



[Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform](#)
[Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity](#)

The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

28 August 2020

Dear Cabinet Secretaries,

Sanctions for Salmon Escapes & Recapture of Escapees

Further to last week's [mass escape of 48,834 farmed salmon](#) at Mowi's site in Kilbrannan Sound, Scottish Salmon Watch has serious concerns at the lack of "appropriate sanctions" ([as recommended by the Scottish Parliament back in 2018](#)) and the lack of recapture efforts.



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

When is [@GreenerScotland](#) going to implement the 2018 recommendation of "appropriate sanctions" for escapes [@SP_RECcttee](#) which noted "strict penalties" in [#Norway](#) (such as fines & prison)? [@MowiScotlandLtd](#) [@EmmaHarperMSP](#) [@maureenSNP](#) [@Angus4FalkirkE](#) [@scotgp](#) [@ScotLabForum](#) [@ScotParl](#)

finer or even imprisonment for a maximum of one year where a breach is caused by wilful intent or gross negligence.

344. Producer companies also have to pay a fee to finance the removal of escaped fish from certain designated rivers and estuaries. All operators holding an aquaculture licence are obliged to be a member of the Aquaculture Industry Association for the recapture of escaped farmed fish which manages the recapturing of escaped fish. Last year the association paid for recapturing efforts in 52 rivers.

345. The Committee has heard from the industry that escapes do not currently appear to be a significant issue in Scotland. However, it cautions against complacency on this issue as there is potential for even a single escape event to have a significant impact on the genetic integrity of wild salmon.

346. **RECOMMENDATION 37**

The Committee notes that strict penalties are in place in Norway to deal with escapes and recommends that appropriate sanctions should be developed and introduced in Scotland.

Edward Mountain MSP and 9 others



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



REVEALED: Mowi recaptures less than 1% of escapees - 3,061 recovered out of 344,778 (only 4 out of 51 escape incidents led to any fish recaptured)! @MowiScotlandLtd tinyurl.com/yx8qyt79 How many of the 48,834 escapees at Carradale have been recaptured? @marinescotland #Mowi

Escape ID	Operator at Time of Escape	Date of Escape	# Escaped	# Recovered	Final Escape Reason	Site Name	Operator
2000507	Mowi Scotland Ltd	17-Jan-20	73,684	0	Pen Failure - PEN	Colonsay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000481	Mowi Scotland Ltd	13-Nov-18	24,752	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000498	Mowi Scotland Ltd	14-Oct-19	23970	0	Net Failure (not including hole)	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000182	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	29-Nov-07	23,805	15	Unknown - UNK	Isle Ewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000385	Marine Harvest McConnell	06-Jun-99	20,000		Weather - WTH	Portnalong Hatchery	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000379	Stolt Seafarm Ltd.	09-Jan-99	20,000		Hole in Net - HOL	Lochmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000153	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	22-Mar-07	18,500	1,900	Hole in Net - HOL	Scotasy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000107	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	28-Apr-03	16,000	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Loch Ewe Poolewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000422	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	05-Jun-15	16,000	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Eilean Grianain	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000138	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	08-Jan-07	11,900	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Seaforth	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000108	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	20-Mar-03	11,476	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Aultbea	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000256	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	03-Mar-10	10,775	1,000 ongoing	Weather - WTH	Loch Lochy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000232	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	29-Jun-09	10534	0	Human Error - HUM	Marulaig Bay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000087	Lewis Salmon Ltd	12-Aug-04	10,000	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Arbhair	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000208	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	13-Oct-08	7424	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Loch Duich	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000055	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	10-Oct-05	7000	30	Weather - WTH	Sconser	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000364	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	15-Jun-00	5776		Predator - PRD	Loch Aish (Sron)	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000198	Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd	25-Jul-08	5500	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Ardmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000034	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd	05-Apr-06	5500	0	Unknown - UNK	Ardmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000091	Lewis Salmon Ltd	11-May-04	4227	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Arbhair	Mowi Scotland Ltd

11:37 AM · Aug 28, 2020



10



See Don Staniford's other Tweets



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

When did @MowiScotlandLtd apply to @GreenerScotland for "authorisation for the emergency use of nets to affect recapture"? @marinescotland @fms_scotland There's 48,834 escapees to catch - that's more than Scotland's entire rod catch of wild salmon for 2019 (reported as 47,515)!

