

## Media Backgrounder: Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms)

### Legal threat demanding reply by 27 October:

On 12 October 2023, lawyers acting for [Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\)](#) threatened legal action against ‘[extreme activist](#)’ and ‘[kayak vigilante](#)’ Don Staniford – read the letter from John Mackenzie on behalf of Shepherd & Wedderburn in full [online here](#) [1].

#### ‘Digivan’ Tour

In addition to the past incidents noted above, and our client’s reasonably held belief that you will continue to act as you have done in the past, our client understands that you plan to attend at one of its processing plants near Oban on 5 November 2023, during the proposed “London to Edinburgh Digivan Tour”.<sup>1</sup>

While our client respects your right to peacefully and lawfully protest, and in no way seeks to interfere with the responsible exercise of that right, this does not give you the right to board, access or otherwise interfere with our client’s property. Indeed, in a case involving Greenpeace, the court was clear that the lack of access to a particular location is not destructive of the right of freedom of expression or freedom of assembly. In short, you do not require access to our client’s facilities and premises in order to protest.

#### Action Required

Our client requires that you confirm in writing that you will immediately cease from:



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<sup>1</sup> End Salmon Farming: Join the Scottish Salmon Boycott - ‘Digivan’ Tour from London to Edinburgh (31 October to 6 November) - Green Around the Gills ([typepad.com](#))

1. boarding, entering onto, physically occupying, attaching yourself to, attaching vessels to, or approaching within 15 metres of all structures, docks, walkways, buildings, yards, floats, vessels, boats or pens of aquaculture sites of SSF (“**SSF’s Aquaculture Sites**”);
2. flying unmanned aircraft (a.k.a. drones) above SSF’s Aquaculture Sites;
3. operating unmanned underwater vehicles (a.k.a. drones) above SSF’s leased areas of the seabed, or within 15 metres of SSF’s Aquaculture Sites; and
4. instructing, procuring, encouraging or facilitating others to so act in your stead.

Our client requires this confirmation in writing by 4pm on 27 October 2023. Failing this, SSF will be left with no option but to raise court proceedings against you. If proceedings are raised, no further warning will be given to you beforehand.

### Reaction from Don Staniford:

“Norway’s \$almafia has ridden roughshod over Scotland’s environmental, welfare and safety laws for far too long,” said Don Staniford, Director of \$amon \$cotland. “In the absence of government enforcement and intervention, covert surveillance and citizen science is vital to ground-truth the greenwash of RSPCA Assured, the Soil Association and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council. Fighting back against SLAPPs is the cornerstone of democracy and public accountability. Norwegian-owned companies like Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) and Mowi cannot be allowed to privatise the public commons and threaten free speech.”

## SalMar & Leroy as owners of Norskott Havbruk – the world’s 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> largest salmon farming companies (aka the \$almafia):

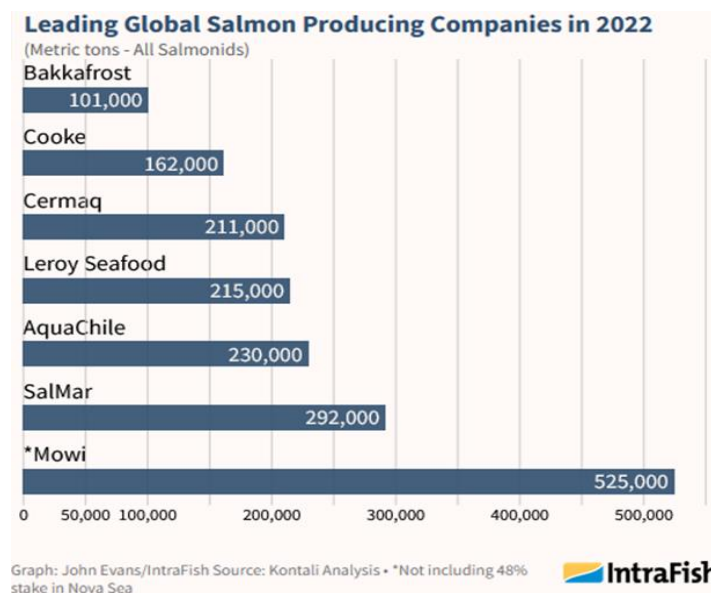
Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) – Scotland’s second largest salmon farming company - is a 50/50 joint venture owned by the Norwegian companies SalMar and Leroy Seafood [created in 2001 following the sale of Hydro Seafood GSP](#).

### Parent undertakings and controlling parties

In the opinion of the directors, the company’s immediate parent undertaking is Norskott Havbruk AS, incorporated in Norway. It will include the company in its group financial statements, copies of which will be available from its registered office: Bontelabo 2, 5020 Bergen, Norway.

In the opinion of the directors, the company’s ultimate parent undertakings and controlling parties are Leroy Seafood Group ASA and Salmar ASA, both companies incorporated in Norway. Copies of their group financial statements, which include the company, are available from PO Box 7600, N-5020 Bergen, Norway, and N-216 Kverva, Norway, respectively.

In May 2023, [Intrafish reported that SalMar was the second largest salmon farming company in the world \(after Mowi\) with Leroy Seafood ranked fourth](#).



### Swimming in \$almoney - £199 million turnover & £20.6 million operating profit:

The latest company accounts for Scottish Sea Farms – [filed at Companies House in November 2022](#) – reported a turnover of £199 million with an operating profit of £20.6 million. Scottish Sea Farms [has 57 marine sites, 3 freshwater sites and three processing plants](#).

### The \$almafia/\$almobsters - cartel/price-fixing investigations in EU, USA & Canada:

In February 2019, Scottish Sea Farms was [raided as part of an EU price-fixing inquiry](#) (a cartel investigation is [still active](#) with [“billions of kroner in compensation, fines and legal costs” expected](#)). In May 2022, Leroy, SalMar, Cermaq, Mowi and Grieg [agreed to pay \\$85 million to end a three-year US court action over alleged price fixing](#). In October 2023, Leroy and SalMar

(along with other Norwegian salmon companies) [agreed to pay CAD 5.25 million \(€3.64million/\\$3.83 million\) in a Canada class action lawsuit relating to allegations of price fixing](#). Salmon Business [reported in March 2021](#):

“On April 4, 2014, SalMar’s Witzøe (SalMar’s largest shareholder) explained to its CEO Nordhammer that he had attended a dinner meeting with Lerøy’s [CEO] Beltestad, during which they discussed a pricing model for their salmon based on NASDAQ spot prices. Around the same time, Witzøe and Beltestad were communicating with Jim Gallagher of [Scottish Sea Farms] via email. In one of those emails, Gallagher referenced a recent conversation with Witzøe, and perhaps Beltestad as well, regarding NASDAQ prices. Gallagher confirmed that, as they had discussed, [Scottish Sea Farms] would make sure its prices were ahead of NASDAQ prices on a week-to-week basis”.

### **Increasing losses at Scottish Sea Farms in 2022 and 2023:**

Scottish Sea Farms reported losses of £10.4 million in Q4 2022 citing issues with micro-jellyfish and amoebic gill disease. Fish Farming Expert [reported in February 2023](#): “It has been an extremely difficult quarter for (SSF holding company) Norskott Havbruk, with challenging biology,” said Lerøy in its Q4 2022 report. “Lerøy, which owns Norskott Havbruk 50/50 with fellow Norwegian salmon farmer SalMar, posted record revenue of NOK 26.6 billion in 2022, reflecting a year of high prices, driven by strong demand for seafood,” Operating profit before fair value adjustments was NOK 3.195 bn compared to NOK 2.518 bn in 2021.”

“Scottish Sea Farms has reduced its estimated harvest volume for 2023 from 37,000 gutted weight tonnes to 27,000 gwt as a result of biological problems at some sites that have continued from 2022, according to co-owner Lerøy,” [reported Fish Farming Expert in August 2023](#) under the headline ‘Scottish Sea Farms cuts harvest estimate by 10,000 tonnes’. “SSF made an operating loss of £10.6 million in the second quarter of this year, Lerøy said in its Q2 2023 report”.

In November 2022, [SalMar's Q3 2022 financial results](#) revealed a 8,000 tonne shortfall. Read more via [8,000 tonne shortfall for Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\) due to "biological challenges"!](#)

### **Billionaire owners in Norway:**

The latest accounts for Scottish Sea Farms – [filed with Companies House in November 2022](#) – list the directors and registered office:

#### **Directors**

Leif-Inge Nordhammer  
Gustave Witzøe  
Jim F Gallagher  
Helge Singlestad  
Henning Beltestad

#### **Registered Office**

c/o Shepherd and Wedderburn  
Octagon Point  
5 Cheapside  
London  
EC2V 6AA

One of the [directors in Scottish Sea Farms is SalMar owner Gustave Witzoe](#) whose son – Gustav Magnar Witzoe is [listed as #882 on the Forbes Billionaire List with a net worth of \\$3.3 billion](#):

## WITZOE, Gustave

Correspondence address

**C/O Shepherd And Wedderburn LLP, Octagon Point, 5 Cheapside, London, England, EC2V 6AA**

Role **ACTIVE**  
**Director**

Date of birth  
**July 1953**

Appointed on  
**29 August 2001**

Nationality  
**Norwegian**

Country of residence  
**Norway**

Occupation  
**Managing Director**

Intrafish [reported in January 2023](#):

SalMar became the second-largest salmon farming company in the world following its deal to acquire rival Norway Royal Salmon.

The Witzoe family still controls almost half of SalMar through its investment firm Kverva, which also holds stakes in pelagic harvesting and processing giant Pelagia; processing, sales and trading group Insula; aquaculture health group Benchmark and land-based yellowtail producer The Kingfish Company, among several other holdings.

Witzoe has transferred most of his wealth and ownership in SalMar to his son, Gustav Magnar Witzoe, who now is one of Norway's wealthiest individuals and one of the richest people under 30 years old.

In 2021, the 29-year-old had a taxable fortune of NOK 19.8 billion (€1.9 billion/\$1.8 billion).

Despite his largesse, Gustav Magnar is pursuing a career of his own -- in modeling.



Gustav Witzoe's son Gustav Magnar Witzoe has his own plans, and they don't include salmon. Photo: Jimmy Linus, Redigering Wetouch

In an email to **IntraFish**, the younger Witzoe said that while he "has had the great pleasure of trying my hand at several jobs [at SalMar], my future role will be to exercise responsible ownership of the family company."

