

Media Backgrounder (February 2024):

The Three Kings of Death: Mowi, Bakkafrost & Norscott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms)

- Q4 2023 results in February set to be a financial bloodbath with huge losses
- 2023 shaping up to be the worst year on record for deaths on ‘Scottish’ salmon farms
- The European Commission’s cartel investigation into the \$almafia could cost \$1.3 billion

Mass mortalities at RSPCA Assured, ASC-certified and ‘organic’ salmon farms across Scotland are killing off millions of fish – and slashing production and profits at Norwegian/Faroese-owned giants Mowi, Norscott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) and Bakkafrost (who together [account for ca. 75% of ‘Scottish’ salmon farming](#)). The depth of the 2023 bloodbath in Scotland will become clear later this month when the \$almafia publish Q4 2023 financial results. The Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre starts [with Mowi’s Q4 2023 results published on 14 February](#); SalMar (co-owner of Scottish Sea Farms) [publishes Q4 2023 results on 15 February](#) and Bakkafrost [reveals the scale of their Q4 2023 losses on 20 February](#).

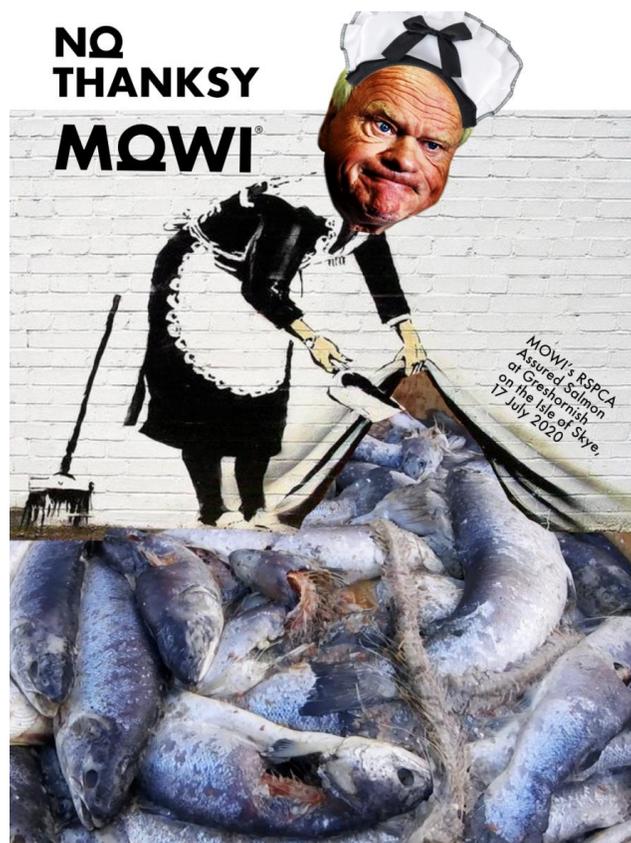
Faced with falling production and rising mortalities, investors would have to be blind, deaf and dumb not to conclude that salmon farming is dead in the warming waters of Scotland.



Norway’s \$almafia – including Mowi, SalMar and Leroy (co-owners of Scottish Sea Farms) - was [hit on 25 January by price-fixing and illegal cartel objections by the European Commission](#) with [Reuters reporting](#) that “shares in Mowi, SalMar, Leroy and Grieg Seafood fell 4.9%, 1.9%, 5.7% and 7.1% respectively after the Commission announcement”.

“The European Union’s preliminary ruling that six Norwegian salmon farmers – Mowi, Leroy Seafood, Cermaq, Grieg Seafood, Salmar and Bremnes – colluded to push up prices over the course of nearly a decade sent a shockwave through the industry,” [reported Intrafish \(25 January\)](#). “There is a lot at stake with the ruling – a maximum fine would be 10 percent of group sales. For Mowi alone, based on 2022 sales - a year sales were over €4.9 billion (\$5.3 billion) and earnings topped €1 billion - that’s €490 million. Combined for the six groups, that’s somewhere in the range of €1.5 billion. The potential fines are far higher than the roughly €120 million combined payout that Mowi, Leroy, SalMar, Cermaq and Grieg made to US seafood buyers in [two separate price-fixing cases last year](#). Though the final EU ruling and any fines could be years away, there has already been a significant cost: [the news sliced hundreds of millions of dollars off of listed Norwegian salmon shares by the day’s end.](#)”

“Following the news of the European Commission’s findings, share prices for Grieg Seafood, Lerøy, Mowi and SalMar immediately plunged between 4 and 6 on Thursday,” [reported Salmon Business \(26 January\)](#). “This means that stock market values of NOK 13.3 billion (\$1.3 billion) were wiped out, i.e. roughly the same values as the estimate of the fine, according to Norwegian financial newspaper [Finansavisen](#).....The recent decline in stock values and the looming fines have impacted prominent investors in the Norwegian salmon industry. Prominent investors include John Fredriksen with Mowi, the Witzøe family’s SalMar, the Grieg family’s involvement in Grieg Seafood, and the Møgster family’s ownership of Lerøy through Austevoll Seafood.”



[Read more below via [Appendix: \\$almafia Shakedown Targets \\$almobsters](#)]

“Salmon farming in Scotland is dead in the warming waters,” said Don Staniford, Director of \$camon \$cotland in a press statement ahead of the Q4 2023 results. “A deadly cocktail of climate change, jellyfish swarms, plagues of parasites, infectious diseases and mass mortalities is killing off millions of farmed salmon - and cleaner fish – crammed inside cages littering the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Like King Canute, Tavish Scott is desperately trying to push back the incoming tide. The only solution is to stop farming salmon. Investors must be blind not to view Scottish salmon as a toxic trade which should be avoided like the proverbial plague. Follow the \$almony and you find mass mortalities, welfare abuse and huge losses. It’s only a matter of time before banks pull the plug on the welfare nightmare that is Scottish salmon. A lethal industry riddled with 50% mortalities - from hatch to 'catch' - is ethically bankrupt. 2023 will be looked back on as the year when Scottish salmon died. RIP the \$almafia in Scotland.”



It's official: salmon farming is dead in the water! "2023 was a demanding year...All companies with operations in Scotland generated far lower harvests than expected" @IntraFish @scotseafarms is predicted 40% less; Bakkafrost 31% less & @MowiScotlandLtd 16% less @ScotlandSalmon

IntraFish Latest News Salmon Whitefish Shrimp Aquaculture Fisheries Markets IntraFish.no



Salmon farmers harvested significantly less fish than predicted in 2023

All companies with operations in Scotland generated far lower harvest than expected, and Scottish Sea Farms is set to slaughter 40 percent less fish than planned.

18 January 2024 8:24 GMT | UPDATED 28 January 2024 8:24 GMT
By Anders Furuset and Hanna Gestblom

All Oslo-listed salmon farming companies harvested fewer fish than anticipated during last year, according to a compilation by **IntraFish** and its sister publication *Dagens Næringsliv*.

The two largest salmon companies, Mowi and SalMar, had the least discrepancy while Grieg Seafood, Leroy Seafood and Bakkafrost harvested between 13 percent to 26 percent less than they had guided.

In 2023, Faroe Island-based Bakkafrost harvested 73,000 metric ton fish, 26 percent less than its estimation for the year.



"I understand that many have been disappointed by our 2023 results, and I am too," Bakkafrost CEO Regin Jacobsen told **IntraFish**.

RELATED NEWS

- Brexit red tape continues to sting Scottish farmed salmon industry**
Salmon
24 January 2024 1:00 GMT
- Mowi's results fall short of guidance but surpass market expectations**
Finance
18 January 2024 8:53 GMT
- Leading land-based salmon farmer zeroing in on location for new North America facility**
Salmon
18 January 2024 4:01 GMT

ALT

BBC Highlands and 9 others

6:15 AM · Jan 25, 2024 · 1,426 Views

Salmon Business [reported \(29 January 2024\)](#):

Scottish salmon harvest forecast for 2024 revised down by seafood analysis firm

29 January 2024

by Editorial Staff

The Scottish salmon sector is predicted to harvest 166,900 tons this year, a 5% increase on 2023.

Seafood analysis firm Kontali has adjusted its predictions for the Scottish salmon sector due to unexpected challenges in November last year.

In a newsletter to subscribers earlier this month, Kontali noted a decrease in confirmed feed consumption in Q3 2023.

As a result, the analysis firm has revised its base case harvest scenario for both 2024 and 2025, accounting for increased losses and lower average harvest weights (smolt yield).

According to the company's EDGE subscription service, the Scottish salmon sector is predicted to harvest 166,900 tons this year.

This represents a 5% increase over the 159,100 tons harvested in 2023, and 160,600 tons harvested in 2022, both of which were challenging years for salmon farmers in Scotland.

Kontali's predicted figure of 166,900 tonnes is significantly downgraded on the 187,725 tonnes forecast in 2023 by the Scottish Government in a report [published in October 2023](#):

Table 24: Annual production of salmon (tonnes) 2002-2022 and projected production in 2023

Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference	Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference
2002	144,589	4	2013	163,234	1
2003	169,736	17	2014	179,022	10
2004	158,099	-7	2015	171,722	-4
2005	129,588	-18	2016	162,817	-5
2006	131,847	2	2017	189,707	17
2007	129,930	-1	2018	156,025	-18
2008	128,606	-1	2019	203,881	31
2009	144,247	12	2020	192,129	-6
2010	154,164	7	2021	205,393	7
2011	158,018	3	2022	169,194	-18
2012	162,223	3	2023	187,725*	

*Industry estimate of projected tonnage based on stocks currently being on-grown.



PARADISE LOST
Mowi's Loch
Torridon fish farm

“
Mowi can afford to buy equipment and should be paying workers more
MONICA LENNON
LABOUR MSP

JELLY PAYDAY

Controversial salmon farm firm get £50k from taxpayer for 'torture' machine to repel jellyfish



THREAT Micro jellyfish can cause gill disease in farmed salmon



A MULTI-MILLION pound salmon farming firm accused of mistreating fish has been handed almost £50,000 of taxpayers' cash for a machine to repel jellyfish.

Norway-based Mowi was given the grant from the Marine Fund Scotland to support "innovation and sustainable practices" despite making huge profits.

Last week we revealed Mowi had been accused by campaigners of using different machinery that "tortures" fish.

Unions have also complained workers are not treated as well as the firm's employees in Scandinavia.

It has now emerged the company was awarded £47,060 to fund the "testing of a new system to repel phytoplankton and micro jellyfish".

Labour's Monica Lennon said: "It can't be right that the Scottish Government is handing out taxpayers' money to Mowi with so many questions hanging over its practices."

"Mowi Scotland made a huge profit last year exceeding £26million. They can afford to buy equipment and should be paying their workers a fairer wage.

At a time when public services are on

BY JOHN FERGUSON
Political Editor

their knees, and SNP and Green ministers are slashing the vital funds needed to tackle the climate and nature emergency, the spending priorities of the Scottish Government don't add up."

Campaigners claim drone footage from a Mowi site in the Highlands shows staff clearing small lumpfish and wrasse, known as cleaner fish, which are trapped in the pipes of machinery.

Thousands of salmon are pumped through the thermolicer, which washes them in warm water to kill the parasites. But it's claimed footage shows the cleaner fish getting stuck in the device.

Putting the smaller fish through the machine is banned in Norway and UK RSPCA Assured guidelines advise against it.

Campaigners claim that while salmon are at risk of being caught in the pipes, the risk of injury or death is higher for smaller species.

Mowi, which supplies salmon to supermarkets, strongly defended itself against claims of cruelty.

Mowi has also been accused of

giving workers in its native Norway much better terms and conditions than in Scotland.

A deal in Norway with unions gives staff basic pay equivalent to up to £4 an hour more, protection when sick, generous holidays and flexibility around annual leave, plus additional pay for overtime and unsociable hours.

But the Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU) has accused the firm of double standards.

The union, whose membership in Rosyth is growing, has accused Mowi of refusing to meet or recognise unions.

The Scottish Government said: "Our Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture makes clear that we support the development of an aquaculture sector that operates within environmental limits and which delivers social and economic benefits for Scotland.

"This project will benefit salmon producers across Scotland as data will be shared with other companies in the sector."

The Sunday Mail contacted Mowi for comment.



CRITICISM Monica Lennon has questions

Fish Farmer magazine [reported \(30 January 2024\)](#) on £14 million of financial support from the Scottish Government including:

- £47,000 for salmon producer Mowi Scotland, as part of a £156,869 project to test a new system to repel phytoplankton and micro jellyfish;

Source via <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-fund-scotland-grants-awarded/>

Reference	Applicant name	Description	Total Cost	Grant awarded
1248	Mowi Scotland LTD	Testing of a new system to repel phytoplankton and micro jellyfish.	£156,869.00	£47,060.80



The Scottish Government awards £47,000 to @MowiScotlandLtd as part of a £156,869 project to test a new system to repel phytoplankton & micro jellyfish @scotgov @ScotGovMarine fishfarmermagazine.com/2024/01/30/14m...
Sneak preview? @ScotlandSalmon



1:03 PM · Jan 30, 2024 · 1,097 Views

The Ferret [reported \(28 January 2024\)](#):



In annex II on page 110 of [its report](#), Sepa for the first time named 19 fish farms which “initial screening indicates may be in the highest relative risk category”. The majority – 13 – are run by the Norwegian company, [Mowi](#), with the remaining six operated by the Faroese firm, [Bakkafrost](#).

The farms are sited along the west coast in Loch Fyne, Loch Linnhe, Loch Carron, Loch Torridon and around the isles of Skye and Harris. Most of them are certified by the international [Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#) which promotes “responsible” fish farming.

The 19 fish farms putting wild salmon at risk

Fish Farm	Company
Bagh Dail nan Ceann North and South, Loch Shuna	Mowi
Camas an Leim, Upper Loch Torridon	Mowi
Loch Duich, Ross-shire	Mowi
Horsten, Loch Linnhe	Mowi
North Kilbrannan, Kilbrannan Sound	Mowi
Poll na Gille, Loch Melfort	Mowi
Portnalong, Loch Harport	Mowi
Rubh an Trilleachain, Shuna Sound	Mowi
Scalpay, Isle of Skye	Mowi
Noster, Loch Seaforth	Mowi
Seaforth, Loch Seaforth	Mowi
Trilleachan Mor, Loch Seaforth	Mowi
Soay Sound, Isle of Harris	Mowi
Ardcastle, Loch Fyne	Bakkafrost
Ardgaddan, Loch Fyne	Bakkafrost
Meall Mhor, Loch Fyne	Bakkafrost
Strondoir Bay, Loch Fyne	Bakkafrost
Tarbert South, Loch Fyne	Bakkafrost
West Strome, Loch Carron	Bakkafrost

Showing 1 to 19 of 19 entries

Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

The National [reported \(26 January 2024\)](#):

THE NATIONAL

Subscribe

Digital Edition

News Politics Culture Sport Community Business Comment Journalists Seven Days

Warming waters decimate Scottish salmon farm harvests



By Ross Hunter
@ Ross_Hunter

Share   

ALL salmon farming companies in Scotland harvested significantly fewer fish than predicted in 2023, it has been revealed.

The latest data on salmon mortality shows that **11 farms in Scotland had cumulative mortality rates of more than 20%**.

One Bakkafrost farm, Druimyeon Bay on the east coast of the Isle of Gigha, had a mortality rate of 82.3% in 2022.

Between January and November 2022, there were nearly 15 million salmon mortalities in fish farms in Scotland.

Campaigners say this is largely due to increasing levels of disease, parasites and the impact of jellyfish blooms.

Warming waters due to **climate change** are also exacerbating these issues.

The chief executive of industry body Salmon Scotland, Tavish Scott, said farmers would be “happy to see the back of 2023”.

He told The National: "Scottish salmon is a global success story which is frequently voted the best in the world.

"As well as providing vital jobs and wealth for the Scottish **economy**, it is integral to Scotland's identity at home and abroad.

"While consumer demand for nutritious salmon continues to grow, these figures confirm what member companies have been saying: that record-breaking seawater temperatures and challenging environmental conditions have made it a really tough year for production in many parts of the world.

"Most salmon farmers will be happy to see the back of 2023 and start the new year afresh.

"We all recognise the impact climate change will have on farming operations globally and through continuous improvement we will continue to produce healthy, low-carbon salmon for decades to come."

But the director of campaign group \$camon \$cotland, Don Staniford, said Scott was "desperately" trying to defend an "ethically bankrupt" industry.

"Salmon farming in Scotland is dead in the warming waters," he said.

"A deadly cocktail of climate change, jellyfish swarms, plagues of parasites, infectious diseases and mass mortalities is killing off millions of farmed salmon – and cleaner fish – on salmon farms littering the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

"Like King Canute, Tavish Scott is desperately trying to push back the incoming tide.

"The only solution is to stop farming salmon. Investors must now be seeing Scottish salmon as a toxic trade which should be avoided like the proverbial plague.

"It's only a matter of time before the plug is pulled on the welfare nightmare that is Scottish salmon farming.

"A lethal industry riddled with 50% mortalities – from hatch to 'catch' – is ethically bankrupt".

Intrafish [reported \(25 January 2024\)](#):

“All companies with operations in Scotland generated far lower harvests than expected, and Leroy and SalMar-owned Scottish Sea Farms is set to have harvested 40 percent less fish than originally announced (the fourth quarter figures are not yet published). Mowi's Scottish company harvested 16 percent less than planned and Bakkafrost Scotland was 31 percent below expectations.”

Bloomberg [reported \(20 January 2024\)](#):

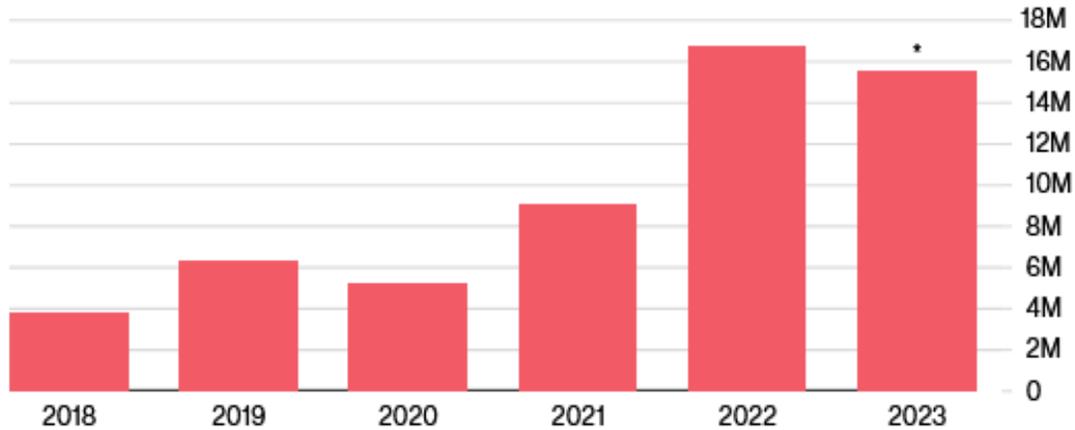
“Salmon farming can be a nasty business. Breeding involves removing eggs and sperm from anesthetized fish, and typically euthanizing males after extraction. Larger farms generate enough excess fish feces and urine to potentially destabilize fragile ecosystems. Overcrowding can result in ghoulish, lice-riddled fish — leading to images that anti-salmon farming campaigners have circulated online to persuade shoppers to stay out of the seafood section.”



Protestors taking part in the End Salmon Farming tour outside M&S and Aldi stores in Bidston, UK, on Nov. 2. *Photographer: Colin McPherson/Getty Images*

“With these circumstances at least somewhat linked to mass fish death, corporate boardrooms are feeling the effects. Mowi, an Oslo-listed company that is the world’s largest salmon farmer, reported that die-offs resulted in third-quarter costs of at least €36 million in 2023 out of an operating profit of around €200 million. One Mowi farm, Colonsay, reported 200,000 salmon deaths in a single week this October. Not even rising salmon prices have cushioned the blow.”

Salmon Deaths in Scotland



Source: Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate

Note: Farms only report weekly mortality rates when they exceeded 1.5% for freshwater production and 1% for marine production, meaning these total figures are an underestimate; * 2023 data is through November.

The Times [reported \(8 January 2024\)](#):



Salmon farming giant Mowi's profits halved as disease hits harvests

'Biological challenges' have hit production as campaigners speak out over proliferation of salmon farms in Scottish waters

Lizzie Roberts, Mary Wright

Monday January 08 2024, 12.00am, The Times



Mowi, which operates in more than 50 locations around Scotland, including the Loch Leven salmon farm, said its harvests were down by 10 per cent

MATTHEW LLOYD/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

A disease which causes skin lesions, ulcers and in the majority of cases death among fish has contributed to the halving of profits at a multimillion-pound salmon farming giant.

The National [reported \(8 January 2024\)](#) via ‘Disease halves profits of Scottish salmon farming firm Mowi’ (also [reported via Yahoo News](#)):

“The company’s latest financial report found that operating profits fell from £54 million in 2021 to £27 million in 2023. It states that the reduction is due to higher mortalities and the impacts of salmonid rickettsial septicaemia (SRS) – a bacterial disease which is often treated with antibiotics. Micro jellyfish blooms were also listed as contributing to the fall in profits. Directors revealed that harvest volumes fell by 10.1%, stating that the industry was facing challenges in maintaining fish health and growth.”



Dead Salmon Don't Lie:

Data [published by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate on 3 January 2024](#) (data up to early December 2023 from February 2015) detailed 4,734 'Mortality Event Reports' totalling 68.2 million dead fish (mostly salmon but some trout) with 275 freshwater cases totalling 22.7 million and 4,459 seawater cases totalling 45.5 million.

[Norwegian-owned Mowi](#) (formerly called Marine Harvest) - Scotland's largest salmon farming company - reported 23.6 million dead salmon (cleaner fish deaths are not reported) via 1,049 'Mortality Event Reports'; [Norwegian/Faroese-owned Bakkafrost](#) reported 22.2 million dead salmon via 1,360 'Mortality Event Reports'; and [Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms \(a joint venture between SalMar and Leroy Seafood called Norskott Havbruk\)](#) reported 7.8 million dead salmon via 851 'Mortality Event reports).



Note that there are different thresholds on reporting – see the Scottish Government's '[Mortality notification form and guidance](#)' for an explanation – which mean that less mortalities are reported in freshwater compared to seawater. Moreover, 393 'Mortality Event Reports' (i.e. 8% of cases) failed to provide numbers of morts – with [Scottish Sea Farms the worst offender](#).

Here's the Top 10 worst ever 'Mortality Event Reports' [since data was reported in 2015](#) – all in freshwater – headed by The Scottish Salmon Company ([renamed Bakkafrost in June 2022](#)):

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Start Date	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT03186	The Scottish Salmon Company	Applecross Hatchery	05/09/2022	FW	22/08/2022	53.33	Water Quality	1,576,522
MRT00964	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	23/03/2019	FW	18/03/2019	50	Human error	1,521,479
MRT03650	Bakkafrost Scotland	Couldoran Incubation Unit	19/12/2022	FW	05/12/2022	80.00	Stock Incident - inlet pipe became blocked and created a vortex, which supersaturated the comphatch water.	1,159,752
MRT04207	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	10/08/2023	FW	31/07/2023	36.21	Event Mortality	1,135,167
MRT03956	Bakkafrost Scotland	Applecross Hatchery	22/05/2023	FW	08/05/2023	27.73	Water Quality	797,014
MRT00744	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Inchmore	21/08/2018	FW	14/08/2018	28	Oxygen supply failure	520,171
MRT00098	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	Cliff Site	22/07/2016	FW	19/07/2016	100.00	Cyanobacteria bloom	520,000
MRT03758	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	20/01/2023	FW	09/01/2023	10.51	Unviable Eggs	455,358
MRT00256	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Furnace (FW)	21/06/2017	FW	14/06/2017	46.80	Salmon gill pox	444,787
MRT04185	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	03/08/2023	FW	24/07/2023	10.54	Poor genetics	421,796



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAATA

...

Data Geek Alert: 'Mortality Event Reports' published @ScotGovMarine are a cure for insomnia but the shocking statistics can wake up the most apathetic consumer. Here's the worst ever reported mortality events (all in freshwater) on fish farms since 2015 gov.scot/publications/f...

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Start Date	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT03186	The Scottish Salmon Company	Applecross Hatchery	05/09/2022	FW	22/08/2022	53.33	Water Quality	1,576,522
MRT00964	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	23/03/2019	FW	18/03/2019	50	Human error	1,521,479
MRT03650	Bakkafrost Scotland	Couldoran Incubation Unit	19/12/2022	FW	05/12/2022	80.00	Stock Incident - inlet pipe became blocked and created a vortex, which supersaturated the comphatch water.	1,159,752
MRT04207	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	10/08/2023	FW	31/07/2023	36.21	Event Mortality	1,135,167
MRT03956	Bakkafrost Scotland	Applecross Hatchery	22/05/2023	FW	08/05/2023	27.73	Water Quality	797,014
MRT00744	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Inchmore	21/08/2018	FW	14/08/2018	28	Oxygen supply failure	520,171
MRT00098	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	Cliff Site	22/07/2016	FW	19/07/2016	100.00	Cyanobacteria bloom	520,000
MRT03758	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	20/01/2023	FW	09/01/2023	10.51	Unviable Eggs	455,358
MRT00256	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Furnace (FW)	21/06/2017	FW	14/06/2017	46.80	Salmon gill pox	444,787
MRT04185	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Inchmore	03/08/2023	FW	24/07/2023	10.54	Poor genetics	421,796

10:24 AM · Jan 25, 2024

Here's the Top 15 worst ever 'Mortality Event Reports' [reported in seawater since 2015](#):

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Start Date	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT03765	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd.	Culnacnoc Salmon Farm	23/01/2023	SW	05/12/2022	72.52	AGD	325,551
MRT03657	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Lochalort Recirculation Hatchery	19/12/2022	SW	05/12/2022	15.92	Unviable Eggs	297,980
MRT00038	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd	Cole Deep	15/12/2015	SW	31/08/2015	62.10	AGD, Sea lice	279,523
MRT00128	The Scottish Salmon Company	Ardgadden	11/10/2016	SW	18/07/2016	20.11	AGD, Algal bloom	221,922
MRT04659	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	20/11/2023	SW	06/11/2023	11.32	AGD/treatment loss/PGD	206,563
MRT04557	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	09/10/2023	18.6	AGD and treatment losses	202897
MRT04376	Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	28/08/2023	31.14	Gill Health Related	175,115
MRT00594	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Snaranes	06/03/2018	SW	04/09/2017	57.34	Gill issues, O2 problems	163,523
MRT04561	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	09/10/2023	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen	153510
MRT04688	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	24/11/2023	SW	13/11/2023	8.82	AGD treatment loss/bacterial	151,275
MRT02536	The Scottish Salmon Company	Druimyeon Bay	25/10/2021	SW	11/10/2021	47.60	Gill Health Related	148,628
MRT03562	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Bagh Dail Nan Ceann	23/11/2022	SW	14/11/2022	16.99	Rickettsia	148,460
MRT00659	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Eilean Grianain	08/06/2018	SW	26/03/2018	16.69	Physical damage	140,488
MRT03320	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Marulaig Bay	29/09/2022	SW	19/09/2022	21.22	Gill infections / Jellyfish	139,023
MRT02671	The Scottish Salmon Company	Taranaish	06/12/2021	SW	22/11/2021	28.73	Gill Health Related	129,650



Don Staniford
 @TheGAAlA

...

Read & Weep: According to [@ScotGovMarine](#) here's the worst ever mass mortalities reported for seawater salmon farms - headed by 'Organic' Sea Harvest [@SoilAssociation](#) [@SoilAssocScot](#) with a draw-dropping 325,551 dead salmon off the Isle of Skye [@_KateForbes](#) [@Ianblackford_MP](#) [@WHFP1](#)

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Start Date	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT03765	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd.	Culnacnoc Salmon Farm	23/01/2023	SW	05/12/2022	72.52	AGD	325,551
MRT03657	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Lochalort Recirculation Hatchery	19/12/2022	SW	05/12/2022	15.92	Unviable Eggs	297,980
MRT00038	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd	Cole Deep	15/12/2015	SW	31/08/2015	62.10	AGD, Sea lice	279,523
MRT00128	The Scottish Salmon Company	Ardgadden	11/10/2016	SW	18/07/2016	20.11	AGD, Algal bloom	221,922
MRT04659	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	20/11/2023	SW	06/11/2023	11.32	AGD/treatment loss/PGD	206,563
MRT04557	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	09/10/2023	18.6	AGD and treatment losses	202897
MRT04376	Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	28/08/2023	31.14	Gill Health Related	175,115
MRT00594	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Snaranes	06/03/2018	SW	04/09/2017	57.34	Gill issues, O2 problems	163,523
MRT04561	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	09/10/2023	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen	153510
MRT04688	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	24/11/2023	SW	13/11/2023	8.82	AGD treatment loss/bacterial	151,275
MRT02536	The Scottish Salmon Company	Druimyeon Bay	25/10/2021	SW	11/10/2021	47.60	Gill Health Related	148,628
MRT03562	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Bagh Dail Nan Ceann	23/11/2022	SW	14/11/2022	16.99	Rickettsia	148,460
MRT00659	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Eilean Grianain	08/06/2018	SW	26/03/2018	16.69	Physical damage	140,488
MRT03320	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Marulaig Bay	29/09/2022	SW	19/09/2022	21.22	Gill infections / Jellyfish	139,023
MRT02671	The Scottish Salmon Company	Taranaish	06/12/2021	SW	22/11/2021	28.73	Gill Health Related	129,650

RSPCA (England & Wales) and 9 others

10:50 AM · Jan 25, 2024

Here's the Top 15 worst 'Mortality Event Reports' [reported in seawater during 2023](#) (data up to early December) – dominated by [RSPCA Assured Mowi](#):

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT04659	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	20/11/2023	SW	11.32	AGD/treatment loss/PGD	206,563
MRT04557	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	18.6	AGD and treatment losses	202897
MRT04376	Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	31.14	Gill Health Related	175,115
MRT04561	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen	153510
MRT04688	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	24/11/2023	SW	8.82	AGD treatment loss/bacterial	151,275
MRT04626	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	09/11/2023	SW	17.10	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses	112,206
MRT04601	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	02/11/2023	SW	13.19	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses	99,717
MRT04202	Bakkafrost Scotland	Geasgill	07/08/2023	SW	14.93	Gill health related; Viral Disease (PD)	85,914
MRT04636	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	09/11/2023	SW	100.00	AGD/Environmental	80,145
MRT04689	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Trilleachan Mor	24/11/2023	SW	15.70	AGD treatment loss/bacterial	77,987
MRT04541	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	Ness of Copister	17/10/2023	SW	5.36	Handling/Gills	73,854
MRT04612	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	02/11/2023	SW	2.99	AGD / Low oxygen	64,751
MRT04559	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Grey Horse Channel	24/10/2023	SW	6.27	AGD/treatment losses	63864
MRT04714	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	04/12/2023	SW	4.08	Treatment loss/bacterial	57,430
MRT04224	Bakkafrost Scotland	Gravir	14/08/2023	SW	10.02	Gill Health Related	56,048



Don Staniford
 @TheGAAIA

...

Mowi is the real monster in the lochs of Scotland!
 Mortality data published [@ScotGovMarine](#) reveals that over 200,000 farmed salmon - greenwashed via [@rspcaassured](#) - died in ONE WEEK in Loch Seaforth (with another 200,000+ in November)
[@MowiScotlandLtd](#) [@ScotlandSalmon](#) [@APHAgovuk](#)

Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Mort %	Explained reasons
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	20/11/2023	SW	11.32	AGD/treatment loss/PGD
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	18.6	AGD and treatment losses
Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	31.14	Gill Health Related
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	24/11/2023	SW	8.82	AGD treatment loss/bacterial
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	09/11/2023	SW	17.10	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	02/11/2023	SW	13.19	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses
Bakkafrost Scotland	Geasgill	07/08/2023	SW	14.93	Gill health related; Viral Disease (PD)
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	09/11/2023	SW	100.00	AGD/Environmental
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Trilleachan Mor	24/11/2023	SW	15.70	AGD treatment loss/bacterial
Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd	Ness of Copister	17/10/2023	SW	5.36	Handling/Gills
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	02/11/2023	SW	2.99	AGD / Low oxygen
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Grey Horse Channel	24/10/2023	SW	6.27	AGD/treatment loss
Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	04/12/2023	SW	4.08	Treatment loss/bacterial
Bakkafrost Scotland	Gravir	14/08/2023	SW	10.02	Gill Health Related



Compassion in World Farming and 9 others

12:37 PM · Jan 25, 2024

Here's the Top 15 worst 'Mortality Event Reports' [reported in seawater during 2023 \(data up to early December\)](#) – ranked by mortality rate:

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Mort %	Explained reasons	Mort #s
MRT04636	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	09/11/2023	SW	100.00	AGD/Environmental	80,145
MRT04376	Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	31.14	Gill Health Related	175,115
MRT04561	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen	153510
MRT03914	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Sian Bay	04/05/2023	SW	20.20	Bacterial Disease	55,403
MRT04557	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	18.6	AGD and treatment losses	202897
MRT04626	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	09/11/2023	SW	17.10	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses	112,206
MRT04342	Bakkafrost Scotland	Greanamul	04/09/2023	SW	16.92	Gill Health Related	35,099
MRT04689	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Trilleachan Mor	24/11/2023	SW	15.70	AGD treatment loss/bacterial	77,987
MRT04202	Bakkafrost Scotland	Geasgill	07/08/2023	SW	14.93	Gill health related; Viral Disease (PD)	85,914
MRT04118	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd.	Invertote Salmon Farm	18/07/2023	SW	14.75	Ongoing CMS as confirmed by FVG	12,757
MRT04676	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Fada	23/11/2023	SW	14.40	Gill Health related	12,615
MRT04271	Bakkafrost Scotland	Lamlash	21/08/2023	SW	14.09	Gill Health Related	13,992
MRT04306	Bakkafrost Scotland	Maaey	28/08/2023	SW	13.39	Gill Health Related	23,988
MRT04601	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	02/11/2023	SW	13.19	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses	99,717
MRT04399	Dawnfresh Farming Ltd	Inverawe (East) Etive 2	15/09/2023	SW	13.18	Event mortality associated with salmosan bath	4,767



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

...

Hell is a place on earth called Mowi!
[@sainsburys](#) [@Tesco](#) [@asda](#) [@LidlGB](#) [@AldiUK](#)
 100% mortality at [@MowiScotlandLtd](#) at Hellisay where 80,145
[@rspcaassured](#) Scottish salmon died in early November. "Fish removed were decomposed" reports [@ScotGovMarine gov.scot/publications/f...](#)

#	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Water Type	Mort %	Explained reasons
36	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	09/11/2023	SW	100.00	AGD/Environmental
376	Bakkafrost Scotland	Portree	11/09/2023	SW	31.14	Gill Health Related
41	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Hellisay	24/10/2023	SW	23.71	AGD / Low oxygen
14	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Sian Bay	04/05/2023	SW	20.20	Bacterial Disease
57	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Colonsay	24/10/2023	SW	18.6	AGD and treatment losses
38	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	09/11/2023	SW	17.10	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses
42	Bakkafrost Scotland	Greanamul	04/09/2023	SW	16.92	Gill Health Related
89	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Trilleachan Mor	24/11/2023	SW	15.70	AGD treatment loss/bacterial
92	Bakkafrost Scotland	Geasgill	07/08/2023	SW	14.93	Gill health related; Viral Disease (PD)
18	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd.	Invertote Salmon Farm	18/07/2023	SW	14.75	Ongoing CMS as confirmed by FVG
38	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Fada	23/11/2023	SW	14.40	Gill Health related
71	Bakkafrost Scotland	Lamlash	21/08/2023	SW	14.09	Gill Health Related
66	Bakkafrost Scotland	Maaey	28/08/2023	SW	13.39	Gill Health Related
61	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch Alsh (Sron)	02/11/2023	SW	13.19	Gills, anaemia, treatment losses
99	Dawnfresh Farming Ltd	Inverawe (East) Etive 2	15/09/2023	SW	13.18	Event mortality associated with salmosan bath

5:33 PM · Jan 25, 2024

Fish Farmer magazine [reported \(18 January 2024\)](#) on mortality problems at Mowi's Loch Seaforth salmon farm and other Mowi sites:



File photo of Mowi Scotland's Trilleachan Mor site on Loch Seaforth, when the Scottish Salmon Company (now Bakkafrøst Scotland) held the lease for the site. Mowi recorded monthly mortality of 45% at the site in November. Photo: SSC

Kontali lowers short-term expectations for Scottish salmon sector

November mortality figures and lower exports prompt analyst to adjust prediction

Editorial team

PUBLISHED Thursday 18. January 2024 - 12:24



Seafood analysis and insights provider Kontali has revised its forecast for Scottish salmon harvests downwards in the wake of higher than envisaged mortality in the sector during November.

Monthly mortality

Publicly available figures from trade body Salmon Scotland show that the monthly mortality rate for the Scottish salmon industry in November was 4.02%, better than October, when the rate was 4.82%, and also lower than November 2022 (4.64%).

But the percentage of monthly mortality in November was still the second highest in 2023, and history shows that if a farm is facing high mortality one month, then there is often a knock-on effect the following month because surviving fish are weakened.

Unlike earlier in the year, when Scottish Sea Farms and Bakkafrøst Scotland bore the brunt of biological challenges, Mowi Scotland was hardest hit in November.

The company revealed in a trading update today that Mowi Scotland made a rare operating loss of €0.10 per kilo on its fish in Q4 2023. Previously, in its report for the third quarter of 2023, Mowi had warned that micro jellyfish and higher plankton biomass were evident in warm seawater conditions compounded by El Niño, leading to incident-based mortality costs of €7.6 million.

High biological cost

"The above-mentioned issues have lingered on in October, and at the time of writing, we expect high biological cost in the fourth quarter," wrote Mowi, which reduced its anticipated harvest volume for 2023 by 3%, from 64,000 to 62,000 gutted weight tonnes.

Much of the mortality occurred in one water body, Loch Seaforth, Lewis. Mowi recorded monthly mortality of 45%, 30.5% and 16.6% respectively at its Trilleachan Mor, Seaforth and Noster sites. Seaforth and Noster are run as one site and have a combined maximum allowed biomass (MAB) of 4,330 tonnes, while Trilleachan Mor, which is close by, has an MAB of 2,130 tonnes.

Mowi also recorded monthly mortality of 38.4% at Loch Alsh, which has an MAB of 2,500 tonnes, and had reported 20% monthly mortality in October.

Gill health

The company also followed its high-energy Hellisay site in November. It had reported a 34.7% monthly mortality for October and recorded a cumulative mortality of 51.5% for the full production cycle at the farm, which has an MAB of 2,150 tonnes and is situated off the coast of Barra.

All the mortalities were classed as gill health related.

Scottish Sea Farms reported monthly mortality of 22.6% at its Tanera site, which had a mortality rate of 20.7% in October, and 22.5% at its Scallastle farm, Mull, due to gill health problems, although these incidents were not representative of the company's performance in Q4. In November, SSF managing director Jim Gallagher told Fish Farming Expert that after a challenging year [the company was seeing normal growth, good average weights and an improving cost base](#). Improved growing conditions enabled SSF and Bakkafrost Scotland to postpone harvesting in Q4 so that they could harvest bigger, more valuable fish in the current quarter.

Monthly mortality data published by Salmon Scotland is available [online here](#)

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
December 2023**

Published: January 26th, 2024

DOWNLOAD 



**Monthly Mortality Rate:
August 2023**

Published: October 4th, 2023

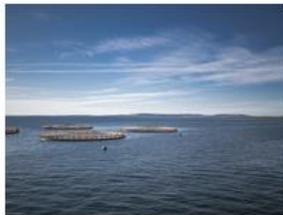
**Monthly Mortality Rate:
April 2023**

Published: June 1st, 2023

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
November 2023**

Published: January 8th, 2024

DOWNLOAD 



**Monthly Mortality Rate:
July 2023**

Published: September 1st, 2023

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
March 2023**

Published: May 1st, 2023

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
October 2023**

Published: December 3rd, 2023

DOWNLOAD 



**Monthly Mortality Rate:
June 2023**

Published: August 1st, 2023

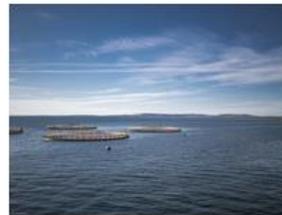
**Monthly Mortality Rate:
February 2023**

Published: April 1st, 2023

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
September 2023**

Published: November 1st, 2023

DOWNLOAD 



**Monthly Mortality Rate:
May 2023**

Published: July 1st, 2023

**Monthly Mortality Rate:
January 2023**

Published: March 1st, 2023

Data for [December 2023](#) reported 23.9% monthly mortality at Mowi's Seaforth salmon farm and 20.3% monthly mortality at Mowi's Trilleachan Mor (both due to bacterial disease). Data for [November 2023](#) reported 44.8% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Gravir salmon farm; 51.5% cumulative mortality at Mowi's Hellisay salmon farm (with 100% monthly mortality); 30.5% monthly mortality at Mowi's Seaforth salmon farm; 45% monthly mortality at Mowi's Trilleachan Mor salmon farm; 38.5% monthly mortality at Fada salmon farm; 22.5% monthly mortality at Scallastle Bay; 22.6% monthly mortality at Tanera and 30.7% cumulative mortality at Mangaster (all Scottish Sea Farms).

Data for [October 2023](#) reported 50.4% cumulative mortality at Mowi's Poll Na Gille salmon farm and 34.6% cumulative mortality at Mowi's Loch Hourn salmon farm. Data for [September 2023](#) reported 50.9% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Lamlash Bay salmon farm and 57.6% cumulative mortality at Score Holms and 51.9% cumulative mortality at Setter (both Scottish Sea Farms).



Data for [August 2023](#) reported 82.3% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Druimyeon Bay salmon farm; 56.4% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Greanamul salmon farm and 41.3% cumulative mortality at North Papa salmon farm (Scottish Sea Farms). Data for [July 2023](#) reported 56.5% cumulative mortality at Dunstaffnage salmon farm and 48.2% cumulative mortality at Kerrera B (both Scottish Sea Farms).

Data for [June 2023](#) reported 44.5% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Strondoir Bay salmon farm; 40.5% cumulative mortality at Shuna salmon farm and 39.3% cumulative mortality at Lismore West salmon farm (Scottish Sea Farms). Data for [May 2023](#) reported 76.8% at Loch Duart's Carnan Bay salmon farm, 51.7% cumulative mortality at Mowi's Stulaigh salmon farm; and 45.2% cumulative mortality at Sian Bay salmon farm (Scottish Sea Farms).

Data for [April 2023](#) reported 38.8% cumulative mortality at Bakkafrost's Ardcastle Bay salmon farm and 41% cumulative mortality at Bight of Bellister (Scottish Sea Farms).

The latest Scottish salmon farming production data - [published in October 2023](#) - illustrates the scale of the problem with an 18% fall from 2021 to 2022:

Table 24: Annual production of salmon (tonnes) 2002-2022 and projected production in 2023

Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference	Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference
2002	144,589	4	2013	163,234	1
2003	169,736	17	2014	179,022	10
2004	158,099	-7	2015	171,722	-4
2005	129,588	-18	2016	162,817	-5
2006	131,847	2	2017	189,707	17
2007	129,930	-1	2018	156,025	-18
2008	128,606	-1	2019	203,881	31
2009	144,247	12	2020	192,129	-6
2010	154,164	7	2021	205,393	7
2011	158,018	3	2022	169,194	-18
2012	162,223	3	2023	187,725*	

*Industry estimate of projected tonnage based on stocks currently being on-grown.

The total production of Atlantic salmon during 2022 was 169,194 tonnes, a decrease of 36,199 tonnes (18%) on the 2021 total.

“A Scottish Government survey has revealed that salmon farming production dropped by a massive 18% last year,” [reported The Herald \(4 October 2023\)](#). “The Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey showed that the total weight produced in 2022, at 169,194 tonnes, was not only less than it had been in 2021, but also less than production in 2003, in spite of all the intervening years of expansion.”

“Faroese fish farm firm Bakkafrost reported particularly high August losses at a number of its operations,” [reported The Scotsman \(5 October 2023\)](#). “Six sites were hit by massive monthly death rates from 19.6 per cent to 38.2 per cent. At Druimyeon Bay, on the Isle of Gigha, more than four out of five fish died in a single production cycle, while Greanamul, on Benbecula, lost more than half of its stock.”

Read more via: [Scottish Salmon is Dead in the Warming Water!](#)

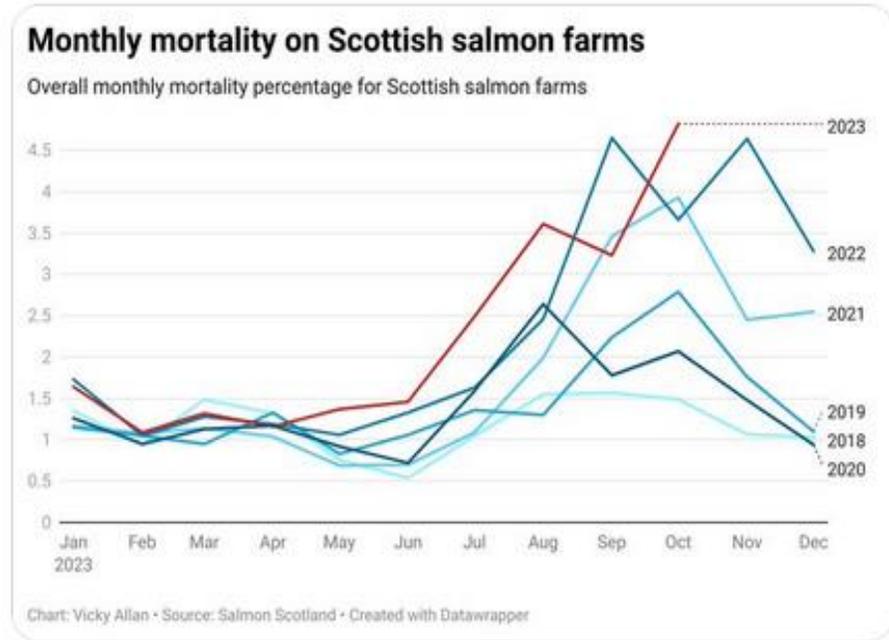
“Scotland’s salmon farms saw, in October, the worst month ever of monthly mortalities,” [reported Vicky Allan in The Herald \(17 December 2023\)](#). “The most recent figures, published by industry-body Salmon Scotland, show that the deaths, were, at 4.82% of the salmon farmed, the highest percentage they have ever been. A year after Scotland’s ‘record worst year’, this is another year of worsts. Fish Farm Inspectorate figures show that between January and October 2023, 13.5 million salmon mortalities were reported, compared with 11.5 million during the same period in the previous ‘record year’.”



Vicky Allan @vicky_allan · Dec 17, 2023

...

One of the graphs from this week's salmon farm article. Red line is this year.... Compare with last year's 'record breaking' year



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

...

"Is Chris Packham right?" asks @vicky_allan in today's @heraldscotland "Concerns as Scotland's salmon farms experience worst month of deaths" @ScotlandSalmon @MonicaLennon7 @ArianeBurgessHI @ScotGovMarine @TavishScott @rspcaassured @ChrisGPackham [pressreader.com/uk/the-herald-...](https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-herald-...)

18 ANALYSIS, INSIGHT, OPINION Sunday, December 17, 2023

Calls for a moratorium on the expansion of salmon farming in Scotland and fresh questions over the future of the country's industry have been sparked by a strongly-worded newsletter from broadcaster and president of the RSPCA Chris Packham

Is Chris Packham right? Concern as Scotland's salmon farms experience worst month of deaths

Haswell's student

By Vicky Allan

SCOTLAND'S salmon farming industry is facing a crisis, with a record number of deaths in the worst month of the year, according to a new report. The RSPCA has called for a moratorium on the expansion of salmon farming in Scotland, and fresh questions over the future of the country's industry have been sparked by a strongly-worded newsletter from broadcaster and president of the RSPCA Chris Packham.

The RSPCA's annual report, published on Sunday, says that salmon farming is the most common cause of death for farmed salmon in Scotland. It says that in 2022, 1.5 million farmed salmon died, a record for the industry. The RSPCA says that the majority of these deaths were caused by disease, but also that many were caused by poor husbandry and environmental damage.

Chris Packham, the RSPCA's president, has written a strongly-worded newsletter to the industry, calling for a moratorium on the expansion of salmon farming in Scotland. He says that the industry is "out of control" and that the government is "letting the industry off the hook". He says that the industry is causing "catastrophic" damage to the environment and that the government is "not doing enough" to protect the industry.

The RSPCA says that the industry is causing "catastrophic" damage to the environment and that the government is "not doing enough" to protect the industry. The RSPCA says that the industry is causing "catastrophic" damage to the environment and that the government is "not doing enough" to protect the industry.

With record numbers of dying fish in one year, there needs to be more transparency

WWW.HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

RSPCA (England & Wales) and 9 others

6:39 AM · Dec 17, 2023 · 2,216 Views

Hung, Drawn & Quartered – Dead in the Warming Water:

The financial torture for salmon farming companies operating in Scotland was ongoing in 2023.

“Harvest volumes in Scotland decreased by 9% compared with the same quarter last year and were below guidance,” [reported Mowi’s Q3 2023 report in November 2023](#). “Continued higher-than-normal sea water temperatures and water quality issues in relation to El Niño impacted biological performance negatively in the quarter.”

“Furthermore, costs were negatively impacted by environmental conditions which have become more challenging over time, compounded by El Niño this year,” [continued Mowi’s Q3 2023 report with respect to Scotland](#). “In the warm sea water conditions micro jellyfish and higher plankton biomass were again evident. Incident-based mortality costs were EUR 7.6 million (EUR 7.6 million). The above-mentioned issues have lingered on in October, and at the time of writing, we expect high biological cost in the fourth quarter. Further to this, the volume guiding for 2023 has been adjusted to 62 000 tonnes from 64 000 tonnes.”

[Mowi’s Q3 2023 presentation](#) predicted problems in Q4 2023:

- After an encouraging first half of the year the third quarter was as expected biologically challenging
 - Record-high seawater temperatures in the wake of El Niño and water quality issues
- Expecting high biological cost for the fourth quarter as well after a challenging October
- Harvest volume guidance for 2023 reduced from 64k GWT to 62k GWT

[Bakkafrost’s Q3 2023 report published in November 2023](#) made for grim reading:

“The Scottish marine operation had a challenging biological development in this quarter. The main challenge was micro-jellyfish combined with primary (predisposing) factors and secondary (subsequent) complications leading to increased mortality. As previously disclosed, the biological challenges arrived earlier than in recent years, but have in return eased off earlier as well. Hence, from mid-September, the biology improved significantly. The upscaled freshwater dual treatment capacity in Scotland, had a positive impact on fish gill health and ensured low sealice levels. This has reduced the potential impact of the biological threats during the quarter. To leverage the improved biological development since mid-September, Bakkafrost plans to reduce Q4 2023 harvest volume to under 1,000 tonnes, allowing fish to grow larger, similar to Bakkafrost’s approach in Scotland in Q4 2022. This shift will push some harvest volume into Q1 2024, enhancing market value through higher average weights and better prices. In order to address the biological risks, Bakkafrost has made strategic adjustments to its short-term plans and production strategy for the Scottish farming operation. A comprehensive risk assessment

has been conducted for all farming sites, evaluating the feasibility of stocking and farming these sites using various strains, hatcheries, and smolt sizes.”

Farming – Scotland

DKK 1,000	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	Change
Financial			
Total revenue	212,292	426,799	-50%
Operational EBIT	-281,656	-180,190	-56%
Operational EBIT/kg (DKK)	-68.70	-22.25	-209%
Operational EBIT margin	-133%	-42%	
Volumes			
Harvested volumes (tgw)	4,100	8,100	-49%

Volumes

The total volumes harvested in Q3 2023 were 4,100 tonnes gutted weight (8,100 tgw) – a change in volume of -49%. The harvested volumes for the first nine months of 2023 were 19,536 tonnes gutted weight (18,719 tgw).

Financial Performance

In Q3 2023, the operating revenue for the Farming Scotland segment was DKK 212 million (427 million) – a decrease of 50%. The operational EBIT/kg (DKK) for Q3 2023 was -68.70 (-22.25) – a reduction of 209%.

“The Bakkafrost Scotland third quarter harvest will be down by almost half the total of last year, a trading update from the company has revealed,” [reported Fish Farmer magazine in October 2023 via ‘Near 50% drop in Bakkafrost Scotland harvest’](#). “The total figure is 4,100 tonnes, 2,900 tonnes from Scotland North and 1,200 tonnes from Scotland South. This compared with a total of 8,100 tonnes during Q3 last year. Although it is starting to turn things around, the company continues to battle various biological issues in Scotland.”

Leroy (co-owner in [Norskott Havbruk](#) – trading in Scotland as Scottish Sea Farms – along with SalMar) [reported for Q3 2023 in November 2023](#):

Norskott Havbruk (50% owned)

- Biological challenges impacting harvest volume, average harvest weights cost and price achievement

- Incident based mortality in the quarter of £13.1m or £ 1.5/kg

100% basis, in NOKm	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Revenues	867	972	2 065	2 495
Operational EBIT	-121	47	-257	342
Harvested volume (GWT)	8 818	11 290	20 313	28 619
Operational EBIT/kg	-13,7	4,2	-12,6	12,0
NIBD	2 700	1 871	2 700	1 871

Farming volumes (1000' GWT)

Farming volumes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Lerøy Aurora AS	32,8	35,0	44,0	40,1	43,0	47,0	50,0
Lerøy Midt AS	64,8	67,9	72,6	68,8	61,0	70,0	80,0
Lerøy Sjøtroll	60,6	68,0	70,0	65,7	53,0	58,0	75,0
Total Norway	158,2	170,9	186,6	174,6	157,0	175,0	205,0
Scottish Seafarms (Lerøy's 50% share)	12,9	12,0	16,2	19,0	12,5	18,5	
Total	171,1	182,9	202,8	193,6	169,5	193,5	

SalMar (co-owner in [Norskott Havbruk](#) – trading in Scotland as Scottish Sea Farms – along with Lerøy) [reported for Q3 2023 in November 2023](#):

- For Scottish Sea Farms, the results improved from the previous quarter, but were still weak, due to continued biological challenges.

The Norskott Havbruk joint venture (Scottish Sea Farms) reported improved results from the previous quarter, but still down from the corresponding quarter last year, due to biological challenges. The company harvested 8,800 tonnes of salmon in the quarter. By comparison, the company harvested 11,300 tonnes in the corresponding period last year. SalMar owns 50 per cent of Norskott Havbruk.



Joint venture – Scottish Sea Farms

Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) is accounted for as a joint venture, with SalMar's share (50 per cent) of the company's profit/loss after tax (and fair value adjustment of the biomass) being included as financial income. The figures in the table below reflect the company's performance on a hundred percent basis.

NOK million	Q3 2023	Q3 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Operating income	867	972	2,065	2,495
Operational EBIT	-121	47	-257	342
Harvested volume (1,000 tgw)	8.8	11.3	20.3	28.6
EBIT/kg gw (NOK)	-13.7	4.2	-12.6	12.0
Fair value adj. biomass	27	-172	21	149
Profit/loss before tax	-147	-145	-381	439
SalMar's share after tax	-55	-55	-150	164
NIBD (NOKm)	2,700	1,871	2,700	1,871

\$camon \$cotland [reported in October 2023](#):

[Bakkafrost's 2021 Annual Report](#) - [published in October 2022](#) - red-flagged the “deadly cocktail” of micro-jellyfish and reduced gill health of farmed salmon:

In Scotland, we had severe mortality in Q3 and Q4, with a total of 262 mDKK in exceptional mortality costs. The underlying issue was linked to the reduced gill health the fish develops due to the extended growth cycle in the marine environment, up to 22 months, due to the small average smolt size on release. The fish are exposed to hazards that impair their gills during this period. Late in Q3 and into Q4, there was a significant bloom of hydrozoans and micro-jellyfish, which deteriorated the gill health even more and led to very high mortality across several sites. In short, the micro-jellyfish bloom on top of reduced gill health was a deadly cocktail.

Read more via [Bakkafrost is Dead in the Water in Scotland - 2021 Annual Report Details "Deadly Cocktail"!](#) and [Bakkafrost's Scottish Salmon Nightmare Gets Worse with 10,000 Tonne Black Hole in Scotland!](#)

In July 2023, [Bakkafrost issued a profit warning](#). Bakkafrost CEO Regin Jacobsen said: “The Scottish farming segment has had lower harvest weights in Q2 compared to the previous quarter, primarily caused by biology-led harvest at some sites and early harvest at some sites to reduce biological risk ahead of Q3.”

Read more via [BAKKAFROST: Preliminary results and profit warning for Q2 2023](#)

Bakkafrost’s ‘[Interim Report: Q2 2023 & H1 2023](#)’ ([published in August 2023](#)) included:

The biological development in Scotland was improved during the first five months of 2023 with increased harvest weights and low mortality. Late in Q2 and continuing into Q3, biological development became more challenging. Environmental challenges affected fish being in their second summer in the sea, leading to higher mortality. This will affect the cost and mortality rates negatively in H2 and can compromise planned harvest volumes for 2023 in Scotland, with 5,000-6,000 tonnes, dependent on the continued biological development in H2 2023.

“Bakkafrost Scotland harvest volumes may be cut by 20%,” [reported Fish Farming Expert in August 2023](#). “Salmon farmer feels the heat after strong first five months of 2023.”

“After tough Q2 for Bakkafrost, ‘darker skies’ cloud Scottish operations,” [reported Seafood Source in August 2023](#).

The Herald [reported in August 2023](#):

After record-breaking mortalities in 2022, the salmon farming industry in [Scotland](#) is facing another turbulent year of shockingly high fish deaths and reduced harvest revenues, which is already being part-blamed on blooms of micro jellyfish.

When I interviewed Bakkafrost CEO Regin Jacobsen, he acknowledged the problem at Geasgill farm and two others and blamed the tiny hydrozoans.

“What we see right now,” he said, “is mainly jellyfish which are coming in huge swarms or blooms. They are coming with the tide. It seems to be that specific sites are more vulnerable than others, and there is also a common factor that if the salmon is standing a very long time, meaning two years in the sea, they get more vulnerable after the second summer. We have three sites - Geasgill is one of them - and these three sites have in common that the fish have been standing there for a second summer now.”

Regin Jacobsen noted that, over the past ten years, microjellyfish incidents have become more severe and that has coincided this year with the heatwave. “We see that sea temperature is higher now. This year the temperature looked like it was running one month earlier than last year. We saw already in June this year that we had almost the same temperature in June that we had last year in July. This year in July we had the same temperature as August, and the difference was 2C which is quite significant.”

The Herald [reported in September 2023](#):

The worst mortality event in Scottish salmon farm history was at Bakkafrost's Druimyeon site in 2021, which had a mortality of 82.1%, amounting to a mass of around twice that which has so far been seen at Geasgill.

But Geasgill, whose mortality rate for July was 23.7%, is not the only Bakkafrost farm struggling with mortalities this year. Bakkafrost's CEO told me that two other farms had been impacted by microjellyfish. One of these was Gravir Outer on Lewis which suffered mortalities of 22.6% in July.

The Sunday Mail [reported in September 2023](#) (quoting Don Staniford):

“A deadly cocktail of warming water temperatures, swarms of jellyfish, gill problems, infectious diseases, plagues of parasites and toxic algal blooms has killed off millions of Scottish salmon this summer.”

The [Sunday Mail article](#) continued:

Iain MacIntyre, director of marine operation at Bakkafrost Scotland, admitted to an issue with its salmon and blamed jellyfish.

He said: “Salmon farming takes place in the natural environment and can face unique and difficult biological challenges, particularly when the water is warmer.

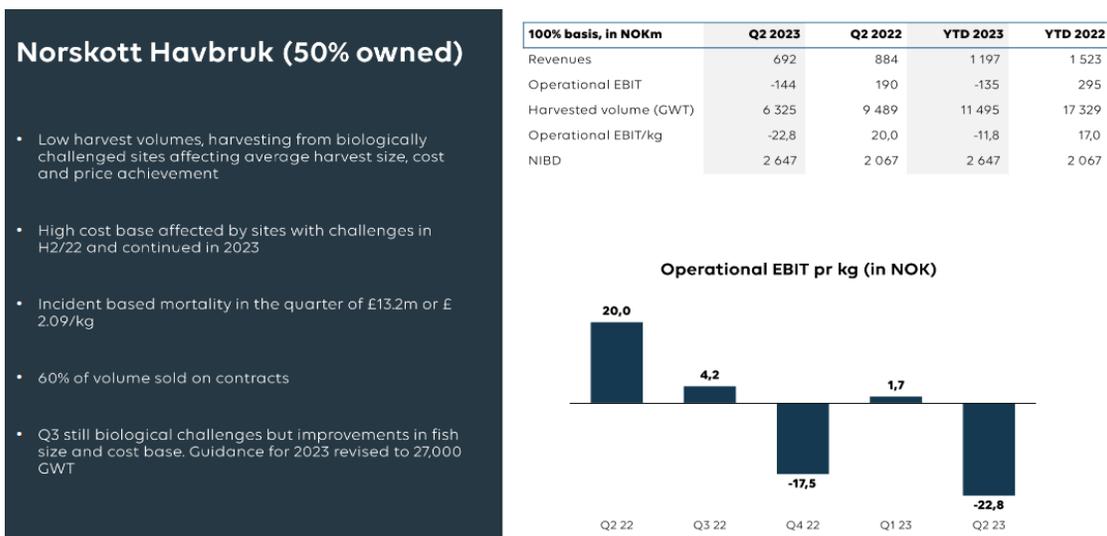
“This has been the case at Portree when, following a prolonged period of hot weather, a jelly fish bloom moved through the area. We immediately deployed additional resources and equipment to resolve the issue and the relevant authorities were notified.

“Our staff worked diligently and went above and beyond to manage a challenging set of circumstances and deal with the problems caused by the jelly fish bloom.

“This was carried out in a matter of days and the jelly fish bloom has now passed through the site and the incident-based mortality has ceased.

Bakkafrost is not the only salmon farming company in Scotland feeling the heat. “Scottish Sea Farms cuts harvest estimate by 10,000 tonnes - company made £10.6m operating loss in Q2,” [reported Fish Farming Expert in August 2023](#). “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.”

Lerøy (co-owner of Scottish Sea Farms – called Norskott Havbruk - with SalMar) reported in their Q2 2023 presentation [published in August 2023](#):



Farming volumes (1000' GWT)

Farming volumes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023E	2024T	2025T
Scottish Seafarms (Lerøy's 50% share)	12,9	12,0	16,2	19,0	13,5		

Read more on mortality problems at Scottish Sea Farms via:

[8,000 tonne shortfall for Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\) due to "biological challenges"](#)

[64% Mortality at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Nevis - as sold by M&S as "responsibly sourced"?!?](#)

[74% Mortality Reported by RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms \(Supplier to M&S\) in Loch Nevis!](#)

Mowi – the largest salmon farming company in Scotland and the world – has also reported mortality problems. “Mowi Scotland cuts harvest forecast by 10,000 tonnes,” [reported Fish Farming Expert in November 2022](#). “Guidance reduced to 50,000 gwt for 2022 due to losses caused by micro-jellyfish.”

Mowi’s Q3 2022 report – [published in November 2022](#) – included:

- Harvest volume guidance for 2022 maintained at 460 000 GWT. Mowi Norway increase from 272 000 GWT to 286 000 GWT partly offset by 10 000 GWT reduction in Mowi Scotland following biological issues.

Furthermore, non-seawater costs were significantly impacted by incident-based mortality of EUR 7.6 million (EUR 1.5 million), or EUR 0.52/kg, related to micro-jelly fish blooms around Skye and the Western Isles causing elevated mortalities in some of our farms. As a response to these challenges several fish groups were relocated to other sites with good results.

Sea lice levels and AGD challenges were relatively low in the quarter.

Our Scottish farming operations has experienced a troublesome year with regards to biology and the 2022 volume guidance has been reduced to 50 000 GWT. However, we expect a recovery in 2023 with a volume guidance of 65 000 GWT.

“Harvest volumes in Scotland dropped slightly compared with third quarter of 2021, which was below guidance,” [reported Mowi in Q3 2022](#). “Biological issues related to gill health and effects from micro-jellyfish impacted growth and harvest volumes.”

Mowi's Q2 2023 report – [published in August 2023](#) – included:

Biological performance in the quarter was relatively good, especially taking into consideration the record-high seawater temperatures. However, the high temperatures caused some feeding issues due to the challenges of storing and handling feed in such high air temperatures. The high temperatures also led to more challenging environmental conditions related to increased presence of plankton, algae and jellyfish.

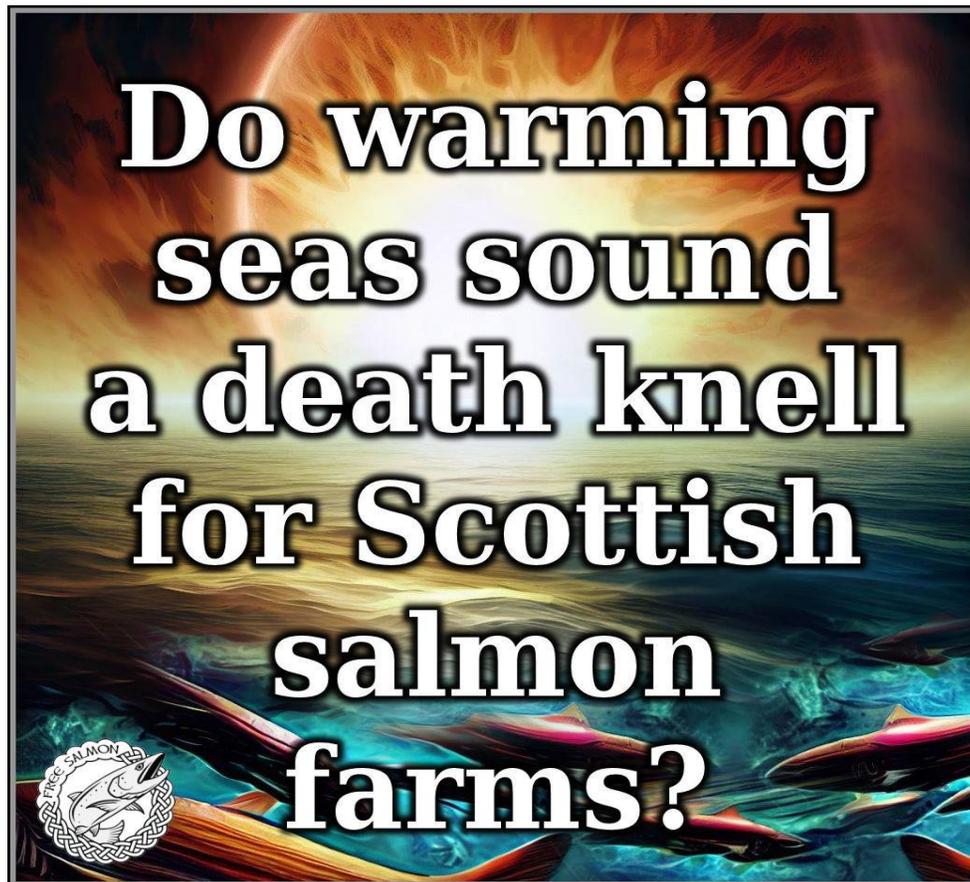
Read more on Mowi's mortality problems via:

[Annus Horribilis Salmonis: Mowi's "Troublesome Year" in Scotland - 22% fall in production!](#)

[32% fall in Mowi's Scottish Salmon Production!](#)

[56% Mortality at RSPCA Assured Mowi \(but don't worry, it's certified as "farmed responsibly" by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council\)!](#)

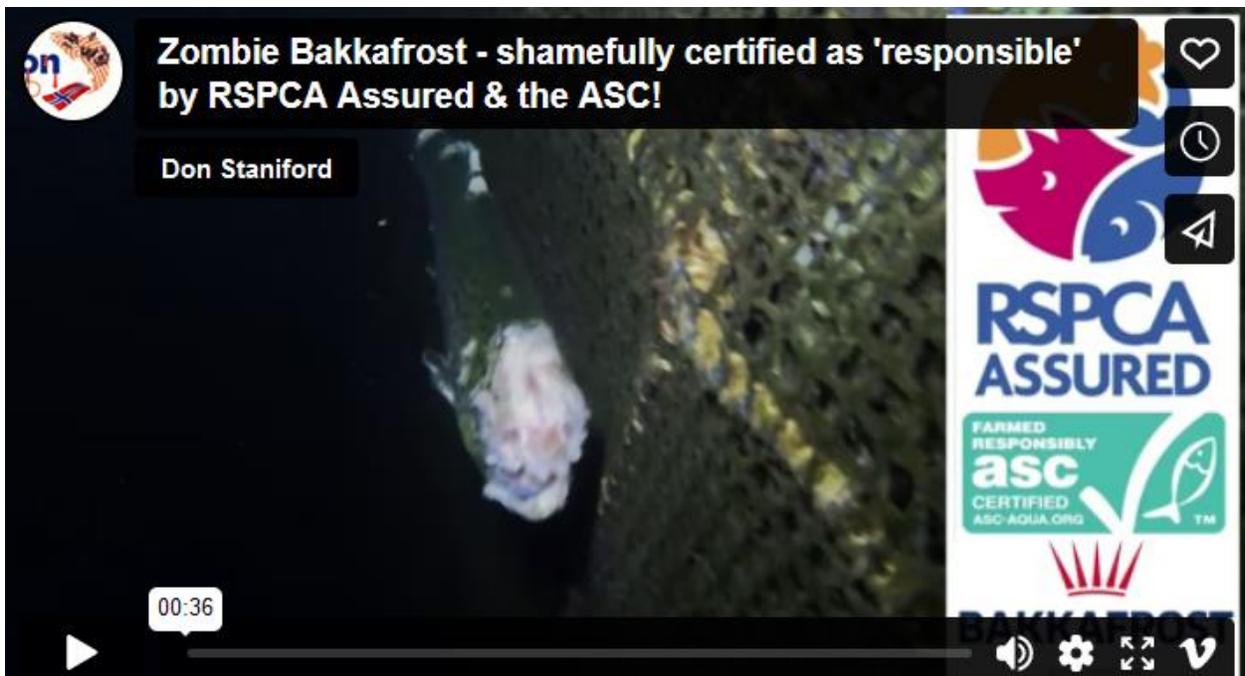
[Mowi's "Woes in Scotland" - Disease & Deaths Cause £5.6 Million Losses!](#)



A compilation of video footage shot inside salmon farms during 2023 is [published online here](#):



Here's [video footage shot in December 2023](#) at Bakkafrost's 'zombie' salmon farm in Loch Carron:



Scamon Scotland [reported in September 2022](#):

Worst Mortality Rates by Company Over the Last Twelve Months*

– Bakkafrost Scotland is the King of Death!



The Scottish Salmon Company/Bakkafrost Scotland: 39.8%

Wester Ross Fisheries: 34.4%

Loch Duart: 22%

Mowi Scotland: 18.9%

Scottish Sea Farms: 18.3%

Grieg Seafood: 10.7%

Cooke Aquaculture: 9.9%

Industry Average: 19.9%

Industry Average in 2022 (January to July): 22%

Industry Average in 2021 (August to December): 17.8%

SCOTTISH SALMON'S 50%+ MORTALITY CLUB!



Read more via:

[Front page Shetland Times: "Over 750 tonnes of salmon have died at Scottish Sea Farms site"](#)

[Salmon farmers harvested significantly less fish than predicted in 2023: All companies with operations in Scotland generated far lower harvest than expected, and Scottish Sea Farms is set to slaughter 40 percent less fish than planned](#)

[Scotland's Salmon Farms Navigate Troubled Waters for Global Industry: Despite booming demand, mass fish die-offs have made the business almost impossible to scale sustainably](#)

[Salmon farming giant Mowi's profits halved as disease hits harvests: 'Biological challenges' have hit production as campaigners speak out over proliferation of salmon farms in Scottish waters](#)

[Disease halves profits of Scottish salmon farming firm Mowi](#)

['Unsustainable': Disease halves profits of Scottish salmon farming firm](#)

[Scottish Sea Farms made operating loss of £8.8m in Q3](#)

[Higher costs halved Mowi Scotland's operating profit last year](#)

[Near 50% drop in Bakkafrøst Scotland harvest](#)

[Bakkafrøst Scotland lost £31.4 million last year](#)

[Salmon farms struggle with 'biological' problems](#)

[M&S supplier Scottish Sea Farms swings to loss in Q2 after salmon mortality costs of £13m](#)

[After tough Q2 for Bakkafrøst, "darker skies" cloud Scottish operations](#)

[32% fall in Mowi's Scottish Salmon Production!](#)

[Bakkafrøst is Dead in the Water in Scotland - 2021 Annual Report Details "Deadly Cocktail"!](#)

[Mowi's "Woes in Scotland" - Disease & Deaths Cause £5.6 Million Losses!](#)

[Bakkafrøst's Scottish Salmon Nightmare Gets Worse with 10,000 Tonne Black Hole in Scotland!](#)

[8,000 tonne shortfall for Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\) due to "biological challenges"!](#)

[Scottish harvest for Bakkafrøst almost halved in Q4](#)

[Bakkafrøst Haemorrhages \\$almoney](#)

The \$almafia SLAPPs Back Vs Staniford:

Mowi, Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) and Bakkafrost – Scotland’s three largest salmon farming companies – are desperately attempting to shut down covert surveillance inside and above salmon farms.



Mowi’s [SLAPP \(Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation\)](#) vs Don Staniford - [dubbed the ‘Kayak Vigilante’ by The Times](#) and [featured in Netflix’s new documentary ‘You Are What You Eat’](#) - was heard in the [Sheriff Appeal Court in Edinburgh on 1 February](#) with SLAPPs filed by Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) and Bakkafrost sisted (delayed) until after the outcome of Mowi’s case.

 **Don Staniford**  @TheGAAIA · Jan 29
It's going to be an interesting week - off to Edinburgh to face salmon giant Mowi in the Sheriff Appeal Court. Please help stop Norwegian-owned companies using the Scottish courts to shut down secret filming at salmon farms across Scotland! crowdjustice.com/case/stop-mowi... #Mowi #SLAPP



SHERIFF APPEAL COURT – CIVIL

1 February 2024

Parliament House, Edinburgh, Court Room 5

1. Appeal Hearing
at 10:00am

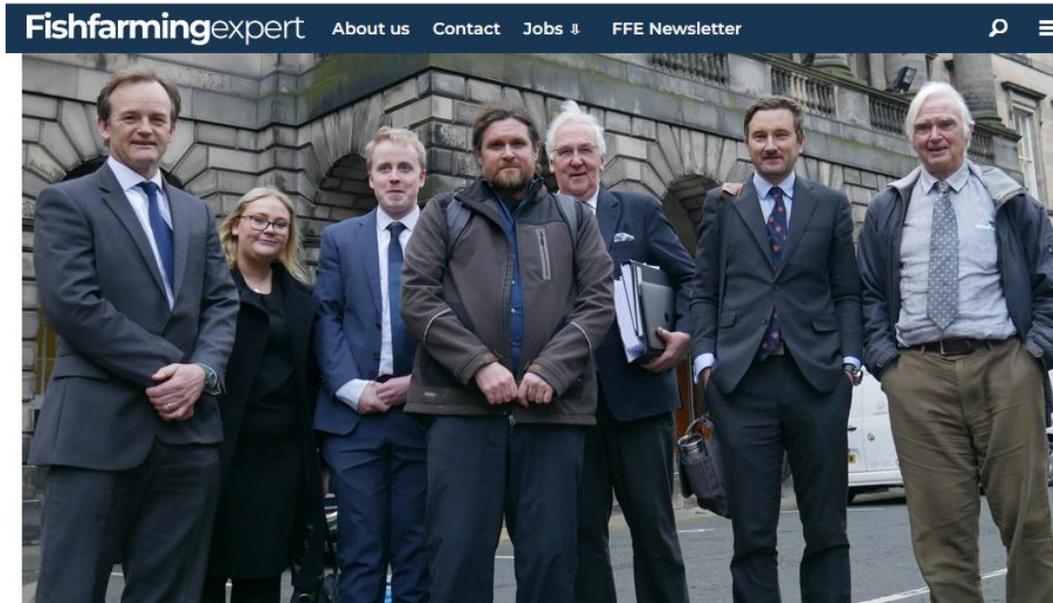
(SP Pyle, SP Ross, AS McCartney)

OBN-A20-21

Mowi Scotland Limited
Aberdein Considine and Company

-v- Don Staniford (A)
R & R Urquhart LLP

Fish Farming Expert [reported \(1 February 2024\)](#):



Don Staniford, centre, with his legal team following an appeal hearing in Edinburgh on Thursday. From left, solicitor Jamie Whittle, Emma, Lewis Taylor, John Campbell KC, advocate Simon Crabb, and retired lawyer Ewan Kennedy. Photo: FFE

Mowi gives ground over ban on activist

Fish farmer's lawyer concedes removal of 15-metre exclusion zone

Gareth Moore
EDITOR

PUBLISHED Thursday 01. February 2024 - 22:05 LAST UPDATED Thursday 01. February 2024 - 23:54

The anti-salmon farming activist Don Staniford is celebrating what he believes will be a partial victory in his appeal against an interdict preventing him from making unauthorised visits to Mowi Scotland fish farms.

A panel of three senior sheriffs who heard the appeal at the Sheriff Appeal Court in Edinburgh on Thursday won't deliver their verdict for around six weeks, but during the hearing Mowi's counsel, Jonathan Barne KC, said he would be prepared to accept the removal of three conditions of the interdict (the Scottish version of an injunction), which was imposed by Sheriff Andrew Berry at Oban Sheriff Court last year.

When asked by the panel if Mowi wanted to stick with an "all or nothing" stance on the interdict, Barne said he would agree to the lifting of bans on Staniford approaching closer than 15 metres from a pen, and the removal of a clause forbidding the activist from "encouraging" people to take part in similar activity to his own.

He also conceded that a ban on flying drones over farms – which Staniford says he has never personally done – could be removed if the panel wished to allow a revised interdict to remain in force.

Watch a Podcast [published by IndyScotNews \(9 February 2024\)](#):

Fear for fish industry as one in five salmon dies

By Victoria Allen

FISH farms are losing almost a fifth of their salmon to fatal diseases and parasites. Around 6.8 million salmon died last year in underwater cages – an estimated 17.6 per cent of the farmed population, figures show. The death rate has been blamed on outbreaks of disease among captive fish, including heart failure, pancreatic necrosis and sea lice – parasites that eat the fish alive. These diseases are also spreading through wild salmon populations, prompting criticism of the multi-million pound ‘aquaculture’ industry. The sector was worth £563 million in 2022.

MORE than half of anglers believe Scottish independence would have a damaging effect on the nation’s salmon fishing industry – and its £240million income from country sports tourism. A new report, commissioned by Dundee sporting agent Salmo International, also found one in four was ‘very worried’ by the prospect of breaking up the Union. Greig Thomson, founder of Salmo International, said: ‘Our report uncovered serious worries about an unshackled Government cosying up to the salmon farming industry at the expense of our magnificent wild salmon stocks.’

The Chilling Effect of SLAPPs in Scotland

An IndyScotNews Special on SLAPPs with Don Staniford and Ewan Kennedy, hosted by Iain Lawson

IndyScotNews 1.1K subscribers [Subscribe](#)

18 [Share](#) [Save](#)

Staniford’s legal fight is [viewed by The Herald](#) as a battle between ‘David and Three Goliaths’ whilst Private Eye magazine [described it as the ‘Kayak Kibosh’](#). In May 2023, the Coalition Against SLAPPs in Europe (CASE) [designated Mowi’s lawsuit against Staniford as a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation](#) – Scotland’s 5th SLAPP.



Staniford [spoke about the ongoing legal battle at the UK Anti-SLAPP conference in London in November 2023.](#)



Salmon farming's 'O.G' – as [reported in Paramount's 'The Changemakers' which premiered on 1 January](#) – will be speaking at the [Scottish Anti-SLAPP summit in Glasgow on 26 February.](#)



Read more via:

["Mowi gives ground over ban on activist" \(Fish Farming Expert\)](#)

[SLAPP Attack: Bakkafröst's Chilling Writ Attempts to Shut Down Surveillance!](#)

[Legal Threat by Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\): "your actions....jeopardise the welfare of the fish"](#)

[Mail On Sunday: "Salmon activist who's been banned from going within 50ft of dozens of fish farms"](#)

Talking Scottish Salmon to Death:

Fish Farmer [hosted a panel discussion on mortalities on salmon farms in Scotland](#) (24 January 2024) featuring Scottish Sea Farms, Salmon Scotland Marine Scotland.



Watch [online here](#)



Fish Health - Aqua Agenda webinar, by Fish Farmer magazine



fishfarmermag
9 subscribers

Subscribe

0



Share

Clip

Save



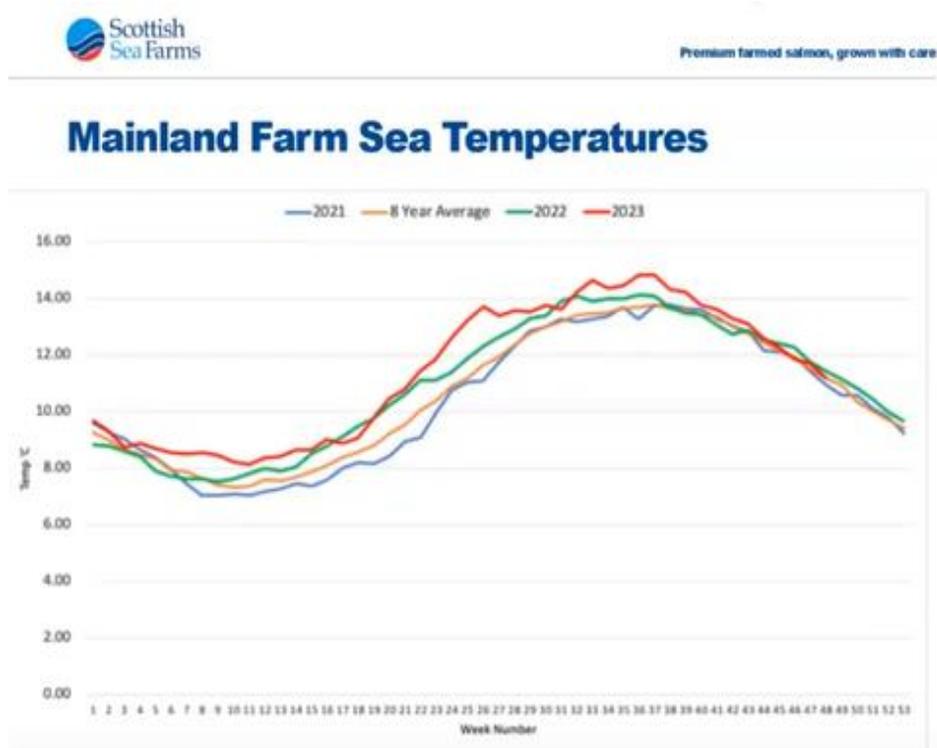
83 views Jan 24, 2024

In 2022 Scotland's salmon farming industry saw a high level of mortalities that took a heavy toll on harvest numbers, profits and the reputation of the sector.

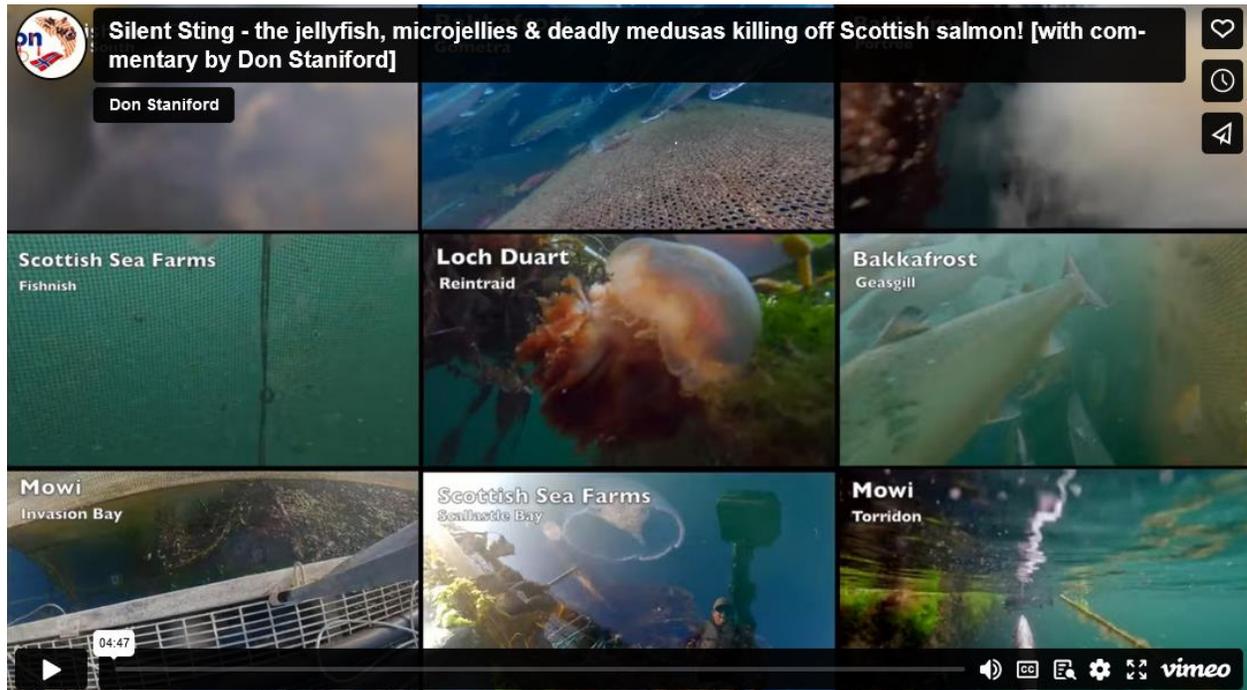
On Wednesday 24th January, our panel of experts joined us for the first Aqua Agenda webinar.

Panel members, who joined Fish Farmer's editor Rob Outram, were Ronnie Soutar - Head of Veterinary Services at Scottish Sea Farms, Charles Allan - Head of the Fish Health Inspectorate and Iain Berrill - Head of Technical at Salmon Scotland.

The [webinar](#) discussed the issue of climate change, rising sea temperatures and jellyfish:



Video footage of jellyfish swarming around salmon farms operated by Scottish Sea Farms and other companies is available online via '[Silent Sting](#)':



Here's an unanswered question asked of the panel:

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jan 20, 2024 at 5:56 AM

Subject: Question for panel

To: <editor@fishfarmermagazine.com>

Re: the panel on Wednesday: <https://www.fishfarmermagazine.com/2024/01/19/fish-health-your-questions-please/>

What was the salmon farming mortality rate from hatch to 'catch' in 2023?

Context:

The latest data [published by the Scottish Government in October 2023](#) details sea survival rates at ca. 75% (i.e. 25% mortality) with losses in freshwater at another ca. 25% (i.e. total mortality from hatch to catch in sea cages could be ca. 50%).

Source data via

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2023/10/scottish-fish-farm-production-survey-2022/documents/scottish-fish-farm-production-survey-2022/scottish-fish-farm-production-survey-2022/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-fish-farm-production-survey-2022.pdf>

p16: 78 million eggs were laid down in 2022

Table 18: Source, number (000's), previous year's estimate of ova laid down to hatch during 2013-2022 and projected production for 2023

Year	In-house broodstock	Out-sourced GB broodstock	GB wild broodstock	Imported ova	Total	Previous year's estimate
2013	16,996	8,263	0	41,315	66,573	49,249
2014	14,418	2,725	10	53,684	70,837	48,149
2015	6,479	223	10	61,463	68,175	65,284
2016	5,884	4	0	58,458	64,346	59,604
2017	6,228	360	0	59,158	65,746	60,673
2018	8,780	200	0	61,499	70,479	67,374
2019	5,516	1,724	75	63,931	71,246	71,571
2020	5,195	4,480	258	68,685	78,618	70,598
2021	6,383	22,581	124	43,707	72,795	68,588
2022	2,906	29,871	0	45,761	78,538	77,306
2023						73,096

Via Salmon Scotland data: <https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/reports>

The latest data we have is November 2023: <https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/reports/monthly-mortality-rate-november-2023>

This shows monthly mortality rates:

Further analysis shows that the overall monthly mortality for the industry was:

1.35% in Jan. 2018	1.03% in Dec. 2018	1.76% in Nov. 2019	2.07% in Oct. 2020	3.46% in Sept. 2021	2.46% in Aug. 2022	2.49% in Jul. 2023
0.94% in Feb. 2018	1.15% in Jan. 2019	1.10% in Dec. 2019	1.48% in Nov. 2020	3.93% in Oct. 2021	4.65% in Sept. 2022	3.61% in Aug. 2023
1.49% in Mar. 2018	1.05% in Feb. 2019	1.26% in Jan. 2020	0.94% in Dec. 2020	2.45% in Nov. 2021	3.66% in Oct. 2022	3.23% in Sept. 2023
1.32% in Apr. 2018	0.95% in Mar. 2019	0.95% in Feb. 2020	1.17% in Jan. 2021	2.55% in Dec. 2021	4.64% in Nov. 2022	4.82% in Oct. 2023
0.76% in May 2018	1.33% in Apr. 2019	1.13% in Mar. 2020	1.08% in Feb. 2021	1.73% in Jan. 2022	3.28% in Dec. 2022	4.02% in Nov. 2023
0.54% in Jun. 2018	0.83% in May 2019	1.17% in Apr. 2020	1.14% in Mar. 2021	1.05% in Feb. 2022	1.64% in Jan. 2023	
1.05% in Jul. 2018	1.06% in Jun. 2019	0.92% in May 2020	1.04% in Apr. 2021	1.28% in Mar. 2022	1.09% in Feb. 2023	
1.55% in Aug. 2018	1.36% in Jul. 2019	0.72% in Jun. 2020	0.69% in May 2021	1.19% in Apr. 2022	1.32% in Mar. 2023	
1.57% in Sept. 2018	1.30% in Aug. 2019	1.59% in Jul. 2020	0.70% in Jun. 2021	1.06% in May 2022	1.16% in Apr. 2023	
1.49% in Oct. 2018	2.24% in Sept. 2019	2.64% in Aug. 2020	1.09% in Jul. 2021	1.33% in Jun. 2022	1.37% in May 2023	
1.07% in Nov. 2018	2.79% in Oct. 2019	1.78% in Sept. 2020	1.99% in Aug. 2021	1.63% in Jul. 2022	1.46% in Jun. 2023	

Scroll down via <https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/reports/monthly-mortality-rate-november-2023>

And you can see some cumulative mortality rates for particular sites are extremely high: Mowi's Hellisay reported 51.5% mortality and Loch Duart's Sound of Harris reported 48.2% (other months also reported over 50% cumulative mortality at other sites in 2023).

Note that since 2013, when the SSPO lobbied against disclosure, that there has been no public data on mortality #: <https://www.robedwards.com/2013/10/scottish-watchdog-labelled-lapdog-after-agreeing-to-keep-fish-farm-deaths-secret.html>

The Scottish Government's FHI data is not a comprehensive picture as there are thresholds for reporting: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fish-health-inspectorate-mortality-information/>

Data published by SEPA details mortality by weight but no by #: http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/data/fish_farms_monthly_biomass_and_treatment_reports.aspx

A backgrounder published in October 2023 is available via <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/media-backgrounder-dead-in-the-warming-water-2-october-2023.pdf>

Updated via <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/media-backgrounder-dead-in-the-warming-water-addendum-13-october-2023.pdf>

Best fishes,

Don

Appendix: \$almafia Shakedown Targets \$almobsters

“Anyone who has dared to venture into the deadly waters of salmon farming can testify to the operation of a \$almafia,” said Don Staniford, Director of \$camon \$cotland in a press statement. “Follow the \$almoney and you will find \$almobsters operating behind a shameless \$almonopoly. The EC's shakedown of the salmon farming industry cartel is long overdue. A forensic examination of the \$almafia's accounts will hopefully prove illegal price-fixing to add to the catalogue of crimes committed by salmon farming - including greenwashing and profiteering at the expense of the environment and fish welfare.”



Unlike the \$almafia, the camera never lies!

vimeo.com/879317077

Video killed the salmon farm - it's time to dump Scottish salmon

@ScotlandSalmon @TavishScott @MowiScotlandLtd @scotseafarms
@NFdep @Nordea @ParetoSec @RSPCACHris



ASC and 9 others

11:57 AM · Jan 26, 2024



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAAIA



Here's a reminder of the horrors lurking inside salmon farms - no wonder the \$almafia want to stop public exposure. The truth hurts!

@MowiScotlandLtd @scotseafarms @ScotlandSalmon @rspcaassured @SoilAssociation @ASC_aqua @sainsburys @Tesco @marksandspencer @asda @LidlGB



2:37 PM · Jan 26, 2024 · 367 Views



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAAIA



Robert Næss, investment director at Nordea bank, told @NRKno that the market fears that the companies risk significant fines, of up to 10% of turnover. Mowi's fine could ultimately amount to £452 million @Nordea



From fishfarmingexpert.com

9:53 AM · Jan 26, 2024 · 160 Views

 Don Staniford 
@TheGAAIA

Norway's \$almafia is dead in the water! @DN_no dn.no/bors/kraftig-k...
#Salmafia #Salmobsters #Salmoney



 Don Staniford 
@TheGAAIA

\$almafia Shakedown: "There is a lot at stake with the ruling – a maximum fine would be 10% of group sales. For Mowi alone, that's €490 million. Combined for the six groups, that's in the range of €1.5 billion"
@drewcherry @IntraFish @EU_Commission intrafish.com/salmon /analysi...

 Latest News [Salmon](#) [Whitefish](#) [Shrimp](#) [Aquaculture](#) [Fisheries](#) [Markets](#) [IntraFish.no](#)

RELATED NEWS

'The market is concerned': Despite recent \$85 million settlement, Norwegian salmon farmers still exposed in price fixing cases
Legal
27 June 2022 9:01 GMT

European Commission says price-fixing lawsuit against farmed salmon giants is compromising its investigation
Legal
28 July 2022 8:00 GMT

EU has limited reach in salmon cartel investigations
News
5 April 2022 5:28 GMT

There is a lot at stake with the ruling – a maximum fine would be 10 percent of group sales. For Mowi alone, based on 2022 sales—a year sales were over €4.9 billion (\$5.3 billion) and earnings topped €1 billion—that's €490 million. Combined for the six groups, that's somewhere in the range of €1.5 billion.

The potential fines are far higher than the roughly €120 million combined payout that Mowi, Leroy, SalMar, Cermaq and Grieg made to US seafood buyers in two separate price-fixing cases last year.

Though the final EU ruling and any fines could be years away, there has already been a significant cost: the news sliced hundreds of millions of dollars off of listed Norwegian salmon shares by the day's end.

The EU hasn't always landed on maximum percentages in collusion cases, but there's reason for salmon farmers to be concerned based on recent rulings that did indeed slap companies with the top rate.

Big numbers for salmon farmers
Norwegian salmon farmers accused of collusion face heavy fines, but 2022 figures show they can handle the hit.

	Revenues (2022 in €)	Earnings	Maximum fine
Mowi	€ 4.946 billion	€1 billion	€490 million
Salmar	€1.7 billion	€394 million	€173 million
Leroy	€2.35 billion	€380 million	€240 million
Cermaq	€1.37 billion	€207 million*	€137 million
Grieg	€983 million	€264.9 million	€98.3 million
Bremnes	€550 million	€151.5 million	€55 million
Total	€12.1 billion	€2.396 billion	€1.5 billion

Sources: Chile Salmon Council - Chart created by John Evans



 Mowi Scotland Limited and 8 others

6:33 AM · Jan 26, 2024 · 501 Views



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAAIA



After a nearly five-year investigation that kicked off with unannounced raids of salmon farmers' offices, the European Union found that the six companies exchanged "commercially sensitive information"

[@drewcherry](#) [@IntraFish](#) [intrafish.com/salmon/analysis...](https://intrafish.com/salmon/analysis/)

[@MowiScotlandLtd](#) [@scotseafarms](#)



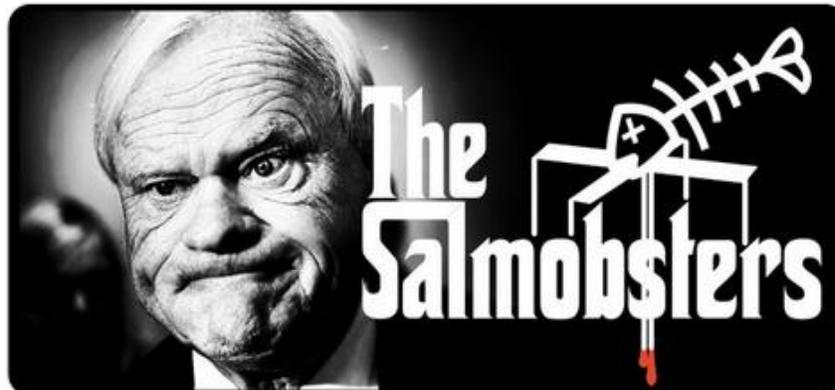
1:42 AM · Jan 26, 2024 · 246 Views



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAAIA



The \$almobsters - a fishy follow up to The Codfather!



8:00 PM · Jan 25, 2024 · 320 Views

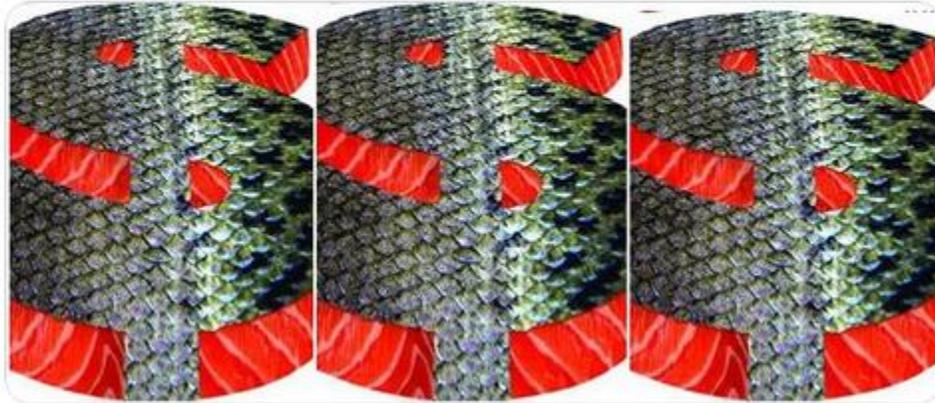


Don Staniford ✓

@TheGAAIA



Analysts told IntraFish sister publication DN the fines for the four listed companies Leroy, Salmar, Mowi and Grieg Seafood, based on estimated 2023 sales, could run as high as to NOK 13 billion (€1.2 billion/\$1.2 billion) intrafish.com/salmon/its-qui... @IntraFish @DN_no



6:01 PM · Jan 25, 2024 · 374 Views



Don Staniford ✓

@TheGAAIA



Nothing to see here: "Last year, Mowi, Leroy, SalMar, Cermaq & Grieg agreed to pay \$85 million to US seafood buyers who were plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit alleging the Norwegian farmed salmon giants conspired to fix salmon prices" @IntraFish



From intrafish.com

5:53 PM · Jan 25, 2024 · 441 Views



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAATA



Norway's \$almafia refute @EuropeanCommiss preliminary view that "they breached EU antitrust rules by colluding to distort competition" @MowiScotlandLtd salmonbusiness.com/mowi-contests-... #Mowi #Cartel #Salmafia #Salmonopoly #Salmoney #Salmobsters



From salmonbusiness.com

1:49 PM · Jan 25, 2024 · 208 Views



Don Staniford ✓
@TheGAATA



\$almafia Shakedown: If the Commission's preliminary view is confirmed, this conduct would infringe Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which prohibits cartels and other restrictive business practices @EuropeanCommiss



From ec.europa.eu

1:44 PM · Jan 25, 2024 · 191 Views

European Commission may take five years to pass salmon price-fixing judgement, says top lawyer

A top competition lawyer in Norway has said that the European Commission could take another five years before concluding its price-fixing case brought against six Norwegian salmon companies

By [Louis Harkell](#) | Jan. 26, 2024 16:57 GMT



Credit: makje / Shutterstock

Related

Five Norwegian salmon farmers agree to \$3.8m settlement in Canadian price-fixing lawsuit



EU finds Norway's salmon farmers breached price-fixing rules



Canadian court delays price-fixing hearing involving five Norwegian salmon producers



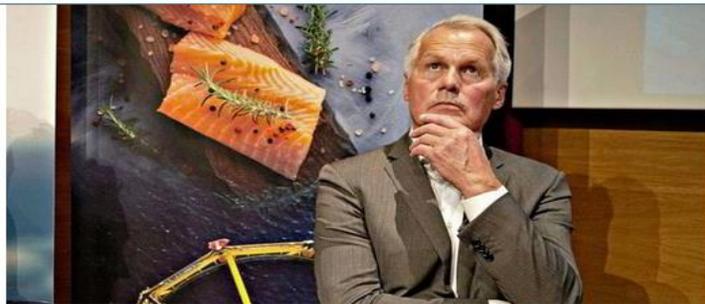
Norwegian salmon shares plunge after EU anti-trust announcement



Louisiana shrimp plant up for grabs after Fortune closure



US Senate panel warned of climate change impact on commercial fishing



Fine on six Norwegian salmon companies could reach well over \$1 billion if ruling drags on

In practice, it is rare that these types of fines reach the limit of 10 percent, a legal executive told IntraFish.

RELATED NEWS

Salmon farmers harvested significantly less fish than predicted in 2023

Salmon
23 January 2024 9:24 GMT

Salmon farmers harvested significantly less fish than predicted in 2023

Salmon
23 January 2024 9:24 GMT

28 January 2024 15:02 GMT UPDATED: 28 January 2024 15:04 GMT

By [Hanna Gezelius](#) , [Joar Vettestad](#) and [Jan Willie Olsen](#)

The current fine facing six Norwegian salmon companies after the European Commission's ruled they had breached antitrust rules could increase the longer it takes to reach a final verdict, one legal expert told **IntraFish**.

On Thursday, the European Commission ruled that Mitsubishi-owned Cermaq, Grieg Seafood, Bremnes, Leroy Seafood Group, Mowi and SalMar breached antitrust rules by colluding to distort competition in the market for spot sales of Norwegian farmed Atlantic salmon exported to the EU.

All six companies have denied the accusations.



The ceiling of the fine will be based on the financial year before a final decision is made, a European Commission spokesperson told **IntraFish**.



Gustav Witzje. Photo: Ronny Telgås

\$1.3 billion in value wiped out as market reacts to price-fixing ruling

26 January 2024

“With Mowi, the worst case scenario seems to have already been priced in.”

The European Commission has indicated that several Norwegian salmon producers, including Cermaq, Grieg Seafood, Bremnes, Lerøy, Mowi, and SalMar, may face fines up to 10 percent of their turnover for allegedly violating EU competition rules.

The fines could amount to a total of NOK 13 billion, following a notice from the Commission that sent shares on the Oslo Stock Exchange tumbling.

The salmon producers are accused of colluding to distort competition in the market for spot sales of Norwegian farmed Atlantic salmon in the EU between 2011 and 2019.

Following the news of the European Commission's findings, share prices for Grieg Seafood, Lerøy, Mowi and SalMar immediately plunged between 4 and 6 on Thursday. This means that stock market values of NOK 13.3 billion (\$1.3 billion) were wiped out, i.e. roughly the same values as the estimate of the fine, according to Norwegian financial newspaper [Finansavisen](#).



Analysis: Numbers don't favor farmed salmon in the cartel case

The industry faces an uphill battle when trying to explain pricing dynamics with the big-picture figures.

25 January 2024 21:28 GMT **UPDATED** 28 January 2024 2:40 GMT

By Drew Cherry

RELATED NEWS

'The market is concerned': Despite recent \$85 million settlement, Norwegian salmon farmers still exposed in price fixing cases

Legal
17 June 2022 8:01 GMT

European Commission says price-fixing lawsuit against farmed salmon giants is compromising its investigation

Legal
19 July 2021 5:00 GMT

EU has limited reach in salmon cartel investigations

News
2 April 2018 5:28 GMT

The European Union's preliminary ruling that six Norwegian salmon farmers – Mowi, Leroy Seafood, Cermaq, Grieg Seafood, Salmar and Bremnes – colluded to push up prices over the course of nearly a decade sent a shockwave through the industry on Thursday.

After a nearly five-year investigation that kicked off with unannounced raids of salmon farmers' offices, the European Union found that based on analysis of prices from 2011-2019, the six companies exchanged "commercially sensitive information" related to prices, production volumes and other activity aimed at fixing or controlling prices.

There is a lot at stake with the ruling – a maximum fine would be 10 percent of group sales. For Mowi alone, based on 2022 sales--a year sales were over €4.9 billion (\$5.3 billion) and earnings topped €1 billion--that's €490 million. Combined for the six groups, that's somewhere in the range of €1.5 billion.

The potential fines are far higher than the roughly €120 million combined payout that Mowi, Leroy, SalMar, Cermaq and Grieg made to US seafood buyers in two separate price-fixing cases last year.

Big numbers for salmon farmers

Norwegian salmon farmers accused of collusion face heavy fines, but 2022 figures show they can handle the hit.

	Revenues (2022 in €)	Earnings	Maximum fine
Mowi	€ 4.946 billion	€1 billion	€490 million
Salmar	€1.7 billion	€394 million	€170 million
Leroy	€2.35 billion	€380 million	€240 million
Cermaq	€1.37 billion	€207 million*	€137 million
Grieg	€983 million	€264.9 million	€98.3 million
Bremnes	€550 million	€151.5 million	€55 million
Total	€12.1 billion	€2.396 billion	€1.5 billion

Source: Chile Salmon Council • Chart created by John Evans



'The market is concerned': Despite recent \$85 million settlement, Norwegian salmon farmers still exposed in price fixing cases

While the \$85 million settlement won't hurt the companies' finances, hits to their stock prices and future fines in the US and EU could be much more costly.

17 June 2022 8:01 GMT UPDATED 17 June 2022 11:42 GMT

By [Hanna Gezelius](#)

Earlier this month, six Norwegian salmon companies, including the four largest listed salmon companies -- Leroy Seafood Group, Grieg Seafood, SalMar and Mowi -- reached an \$85 million (€79 million) civil court settlement with US salmon buyers in a case involving alleged illegal price collusion.

And while the settlement is significant, its impact on the companies' operating finances is minimal. Nevertheless, the news has shareholders anxious over the possibility of future fines and other costs associated with related criminal cases in EU and United States.

All six companies insist the settlement does not represent an admission of guilt, and said that the accusations are unfounded. However, they said they agreed to settle to avoid an expensive and time-consuming court battle.

RELATED NEWS

Analyst: Thai Union executives guilty of insider trading should resign to avoid 'long-term negative issues'

Legal
4 April 2022 13:41 GMT

Bumble Bee's former owner Lion Capital dragged back into tuna price-fixing conspiracy

Legal
23 March 2022 19:27 GMT

Norway salmon prices creeping higher, but will buyers bite?

Prices
5 June 2022 14:42 GMT



Lawyer believes salmon price-fixing investigation could be Norway's largest cartel case, with millions in fines and damages

The largest salmon companies may have to shell out billions of kroner in compensation, fines and legal costs following accusations of illegal price collusion. A settlement that cost \$85 million may be only the beginning.

3 June 2022 9:31 GMT UPDATED 8 June 2022 18:02 GMT

By [Anders Furuset](#) in [Oslo](#)

On a late Wednesday afternoon last month, when half of Norway was on its way to its cabins for a public holiday, the country's four largest listed salmon companies Leroy Seafood Group, Grieg Seafood, SalMar and Mowi sent out similar messages to say a settlement had been reached with American salmon buyers in a case of alleged illegal price collusion.

"This is the first sign of movement in the case, which also includes investigations by the European Commission in the EU and similar lawsuits in Europe; criminal cases with company fees and potential personal punishment in the US; lawsuits in Canada and probably also several lawsuits in the US," Norwegian lawyer Odd Stemsrud told [IntraFish](#).

RELATED NEWS

Class action plaintiffs in salmon price-fixing case involving Mowi, Cermaq and Leroy ask for more time

Legal
14 October 2021 8:01 GMT

Leroy Seafood to submit around 40,000 documents in farmed salmon price-fixing case

Legal
28 September 2021 8:00 GMT

Several class action plaintiffs in US farmed salmon price-fixing case drop out



European Commission says price-fixing lawsuit against farmed salmon giants is compromising its investigation

The commission has asked the court to deny the US plaintiffs suing Mowi, Grieg, Cermaq and SalMar access to its 'black-listed' evidence that is part of the EU's ongoing investigation.

18 July 2021 5:00 GMT UPDATED 18 July 2021 11:59 GMT
 By Raehel Sepin

The European Commission (EC) says its ongoing investigation into possible collusion between Norwegian producers of farmed salmon is being compromised by a class-action lawsuit filed in the United States alleging Norwegian salmon giants conspired to fix salmon prices.

RELATED NEWS

Judge denies Norwegian Seafood Council request to 'quash' subpoena related to salmon antitrust case

Legal
 24 June 2021 12:45 GMT

Land-based shrimp farming poised for a



Judge denies Norwegian Seafood Council request to 'quash' subpoena related to salmon antitrust case

The council said in a motion to the court it 'should not be required to respond to the subpoena for several reasons.' Defendants in the case include Mowi, Grieg, SalMar and Leroy.

24 June 2021 12:45 GMT UPDATED 24 June 2021 12:45 GMT
 By Raehel Sepin

The Norwegian Seafood Council (NSC) is pushing back against getting involved in a massive class-action lawsuit alleging Norwegian salmon giants colluded to fix salmon prices.

RELATED NEWS

Massive 2019 US price-fixing lawsuit against Norwegian salmon farming giants moving forward

Legal
 25 March 2021 8:48 GMT

Salmon farmer released from giant US price-fixing lawsuit

Other major Norwegian firms remain defendants in the salmon collusion case.

9 March 2020 18:03 GMT UPDATED 9 March 2020 18:25 GMT

By Rachel Sepin

RELATED NEWS

Cargill on salmon feed price-fixing: 'We understood the extent of past behavior'

Feed
21 February 2020 7:18 GMT

Salmofood requests dismissal from salmon feed price-fixing case

Aquaculture
24 January 2020 2:48 GMT

Here's the Canadian price-fixing complaint against Norway's farmed salmon giants

Legal
9 January 2020 19:05 GMT

Mowi, Leroy, Grieg among salmon companies named in new \$380 million price-fixing lawsuit

Legal
9 January 2020 18:23 GMT

DOJ subpoenas wiped \$1 billion off Norwegian salmon shares

Finance
19 November 2019 5:53 GMT

Grieg-owned Ocean Quality, SalMar subpoenaed in DOJ investigation into Norwegian salmon price collusion

Aquaculture
14 November 2019 19:22 GMT



Yet another Canadian takes Cermaq, Grieg, Mowi to court over salmon price-fixing allegations

[Read more](#)



Canada salmon price-fixing lawsuit: 'Big companies are taking advantage of the little guy'

[Read more](#)



Mowi, Grieg, Leroy reject Canada salmon price-fixing allegations

Scottish Sea Farms has been released from a massive class-action lawsuit filed in a US District Court of Florida last year, alleging Norwegian salmon giants colluded to fix salmon prices.

The plaintiffs, led by seafood supplier Euclid Fish Company, voluntarily dismissed Scottish Sea Farms from the case, according to a motion filed March 6 with the court.

Not many details have been released concerning why the company was dismissed, but earlier in January Scottish Sea Farms filed a "confidentiality order" with the court to "facilitate discovery" in the case, as part of an agreement with the defendants.

The plaintiffs filed an amended 81-page lawsuit last August against salmon farmers Mowi, Grieg Seafood, SalMar, and Scottish Sea Farms and/or some of their subsidiaries.

The suit alleges that beginning in July 2015, or earlier, salmon farmers and co-conspirators entered into and engaged "in a contract, combination, or conspiracy with regards to farm-raised salmon and products derived therefrom in unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of sections of the Sherman Act."

Several US plaintiffs joined the lawsuit based on an ongoing investigation by the European Commission concerning possible collusion between Norwegian producers of farmed salmon.

DOJ subpoenas wiped \$1 billion off Norwegian salmon shares

Some of the companies' stocks staged partial recoveries Monday.

19 November 2019 5:53 GMT UPDATED 19 November 2019 18:02 GMT

By Rachel Mutter

RELATED NEWS

Leroy share price higher despite earnings reverse

Fisheries
19 November 2019 14:01 GMT

Leroy joins list of Norwegian farmers subpoenaed in US price-fixing case

Finance
15 November 2019 17:35 GMT

Grieg-owned Ocean Quality, SalMar subpoenaed in DOJ investigation into Norwegian salmon price collusion

Aquaculture
14 November 2019 19:22 GMT

US Justice Department opens criminal investigation into farmed salmon anti-trust allegations, subpoenas Mowi

Aquaculture
14 November 2019 18:40 GMT

The news last week that the US Department of Justice (DOJ) is subpoenaing Norwegian salmon producers Mowi, SalMar, Grieg and Leroy in connection to price-fixing allegations brought earlier this year, sent stock prices spinning, with most Norwegian farmers down 5 percent Friday, according to salmon analysts at Sparebank 1.



Was I wrong about salmon farming?

[Read more](#)

The estimated collective loss in market capital for the four farmers added up to around NOK 10 billion (€990 million/\$1.1 billion) in a calculation by Sparebank that excludes around 60 percent of Leroy's loss, likely tied to its less than overwhelming third quarter reporting.

The US DOJ statutory maximum penalty is \$100 million if the farmers are found guilty (€90.3 million) and the EU Commission's maximum penalty is 10 percent of total group revenue. For the four farmers, the worst case scenario would entail an estimated NOK 3.7 billion (€366.3 million/\$407 million) in potential US fines and NOK 7.7 billion (€762.3 million/\$847 million) in EU fees.



US Justice Department opens criminal investigation into farmed salmon anti-trust allegations, subpoenas Mowi

14 November 2019 18:40 GMT UPDATED 15 November 2019 13:35 GMT

By John Fiorillo 

The Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice (DOJ) is opening a criminal investigation involving allegations of possible collusion between Norwegian producers of farmed Atlantic salmon and class action complaints in the United States related to the issue.



Norway's DNB bank caught up in Samherji bribery scandal

[Read more](#)

Mowi, the world's largest salmon farmer, said Thursday it has been informed that it will be subpoenaed in the case, as has Grieg-owned Ocean Quality and Norwegian salmon farming firm SalMar.

The US case is related to a similar investigation announced last year by the European Commission concerning possible collusion between Norwegian producers of farmed salmon. That investigation is still ongoing.

RELATED NEWS

Analysts 'not surprised' by Mowi's CEO switch

News
12 November 2019 8:48 GMT

Logistics still a worry as Chile's salmon farming sector returns to normal

News
11 November 2019 14:43 GMT

Scottish Sea Farms plots escape from farmed salmon price-fixing lawsuit

Finance
1 November 2019 23:11 GMT

Fourth US plaintiff joins class-action suit against Norwegian salmon giants

Aquaculture
18 May 2019 8:18 GMT

Antitrust lawyers bring up CEO dinner to highlight alleged misconduct over salmon prices

26 March 2021

2014 meeting with SalMar CEO Gustav Witzøe and Leroy CEO Henning Beltestad discussed in court.

On Wednesday this week, it was reported that salmon producers must now face the allegations that have been directed at them.

The allegation is that they exchanged competitively sensitive information among themselves.

Sensitive information

These include Mowi, SalMar, Lerøy, Bremnes and exporter Ocean Quality. [Ocean Quality was the sales organisation of Grieg Seafood and Bremnes Seashore](#) before it was closed.

The defendants denied these claims and moved to dismiss the lawsuit, but in a decision issued on Tuesday in Miami, Florida United States District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga ruled that the case can move forward.

In one example, the report referred to Mowi, SalMar, Ocean Quality, Grieg and Lerøy participated in an emergency meeting to discuss the Russian ban and the potential fall-out on prices, agreeing "on the importance of not talking down prices."

Trade ban

Russia introduced a trade ban on imports of main food commodities from the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and Norway.

The document wrote that “defendants’ prices ramped drastically upward in 2014 and 2015 despite Norwegian salmon producers losing their biggest traditional customer, Russia; the price increases resulted in huge profits for defendants”.

At this time, “one would have expected that each of the Norwegian Defendants would compete more vigorously with each other on prices in an effort to increase sales and thereby wrest market share from their rivals that did not happen. (...) Instead, defendants reacted by continuing their meetings and colluding together.”

Prices

“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”.

“He also directly asked Witzøe to contact Beltestad to confirm what prices Lerøy was offering. These conversations reflect these defendants’ understanding of the importance of pricing above NASDAQ prices and their open-book approach to dealing with one another to ensure pricing conformed to prices reported by the NASDAQ salmon index.”



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Mar 26, 2021



"SalMar's Witzøe attended a dinner meeting with Lerøy's [CEO] Beltestad, during which they discussed a pricing model for their salmon based on NASDAQ spot prices. Witzøe & Beltestad were communicating with Jim Gallagher of [Scottish Sea Farms] via email" tinyurl.com/a5fytpbx



Read more via:

[Norway's \\$almafia Pay \\$33 Million to Settle Second US Price-Fixing Suit \(after \\$85 million pay off in May & \\$852 million fine threat in Europe\)!](#)

[Salmonopoly Cartel Case in US Closes in on Norwegian Salmafia!](#)

[Norway's Salmonopoly investigated by EU](#)

[Salmonopoly: How Norway's Salmafia Control 'Scottish' Salmon - Follow the Salmoney!](#)

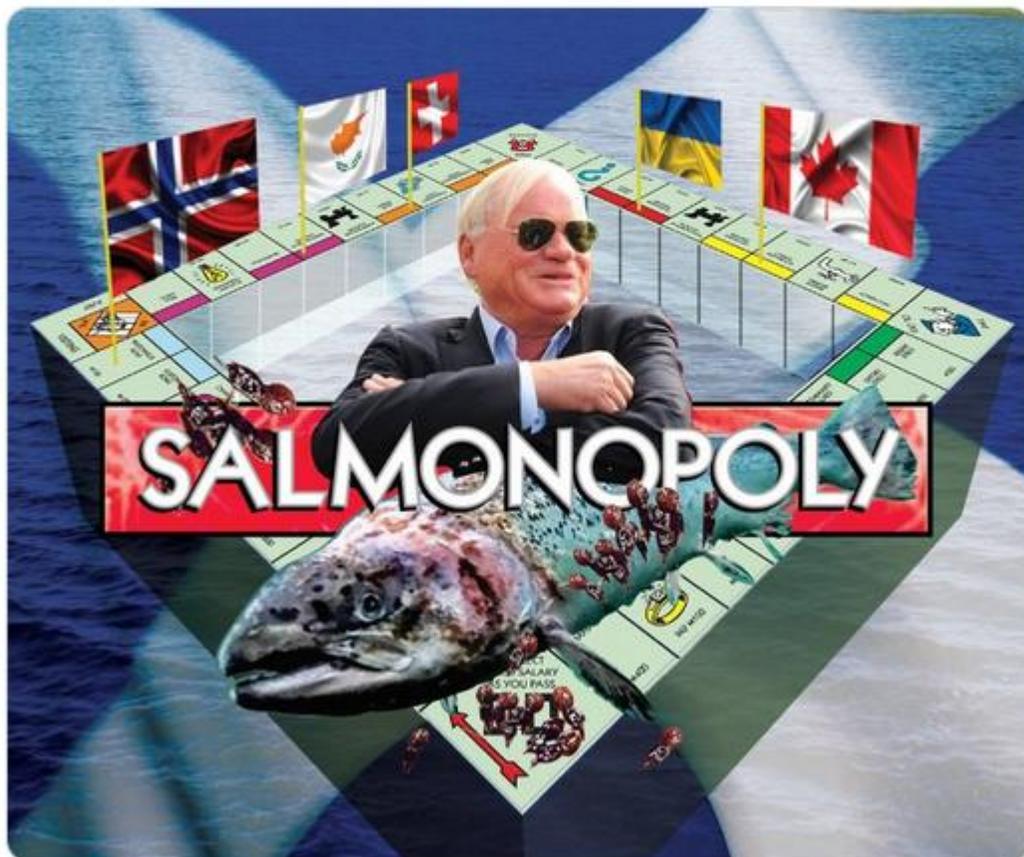


Don Staniford ✓

@TheGAAIA · [Follow](#)



The net closes in on Norway's [#Salmafia](#) as the US Department of Justice ramps up antitrust class action lawsuit on cartels, price-fixing, "suspicious meetings" & "law enforcement investigations" [@TheJusticeDept](#) [@FTC](#) tinyurl.com/33aps494
[#Salmonopoly](#) [#Salmoney](#) [#Salmonsters](#)



9:05 AM · Mar 25, 2021



The Currency [reported \(31 January 2024\)](#):

The **Currency.** [Stories](#) [Voices](#) [Podcasts](#) [Events](#)

[🔖](#) [🔍](#) [M](#)



Norwegian parent of Ireland's top salmon producer caught up in suspected "cartel" case

The multi-billion-euro salmon giant Mowi is one of six Norwegian salmon producers being chased by the EU for allegedly breaching antitrust rules. It is denying the claims.

31st Jan, 2024 - 3 min read [🔖](#)



Niall Sargent
Current Affairs Correspondent



In February 19, 2019, European Commission officials swooped on several salmon farm facilities across the EU. As part of what they term an “ex officio antitrust and cartel investigation”, the self-started wave of inspections centred on six Norwegian companies.

The decision to carry out that preliminary investigatory step was taken on foot of concerns raised by several market players that the companies may have engaged in anti-competitive practice and violated EU antitrust rules prohibiting cartels.

Now, five years later, the Commission has taken another step forward, issuing a statement of objections to the six salmon companies, named for the first time, that it believes breached antitrust rules over sales of Norwegian-farmed salmon over eight years between 2011 and 2019.

The six companies are Cermaq, Grieg Seafood, Bremnes, Lerøy, Mowi, and SalMar. Mowi is the world’s largest producer of farm-raised salmon in both volume and turnover. It is also the dominant player in the Irish industry.

Its main Irish subsidiary Comhlucht Iascaireachta Fanad Teoranta, trading as Mowi Ireland, saw turnover in the region of €70 million in 2022 through farms and processors operating along the Atlantic coast and off Clare Island at the entrance to Clew Bay in Co Mayo. Comhlucht Iascaireachta Fanad Teorantais not named among the companies under investigation by the competition watchdog.

Ireland is just one of 26 countries where Mowi operates, employing 11,500 people worldwide. In 2023, it had global sales of just over €4 billion, and the previous year it crossed the €1 billion earnings mark for the first time in its 60-year history.

The Commission's concerns

The case is an important one. Over half of all farmed Atlantic salmon production worldwide comes from Norway. And, as the biggest importer, the EU is the sector's biggest customer.

Speaking last week, European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager said it was the Commission's position that Mowi and the other producers aimed to "limit competition on the market" in a way that was "to the detriment of European customers".

The Commission has concerns that the salmon producers exchanged commercially sensitive information about sales prices and volumes, production volumes and capacities, as well as other price-setting factors over the eight-year window.

Last week, it informed the producers that it has reached a preliminary view that all six breached EU antitrust rules by "colluding to distort competition in the market for spot sales" of Norwegian farmed salmon. This is where prices, volumes, and other sales conditions are agreed upon per sale, based on the market conditions on the day. The Commission's investigation is not concerned with long-term contracts.

The alleged conduct concerned sales of fresh, whole and gutted Atlantic salmon farmed in Norway, which accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the sector's exports from Norway.

Mowi's most critical operations lie at home in Norway, where the company recorded a record-high harvest of over 290,000 tonnes of salmon in 2022. By contrast, just under 7,000 tonnes were harvested in Ireland that year.

If the Commission's preliminary view is confirmed through further investigation, then the conduct of the six companies would infringe Article 101 of the EU treaty that prohibits cartels and trade practices which could prevent, restrict or distort competition.

What happens next?

The accused companies issued separate announcements denying any antitrust infringements or anti-competitive behaviour. In an Oslo Stock Exchange announcement published last Thursday, Mowi said it "contests the Commission's preliminary view and the characteristics of the alleged behaviour" in the farmed salmon market.

The company "strongly believes there has been no infringement of the competition rules", the statement said, adding that Mowi will now carefully review the Commission's statement and reply in writing, the next step available to all six companies.

The companies will then also have an option of requesting an oral hearing to present their views before the Commission and national competition authorities. Oral hearings are not public.

If, at that stage, the Commission concludes that there is sufficient evidence of an infringement, it will adopt a decision prohibiting the conduct. It can also impose a fine of up to 10 per cent of a company's annual worldwide turnover.

When we will next hear about developments is unknown. There is no legal deadline to complete inquiries into anti-competitive conduct.

This will all depend on several factors, including the complexity of the case, how companies cooperate with the EU body and how they exercise their rights of defence through antitrust proceedings.