Scottish Government
Riaghaidh na h-Alba
gov.scot

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POLICY

Fish Health Inspectorate

From: [Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism](#)
Directorate: [Marine Scotland Directorate](#)
Part of: [Marine and Fisheries](#)

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Authorisation and registration

Fish farm escapes

What to do in the event of a fish farm escape

Any suspected escape from a fish farm, or circumstances which give rise to a significant risk of escape, must be reported to the Scottish Government.

What to do in the event of a fish farm escape (includes notification forms)

Failure to notify Scottish Ministers of any suspected or confirmed escape of farmed fish may be an offence.

All escapes, or suspected escapes, must be reported to the Scottish Ministers in writing immediately using the initial notification form, and [authorisation for the emergency use of nets](#) to affect recapture must be applied for.

5:34 PM · Aug 28, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



An "ecological disaster" says MSP - what is @GreenerScotland @marinescotland doing to force @MowiScotlandLtd to recapture the 49,000 escapees? @FergusEwingMSP @strathearnrose @KateForbesMSP @FionaHyslop @SP_ECCLR @scotgp @scottishlabour @claudiabeamish



Neil Findlay MSP @NeilFindlay_MSP

As a keen fisherman this sounds like a bonanza for anglers in the area but what it is is an ecological disaster that will impact on already hugely depleted wild fish stocks twitter.com/bbcscotlandnew...

11:52 AM · Aug 26, 2020



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See Don Staniford's other Tweets



Katie Robertson

@KtpRobertson



Grogport beach awash with dead salmon..... looks like Carradale North fish farm definitely had some escapees.....

@obantimes @MowiScotlandLtd @Aileen_A103028



10:17 PM · Aug 22, 2020 from Grogport, Scotland



Scottish Salmon Watch is unclear if it is currently law in Scotland forcing salmon farming to recapture escapes. Recapture of escapees is government policy [in Chile where fines are handed out if recapture rates are less than 10%](#) and [in Norway where recapture nets appear to be the norm](#). In Chile, [Mowi was fined \\$6.6 million last week for an escape of 690,000 farmed salmon in 2018](#).

Chile slaps record fine on Norwegian salmon producer

AFP MARTIN BERNETTI
AFP 22 August 2020



The Chilean salmon industry is the second largest in the world

Chile's environmental protection service said Friday it had slapped a record \$6.6 million fine on a Norwegian salmon producer for the 2018 escape of 690,000 antibiotic-fed fish.

Salmon Business [reported in June 2019](#):

Mowi risks huge fine and losing concession after salmon escape

News by Owen Evans - 18 June 2019

EUR 6 million fine being touted after 680,000 escaped from a Mowi farm in Chile last July.

BioBioChile reports that Chilean authorities are considering slapping Mowi with a (up to) CH 6 billion fine (EUR 6.3 million) for last year's salmon escape.

A storm on July 6 damaged nine enclosures at the former Marine Harvest's Punta Redonda farm near the southern city of Calbuco, freeing some 680,000 fish into Chilean waters.

The salmon farmer also risks losing its concession after only reaching the 5.5 per cent recapture rate when the minimum set was 10.

Sernapesca regional director Eduardo Aguilera and regional head of the Superintendency of Environment Ivonne Mansilla have been supporting the review with evidence – but had yet to find any environmental damage.

Authorities are expected to make a decision within the following weeks.

In 2002, the Scottish Executive [reported](#):



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Freshwater Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Marine Environment

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ESCAPE OF FISH FROM A FISH FARM

Guidance on The Registration of Fish Farming and Shellfish Farming
Business (Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2002