The younger Witzoe's disinterest in taking an operational role is fine with his 69-year-old father, who has no intention of leaving the business.

"I've been doing this since the dawn of time," he said. "I don't think I'll be able to stop."

Read more via:

[Norwegian billionaire fishing farm heir, 29, insists he's a 'normal guy' who is 'very happy and grateful he grew up without money' - as he shows off his lavish lifestyle on Instagram](#)  
[The insane life of Norwegian salmon heir Gustav Magnar Witzoe, the third youngest billionaire in the world at the age of 24](#)



## Landmark Police Scotland apology to Don Staniford:

In October 2020, Police Scotland [issued a landmark apology](#) over improper policing at salmon farms operated by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Linnhe and Loch Creran.

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## Police apologise to fish farm welfare campaigner



Mr Staniford, an award-winning campaigner and author, hailed it as 'watershed victory'.

He said: 'Police Scotland has effectively reinforced the legality of filming at salmon farms. Police Scotland has sent a powerful message to their own officers that they cannot act as private security guards for companies.'

'The public has an inalienable right to navigate – including kayaking and diving – in public waters where salmon farms operate.'

'The message from Scottish Salmon Watch to salmon farming companies is crystal clear – we're watching you and we have the law on our side,' said Mr Staniford.

'Despite legal threats of salmon farming companies, the legitimacy of video surveillance and public monitoring of salmon farms is irrefutable. Salmon farms cannot keep the public out of public waters – whether they are collecting effluent samples, diving under the cages or kayaking safely.'

Mr Staniford has called on police to respond with the same enthusiasm when he has asked them to investigate allegations of welfare abuse under wildlife legislation.



Read more via:

[The Ferret: "Police apologise to anti-fish farm campaigner over access"](#)

[Policing Scottish Salmon: Landmark Victory for Surveillance of Fish Farms](#)

## **Whistleblower - “They don’t care about fish welfare”:**

In November 2020, [Scottish Salmon Watch was contacted by a whistleblower](#) following up the [shocking news of welfare abuse by RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran](#). "They don't care about fish welfare," said the whistleblower attaching an email from Innes Weir ([appointed regional manager for the Scottish mainland at Scottish Sea Farms in December 2019](#)). "Health manager and the cleaner fish department laid off in the summer from Scottish Sea Farms, now we're seeing the result".

The email from Innes Weir (30 June 2020) told staff at Scottish Sea Farms that the biological services team of Sean Black and Daniel Carcajona "will leave" even though they "have been instrumental in developing and delivering new standards and fish welfare over recent years".

Sean Black [left Scottish Sea Farms in July 2020](#) and is now greenwashing Scottish salmon as [Senior Scientific Officer \(Aquaculture\) with RSPCA Assured](#).

“Just a quick email regarding your blog post yesterday, ‘[Leaked Email: Staff Cuts at Scottish Sea Farms Compromise Fish Welfare](#)’, in which you feature three images of existing and former Scottish Sea Farms’ employees: Innes, Sean and Daniel,” [wrote Scottish Sea Farms in November 2020](#). “In respect of their right to privacy, could you please remove these images from your post. Innes, Sean and Daniel have not given you consent under the Data Protection Act 2018 for any imagery featuring them to be used, retained or published by you. As such, we ask that you remove these three particular images from your post.”

## **Legal threat by lawyers acting for Scottish Sea Farms over photos of diseased salmon:**

The Ferret [reported in August 2018](#) that lawyers acting for Scottish Sea Farms (Shepherd and Wedderburn) threatened legal action against the disclosure of photos of disease-ridden Scottish salmon. Scottish Sea Farms argued unsuccessfully that [disclosure of photos would “incite activists to take action against salmon producers”](#):

**Regulation 10(5)(a) applies to the request as the disclosure would be likely to prejudice substantially public safety. As mentioned, the release of the photographs without context could lead to publication and use to incite activists to take action against salmon producers and to harass or threaten our staff.**

### **Precedent 1: intimidation of staff**

While farming animals and fish for food is a world-apart from drug testing, the case of Huntington Life Sciences (2007) is a strong example of just how far activists can take things.

In 2007, the Cambridgeshire-based laboratory came under attack and intimidation from:

- Masked protestors smashing up labs and surrounding homes of company directors
- Hoax bombs which were sent to victims’ houses, abusive phone calls and threats of violence against employees
- 'Murderer', 'puppy killer' and 'scum' being daubed on homes and cars
- Leaflets being distributed near some company directors’ homes falsely telling neighbours they were convicted paedophiles; others had blood-stained personal items sent through the post saying the blood was HIV positive.

A spokesman for Glaxo SmithKline condemned the attacks, which it said: “were clearly designed to disrupt work and terrorise employees”. A spokesman said the firm helped test life-saving drugs.



An [email from Scottish Sea Farms \(name redacted\) dated 12 June 2018](#) concluded:

The photographs of our fish are meaningless to the untrained eye, other than for graphic depiction of pathology for the purposes of shock effect. There is no need for these images to be released and to do so will harm Scottish Sea Farms' commercial reputation as the photos are likely to be interpreted incorrectly and used against us. Marine Scotland must question the reasoning behind a request for the release of such photos and the misleading damage that could result to the reputation of Scottish Sea Farms and other salmon producers. In addition it seems wholly inappropriate that such images should be released by a Government body with no context and in breach of the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarian Surgeons, and by extension para-veterinary professionals. It is in the public interest for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (not Marine Scotland) to decide what information should and should not be protected by the Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarian Surgeons.

I must stress we remain very concerned at the prospect of release of graphic images of sampled moribund fish with farms being identified, being unrepresentative of both the specific population in question as well as across the industry.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted]

Scottish Sea Farms Limited,

Laurel House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling, Scotland, UK, FK7 9JQ

Tel: (+44) [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)



An [email from Scottish Sea Farms \(name redacted\) dated 7 June 2018](#) argued that disclosure of photographs “will have an adverse impact on Scottish Sea Farms’ legitimate economic interests” and “exposes Scottish Sea Farms to reputational damage”:

2.2 Disclosure of these photographs will prejudice substantially the confidentiality of commercial/industrial information by releasing information which is protected. Release of such confidential information will have an adverse impact on Scottish Sea Farms’ legitimate economic interests, should the photographs be used against us. We are also very concerned about the lack of context around release of the photographs. Even if Marine Scotland were to release these photographs within the context of pathology reports and case notes, there would be no obligation upon the recipient to use them within such context and therefore they are open to misinterpretation by the general public. They are at best meaningless to an untrained eye, at worst liable to deliberate or accidental misinterpretation and could easily be used against Scottish Sea Farms by the requestor, in circumstances which do not take account of the context in which these photographs were taken. This exposes Scottish Sea Farms to reputational damage which would have an adverse impact on our legitimate economic interests.



**The gruesome photos Scottish Sea Farms wanted to keep secret from the public:**

The Scottish Government [published a dossier of photos of disease-ridden farmed salmon sourced from Scottish Sea Farms in September 2018](#):

Fol 18 02235

Sorted by name



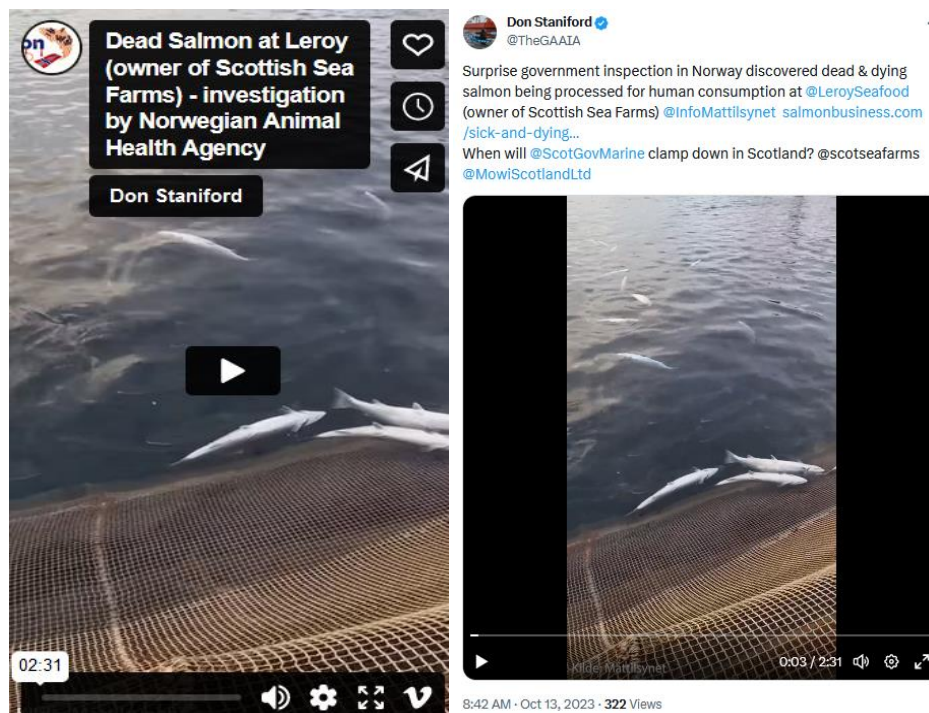
Here's some close ups of the gruesome photos which [lawyers representing Scottish Sea Farms argued would expose the company to "reputational damage"](#):



Read more via: [Sick 'Scottish' Sea Farms](#)

## Breach of legal requirements for food safety & animal welfare at Lerøy in Norway:

Salmon Business [reported in October 2023](#): “Salmon farming giant Lerøy Seafood is under scrutiny after the Norwegian Food Safety Authority uncovered poor handling practices at one of its facilities off the island of Hitra, Norway. As part of a surprise inspection on Sep. 21, officials claim to have discovered dead and dying salmon being processed for human consumption at a Lerøy facility, resulting in an immediate ban on the further harvest and sale of the fish, [according to Norwegian broadcaster NRK](#). The Food Safety Authority observed high mortality rates in the cages and cited the company for several breaches of food and aquaculture animal regulations. The citations relate to the handling of fish that had died before the harvest process, in breach of legal requirements for food safety and animal welfare.”



Intrafish [reported in October 2023](#):

### Norwegian Food Safety Authority suspends Leroy Seafood's harvest facility in western Norway following 'floating dead fish'

"We take Norwegian Food Safety Authority's claims and findings seriously," a Leroy executive told IntraFish.

