

Scottish Salmon Watch, 22 July 2019

['Salmonwatch' Exposes Scottish Salmon's Dirty Secrets](#)



- Secret video surveillance reveals dead & dying 'cleaner fish' at Mowi
- 42,700+ petition calls on Marine Scotland to inspect all salmon farms
 - Mowi threatens legal action to stop filming
- Police Scotland tell public to move away from Scottish Sea Farms site

Edinburgh, Scotland - In the [absence of adequate Government monitoring](#), campaigners are ramping up video surveillance of Scotland's disease-ridden salmon farms [despite legal threats from Norwegian giant Mowi \[1\]](#) and [intimidation from Police Scotland \[2\]](#).

The '[Salmonwatch](#)' campaign will deliver a [42,700+ petition organised by pressure group SumOfUs](#) later today (1pm at Marine Scotland's office at Victoria Quay in Leith) calling on the Scottish Government to "conduct immediate, unannounced on-the-spot inspections of all Scottish salmon farms to assess fish welfare".

Secret [video footage released yesterday](#) reveals dead and dying 'cleaner fish' at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' (Bagh Dail nan Ceann) salmon farm in the Sound of Jura.



Dying a Slow Death at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'



Dead in the Water - Mowi's Bad Movie from Bagh Dail n...



Dead Cleaner Fish at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'



Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' (Bagh Dail nan Ceann)

"For years, we've known that Scottish salmon cultivation is as horrific as battery farming," [said Anna Liberadzki, Campaigner at SumOfUs in a press release](#). "Recent footage of the terrible conditions on salmon farms shows that the problem is only getting worse. As long as megacorporations who own Scotland's salmon farms can get away with it, they will allow the fish to suffer, while raking in huge profits for a so-called 'sustainable' product. Marine Scotland must step in. The alternative is a summer surge of salmon deaths and disease."

"There's warning signs already and it's not even the '[painful September and October forecast by salmon farming health officials for disease problems to rear their ugly heads](#),'" said [Don Staniford, Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Scottish salmon farming is dead in the water with infectious diseases, parasites, pathogens and viruses plaguing the [99% foreign-controlled industry](#). If the Scottish Government is not going to properly monitor salmon farms or enforce welfare laws then the public needs to step in with a citizen science and surveillance program."

In May 2019, Salmon Business [reported](#):

Mowi Health Manager: "It can be a painful September and October for the salmon industry in Scotland"

News by [Stian Olsen](#) - 24 May 2019

Amoebic gill disease (AGD), has previously caused significant mortalities to the salmon industry in Scotland. Now Mowi Scotland is preparing for a tough autumn ahead.

This was confirmed by Sabina Maclean, Health Manager at Mowi Scotland when she entered the podium during day 2 of the Pathos Forum in Ålesund, Norway. The seminar is organized by the fish health and analysis company PatoGen.

"We do not have problems with AGD now, but we are waiting for it," she said, before adding:

"I am afraid that the hot winter can cause problems when it comes to ADG. It may be a painful September and October for the salmon industry in Scotland," Maclean said.

In 2018, gill infections in salmon were the second cause of mortality (biomass and number wise) in Scotland. AGD accounted for four per cent of mortality caused by gill infection.

Earlier this month, [Mowi's MD Ben Hadfield claimed](#):

"In our company it's been a great success story in terms of the use of cleaner fish and freshwater to treat sea lice."

In May 2018, Fergus Ewing [claimed at the launch of the Scottish Government's Fish Health Strategy standing alongside Mowi's MD Ben Hadfield](#) that the use of cleaner fish on salmon farms was a "terrific success story".