HOW TO OBTAIN AUTHORISATION FOR THE USE OF GILL NETS

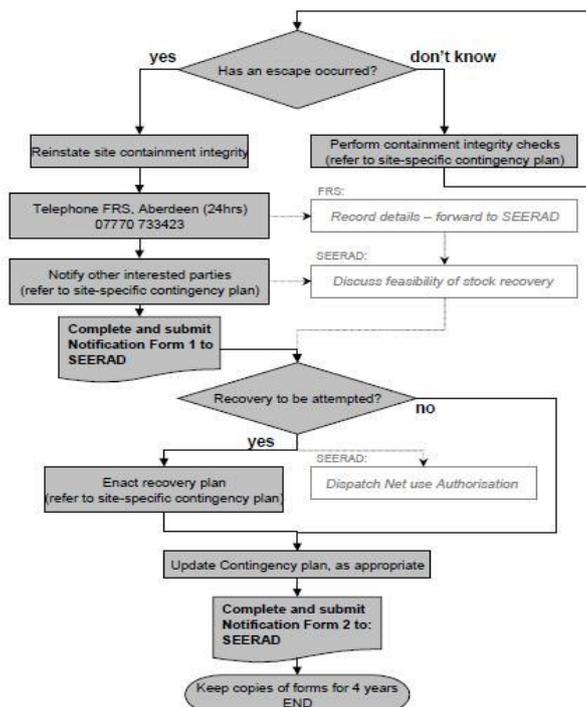
Because of the potential impact of escapes on local wild fishery stocks, we urge fish farming companies to engage the District Salmon Fishery Board and Fishery Trust in discussions on recovery. It is recognised that in some areas (having regard to local conditions, age of fish, etc.) no immediate action may be required other than careful monitoring. If recapture is deemed appropriate, then the subsequent strategy should be agreed with SEERAD, the District Salmon Fishery Board and the Fishery Trust.

Methods used for recapture of escaped fish will necessarily vary, depending on the location of the farm site and the local topography, the size of the fish involved, and implications for other wildlife (such as wild salmon and other fish species, birds and marine mammals). In many instances the appropriate recapture method would involve rapid deployment of gill nets of appropriate mesh size.

It should be noted that a fish farmer or other person seeking to recapture or catch escaped fish might need temporary local exemption from conservation regulations. There are two provisions that allow for this: Section 28 of the Salmon Act 1986 and Section 9 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Protection)(Scotland) Act 1951. Advice about this will be provided following notification of an escape. In almost all cases, continuing action will require permission from Scottish Ministers.

To seek authorisation, telephone: 07770 733423 (Environmental Protection Unit, FRS Aberdeen).

ACTION IN THE EVENT OF AN ESCAPE



According to the Scottish Government's web-page '[Fish Farm Escapes](#)', "authorisation for the emergency use of nets to affect recapture must be applied for":



Scottish Government
Riaghaidas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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POLICY

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Any suspected escape from a fish farm, or circumstances which give rise to a significant risk of escape, must be reported to the Scottish Government.

i [What to do in the event of a fish farm escape](#) (includes notification forms)

Failure to notify Scottish Ministers of any suspected or confirmed escape of farmed fish may be an offence.

All escapes, or suspected escapes, must be reported to the Scottish Ministers in writing immediately using the initial notification form, and [authorisation for the emergency use of nets](#) to affect recapture must be applied for.

Has the Scottish Government been contacted by Mowi to launch a recovery effort for the 48,834 escapees? To put this into perspective, this single escape is [more than the entire rod catch of 47,515 reported in Scotland for 2019!](#)

In 2008, the Scottish Government [reported](#):

VERSION 1.1

ISSUED 26-11-08

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007

Guidance to Fish Health Inspectors Regarding the Enforcement of Provisions in Relation to Containment and Fish Farm Escapes

- 1) Overview
- 2) Summary of the provisions within the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 – Containment and fish Farm escapes
- 3) A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture
- 4) Site visits by Fish Health Inspectors
 - Inspections
 - Audits
- 5) Non-compliance and enforcement action

Following an escape event, an enquiry will be made as to whether or not capture methods have been employed to recover escapees. Where farmers have made attempts to recapture escaped fish through the use of gill nets, inspectors will confirm that the appropriate permission has been sought in accordance with section 3A of The Inshore

Fishing (Monofilament Gill Nets) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007. Failure to obtain such permission is an offence.

In circumstances where attempts to recapture, using gill nets have been made, without the necessary permission, this should be reported to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Division of the Scottish Government.