13 October 2023 3:01 GMT UPDATED 13 October 2023 3:01 GMT  
By Bent-Are Jensen and Hanna Gezelius

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has suspended Norway-based seafood giant Leroy Seafood's harvest at its Reitholmen facility in western Norway following a local media report claiming that ill and dead fish were on its way to consumers.

Lifeless salmon floated in the water and were harvested to be sold as food, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority told Norwegian news service NRK.

"There was mass death when we arrived. To us it appeared as if they pumped fish on board that was already dead and harvested it," Norwegian Food Safety Authority Division Manager Lennart Floyd Berge told NRK.

Soaring death rates at salmon farms in Norway & Scotland:

Fish Farming Expert [reported in October 2023](#):

Fishfarmingexpert

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# 1.9 million young fish die at Lerøy smolt facility

Magnus Johan Marøy

PUBLISHED Monday 16. October 2023 - 17:03

Norwegian salmon farmer Lerøy lost 1.9 million smolts in a die-off at one of its land-based facilities earlier this month, it has been reported.

“Lerøy Sjøtroll Kjærelva has had an incident in the pre-smolt department in the facility where we lost close to 1.9 million smolt that were due to go to sea in December, and March 2024,” Lerøy Sjøtroll general manager Morten E Fjæreide told one of Fish Farming Exoert's Norwegian sister sites, LandbasedAQ.

“We take fish welfare very seriously and are upset by having suffered such a great loss. Our focus now is to deal with the acute situation, and work to find the root cause of the incident. We would like to take this opportunity to praise our employees who have stood up in this demanding situation.”

When it comes to production, he explained that Lerøy is in a position to replace the smolt from other facilities in the value chain.

According to Norway's Directorate of Fisheries, a total of 60 million farmed salmon and rainbow trout died in the sea in in Norway last year, while 141 million died in land-based facilities.

Exact numbers of dead farmed salmon are not known in Scotland – since [lobbying in 2013 by Salmon Scotland \(whose members include Scottish Sea Farms and Mowi\)](#) stopped publication of the ‘commercially damaging’ data. However, mortality information that is [published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Government and Salmon Scotland](#) shows alarming increases in mass mortalities. Data on mortality rates [published by Salmon Scotland in October 2023](#) reveals shocking death rates at Scottish Sea Farms during August 2023:

| Company                | Farm              | Monthly mortality (%)        | Notes                                     | Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%) |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Eday              | 1.7 (Farm fallowed in Aug.)  |                                           | 43.2                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn A (South) | 17.7 (Farm fallowed in Aug.) | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | 40.5                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn B (North) | 17.6                         | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn C (West)  | 23.5                         | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Langa             | 10.0                         | Viral disease                             | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | North Papa        | 5.8 (Farm fallowed in Aug.)  | Viral disease                             | 41.3                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | West of Burwick   | 15.4 (Farm fallowed in Aug.) | Viral disease                             | 37.1                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Westerbister      | 5.7                          | Environmental                             | In production                                       |



Mortality data [published by Salmon Scotland in September 2023 \(for July 2023\)](#) included a 56.5% death rate at Dunstaffnage and 48.2% at Kerrera B salmon farms operated by Scottish Sea Farms:

| Company                | Farm                      | Monthly mortality (%)       | Notes                                     | Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Dunstaffnage              | 2.8 (Farm followed in Jul.) |                                           | 56.5                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kerrera B (Charlotte Bay) | 4.1 (Farm followed in Jul.) | Gill health related, Bacterial disease    | 48.2                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn A (South)         | 15.2                        | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn B (North)         | 11.3                        | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kishorn C (West)          | 16.2                        | Jellyfish / plankton, Gill health related | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Langa                     | 5.2                         | Viral disease                             | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Lippie Geo                | 7.8 (Farm followed in Jul.) | Viral disease                             | 22.0                                                |

Death rates [reported by Salmon Scotland in January 2023 \(for November 2022\)](#) included a staggering 50.2% mortality in one month at Kerrera B and 46.8% cumulative mortality at Nevis A and 64.3% cumulative mortality at Nevis B (sites [which Scottish Sea Farms admitted suffered from microjellyfish problems](#) and are [being greenwashed by the ASC](#)):

| Company                | Farm                      | Monthly mortality (%)       | Notes                            | Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Kerrera B (Charlotte Bay) | 50.2                        | Gill health related, Environment | In production                                       |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Nevis A                   | 3.3 (Farm followed in Nov.) |                                  | 46.8                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Nevis B                   | 0.0 (Farm followed in Nov.) |                                  | 64.3                                                |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd | Setterness North          | 3.5 (Farm followed in Nov.) | Viral disease                    | 22.8                                                |



Don Stanford ✓  
@TheGAAIA

Quiz Question: Which factory feedlot certified as 'welfare friendly' @rspcaassured & 'responsible' @ASC\_aqua are these farmed salmon beauties sourced from?  
Clue: it's the loch where ISA originated & lends its name to Scotland's largest mountain  
[gov.scot/collections/pu...](https://gov.scot/collections/pu...) #Nevis



Scot Gov Marine and 8 others

12:18 PM · Jan 23, 2023 · 442 Views



### **Photos of welfare abuse at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Nevis:**

The [Fish Health Inspectorate case report \(2022-0532\)](#) for Nevis A salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Nevis details 200,000 mortalities, infectious diseases and lice infestation at the RSPCA Assured site (including gruesome photos taken by Scottish Government inspectors during an inspection visit on 26 October 2022).



## Video surveillance of Scottish Sea Farms lifts the lid on death, disease & welfare abuse:

When Scottish Salmon Watch [visited Scottish Sea Farms in South Shian in 2018](#) we found dead salmon and cleaner fish (lumpsuckers):

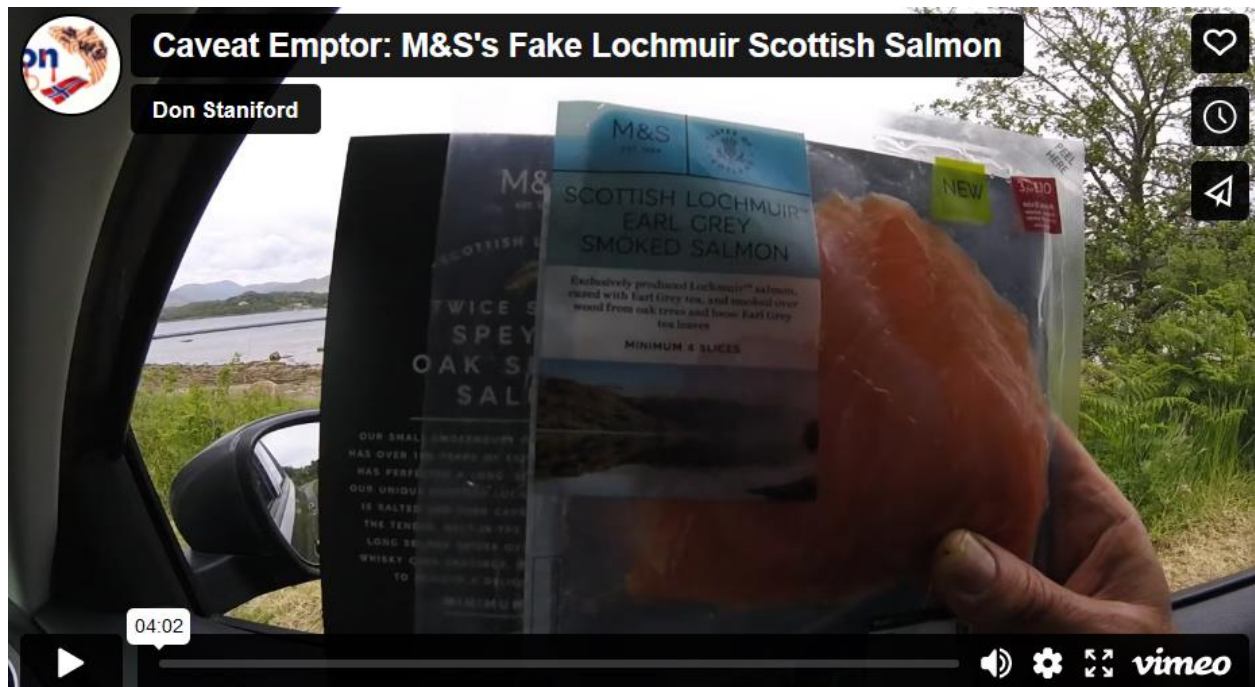


Scottish Salmon Watch [visited Scottish Sea Farms head office in Stirling in 2019](#) on the trail of billionaire owner Gustav Witzoe:





Scottish Salmon Watch [visited Scottish Sea Farms in South Shian in 2019](#) on the search for M&S's 'Lochmuir' salmon ([phased out in 2021](#)):



When \$camon \$cotland [filmed at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull and Loch Creran in July 2022](#) we found mass mortalities and welfare abuse:





Don Staniford

@TheGAAlA



Video Exclusive: Secret Filming Exposes Horrific Welfare Abuse Inside RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon Farms! [tinyurl.com/3krdb2z2](https://tinyurl.com/3krdb2z2)

@rspcaassured @scotseafarms @marksandspencer @ScottishSPCA  
@APHAgovuk @ProfCMDwyer @LynneUSneddon @ciwf  
@Animallawyersuk @vivacampaigns @Ecohustler



Scottish Greens and 9 others

6:32 AM · Jul 11, 2022

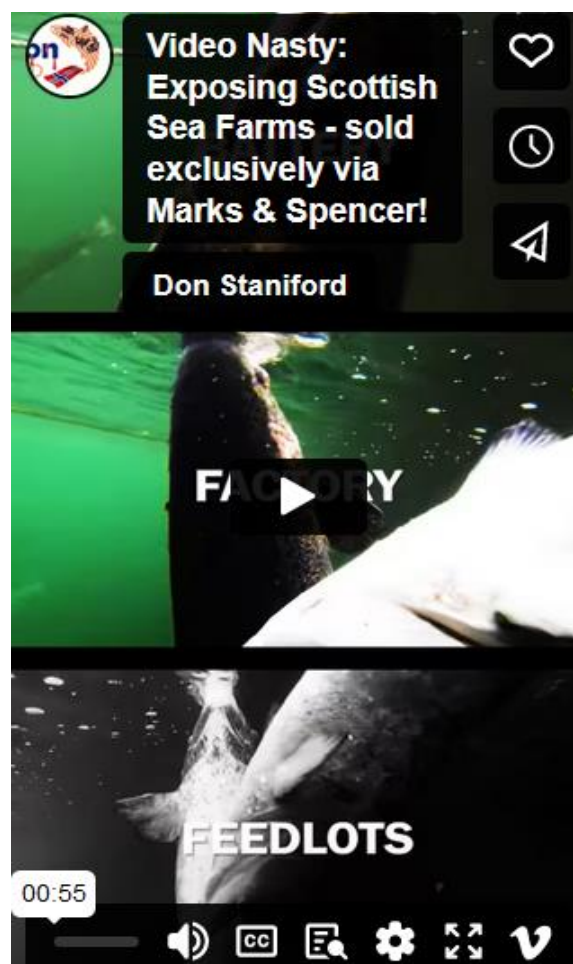


Underwater Hell at RSPCA Assured Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) - irresponsibly sourced by Marks & Spencer

Don Staniford







The Times [reported in July 2022](#):

## RSPCA investigates Scottish salmon supplier to M&S over lice accusations

Marc Horne

Saturday July 16 2022, 12.01am,  
The Times

Animals

Environment

Companies



Scottish Salmon Watch filmed fish covered in parasites at four fish farms, with open wounds and with eyes and flesh missing  
DON STANIFORD

The company that supplies Marks and Spencer with its Scottish salmon is being investigated by welfare authorities after underwater cameras captured images of fish covered in lice.