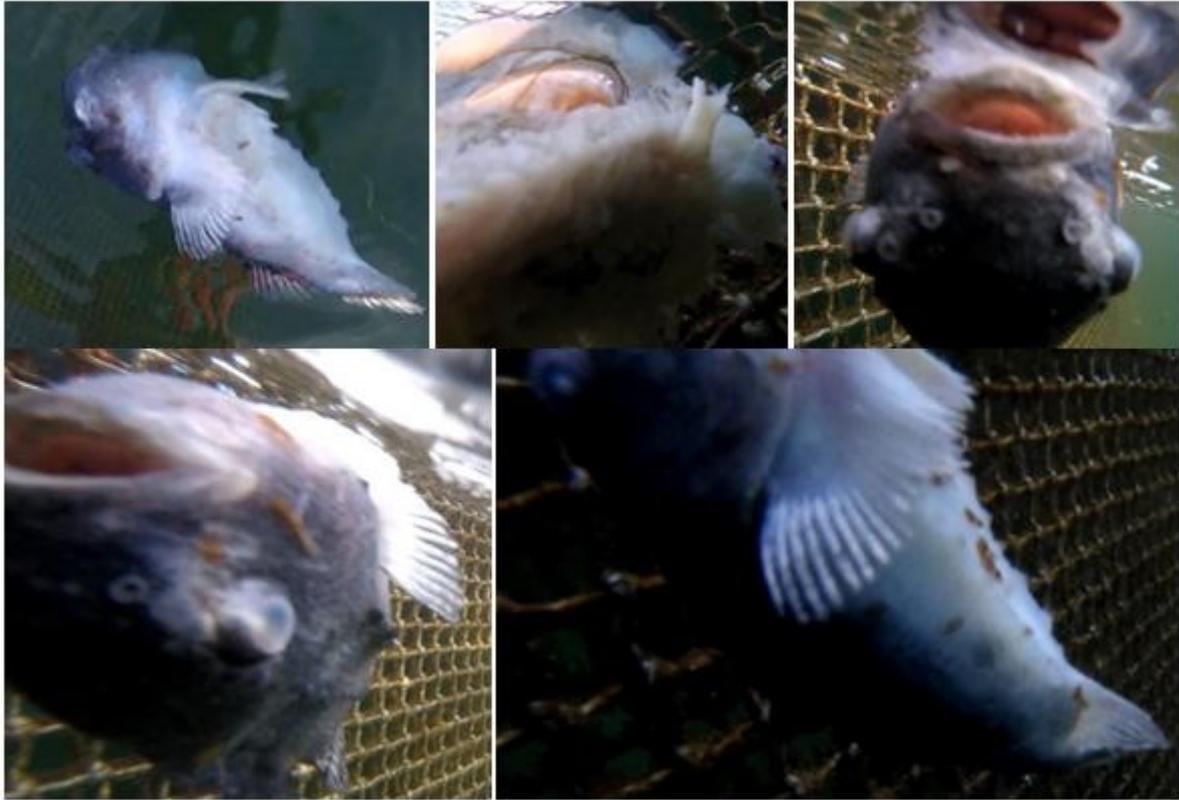


Fergus Ewing (centre) with (left) John Richmond, Marine Harvest freshwater manager and (right) Ben Hadfield, Marine Harvest Managing Director



Mowi Scotland managing director Ben Hadfield

Maybe Mowi Scotland's boss should visit his salmon farm in the Bay of the Dead Heads (Bagh Dail nan Ceann) - [located within the Argyll Coast & Islands Hope Spot](#) - and witness with his own eyes the hopeless suffering of dead and dying cleaner fish?