Where an escape has occurred, the inspector will ask what action was taken to prevent and minimise the risk of further escape. Failure to taken action, could be considered as a contravention to the Act and the requirement to take satisfactory measures, depending upon the circumstances surrounding the escape, e.g. for an escape connected to a hole in the net we may expect action to include by repair and further net inspection; with regard to a procedural issues it would be justified to see a review or amendment to those procedures.

Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 - Guidance to Inspectors enforcing the provisions relating to containment and fish farm escapes

Guidance [issued by Marine Scotland in October 2018](#) included:

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ESCAPE OF FISH FROM A FISH FARM

**Guidance on reporting an escape or
suspected escape under Part 4A of the
*Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland)
Regulations 2009 (as amended)***

GUIDANCE

marinescotland

October 2018

3. **If recapture of escaped fish is considered appropriate, the subsequent strategy should be agreed between the fish farmer and local wild fish interests. If this includes the proposed deployment of gill nets, permission must be obtained from Marine Scotland.**

Guidance on how to obtain permission for the use of gill nets to recapture escaped fish can be found on page 8.

HOW TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE NETS TO RECAPTURE ESCAPED FISH*

* Permission to use otherwise unlawful methods of fishing to take or to fish for salmon or freshwater fish.

Methods used for recapture of escaped fish will necessarily vary, depending on the location of the farm site and the local topography, the size of the fish involved, and implications for other wildlife (such as wild salmon and other fish species, birds and marine mammals). In some instances the appropriate recapture method would involve rapid deployment of gill nets of appropriate mesh size.

In almost all cases, action will require permission from the local District Salmon Fishery Board or from the Scottish Ministers to “use otherwise unlawful methods of fishing to take salmon or freshwater fish”.

1. **Deploying gill nets could impact on wild fisheries. Fish farmers should agree their proposed course of action with local wild fishery interests before seeking permission to deploy.**

It is acknowledged that nets must be deployed quickly to ensure effective recapture. Therefore fish farmers are advised to consult local wild fishery interests and Marine Scotland Freshwater Licensing when developing their recapture strategies as part of their contingency plans prior to requiring consent to use gill nets. This will ensure any consideration of the application can be dealt with in as short a timeframe as possible.

2. **To notify intention to seek permission to deploy in the event of an escape of farmed fish, a call should be made to:**

Freshwater Licensing Officer
Marine Scotland Science
Telephone: 0131 2442900

3. **Full written permission to deploy nets should be sought as soon as possible by completing an 'Application for consent to catch salmon or other freshwater fish during the close season and / or using otherwise unlawful methods.'** The form should be emailed or faxed to Marine Scotland Science, Freshwater Licensing and include reference to the **Marine Scotland escape incident number.**

Fax: **01796 473523**
Email: MSSFFLicensing@gov.scot

The application form and associated guidance' for permission to catch salmon or other freshwater fish during the close season and / or using otherwise unlawful methods can be found at the following internet link or at Appendices 3 & 4 of this guidance:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/fishintros/methods

Contacts Details:

Duty Inspector, Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Scotland Science 0131 2443498
On Call Inspector, FHI, Marine Scotland Science 0131 2441833 (Outwith Office Hours)

Initial and Final Notification Forms to be sent to: ms.fishhealth@gov.scot or faxed to Duty Inspector or On call Inspector on: 0131 2440944

Copies of Forms at: www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/Escape/Notification

Application for deploying Gill Nets Contact: Marine Scotland Science, Freshwater Licensing, Freshwater Laboratory, Faskally, Pitlochry PH16 5LB, Tel: 0131 2442900, Fax: 01796 473523, email: MSSFFLicensing@gov.scot

Copies of Forms at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/fishintros/methods

Despite such Government guidance, the recapture rate on Scottish salmon farms is appalling with less than 0.1% recaptured from marine salmon farms [according to data published by the Scottish Government via 'Scotland's Aquaculture'](#). If you focus the data search on 'Mowi' (via ['Show/Hide Advanced Filters'](#)) you can see that out of 344,778 escapees reported in 51 incidents the number of escaped farmed fish recovered is listed as 3,061 (even those with a basic grasp of Maths will know that is less than 1%):