Diseased and dead salmon inside facilities owned by Scottish Sea Farms were recorded this month by Don Staniford, a campaigner. The RSPCA, which has previously endorsed the salmon as being “responsibly sourced”, has begun an investigation. The company said the claims were unfounded and part of an “orchestrated campaign”.

Staniford, the founder of Scottish Salmon Watch, filmed at four fish farms off the west coast of Scotland. Salmon are shown covered in parasites, with open wounds and with eyes and chunks of their flesh missing. He said: “This gruesome video evidence shows lice infestations literally eating Scottish salmon alive. It demonstrates why CCTV must be installed in all salmon farms in Scotland. M&S should hang their heads in shame.”

Viva!, an animal rights charity, said “frequent outbreaks of [parasitic sea lice](#) on Scottish salmon farms” were killing off wild populations in the region.

There are 200 Scottish fish farms which contribute about £1 billion to the UK economy every year. The RSPCA said: “We are concerned by the allegations of poor welfare and some of the images and launched an investigation as soon as they were reported to us.”

In May 2021, [covert surveillance inside a salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms](#) in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull [led to the RSPCA Assured temporarily withdrawing accreditation](#):



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## RSPCA suspends M&S farmed salmon supplier's eco-label for alleged welfare violations

A site operated by the company -- co-owned by Norwegian groups Leroy Seafood and SalMar -- was covertly filmed by an anti-industry activist.





A subsequent [investigation by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate](#) – prompted by Scottish Salmon Watch's covert surveillance in May 2021 – [reported Infectious Salmon Anaemia at Loch Spelve salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms](#):



Read more via:

[Breaking News: ISA reported at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms on the Isle of Mull](#)  
[FOI Lifts Lid on Scotland's Secret: ISA in Scottish Salmon Officially Reported in September 2021 to World Organization for Animal Health](#)

[It's Official: Infectious Salmon Anaemia Back to Haunt Scottish Salmon - reported to the World Organization for Animal Health for the first time since 2012!](#)

Covert surveillance [conducted by Compassion in World Farming in October 2020](#) discovered mass mortalities and welfare abuse at Scallastle Bay salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:







## Welfare abuse at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms - missing eyes, lice-infestation & disease problems

Don Staniford



02:40



vimeo



## Underwater Hell - the inside story of welfare abuse at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms

Don Staniford



11:50



vimeo



## Daily Record shaming of Scottish Sea Farms in May 2023:

The Daily Record newspaper [reported in May 2023](#):



“Horrific images showing four tons of diseased dead salmon burned in an incinerator at a Scots fish farm have sparked outrage from campaigners,” [reported The Daily Record \(30 May 2023\)](#). “Animal welfare groups said the fish had endured “gruesome suffering” at the facility run by Norwegian-owned firm Scottish Sea Farms - the company which supplies M&S.”

**Daily Record**

Bookmark



Comments 8



📷 Skips full of an estimated four tons of salmon 'morts' were inspected by activists.

The Daily Record [published video footage shot by Don Staniford](#) at the Shuna Point salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Linnhe and a packet of RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon “sourced for M&S from Scottish Sea Farms”:



Bookmark



Comments 8



Bookmark



Comments 8



M&S Scottish salmon sourced from Norwegian-owned firm Scottish Sea Farms.



## M&S greenwashed Scottish Sea Farms:

In June 2022, \$camon \$cotland [visited the head office of Marks & Spencer in London](#) to lobby against irresponsible sourced salmon from Scottish Sea Farms:



Scottish Sea Farms is [described as the “exclusive supplier of M&S farmed salmon”](#). M&S [claims on their website](#) that Scottish Sea Farms salmon “is sourced to our leading welfare and environmental standards”:

### What makes M&S salmon responsibly sourced?

**Our responsibly sourced Scottish salmon is high in quality, rich in Omega 3 and offers great everyday value, making it a firm favourite for families across the country. But before it reaches our shelves, we go to great lengths to make sure that every piece of fresh salmon is sourced to our leading welfare and environmental standards.**

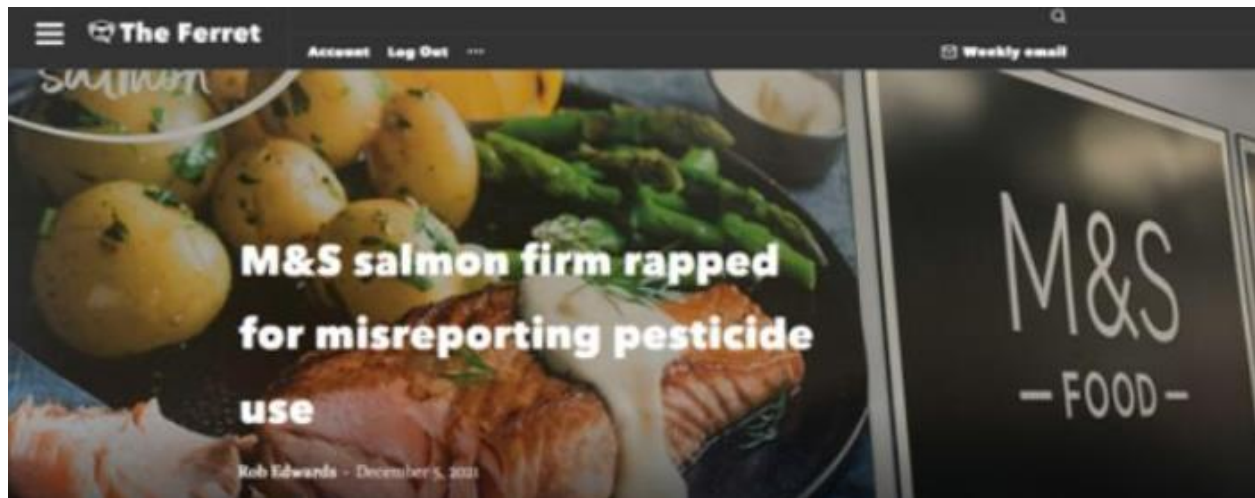
It's my team's responsibility to ensure that **our salmon is always sourced responsibly** and central to that is our leading Select Farms standards together with our long-standing partnership with our supplier Scottish Sea Farms. Although there are many farms operated by Scottish Sea Farms across Scotland, at M&S we only source from a handful of dedicated farms that are exclusive to our business—meaning we know and trust our Select Farmers to meet our high standards.

Over the last 15 years, my team has worked together with Scottish Sea Farms to continually raise the bar for salmon welfare and sustainability—not just for M&S but for the industry too. One step we've taken together is meeting the widely recognised RSPCA Assured standards across all of our Select Farms producing salmon, ensuring the best growing conditions so the fish are happier and healthier as a result.



## Illegal reporting of toxic chemicals by Scottish Sea Farms:

The Ferret [reported in December 2021](#):



The Sunday Times [reported in December 2021](#):



“The reprimand from Sepa prompted the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) to send Scottish Sea Farms a warning letter in October this year,” [reported Rob Edwards in The Sunday Times](#). “The charity was “extremely concerned” and said the company had breached its membership agreement with the RSPCA Assured certification scheme.

## BBC Countryfile exposes welfare abuse at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran:

In December 2020, [BBC Countryfile exposed welfare abuse and lice-infestation at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran:](#)



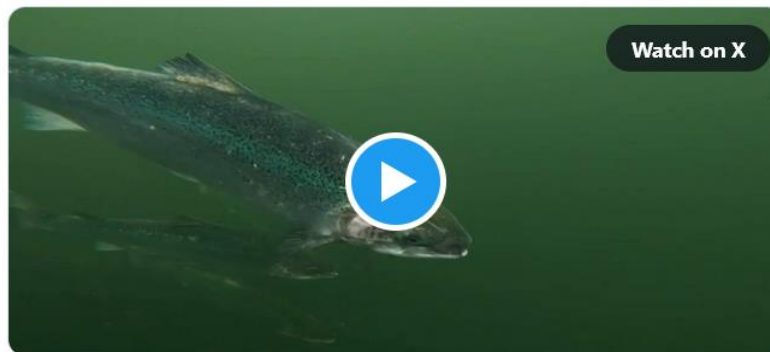
**Salmon Scotland**  
@SalmonScotland · Follow



This is what Scottish salmon has become.

Why is anyone eating it?

