

# Wastewater disease risk rejected by fish farmer

**Row: Call for Sepa to 'correct errors'**

BY KEITH FINDLAY

Salmon farmer Cooke Aquaculture Scotland (CAS) insisted yesterday it had never discharged untreated wastewater from its Mid Yell packing facility in Shetland, despite an inspection report saying otherwise.

Canadian-owned CAS said it had contacted the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), asking it to "correct errors" in its report.

The issue came to light after Don Staniford, an arch critic of "factory" salmon farming over many years, claimed "damning evidence" obtained under freedom of information rules highlighted breaches of the industry's code of practice relating to the spread of infectious diseases.

According to Mr Staniford, representing the Global Alliance Against

Industrial Aquaculture, untreated overflow from blood water tanks and "raw effluent" was discharged into the sea at Mid Yell Voe, creating a "significant disease risk".

Sepa chief officer Anne Anderson confirmed the investigation followed a complaint about odour and effluent discharge from

**"The fact remains the discharge should not have happened"**

CAS's site at Mid Yell last August.

She added: "Sepa works every day to protect Scotland's environment and investigates reports of suspected pollution when we receive them.

"A Sepa officer attended the site to carry out an in-

spection. The inspection identified problems with odour and a discharge of effluent. Sepa's report was based on the information supplied by the operator at the time."

She said CAS had since advised that the discharge from a manhole was treated, adding: "The fact remains the discharge should not have happened.

"The operator agreed immediate actions to address odour and effluent discharge, including improved cleaning of the filtration system, alterations to a manhole cover and improved bunding."

CAS had taken action to resolve the issue, she said, adding: "We are satisfied that our requirements have been met and an inspection will be carried out in due course."

A statement from CAS said: "Cooke Aquaculture Scotland has never dis-



**CLAIM: Long-time 'factory' salmon critic Don Staniford alleged a disease problem**

charged untreated wastewater from its Mid Yell packing facility and the company has requested that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency correct errors in their report noting otherwise.

"The Sepa report was issued in connection with

an odour issue at the packing facility in August. The odour came from treated water foam in a manhole at the facility. The wastewater had been treated through two filter processes and ozonation. The wastewater had an odour but it was not untreated as the Sepa

report states. The company corrected the odour issue immediately."

Meanwhile, a new report from the Scottish Association for Marine Science has said there is an "urgent" need for new predator deterrents at fish farms to prevent more seals being shot.

## Fish prices

### FRASERBURGH

– Landings yesterday from four boats totalled 418 boxes of white fish and 77 boxes of prawns. Haddock round 60p, gutted £1; whiting round 80p-£1, gutted £1.30-£1.50; cod large £2.40-£2.60; monkfish £3.50-£6; coley large £1-£1.20; ling £2.70-£3; witches £1-£2; squid £3.50-£4; lemon sole £3-£7; plaice 80p (kg). Boats – BF206 Zenith, FR86 Daystar, WK814 Kemarvin and FR151 Lynden.

### PETERHEAD

– Landings yesterday from 11 boats and two consignments totalled 5,262 boxes. Cod large £2.50-£3.20, medium £2.30-£2.90, selected £2-£2.40, small £1.50-£2.40; haddock large £1.70-£2, medium £1.70-£2, selected £1.60-£1.90, seed £1.50-£1.80, chippers £1-£1.40, metros 60p-£1.10, round 30p-£1.20; whiting £1.10-£1.40, round 75p-£1; lemon sole £4-£10; monks large, medium and selected £3.40-£4; coley large £1.10-£1.35, medium £1.20-£1.30, selected £1-£1.10, small 80p-90p; megrim £3-£7.20; plaice 90p-£1.80; witches £1.40-£3; ling £2-£3; squid £3-£6 (kg). Boats – Faithful, Opportunus, Crystal River, Amity, Golden Sceptre, Tranquility, Ocean Dawn, Courageous, Orion, Valhalla and Liberty. Consigned – Beryl and DFC.

## FISHERIES

# £17.5m patrol contract

Offshore support vessel operator Sentinel Marine, of Aberdeen, said yesterday it had won a fisheries patrol contract potentially worth up to £17.5million.

The deal with the European Fisheries Control Agency, covering EU and international waters, is for an initial two years but could be extended to four. Sentinel Marine will use the Lundy Sentinel, one of its growing fleet of new build, multirole emergency response and rescue vessels.

# Burns joins a prestigious list of 'tail fin heroes'



An image of Robert Burns on the Boeing 787

## AVIATION

Scotland's most celebrated poet will feature on the tail fin of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner passenger plane from the spring.

Budget airline Norwegian unveiled Robert Burns as its latest "tail fin hero", joining the likes of rock legend Freddie Mercury, footballer Sir Bobby Moore, children's author Roald Dahl, pioneering pilot Amy

Johnson, author Jane Austen and aviation maverick Sir Freddie Laker, yesterday as Scots around the world celebrated the birth of the 18th century bard.

Since Norwegian's first aircraft took to the skies, the airline has honoured iconic figures on the tails of its aircraft.

It chooses people who "symbolise the spirit of Norwegian" by pushing boundaries, challenging the

norm and inspiring others. The company, which operates transatlantic flights from Edinburgh to smaller airports on the US east coast, flies 5million UK passengers a year to more than 50 destinations.

Chief commercial officer Thomas Ramdahl said: "Our 'tail fin heroes' offer us a perfect chance to pay tribute to some of the greatest Scots. Robert Burns has inspired generations, and

as the world celebrates the anniversary of his birth it is an honour to have one of the greatest poets of all time adorn our aircraft."

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead said: "Tail fin heroes are all about celebrating individuals who have inspired others. That is certainly true of Robert Burns, whose words have touched the hearts and minds of people the world over."

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