Escape ID	Operator at Time of Escape	Date of Escape	# Escaped	# Recovered	Final Escape Reason	Site Name	Operator
2000507	Mowi Scotland Ltd	17-Jan-20	73,684	0	Pen Failure - PEN	Colonsay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000481	Mowi Scotland Ltd	13-Nov-18	24,752	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000498	Mowi Scotland Ltd	14-Oct-19	23970	0	Net Failure (not including hole)	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000182	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	29-Nov-07	23,805	15	Unknown - UNK	Isle Ewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000385	Marine Harvest McConnell	06-Jun-99	20,000		Weather - WTH	Portnalong Hatchery	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000379	Stolt Seafarm Ltd.	09-Jan-99	20,000		Hole in Net - HOL	Lochmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000153	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	22-Mar-07	18,500	1,900	Hole in Net - HOL	Scotasay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000107	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	28-Apr-03	16,000	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Loch Ewe Poolewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000422	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	05-Jun-15	16,000	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Eilean Grianain	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000138	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	08-Jan-07	11,900	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Seaforth	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000108	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	20-Mar-03	11,476	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Aultbea	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000256	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	03-Mar-10	10,775	1,000 ongoing	Weather - WTH	Loch Lochy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000232	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	29-Jun-09	10534	0	Human Error - HUM	Marulaig Bay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000087	Lewis Salmon Ltd	12-Aug-04	10,000	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Arbhair	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000208	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	13-Oct-08	7424	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Loch Duich	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000055	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	10-Oct-05	7000	50	Weather - WTH	Sconser	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000364	Marine Harvest (Scotland)	15-Jun-00	5776		Predator - PRD	Loch Alsh (Sron)	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000198	Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd	25-Jul-08	5500	0	Hole in Net - HOL	Ardmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000034	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd	05-Apr-06	5500	0	Unknown - UNK	Ardmaddy	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000091	Lewis Salmon Ltd	11-May-04	4227	0	Equipment damage - EQD	Arbhair	Mowi Scotland Ltd

Number-crunching the whole data set [published by the Scottish Government](#) gives a recapture rate of less than 3% for escapes from fish farms since 1995. However, the recapture rate for marine salmon farms is much worse with only 3,998 escapees recaptured out of 2.87 million (0.1%). Here's the only cases since 1995 where escapes from salmon in sea cages have been recovered:

Escape ID	Operator at Time of Escape	Date	# Escaped	# Recovered	Site Name	Operator
2000153	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	22-Mar-07	18,500	1,900	Scotasay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000023	Mainland Salmon Ltd	19-Feb-06	25,108	1,300	Bay of Vady	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000063	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	13-Jan-05	43,453	600	Kishorn B (North)	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000366	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd		235	65	Gorsten	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000055	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	10-Oct-05	7000	50	Sconser	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000099	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	16-Sep-03	50	31	Loch Creran (D)	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000104	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	31-Mar-03	50	27	Linnhe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000182	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	29-Nov-07	23,805	15	Isle Ewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000072	Murray Seafoods Ltd	04-Feb-05	22,500	5	Ardyne	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000455	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	03-Jul-17	4	3	Creag an T'Sagairt	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000117	Finfish Ltd	08-Aug-02	36	2	Ghlas Mhor	Finfish Ltd

How many escapees have been recaptured from Mowi's latest escape in Kilbrannan Sound or one week after the incident has no recapture effort been attempted?

The journal Aquaculture Environment Interactions [reported in 2011](#):

Vol. 1: 215–224, 2011 doi: 10.3354/aei00021	AQUACULTURE ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS Aquacult Environ Interact	Published online April 4
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An effective method for the recapture of escaped farmed salmon

Cedar M. Chittenden^{1,2,*}, Audun H. Rikardsen¹, Ove T. Skilbrei³, Jan G. Davidsen^{1,4},
Elina Halttunen¹, Joirid Skarðhamar³, R. Scott McKinley²

¹Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, University of Tromsø, 9037 Tromsø, Norway

²The University of British Columbia, Centre for Aquaculture and Environmental Research, 4160 Marine Drive,
West Vancouver, British Columbia V7V 1N6, Canada

³Institute of Marine Research, 5817 Bergen, Norway

⁴Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), 7491 Trondheim,
Norway

The study [concluded](#) that recapture efforts "need to be immediate and widespread":

CONCLUSIONS

Recapture efforts after escape events need to be immediate and widespread. During the first day or 2 following the escape event, efforts should target all depths and areas that the fish could travel to given their maximum swimming speed. Following this initial

period, a more surface- and shoreline-oriented approach may be taken. Coastal bag-net fishers and in-river anglers were highly effective at recapturing escaped farmed salmon. This recapture method would likely produce similar results elsewhere and could be used as a primary mitigative strategy for the future. As bag-net fishing and angling are also generally non-lethal capture methods, they allow for the conservation of wild stocks and can be used during times and in places where gill-netting and other lethal methods are not permitted.

Of the top 25 escapes since 1995 from marine salmon farms only three cases [reported the successful recovery of fish](#):

Escape ID	Operator at Time of Escape	Date	# Escaped	# Recovered	Site Name	Operator
2000292	Lakeland Unst Seawater	27-Dec-11	336,470	0	Winna Ness	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000340	Orkney Sea Farms Ltd		258000		Shapinsay	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000112	Cro Lax Ltd.	08-Jan-03	238,420	0	Score Holms	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd
2000339	Finfish Ltd		230000		Ghlas Mhor	Finfish Ltd
2000402	Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd	20-Jan-14	154,569	0	Ness of Copister	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000382	Hydro Seafoods GSP		100,000		Breigeo Inshore	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000074	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd.	13-Jan-05	80,000	0	Strome	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000507	Mowi Scotland Ltd	17-Jan-20	73,684	0	Colonsay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000338	Aquascot Sea Farms Ltd		62000		Quanterness	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000248	Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd	14-Sep-09	58,880	0	Strone Point	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000124	Ferramus (SS)	20-Aug-03	50983	0	Kirk Taing	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000386	Aquascot Sea Farms Ltd.		50000		Quanterness	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000371	Highland Fish Farms		50000		Aird	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000063	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	13-Jan-05	43,453	600	Kishorn B (North)	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000073	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd.	07-Jan-05	40,000	0	Strome	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000120	Hascosay Salmon Farms Ltd	14-May-02	35,335	0	Djubawick	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000045	Mainland Salmon Ltd	29-May-06	34,500	0	Kirk Noust	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000293	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	28-Dec-11	33,755	0	South Sound	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
2000375	Murray Seafoods Ltd.		30000		Ardyne	The Scottish Salmon Company
2000307	Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd	17-Dec-12	25623	0	Meil Bay	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000405	Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd	13-Feb-14	25,259	0	North Voe	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd
2000023	Mainland Salmon Ltd	19-Feb-06	25,108	1,300	Bay of Vady	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
2000481	Mowi Scotland Ltd	13-Nov-18	24,752	0	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000498	Mowi Scotland Ltd	14-Oct-19	23970	0	Hellisay	Mowi Scotland Ltd
2000182	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	29-Nov-07	23,805	15	Isle Ewe	Mowi Scotland Ltd

The biggest escape from Mowi in Scotland was [reported earlier this year in January when 73,684 farmed salmon escaped at Colonsay](#) (zero fish were reported as recovered).

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Colonsay farmed salmon escape after Storm Brendan damage

21 January 2020

f t Share

Storm Brendan



Following Mowi's escape at Colonsay in January 2020, the Fish Site [reported \(20 January 2020\)](#):

Escape calls high energy salmon sites into question

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

F by The Fish Site
20 January 2020, at 5:14pm

Mowi Scotland has confirmed that 73,600 salmon averaging 1.9 kilograms escaped from their site off the island of Colonsay after a pen was damaged by storm Brendan.

   The post-storm inspection revealed a structural failure in one of the 12 pens, which had caused a tear in the netting.

"We are very disappointed that this structural failure has occurred," says David MacGillivray, Mowi's regional farm manager. "Despite storm Brendan severely battering many parts of Scotland's coast last week and Colonsay being a remote and particularly exposed location, we expect our modern infrastructure to withstand these challenges."

The farm's net pens exceed both the Scottish and Norwegian technical standards for net pen design. The company and equipment supplier are immediately reviewing the net pen's manufacturing process.