@FoodUnwrappedTV @GreggAWallace @JohnTorode1  
@ChefTomKerridge @CorrigansFood @TomKitchin  
@GordonRamsay @raymond\_blanc @NickNairn  
@michelrouxjr @marcuswareing @Alain\_Ducasse1  
@jc\_novelli @ArpegLive @ScottishSPCA



10:50 PM · Dec 7, 2020



The BBC Countryfile investigation by Joe Crowley was [sourced from covert video surveillance by Corin Smith of Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots](#):



The Herald [reported in October 2020](#):

## Scottish salmon found in 'sickening' conditions across Scotland as sea lice problem escalates

31st October 2020

SCOTLAND



Exclusive by Caitlin Hutchison

[CaitlinHutchie](#)

Share



20 Comments



Fish found in 'sickening' conditions on Scottish salmon farms as sea lice problem escalates



## Lousy Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Kishorn:

“All four fish had a sea lice load of over 50,” stated a [report published in December 2019](#) by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate of an inspection of [Scottish Sea Farms](#) in Loch Kishorn in September 2019. “Sea lice damage was evident on the heads of fish 1, 3 & 4”.



Don Staniford ✓  
@TheGAAIA

...

Lice-infested & disease-ridden Scottish Salmon anyone? [tinyurl.com/yjhwflfg](https://tinyurl.com/yjhwflfg) "Over 50" lice per fish @scotseafarms in Loch Kishorn states @marinescotland inspection report. Were these fish sold as Lochmuir & RSPCA Assured? @marksandspencer @rspcaassured @SSPOsays @LeroySeafood

| External signs | Behaviour | Leaning | Swimming | Feeding | Loss of equilibrium | Dark | Swollen abdomen | Swollen | Scale Oedema | Shortened | Finned | Haemorrhaging | Throat | Ventrals | Base of fins | Swollen | Enophthalmos | Enophthalmos (sunken) | Contract | Haemorrhaging |
|----------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|---------------------|------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|----------|--------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|
|                |           | S       | S        | S       | S                   |      |                 |         |              |           |        |               |        |          |              |         |              |                       |          |               |

LAUREN FARM  
Laurens Business Park  
Polmar Road Slings  
FK7 6LQ

### FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF NITE OPERATOR

Business No: F00125  
Site No: F00004  
Inspector: [REDACTED]

Date of Visit: 10/09/2019  
Site Name: Kishorn B (North)  
Case No: 20190431

Section 1: Summary

A report was received from the operator of increased mortality levels at the site due to complex gill issues and cardiomyopathy syndrome (CMS). Four moribund fish were removed for diagnostic sampling.

Histopathology examination revealed multifactorial gill pathology which included presence of sea lice, mild necrosis of lamellae and inflammation (ICP) and inflammation of the head in

ts:  
damage

stic examination, sea lice damage was evident on the heads of fish 1, 3 & 4. The fish were also found to have significant internal damage, most likely attributed to sea lice damage while all four fish samples of F1-3 were pale and all four samples of F1-3 were pale, there was evidence of yellow in colour.

damage. Fish 4 seal damaged. Head dam

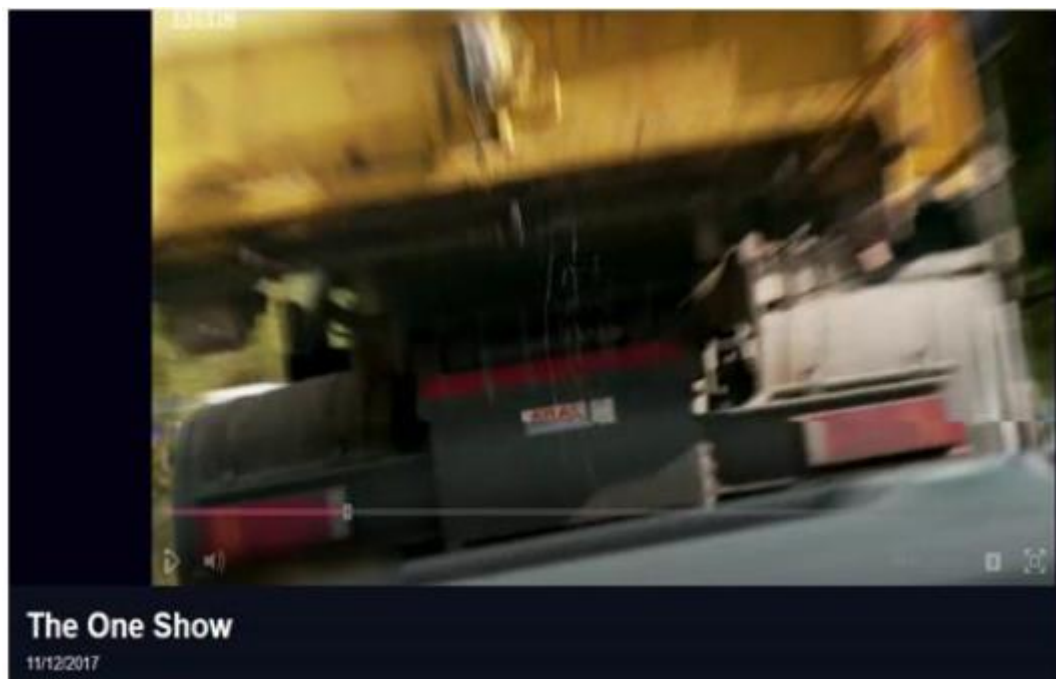
6:40 PM · Jan 6, 2020



Photo: [Lice-infested salmon farmed by Scottish Sea Farms](#)

**Mass mortalities at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Kishorn broadcast on BBC One Show:**

The BBC One Show [broadcast video footage of mass mortalities at Loch Kishorn in December 2017](#):





**Viva investigation of Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Kishorn in June 2023:**





Watch video footage [published by Viva in September 2023](#):



The Guardian/Observer [reported in September 2023](#):

The Observer  
17 Sep 2023

News

The Observer  
17 Sep 23  
5

BELOW  
A salmon at  
fish farm in  
Loch Carron.

ABOVE  
One of the farms  
investigated.  
Photograph:  
Viva!

RIGHT  
Sea lice on  
a salmon at  
Morris's Torsion  
Fish Farm.

LEFT  
A fish at Scottish  
Sea Farms. Main  
image: Maria  
MacLeod/  
the Observer

## Underwater drones film 'monstrous invasions' of parasites at salmon farms

Activists say footage reveals fish stricken by sea lice and jellyfish on Scottish farms that supply supermarkets

Lochs in the Highlands of Scotland are among the most spectacular and pristine wildlife areas in Britain. They are also a production line for what have become supermarket staples: smoked and fresh salmon.

The salmon industry says fish health and welfare are at the heart

The footage shows many salmon infested with parasitic sea lice. The farms are operated by leading food producers supplying UK supermarkets and overseas markets, with salmon one of Britain's biggest food exports.

Footage taken at a seawater farm on Loch Torridon operated by Mowi,

industry's code of good practice on at least one occasion.

The report stated: "The rapid expansion of open-net marine salmon and rainbow trout farming in Scotland in the last 30 years has led to increasing concern about parasitic sea lice infestations on these farms, and the threat these pose to the health and survival of wild and farmed salmon."

The Observer reported in January how salmon deaths on fish farms in Scotland nearly doubled last year owing to growing levels of disease, parasites and jellyfish bloom. Micro jellyfish, which may be linked to warming oceans, are a threat, blocking or stinging fish gills, leading to deaths.

Salmon Scotland, which represents the producers, said farms were working hard to manage sea lice numbers. It said the industry was transparent

Salmon Scotland said various factors are involved in the decline of wild salmon, such as river water quality, which it said is occurring in Europe.

Scottish Sea Farms said the recent sea lice counts at its three Loch Kishorn farms were low, with an average of 0.18 adult females per fish. It said high levels of micro jellyfish were found in June, which threatened the fish, and they were harvested early.

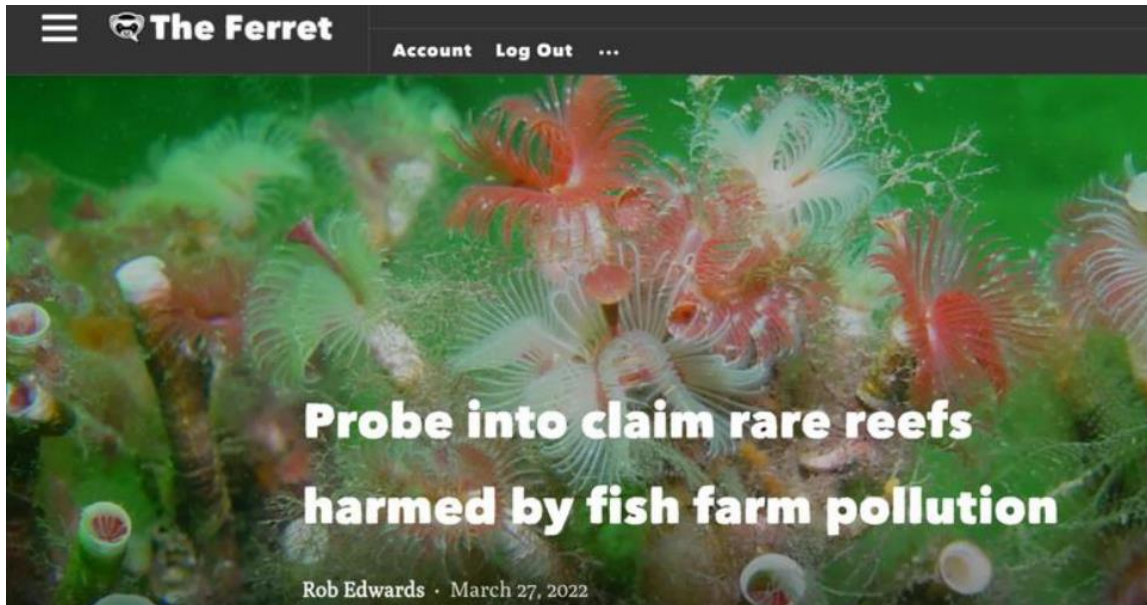
Beggs Macdonald, CEO of Bakkavor, said the company had invested in new technology to combat sea lice, with two vessels in Scotland installed with large tanks for freshwater treatments.

"Sea lice do not survive in freshwater," he said. "If you don't have the right tools, the sea lice numbers can escalate. We are ahead of the problem."

Some within the salmon industry believe that building fish farms on

## Environmental impacts by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran:

The impact of salmon farming in Loch Creran – a ‘Special Area of Conservation’ and ‘Marine Protected Area’ – by Scottish Sea Farms has received extensive public attention.



