.com](#)

8:56 AM · Aug 22, 2019 · Twitter Web App

In September 2019, Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to the Maritime & Coastguard Agency](#) (letter copied to Police Scotland) expressing serious concerns with respect to the [reckless behaviour of Mowi during visits to salmon farms around Shuna](#).

[Navigation Concerns re. Salmon Farms Operating in Public Waters
- the Fish Farm Menace & Threats to Public Safety](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch is writing in respect of the [Maritime & Coastguard Agency's responsibility for the "safety of everybody in a vessel in UK waters" and the "environmental safety of UK coast and waters"](#). Our experiences on 1 September 2019 in the waters around Shuna raise serious concerns about safety and the reckless operations of [salmon farming giant Mowi](#) in particular who we believe ignored the ['rules of the road'](#).



Our one-person kayak was dwarfed by Mowi power boats [deliberately and dangerously blocking our safe navigation through public waters](#) (the Round Shuna pursuit yacht race was taking place during our visit). Mowi repeatedly drove their motor boats into the path of our kayak and did not give way as is the custom under the maritime code.



Finally, it is encouraging to see this issue being [featured in this week's Oban Times](#).



Front page of today's [@obantimes](#) "Police Scotland apologises to fish farm campaigner" [@policescotland](#) [@scotseafarms](#) [@Ecohustler](#) [@andrholder](#) [tinyurl.com/y5gakebs](#)



8:34 PM · Oct 22, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Mr Staniford, an award-winning campaigner & author, hailed it as 'watershed victory'. "Police Scotland has effectively reinforced the legality of filming at salmon farms. Salmon farms cannot keep the public out of public waters" [tinyurl.com/y56tsabf](#) [@obantimes](#) [@policescotland](#)



Police apologise to fish farm welfare campaigner | The Oban Times
'Police officers cannot act as private security guards for companies,' says director of Scottish Salmon Watch.
[obantimes.co.uk](#)

2:49 PM · Oct 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

And [featured in The Ferret last week](#):



Don Staniford [@TheGAAIA](#) welcomed the police apology as a “watershed victory” allowing divers to film fish farms. But the industry [@SSPOsays](#) said that entering a “restricted area” around a fish farm was “unlawful and dangerous”.



Police say sorry to anti-fish-farm campaigner over access
Police have apologised to an anti-fish-farming campaigner after he complained of being wrongly warned off filming salmon cages in lochs.
[theferret.scot](#)

4:56 PM · Oct 15, 2020 · Twitter Web App

The Ferret article [included](#):

[Scottish Sea Farms](#) stressed they were trying hard to keep people safe. “Our marine farms are home to multiple potential hazards ranging from power cables and mooring grids to ropes and other anchoring systems, contained within an area clearly marked by buoys,” said the company’s health and safety manager, Gerry McCormick.

“We ask other marine users to keep outside these buoys in order to keep themselves safe. Anyone who fails to heed this advice, and who breaches the buoys, will be reported to Police Scotland in the interests of their own health and safety, and that of our farm teams and livestock.”

The activists who insist on invading these sites are showing a reckless disregard for the safety of themselves, of others and for the welfare of the fish.

HAMISH MACDONELL, SCOTTISH SALMON PRODUCERS ORGANISATION

The [Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation \(SSPO\)](#), which represents salmon farming companies, has accused activists of “breaking all Covid-related rules” and putting staff at risk.

“The activists who insist on invading these sites are showing a reckless disregard for the safety of themselves, of others and for the welfare of the fish – yet they seem either unaware of the dangers or they simply don’t care,” SSPO’s director of strategic engagement, Hamish Macdonell, wrote in August.

He disclosed that fish farm companies were proposing a 15-metre “safety zone” around salmon cages. “We will advise everybody using the sea to stay at least 15 metres from the edge of any structure, from all marker buoys and boats – for their safety and for ours,” he said.