The incident is the third major escape from Mowi's new generation off offshore, high-energy sites in Scotland in the last 14 months. It follows on from two incidents at their Hellisay sites, in October 2019 and November 2018, in which 23,970 and 24,572 salmon respectively escaped.

It seems that Mowi salmon farms are not built to handle stormy weather (even in the Summer)!

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24,500 fish escape from Marine Harvest farm after storm damage



Marine Harvest Scotland has reported that more than 24,000 salmon escaped from its farm on a high-energy site at Hellisay, Isle of Barra, following storm damage in November.

Scottish Salmon Watch urges the Scottish Government to fine Mowi heavily in order to send a strong signal that repeated escapes will not be tolerated. Mowi has only been operating at Carradale in the Kilbrannan Sound [since 2010](#) but has already had two mass escapes.

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NEWS / HIGHLANDS

16,000 salmon escape Argyll fish farm (that's £240,000 dropped into the ocean)

by Rita Campbell June 16, 2015, 7:10 am f t w s in



Thousands of salmon worth about £240,000 have escaped from an Argyll fish farm, raising fears that they will breed with wild fish stocks and dilute the purity of the stock.

The 16,000 fish, weighing an average of 10lb each, escaped from the Marine Harvest farm at Carradale.

Mowi - [owned by Norwegian billionaire John Fredriksen \(worth \\$10.2 billion according to Forbes\)](#) as well as [ranked 18th on the 2019 Sunday Times 'Rich List'](#) - can certainly afford a hefty fine. [Mowi Scotland boss Ben Hadfield raked in \\$1 million in 2019.](#)

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Mowi's money men rake in million\$ as tens of million\$ of farmed \$salmon die a cruel death tinyurl.com/vmbrv5 Ben Hadfield @MowiScotlandLtd is fast catching up with Steve Austin coining in a cool \$1 million in 2019 #Salmonopol #Salmonopoly #Salmafia @IntraFishNorge

Here's what salmon farming giant Mowi's C-suite executives earn

The top brass at the world's largest salmon farming company fared well last year.

Ben Hadfield, who took on the position of COO Farming Scotland and Ireland in 2019, earned a total of £562,000 (\$1 million).

Executive	Salary	Cash Bonus	Estimated Stock Options	Provisional Cash	Other	Total 2019	Total 2018	% Chg
CEO	£25,000	£24,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£124,000	£120,000	3.3%
MD	£120,000	£120,000	£120,000	£120,000	£120,000	£500,000	£480,000	4.2%
COO	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£400,000	£380,000	5.3%
Chief Technology Officer	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£800,000	£780,000	2.6%
Chief Sustainability Officer	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£400,000	£380,000	5.3%

THE SIX MILLION

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

In the pink - Mowi Scotland's MD Ben Hadfield earned £788,256 (€921,000) in 2018 with a basic salary of £240,000 @MowiScotlandLtd bit.ly/2U8Dtr Follow the #Salmonopol #Salmafia #Salmonopoly

11:17 AM · Mar 26, 2020

Whilst Mowi leaks salmon (not to mention untreated effluent, pathogens, lice, viruses and infectious diseases) like sieves, executives are [laughing all the way to the bank](#).



Mowi executives cash in nearly \$20 million in share options

CEO Ivan Vindheim alone exercised 118,648 shares worth \$2.2 million.

22 June 2020 13:08 GMT *UPDATED 22 June 2020 20:21 GMT*
By Dominic Welling

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Executives at Norwegian salmon giant Mowi cashed in NOK 183.1 million (€17 million/\$19.1 million) in share options on Monday as part of the company's remuneration policy, the group announced on the Oslo Stock Exchange.

In total, executives exercised just over 1 million shares. Mowi purchased the shares at a price of NOK 179.17 (€16.60/\$18.60) per share to settle its obligation to deliver the shares, or a total of NOK 183.1 million (€17 million/\$19.1 million).