Read more via:

[Probe into claim rare reefs harmed by fish farm pollution](#)

[What is killing the serpulid reefs of Loch Creran?](#)

[Case study: Persistent damage to the Loch Creran serpulid reefs](#)

[Professor Jason Hall-Spencer investigates how salmon farming in Scotland is killing ancient maerl beds](#)



## Maggot-infested Scottish Sea Farms in the Summer Isles:





## Opposition against the expansion of Scottish Sea Farms:

In November 2020, [STV News reported](#) on vocal opposition to plans by Scottish Sea Farms to establish a new salmon farm in a Marine Protected Area in Wester Ross near Ullapool:



The Herald [reported in December 2020](#):

## The Herald

### Salmon farm creates 'serious threat' to life in a protected Scottish sea zone



By Martin Williams | [@MWilliamsHT](#)  
Senior News Reporter



## Scottish Sea Farms is the #1 Seal Killer in Scotland:

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported in February 2021](#):

| SEALS KILLED BY SALMON FARMS (2011 to 2020*) - as officially reported to the Scottish Government |                    |                     |                        |                  |            |       |             |       |        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
|                                                                                                  | Scottish Sea Farms | Mowi/Marine Harvest | The Scottish Salmon Co | Hjaltsland/Grieg | Loch Duart | Cooke | Wester Ross | Kames | Others | TOTAL |
| 2011                                                                                             | 37                 | 34                  | 54                     | 50               | 10         |       | 1           | 2     | 47     | 235   |
| 2012                                                                                             | 45                 | 16                  | 39                     | 50               | 20         |       | 1           | 2     | 33     | 206   |
| 2013                                                                                             | 33                 | 5                   | 14                     | 32               | 13         |       | 3           | 1     | 14     | 115   |
| 2014                                                                                             | 33                 | 7                   | 14                     | 7                | 13         |       | 4           |       | 10     | 88    |
| 2015                                                                                             | 15                 | 20                  | 11                     |                  | 9          | 3     | 2           | 2     | 8      | 70    |
| 2016                                                                                             | 14                 | 26                  | 2                      |                  | 12         | 8     | 2           |       | 1      | 65    |
| 2017                                                                                             | 12                 | 13                  | 7                      | 1                | 15         | 1     |             |       |        | 49    |
| 2018                                                                                             | 11                 | 24                  | 6                      |                  | 2          | 9     | 2           |       |        | 54    |
| 2019                                                                                             | 13                 | 25                  | 18                     |                  | 7          | 2     |             |       |        | 65    |
| 2020                                                                                             | 22                 | 15                  | 17                     |                  | 5          | 1     | 2           | 1     |        | 63    |
| TOTAL                                                                                            | 235                | 185                 | 182                    | 140              | 106        | 24    | 17          | 8     | 113    | 1010  |

\* Q4 2020 data missing





## Disease risks of importing ova (eggs) by Scottish Sea Farms:

In December 2019, [Scottish Salmon Watch forced the disclosure of 'commercially damaging' information](#) on where Scottish Sea Farms import their salmon eggs (ova) via a ruling from the Scottish Information Commissioner.

 **Don Staniford**   
@TheGAAlA

'Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland [tinyurl.com/voooq9c](#) Here's the information which @scotgov claimed "would cause substantial harm to commercial interests" @scotseafarms @HGSalmonUK @FergusEwingMSP Thanks to Scottish Information Commissioner @FOIScotland

Scottish Salmon Watch, 18 December 2019

**URE COULD CAUSE COMM**

Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland

reveals Scottish Sea Farms imported 11 million ova (salmon eggs) from Marine Harvest in Ireland & 1.4 million ova from Stofniskur in Iceland. Scottish Information Commissioner forced disclosure of information which operators claimed "would cause substantial harm to commercial interests".

**SCOTTISH SALMON WATCH**  **VIRUSES**

| Consignee on certificate (if different from operator) | Species |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|                                                       | Salmon  |
|                                                       | Salmon  |
|                                                       | Salmon  |
|                                                       | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |
| Scottish Sea Farms Ltd                                | Salmon  |

Information published this week via Freedom of Information Act 2019 is imported over 11 million ova (salmon eggs) from Marine Harvest in Ireland and 1.4 million ova from Stofniskur in Iceland (data up to March 2018) [1]. Here's the information which operators claimed "would cause substantial harm to commercial interests":

11:31 AM · Dec 18, 2019



Read more via:

[The Ferret: "Imports of Norwegian salmon eggs banned over deadly virus"](#)  
[Deadly virus outbreak prompted fears over import of fish farm eggs to Scotland](#)



## Infectious diseases in Norway at Leroy and SalMar:

Intrafish [reported in October 2023](#):

### ISA outbreak at SalMar's central Norway site confirmed

Norway's salmon industry has been hit by an increase in ISA cases with this year's number already exceeding that for the whole of 2022.

9 October 2023 12:40 GMT    UPDATED 9 October 2023 12:41 GMT

By Hanne Gezelius 

An infectious salmon anemia (ISA) outbreak at a site in Flatanger municipality in Trondelag county in central Norway has been confirmed.

Salmon farming giant SalMar and the smaller Veterinaermedisinsk Oppdragscenter farm salmon at the site, according to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.

The facility's fish health service notified the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on Sept. 26 of findings compatible with suspicion of ISA, and the suspicion was confirmed by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on Oct. 4 based on an analysis from the Veterinary Institute.

The location was already in a monitoring zone for ISA.



**'The situation is serious': Grieg and Leroy among salmon farmers hit by western Norway disease outbreak**

[Read more](#)

A restricted zone will be established shortly to combat the outbreak.

The Norwegian salmon industry has been hit by an increase in ISA cases with this year's number already exceeding that for the whole of 2022.

So far there have been 71 reported cases compared with 15 last year. Whereas the infection was previously most widespread in northern Norway, western Norway is now the hardest hit with 14 of the 17 outbreaks in the region.

Intrafish [reported in May 2023](#):

### 'We are following it closely': Leroy is yet again hit by serious fish disease

Halsafjorden is located in the Nordmore region in central Norway, nearby the localities that contracted the disease in May.

15 June 2023 9:02 GMT    UPDATED 15 June 2023 8:08 GMT

By Ann Eileen D Nygård and Hanne Gezelius 

Norway-based seafood giant Leroy Seafood has yet again been affected by the bacterial kidney disease (BKD), a severe contagion with significant implications for the health of wild and farmed salmon.

In May, Leroy was affected by the disease across four of its sites in central Norway, and on June 14, it announced that BKD was detected on salmon broodstock at its Urda location in Halsafjorden on June 9.

Seafood News [reported in May 2023](#):

## Contagious salmon disease found at four Lerøy salmon farms in Norway

By Chris Chase  
May 30, 2023

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The Norwegian Food Safety Authority, Mattilsynet, has reported the detection of bacterial kidney disease (BKD), a contagious infection, at four Lerøy Midt salmon farming sites in central Norway.

Mattilsynet said BKD is either definitely present or suspected at the four farms, and the authority said it believes there is an increased risk of BKD in all facilities in Norway's salmon-farming region 6 (PO 6). It added that "measures have been put in place" to prevent further infection, including culling all affected fish in cages.

"BKD is a serious contagious and notifiable disease, which can have major consequences for the health and welfare of both

wild and farmed salmon," the Norwegian Food Safety Authority said in a release.

Undercurrent News [reported in April 2023](#):

## Lerøy ordered to cull salmon due to winter wounds

*Lerøy Seafood Group, one of Norway's largest salmon companies, has been ordered to cull 150,000 salmon at a farm in Midt, central Norway*

By Undercurrent News | April 21, 2023 10:16 BST



### Related

Ice Fish Farm confirms ISA outbreaks at sites housing 2m salmon



Norwegian, Scottish salmon spot prices make big leaps, Chilean steady



Low volumes, fixed-price contracts slash Norway Royal Salmon's earnings



Loe exits CFO post at Norway Royal Salmon after 13 years



Read more via:

[Winter sores cost Norwegian salmon farmers \\$750 million a year; what can be done to prevent them?](#)

[Winter wounds issue is a concern, says Seafood Norway](#)

## FDA warning vs Scottish Sea Farms in South Shian:



SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER 2012

# Fish farm at centre of mystery illness was warned over safety by US agency

exclusive By Rob Edwards Environment Editor

A Scottish fish farming plant, whose workers complained of a mystery illness, had been reprimanded by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for "serious violations" of food safety rules on pesticides in salmon.

## FISHupdate.com

### Scottish Sea Farms staff walk out over sickness

Published: 24 October, 2012

AN INVESTIGATION is continuing into the cause of a sickness which saw staff in the processing plant of a west coast of Scotland fish farm walk out over fears for their health.



Staff at Scottish Sea Farms site in Connel, left their posts on October 11 after feeling ill and coughing and vomiting.

One Scottish Sea Farms employee, who did not wish to be named, said the sickness had been ongoing for 'two to three' weeks.

The staff member has worked at the South Shian site, which employs 37 people in the processing area, for several years and has never experienced issues like this before.

He said: 'Everyone in the processing area is coughing, vomiting and feeling like their chest is tight. Over 20 people are feeling ill on a daily basis.'



The FDA wrote to Scottish Sea Farms in 2012:

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration**  
Protecting and Promoting *Your* Health

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## Food

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**Guidance, Compliance & Regulatory Information**  
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Food Compliance Programs  
Recalls  
Untitled Letters  
Warning Letters

### Seafood Processing Facility - Scottish Sea Farms, Ltd.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
Public Health Service  
Food and Drug Administration  
College Park, MD 20740

March 22, 2012

Mr. James Gallagher  
Managing Director  
Scottish Sea Farms, Ltd.  
Laurel House, Laurel Hill Business Park, Polmaise Road  
Stirling, Stirlingshire  
FK7 9JQ Scotland, United Kingdom

Reference No.: 288277

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

We inspected your seafood processing facility, Scottish Sea Farms Ltd., located at South Shian, Connel, Argyll PA37 1SB, Scotland, United Kingdom, on September 26-27, 2011. During that inspection, we found that you had serious violations of the seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulation, Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 123 (21 CFR 123). That inspection resulted in FDA's issuance of an FDA-483, Inspectional Observations, listing the deviations found at your firm at the conclusion of the inspection.



## Scottish Sea Farms fined over deaths of workers:



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[Alba](#) | [Local News](#)

# Loch Creran barge death firms have £640,000 fines cut

26 January 2012



**Two companies who were fined a total of £640,000 over the deaths of two men on a fish farm barge in Argyll have had their penalties cut by appeal judges.**

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

Scottish Sea Farms was fined £600,000 and Logan Inglis was fined £40,000 over health and safety breaches.

