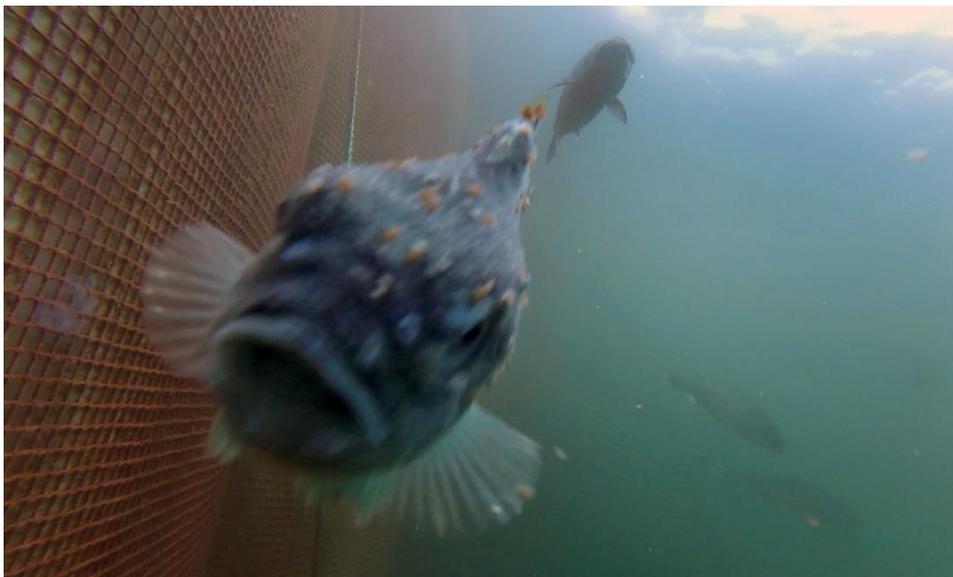


[Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 7 September 2018

Dirty Secrets Lurking Under Scottish Salmon's Lice Skirt
- Video footage reveals 'cleaner fish' infested with parasites

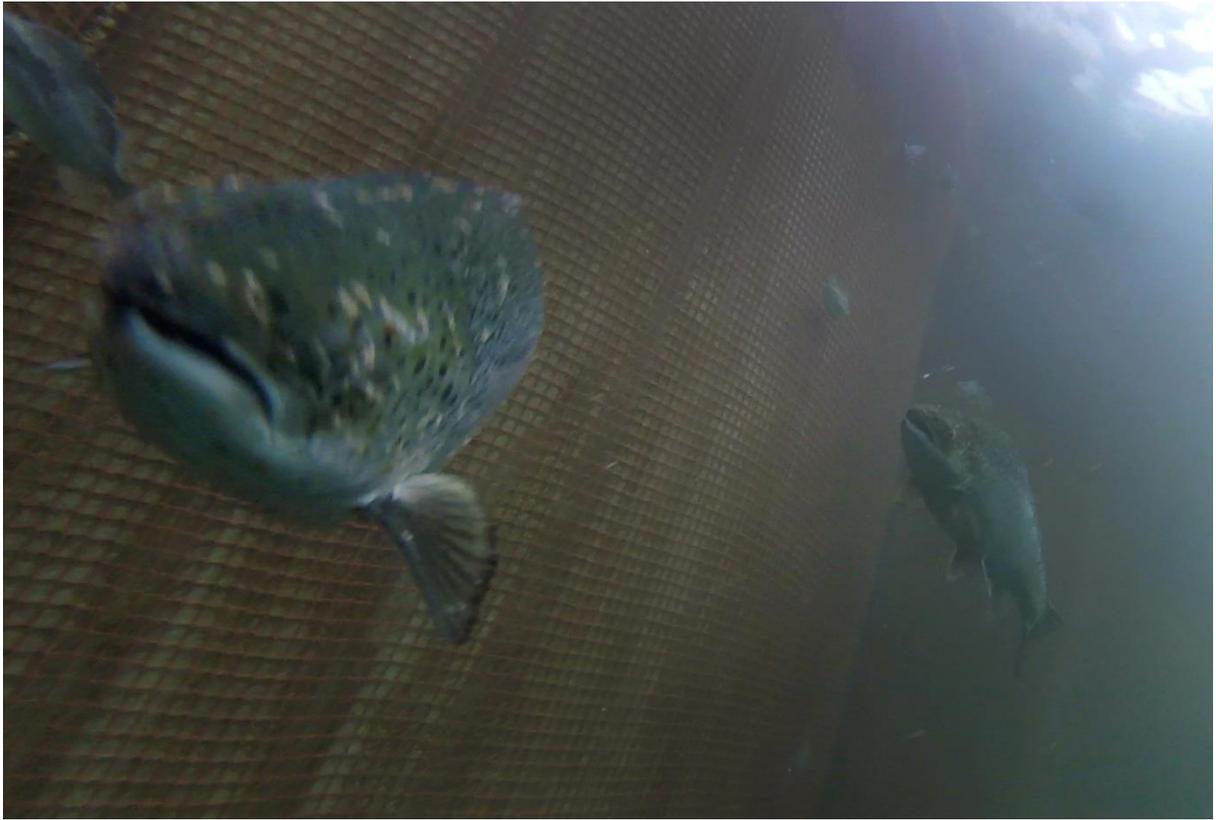


Secret [video footage](#) shot last month inside Scottish Sea Farms' salmon farm in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull lifts the lid on lice infestation inside salmon farms even fitted with 'lice skirts' (which the industry [claims are managing the lice problem](#)). The video footage not only shows farmed salmon infested with parasitic lice but also so-called 'cleaner fish' which are visibly covered in dozens if not hundreds of lice. Watch videos [online here](#) and [online here](#)





[Photos by Don Staniford](#): Lice-infested lumpsuckers inside Scottish Sea Farms' Loch Spelve salmon farm on 4 August 2018



[Photos by Don Staniford](#): Lice-infested farmed salmon inside Scottish Sea Farms' Loch Spelve salmon farm on 4 August 2018

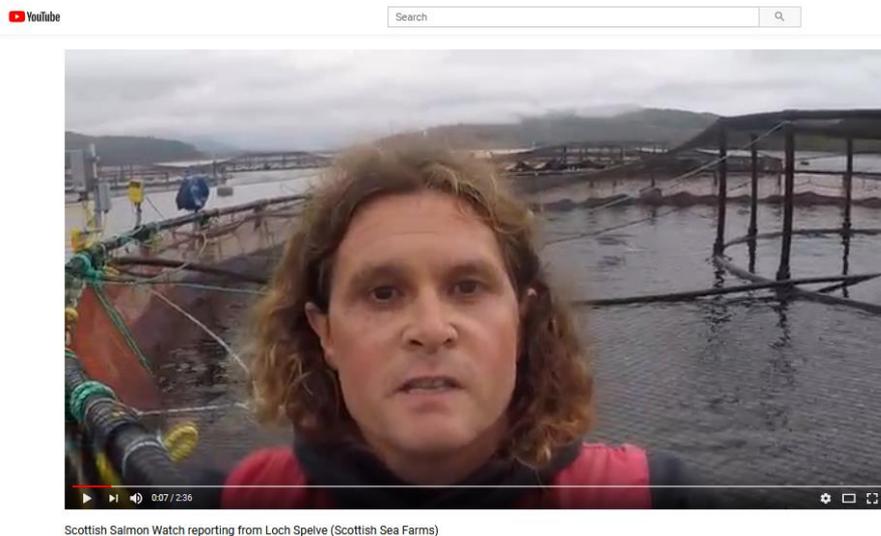
"Employing veterinary medicines, equipment like 'lice skirts' and cleaner fish are all playing a part in managing sea lice on farms," [claimed Julie Hesketh-Laird, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation on 6 September.](#)



[Photo by Don Staniford:](#) A lice skirt surrounding Scottish Sea Farms' site in Loch Spelve

"This [shocking video footage](#) blows out of the water the salmon farming industry's claims that they are tackling lice infestation," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Far from eliminating lice, skirts appear to be exacerbating parasite problems. When you take a look under Scottish salmon's skirt it's not a pretty picture. The salmon farming industry is so filthy that even 'cleaner fish' cannot clean the disease-ridden cages. The camera never lies - Scottish salmon is [clearly dirty, diseased and deformed.](#)"

Watch a video clip of Don Staniford reporting from Loch Spelve [online here](#)



Watch more via:

[Lice-Infested 'Cleaner Fish' INSIDE a Scottish salmon farm](#)
[Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms - Diseased & Deformed Farmed Salmon \(& Lice-Infested 'Cleaner Fish'\)](#)

The lice-infested farmed salmon from Scottish Sea Farms' Loch Spelve site on the Isle of Mull is being sold exclusively via Marks & Spencer's [fake Lochmuir brand](#).



In February, Scottish Sea Farms [claimed](#) that lice skirts were reducing lice levels.....

SSF rolls out lice skirts after Shetland success

Scottish Sea Farms

Permeable fabric 6m

Water and oxygen in

Sea lice kept out

Scottish Sea Farms is spending £800,000 on lice skirts after seeing good results in Shetland. Image: SSF

Read more via "[Why Scottish salmon farmers love skirts](#)"

.....Despite [scientific research presented in January](#) which reported "more lice larvae on the inside than on the outside of cages with lice skirts".

fishfarmingexpert

Search 🔍 Calendar Salmon-Jobs Login |

Community Fish Health Lice Politics & Government Production Archive Opinion

Home > Lice > 'More lice larvae inside cages with lice skirts'

'More lice larvae inside cages with lice skirts'

✉️ in 🐦 f



Anna Båtnes from NTNU. Photo: Linn Therese Skår Hosteland

Read more via [Scientific Backgrounder: "Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms: Diseases, Deformities & Wild Fish Interactions"](#) (September 2018)

Following Scottish Salmon Watch's visit on 4 August to Loch Spelve - certified [as welfare-friendly via RSPCA Assured \(formerly Freedom Food\)](#) - a complaint regarding [breach of the Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) was submitted on 6 August to Police Scotland, the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Marine Scotland. A letter from APHA dated 16 August included:

It is APHA policy not to publically disclose details of individual investigations as they progress or to confirm/deny that any particular investigation is ongoing. However I can confirm that the relevant parts of APHA and Marine Scotland are now aware of the new specific allegations about the sites you have identified. Thank you for providing this evidence. We take all reports received seriously and consider these to be an important part of our efforts to monitor and improve the welfare of farmed animals including farmed fish.

Watch a video report by Don Staniford outside the RSPCA Assured salmon farming operation in Loch Spelve [online here](#)



Stomach-churning video footage shot on 1 September 2018 [shows maggot-infested farmed salmon in a mort bin](#) at Scottish Sea Farms' site at Tanera in the Summer Isles and [reveals mort stinking out](#) The Scottish Salmon Company's site at Strondoir Bay in Loch Fyne.



Read more via:

[Press Release: "Shine the Spotlight on Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Daily Mail: "Suffering Salmon: Watchdog investigates farm over claims that more than 300,000 fish are infested with lice"](#)

[Press Release: "Secret Filming Reveals Shocking Images of Unhealthy Scottish Salmon"](#)

[REVEALED: Photos Shot Inside Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[Ferret: "Salmon firms bid to block diseased fish photos"](#)

[REVEALED: Legal Threats to Prevent Publication of Damning Photographs](#)

Scottish Salmon's Diary of Disaster:

September 2018 - The Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee is [expected to publish a report](#) as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

September 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [publishes secret filming footage](#) shot at three salmon farms showing deformities, lice-infestation of both farmed salmon and 'cleaner fish' and wild fish living inside salmon cages.

September 2018 - The Ferret [publishes scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon caught on film](#) at a salmon farm in Loch Roag prompting animal cruelty investigations.

September 2018 - Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [show graphic video evidence](#) of wild salmon "smothered with many hundreds of sea lice" near salmon farms on the Isle of Lewis.

August 2018 - A report - "[Fish Welfare on Scotland's Salmon Farms](#)" - published by OneKind exposed a number of [welfare breaches](#) including mass mortality, sea lice infestations, disease and escapes.

August 2018 - Mortality data [published by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation](#) revealed shocking levels of mortalities [due to gill health, diseases and anaemia](#) with a jaw-dropping [58% mortality rate reported at the Scottish Salmon Company's site at Inch Kenneth](#).

July 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a legal complaint](#) with Police Scotland for breaches of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Cooke Aquaculture, Grieg Seafood and Loch Duart.

June 2018 - Gruesome photos of deformed, disfigured, damaged and diseased farmed salmon were [published by The Ferret](#) following a [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government](#).

May 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed](#) that salmon farms in Scotland were fast-tracking the harvesting of fish due to infectious diseases, lice infestation and mortalities.

May 2018 - A [43,000-strong petition by SumOfUs](#) calling for the testing of salmon farming operations for infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses was [delivered to the Scottish Government](#).

March 2018 - A [dossier of data on lice, diseases and mortalities](#) was submitted to the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

March 2018 - A [damning report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#) was published by the Scottish Parliament's [Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee](#) who warned of "[irrecoverable damage](#)".

February 2018 - Data disclosed via FOI [revealed](#) mortality and disease problems at salmon farms operated by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms and The Scottish Salmon Company.

January 2018 - A [Parliamentary Reply from Fergus Ewing revealed](#) that the mortality rate on Scottish salmon farms was a staggering 26.7% with nearly 13 million dead farmed salmon.

January 2018 - The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture [filed a complaint with the European Commission](#) regarding a breach of the Animal By-Products Regulations and the failure to properly police the transport of dead farmed salmon.

December 2017 - The BBC's 'One Show' [broadcast damning footage](#) of leaking haulage trucks disposing of diseased farmed salmon on '[The Dead Salmon Run](#)'.

November 2017 - The Sunday Herald [revealed](#) that the tonnages of dead farmed salmon that had to be disposed of has more than doubled from 10,599 tonnes in 2013 to a record high of 22,479 in 2016 (the Herald [revealed](#) in March 2018 that over 25,000 tonnes died in 2017).

July 2017 - [Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland estimated](#) that 20 million farmed salmon die each year on salmon farms despite ca. 70% of the salmon farming industry being certified as RSPCA Assured.



Contact:

Don Staniford (Director of Scottish Salmon Watch): 07771 541826 (dstaniford@gaaia.org)