The company reported the total shares exercised by members of its top management group:

- CEO Ivan Vindheim exercised 118,648 shares worth NOK 21.3 million (€2 million/\$2.2 million)
- Ben Hadfield, COO Farming Scotland and Ireland, exercised 101,112 shares for NOK 18.1 million (€1.7 million/\$1.9 million)
- Per-Roar Gjerde, COO Farming Americas and Faroes, exercised 61,887 shares worth NOK 11.1 million (€1 million/\$1.2 million)
- Ola Brattvoll, COO Sales and Marketing, exercised 86,985 shares worth NOK 15.6 million (€1.4 million/\$1.6 million)

The Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee [recommended in November 2018](#) that "appropriate sanctions should be developed and introduced in Scotland" in relation to escapes from salmon farms:



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 27 November 2018
SP Paper 432
9th Report (Session 5)

Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee Comataidh Eaconomaidh Dùthchail is Co- cheangailteachd

Salmon farming in Scotland

343. The Committee is aware that in Norway penalties are applied under the Aquaculture Act for breaches of provisions relating to escapes from salmon farms. There is a sliding scale of fines from small administrative fines for minor breaches up to large fines or even imprisonment for a maximum of one year where a breach is caused by wilful intent or gross negligence.
344. Producer companies also have to pay a fee to finance the removal of escaped fish from certain designated rivers and estuaries. All operators holding an aquaculture licence are obliged to be a member of the Aquaculture Industry Association for the recapture of escaped farmed fish which manages the recapturing of escaped fish. Last year the association paid for recapturing efforts in 52 rivers.
345. The Committee has heard from the industry that escapes do not currently appear to be a significant issue in Scotland. However, it cautions against complacency on this issue as there is potential for even a single escape event to have a significant impact on the genetic integrity of wild salmon.
346. **RECOMMENDATION 37**
- The Committee notes that strict penalties are in place in Norway to deal with escapes and recommends that appropriate sanctions should be developed and introduced in Scotland.**

In March 2018, the Scottish Parliament's '[Report on the Environmental Impacts of Salmon Farming](#)' included:

Regulation and Enforcement

194. The Committee understands there is no fine for escapes in Scotland and SEPA has no role in managing or regulating escapes. The Committee heard the measures in place under the 2013 Act mean that an enforcement notice can be issued, and failure to comply with that notice is a criminal offence. However, SEPA advised, in practice many of the issues that are found are dealt with through written correspondence.

195. The Committee heard from SEPA that a Scottish containment standard is being developed and could be implemented in future.

What action is the Scottish Government taking to tackle escapes? In view of the growing problem of escapes, especially at high energy sites, there is a clearly an urgent need for strict penalties and sanctions.

Finally, in terms of the [30,616 mortalities reported by Mowi at the Carradale salmon farm](#) what action is the Scottish Government taking? Has the Fish Health Inspectorate visited the site to test for infectious diseases, pathogens, viruses and bacteria? Will the public be able to [view photos of the salmon](#) which [Mowi claim are "healthy"](#)?



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Here's what Mowi's [@rspcaassured](#) salmon looked like after 300,000 died in the Beast from the East in 2018 at their Carradale farm (the same site hit yesterday by Storm Ellen) tinyurl.com/rdr8azn Skinless Scottish salmon anyone?
[@MowiScotlandLtd](#) [@sainsburys](#) [@LidlGB](#) [@AldiUK](#)

11:53 AM · Aug 21, 2020

The image shows a tweet from Don Staniford (@TheGAAIA) dated August 21, 2020. The tweet text describes salmon from Mowi's @rspcaassured line that appeared skinless after a massive die-off in 2018. It includes a link to a video and tags several retailers. The video thumbnail shows two side-by-side images of salmon fillets being processed, with one showing a fillet that appears to be missing its skin.

Please read more background on this issue via:

[Far from Fine: Mowi Recaptures Less Than 1% of Escapees in Scotland!
Fines, Lost Licences & Prison Sentences for Repeat Escape Offenders!
Beware of Deformed Mowi Salmon!](#)

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch

Cc:

Edward Mountain MSP

Neil Findlay MSP

Claudia Beamish MSP

Mark Ruskell MSP

John Finnie MSP

RECC Committee of the Scottish Parliament

ECCLR Committee of the Scottish Parliament

**SCOTTISH
SALMON WATCH**



ESCAPES