Appeal court judges agreed the fines were too harsh and reduced them to £333,335 and £20,000 respectively.

The original fines were imposed by Sheriff Douglas Small last year after the case was heard at Oban Sheriff Court.

# Scottish Sea Farms Ltd v HM Advocate

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd v HM Advocate

26 January 2012

Reference: 2012HCJAC11

[10] In mitigation before the sheriff the solicitor for Scottish Sea Farms Ltd relied on the company's previous good health and safety record, their lack of previous convictions, the acknowledgement that their health and safety training was generally of a high standard, their ready acceptance of liability, and the remedial measures taken by them. Considerable support had been given by the company to the families of the deceased and to those employees who had been affected by their deaths in the aftermath of the incident. It was explained that the company had a turnover of £93,968,000 and a gross profit of £11,031,000.

Dead juvenile humpback whale at Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:

## Humpback Whale died after swimming into fish farm



by Rita Campbell

July 5 2014, 8.51am





### Wild fish trapped inside Scottish Sea Farms:

Secret filming [in August 2018 by Scottish Salmon Watch](#) inside Scallastle Bay salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms captured video evidence of wild fish trapped inside a cage.



### Lice-infested cleaner fish at Scottish Sea Farms:

Secret filming [in August 2018 inside Loch Spelve salmon farm](#) operated by Scottish Sea Farms captured video evidence of lice-infested cleaner fish.



## Thermolicer torture chambers used by Scottish Sea Farms:

Video footage has exposed the gruesome nature of ‘Thermolicer’ torture chambers used by Scottish Sea Farms.



## **Mowi's lawsuit was appealed on 10 October 2023:**

An appeal vs Mowi was filed by lawyers representing Don Staniford on 10 October 2023 (read in full [online here](#)).

### **APPEAL**

**to**

### **THE SHERIFF APPEAL COURT**

**MOWI SCOTLAND LIMITED**, a company incorporated under the Companies Act (Company Number) SC148843 and having its registered office at 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Admiralty Park, Admiralty Road, Rosyth, Fife, KY11 2YW.

### **PURSUER and RESPONDENT**

**against**

**Don Staniford**, residing at 78 Glenwood Drive, Irby, Wirral, CH61 4UJ

### **DEFENDER and APPELLANT**

1. The Appellant appeals to the Sheriff Appeal Court against the final judgment being the interlocutor of the Sheriff at Oban dated 14 September 2023 finding the Appellant liable for expenses of the action following the decision to sustain the Respondent's pleas in law and to repel the Appellant's pleas in law. The court reference number is OBN-A20-21.

## **STV News reported on Mowi's lawsuit in October 2021:**

### **Salmon farm firm takes legal action against animal welfare campaigner**

Mowi Scotland is seeking an injunction against the director of Scottish Salmon Watch.





STV News [reported in October 2021](#):

Mowi, a Norwegian company that owns several sites in Scotland, has asked a Scottish court to grant a permanent interdict, the equivalent of an injunction, against Don Staniford.

The organisation said it repeatedly asked Mr Staniford not to enter their farms and that he continues to do so puts "himself and the company's employees and animals at risk".

Mowi wants to prevent Mr Staniford from entering onto, attaching vessels to or approaching within 15 metres of all structures, docks, walkways, buildings, floats or pens at its salmon aquaculture farming sites.



Photo of inside a Mowi salmon farm taken by Scottish Salmon Watch in July 2021.

On Thursday, Mr Staniford agreed not to enter Mowi's site until the court proceedings are completed.



### Mowi's Legal Threat to Don Staniford - stay 15m away from salmon farms in Scotland (and don't fly drones closer than 50m)!

Don Staniford

Record to [redacted] the Defender, making no admission or liability in relation to, and reserving the right to plead against him, undertakes that neither he nor any person acting on his behalf or under his direction, shall encourage directly or indirectly will: (i) board, enter onto, physically occupy, attach himself to, attach vessels to or approach within 15 metres of all structures, docks, walkways, buildings, floats or pens of the following salmon aquaculture farming sites of the Pursuer which are more fully detailed in Schedule A in the Initial Writ: An Camus, Ardintoul, Ardrish, Bagh Dail nan Ceann, Cairidh, Camus Glas, Caolas a Deas, Carradale, Colonsay, Duich, Gorsten, Greshornish, Grey Horse Channel, Grey Horse Channel Outer, Groatay, Hellisay, Invasion Bay, Kingairloch, Leven, Loch Linnhe, Loch Hourn, Maclean's Nose, Maol Ban, Marulaig Bay, Muck, North Shore, Omish, Port Na Cro, Poll Na Gille, Port Na Long, Rum, Scalpay, Sconser, Sconser Quay, Seaforth, Shuna, Soay, Sron, Stulaigh, Tabhaigh, Torridon, Trilleachan Mor, Loch Arkaig Freshwater, Glenfinnan Freshwater, Loch Garry Freshwater, Loch Lochy Freshwater, Loch Ness Freshwater (together "the Pursuer's Salmon Aquaculture Farms"); (ii) operate small unmanned surveillance aircrafts except in accordance with a permission issued by the Civil Aviation Authority within 50 metres of the Pursuer's Salmon Aquaculture Farms; (iii) record the Pursuer's staff without their consent in the course of their employment at the Pursuer's Salmon Aquaculture Farms; (iv) harass, threaten or intimidate the Pursuer's staff in the course of their employment; or instruct, procure, encourage or facilitate others to so act. Further, the Defender undertakes to give not less than six weeks' prior written notice in writing to the Pursuer's agents and to the Clerk of Court of an intention to withdraw this undertaking.

03:06

Sheriff Hughes

This document has been electronically authenticated and requires no further action.

## Mowi's legal action has been designated a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation:

### Don Stanford – Price for exposing the dark side of salmon farms

31st May 2023 |

Case Study



SHARE



Don Stanford is an English environmental activist and blogger who runs an organisation dedicated to the exposure of Scottish salmon farming misdeeds called \$camon \$cotland, previously called Scottish Salmon Watch. He is being sued by a company called MOWI (previously called Marine Harvest), one of the largest seafood companies in the world. Don regularly uploads videos and blogs onto his website and some have even been used in newspaper articles and a popular Netflix documentary film, Seaspiracy. He has dedicated much of his time to bringing to light any malpractice, welfare abuse and violation to health and sanitary standards of the salmon farms.

In response to Don's blogs and videos, in 2017, MOWI began sending emails on a consistent basis for five years requesting Don to take down (within 48 hours) videos, graphics and blogs he'd created about the company's salmon fish farms or risk legal proceedings being initiated. Don stood by his videos and blogs and refused to take down the majority of the material he had created. MOWI did not take kindly to his steadfastness and in response in September 2021, Don was served with an interdict (injunction) to stop him from going within 15 metres of any MOWI-owned vessel or structure, flying a drone within 50m of the fish farms, and harassing staff members. The court proceedings are underway and Don plans on fighting to the end and continues to hold salmon farmers accountable for their misconduct.

### Watch Don's testimony:









## Mowi denies wanting to gag Don Staniford:

Fish Farmer [reported in June 2023](#):

### Mowi Scotland denies it wants to 'gag' activist

By Sandy Neil - 7th June 2023



Don Staniford filming a fish farm (2021)

Scottish salmon producer Mowi has denied it wants to gag a campaigner by banning him from its fish farms, in a civil case heard at Oban Sheriff Court on 1 June.

Mowi Scotland Ltd is [pursuing an interdict](#) to prevent environmental activist Don Staniford coming within 15 metres of its fish farms.

Acting for the defender, Don Staniford, advocate Simon Crabb called for the "ridiculously extravagant" action to be dismissed.

"Mr Staniford is a journalist and carries out watchdog functions," he said. "A picture tells a thousand words. Images do not lie.

"His source material informs mass media and welfare complaints.

"There is a necessity. There is a public interest. There is a genuinely held belief, which gives him right to investigate what he believes is unlawful practices.

"Mr Staniford is trying to expose unlawful conduct. He is there to protect the fish.

"It is not the case that journalists say 'okay we will leave it up to the authorities', especially with a vulnerable population. Wildlife do not have a voice.

"They require someone like Don Staniford to do that lawfully, which the law in Scotland allows him to do.

"The defender's ability to inform the public depends on his access to the waters where the salmon farms are located.

"His lawful authority comes from his right to navigate the public waters and do any act that is incidental to that.

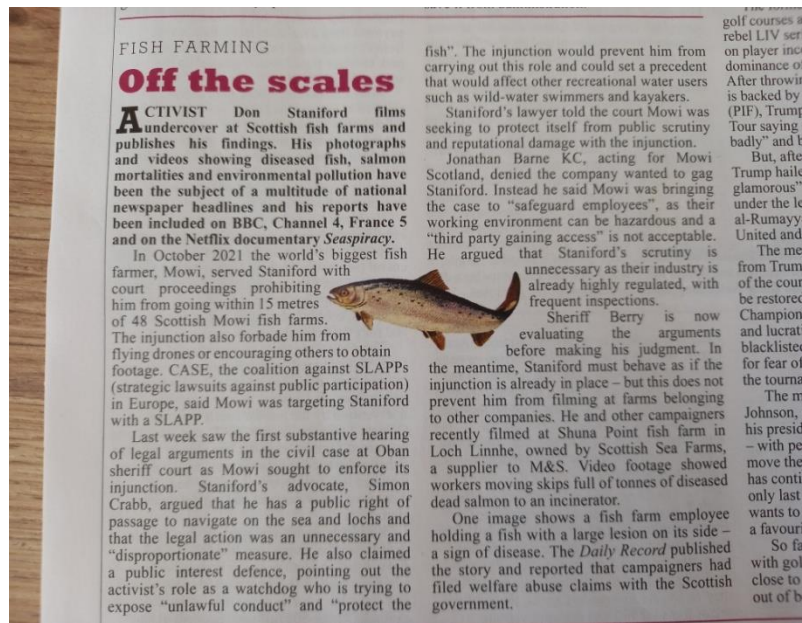
"Mowi have employed an excessive restriction on the freedom of navigation.

"Any presence has been passive and temporary. He does not attend in large numbers. He attends with journalists.

"Potentially we could have kayakers and yachters being told by Mowi to stay off the water and keep the cameras away.