Scottish Salmon Watch will certainly not be staying 15 metres away from salmon farms and believe there is no legal basis for such claims. We therefore ask Police Scotland to chair a roundtable discussion to discuss the issue of filming and sampling at salmon farms.

We would also be interested in hearing more about the "other matters connected to anti-fish-farming activities in the area that are still subject to investigation and may still result in a report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service" ([as reported in The Ferret](#)).

Argyll’s area police commander, Marlene Baillie, confirmed that Staniford had been given an apology. “The response issued to Mr Staniford was in relation to specific complaints that were investigated and resolved,” she said.

“An explanation was provided that the officers acted in good faith but were not familiar with the complexities of the legislation and an apology was issued.

“Since then work has been undertaken in partnership with the local authority access officer and a better understanding has been reached as a result. This learning will be shared with staff in relevant areas across Police Scotland.”

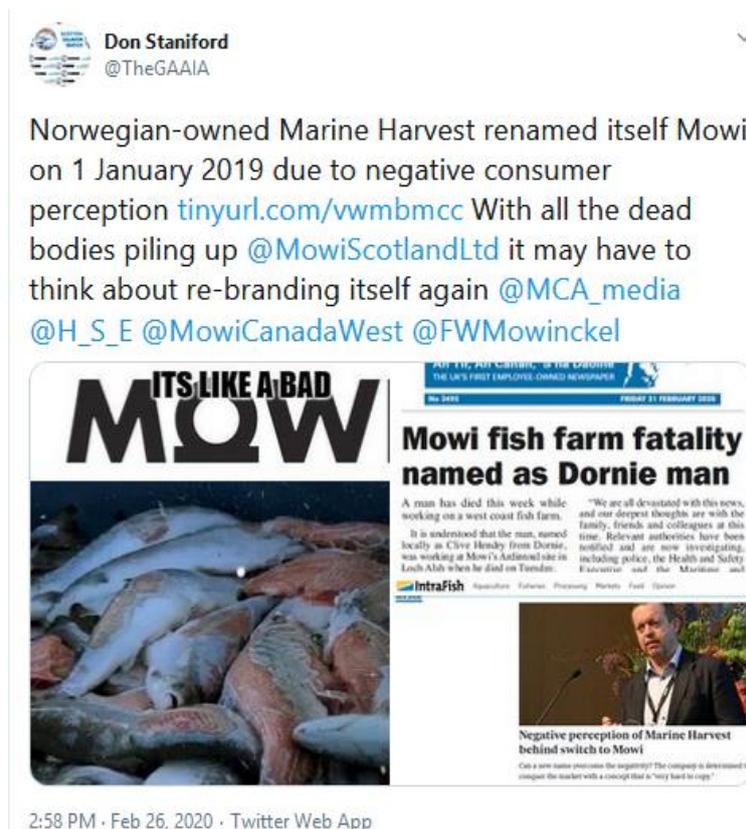
But Baillie added a cautionary note. “It would be misleading to suggest that this is a legal ruling and in fact there are other matters connected to anti-fish-farming activities in the area that are still subject to investigation and may still result in a report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service,” she told The Ferret.

“Each report will be considered on its own merits with public safety and the protection of property being paramount.”

If you could indicate your availability for a meeting next month in Oban - ideally attended by the SSPO and representatives of salmon farming companies such as Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, Kames, Hendrix Genetics and The Scottish Salmon Company (subject to social distancing rules) - it would be much appreciated. Scottish Salmon Watch is concerned that the industry's provocative position is fanning the flames of anger and violence. Unless the incendiary situation is dampened down someone is going to get seriously injured or killed.



Salmon farms are already [deadly places to work in](#) so safety precautions are vital.



Many thanks again for Police Scotland's apology and ongoing interest in this controversial issue. Scottish Salmon Watch sincerely hopes that filming later this year and in 2021 will not result in the further waste of police resources.



Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch