

INFESTATION: Flea-eating lice are behind millions of deaths of farmed salmon in Scotland, prompting corporations to fight them with pesticides

Chemical war against sea lice a losing game – critics

Environment: Salmon farmers using more pesticides than ever before

Campaigners have warned that Scottish salmon farming is "fighting a losing battle" against chemically resistant sea lice.

It follows the revelation that the use of toxic chemicals to fight sea lice on salmon farms has soared by almost 1,000% in the past decade.

According to official data that has sparked fresh criticism of the industry, between 2006-16, farmed salmon production increased by 35% while the use of chemicals to control flea-eating lice rose 932%.

They included compounds that have been linked to reduced fertility in wild salmon and mortality in shellfish such as lobsters.

Critics of salmon farming said that the growing use of chemicals to fight sea lice, a parasite that kills millions of farmed fish every year, raises serious questions about the industry's environmental impact.

It has rekindled calls for some of Britain's leading supermarkets to ban the sale of farmed salmon from parts of Scotland where sea lice infestations are "rampant" and pose a threat to the survival of wild salmon and sea trout.

"Scottish salmon farming is fighting a losing battle," said Don Staniford of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture.

"The drugs don't work anymore. Sadly, Scotland's lobsters and other shellfish are collateral damage in the salmon farming industry's war on sea lice."

The latest figures, obtained under freedom of information from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), show that Scottish salmon farms used 48kg of chemicals in 2006 but this increased to 467kg in 2016.

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The fish farming industry is being attacked for the levels of chemicals it uses

The male driver of the Citroen - which landed on a tree stump overhanging the stream - suffered "serious injuries" and was taken to

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hospital by ambulance. The Golf - which was carrying five people - came to rest on the opposite side of the road. Emergency crews freed two women with serious injuries from the Volkswagen.

One of the casualties was taken to a waiting air ambulance which took off at 1.50pm and airlifted her to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with head injuries.

Fire crews left the scene a short time later and forensic crash investigators began photographing and scanning the debris and road.

Road policing sergeant Colin Matheson said: "The driver of the black car is a man and he is seriously injured. There were five occupants in the Golf. Two of them, both women, have serious injuries. One woman with serious head injuries has been airlifted to ARI."

have responded accordingly. "Salmon farmers use safe and fully approved veterinary medicines to support fish health. "All medicines are applied under strict veterinary supervision and application is tightly regulated with Sepa's official consent."