## Private Eye on Staniford's SLAPP:

Private Eye [reported in June 2023](#):



## The Times on the 'Kayak Vigilante':

[The Times reported in September 2023](#) (same story [published by Die Welt in Germany](#)):

### Kayak vigilante goes undercover to expose salmon farming 'horror'

Don Staniford paddles out at dawn to film conditions in the lochs. The threat of a lawsuit hasn't stopped him

"I want to take down the industry," he says, adding that, to do so, he must "make its horror visible". Over the next ten days, he will drive more than 300 miles along the coast, paddling out to salmon farms at dawn in his kayak and boarding them — then filming the conditions in which the fish live. He has to do so undercover because he is already in legal trouble. The Norwegian company Mowi, the world's largest salmon producer, has launched a court case against him in the hope of banning him from approaching its farms.

Mowi said it was seeking a court order against Staniford to address "dangerous, unauthorised incursions that breach our strict health and safety protocols and have an unacceptable impact on the mental health of our staff. Despite repeated requests not to do so, he has continued to put himself and the company's employees and animals at risk."

Commentary by Don Staniford at Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:



Video footage of Don Staniford boarding Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:

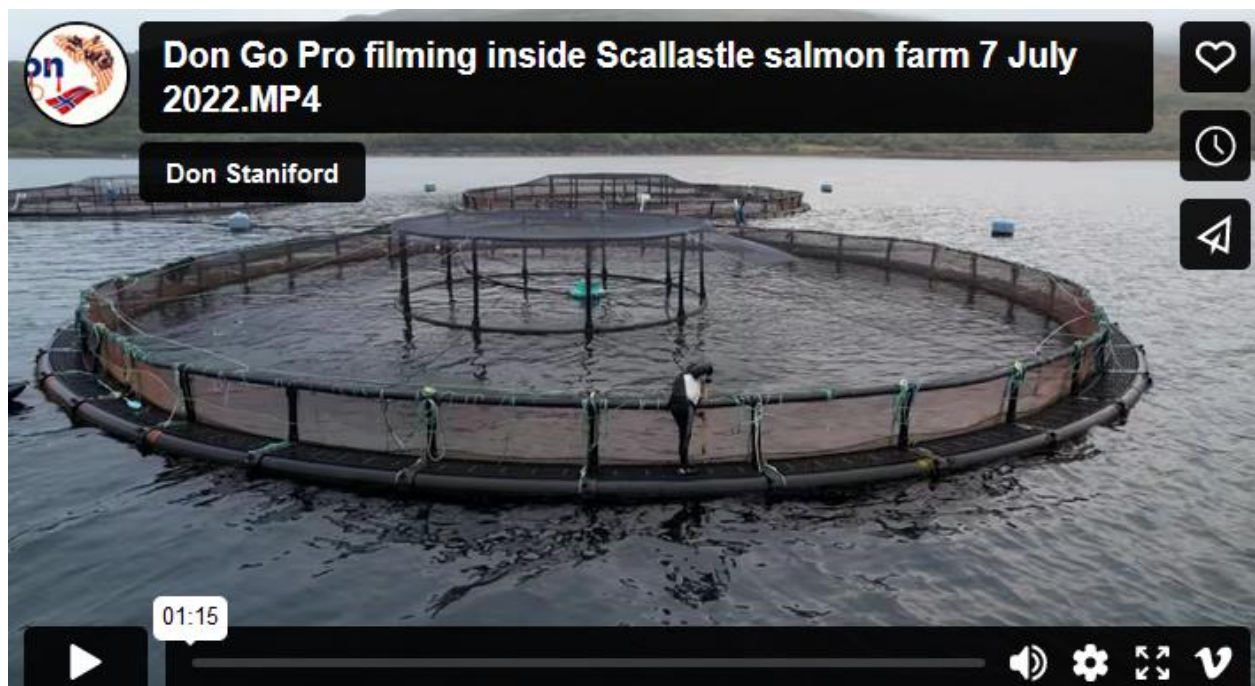




## Shadowed by Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:



**Video footage of Don Staniford filming safely at Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Mull:**



**Contact:**

Don Staniford: 07771 541826 ([salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com](mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com))

<https://www.donstaniford.org/contact>



Notes to Editors:

[1]



SHEPHERD+ WEDDERBURN

OUR REF S5801.121/JSWM  
YOUR REF  
12 October 2023

**FIRST CLASS**  
Mr Don Staniford

Dear Sir

**Scottish Sea Farms Limited (“SSF”)**

Our client operates over 60 aquaculture sites across Scotland and within the UK’s territorial waters, including on the foreshore.

**Incursions**

For several years, you and other individuals have regularly accessed (or at least sought to access) our client’s fish farms, marine assets and other land-based facilities without our client’s consent. Our client tells us that it has documented, and has evidence of, numerous examples of incursions at its facilities. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

| Date          | Location                    | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2018   | Loch Spelve                 | You accessed, and filmed from, the gangways and pens at our client’s fish farm.                                                                                                                                       |
| July 2019     | Shuna                       | You accessed, and filmed from, the gangways and pens at our client’s fish farm. You were also videoing within a pen and untying nets at our client’s fish farm.                                                       |
| July 2020     | Loch Creran                 | You attended at our client’s fish farm and while there, an individual who accompanied you, Matthew Mellen, dived and swam within our client’s leased area.                                                            |
| May 2021      | Loch Spelve                 | You accessed, and filmed from, the gangways into a pen (or pens) at our client’s fish farm.                                                                                                                           |
| July 2022     | Finuary, Sound of Mull      | You boarded our client’s vessel.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| February 2023 | South Shian Processing site | You attended our client’s processing facility, videoing the facility and staff, and verbally abusing members of our client’s staff.                                                                                   |
| May 2023      | Shuna Point                 | Our facility and staff were filmed carrying out their work. It is believed the footage was captured using a drone. You also accessed a barge at our client’s fish farm, removed cable ties and opened mortality bins. |
| June 2023     | Kishorn                     | You were videoing within a pen and untying nets at our client’s fish farm.                                                                                                                                            |

9 Haymarket Square  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8FY  
DX 551970 Edinburgh 53  
T +44 (0)131 228 9900  
F +44 (0)131 228 1222  
shepwedd.com

1 West Regent Street  
Glasgow  
G2 1RW  
DX GW409 Glasgow  
T +44 (0)141 566 9900  
F +44 (0)141 565 1222

Octagon Point  
5 Cheapside  
London EC2V 6AA  
DX 98945 Cheapside 2  
T +44 (0)20 7429 4900  
F +44 (0)20 7329 5939

37 Albyn Place  
Aberdeen  
AB10 1YN  
DX AB103 Aberdeen 1  
T +44 (0)1224 621 166  
F +44 (0)1224 623 103



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Our client has no indication that you will desist from this behaviour and reasonably concludes that these incursions will continue absent you agreeing to stop, or our client taking action to prevent future incursions.

**Health & Safety and Biosecurity**

Your actions are not only unacceptable to our client because you are accessing our client's property without its consent, but because at least some of your actions pose a danger to you and jeopardise the welfare of the fish.

Our client assesses and reviews work related risks by carrying out risk assessments. It then puts in place appropriate arrangements for planning, organising, controlling, monitoring and reviewing any risks identified. In terms of its employees, our client puts in place arrangements for implementing its health and safety policy and to train its staff. In addition, our client's staff also have the necessary training and understanding to enable them to comply with the relevant biosecurity requirements.

Our client has no reason to believe that you understand any of the identified risks, have the requisite biosecurity training or comply with the relevant biosecurity requirements. Even if you did, which is not accepted, that would still not give you the right to access our client's property without SSF's consent.

**Mowi's court action**

Our client is aware of the proceedings that were brought against you by Mowi Scotland Limited ("**Mowi**") in Oban Sheriff Court. We enclose a copy of the court's judgment.

As you know, the Sheriff repelled your defences, and rejected your argument that granting an interdict would interfere with exercising your right of navigation and that any interdict would restrict your actions as a "campaigner, journalist or the like."

Therefore, you have now been prohibited (interdicted) from doing any of the following:

- (i) "boarding, entering onto, physically occupying, attaching himself to, attaching vessels to or approaching within 15 metres of all structures, docks, walkways, buildings, floats or pens of salmon aquaculture farming sites of [Mowi];
- (ii) flying unmanned aircraft, also known as drones, above [Mowi's sites]; and
- (iii) instructing, procuring, encouraging or facilitating others to so act."

**'Digivan' Tour**

In addition to the past incidents noted above, and our client's reasonably held belief that you will continue to act as you have done in the past, our client understands that you plan to attend at one of its processing plants near Oban on 5 November 2023, during the proposed "London to Edinburgh Digivan Tour".<sup>1</sup>

While our client respects your right to peacefully and lawfully protest, and in no way seeks to interfere with the responsible exercise of that right, this does not give you the right to board, access or otherwise interfere with our client's property. Indeed, in a case involving Greenpeace, the court was clear that the lack of access to a particular location is not destructive of the right of freedom of expression or freedom of assembly. In short, you do not require access to our client's facilities and premises in order to protest.

**Action Required**

Our client requires that you confirm in writing that you will immediately cease from:



<sup>1</sup> End Salmon Farming: Join the Scottish Salmon Boycott - 'Digivan' Tour from London to Edinburgh (31 October to 6 November) - Green Around the Gills (typepad.com)

1. boarding, entering onto, physically occupying, attaching yourself to, attaching vessels to, or approaching within 15 metres of all structures, docks, walkways, buildings, yards, floats, vessels, boats or pens of aquaculture sites of SSF ("**SSF's Aquaculture Sites**");
2. flying unmanned aircraft (a.k.a. drones) above SSF's Aquaculture Sites;
3. operating unmanned underwater vehicles (a.k.a. drones) above SSF's leased areas of the seabed, or within 15 metres of SSF's Aquaculture Sites; and
4. instructing, procuring, encouraging or facilitating others to so act in your stead.

Our client requires this confirmation in writing by 4pm on 27 October 2023. Failing this, SSF will be left with no option but to raise court proceedings against you. If proceedings are raised, no further warning will be given to you beforehand.

In the meantime, our client reserves all of its rights.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP

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The legal threat by Scottish Sea Farms also attached the 10-page judgment dated 9 August 2023 from Sheriff Berry – copy available from Oban Sheriff Court (Staniford's appeal filed on 10 October 2023 is available [online here](#))