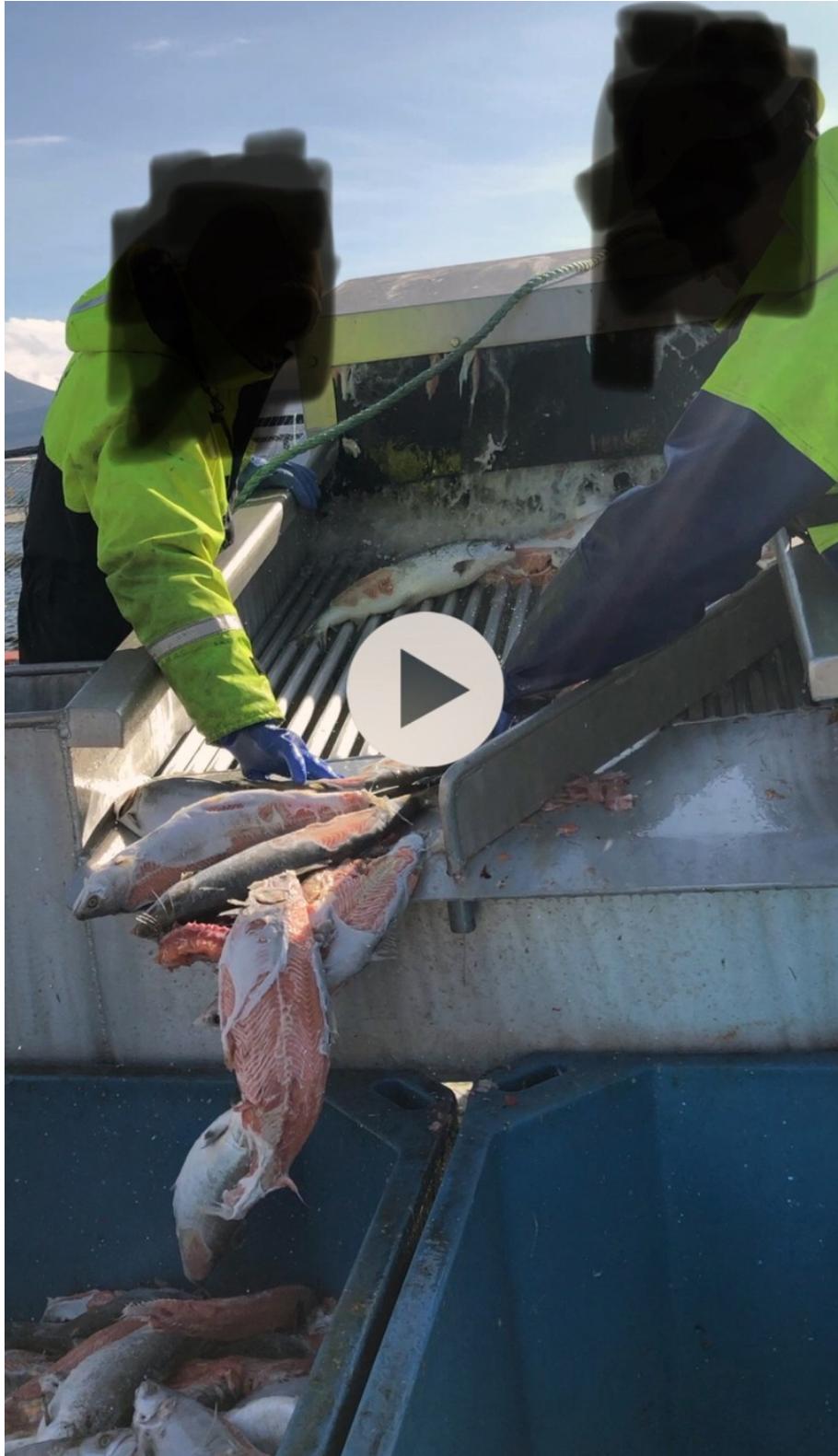


Does this look like the ['Mowi is Goodness' branding](#) or a picture of good health to you?



A [welfare report published by OneKind in August 2018](#) slammed Mowi's Bay of the Dead Heads (Bagh Dail nan Ceann) salmon farm as the [third worst in Scotland](#). Another report on cleaner fish welfare [published by OneKind in December 2018](#) exposed "numerous welfare problems including high mortality rates". Now the public can see the welfare abuse at Mowi for themselves - watch videos [online here](#)

'[Salmonwatch](#)' is asking tourists, whale-watchers, shellfish farmers, creel fishermen and anglers - anyone who is on the water near salmon farms - to be vigilant and report any problems. An [anonymous whistleblower hotline](#) has been set up for industry insiders who want to report [abuse of toxic chemicals](#), [welfare abuse](#), [pollution problems](#) or other [salmon farming horrors from Room 101](#).



[Salmonwatch](#) is organising a flotilla protest and swim around salmon farms on the West coast of Scotland over the weekend of 31 August & 1 September.



Scottish Salmon Watch will re-visit [Mowi](#) salmon farms at [Poll na Gille](#) ([rated the worst in Scotland from a welfare perspective](#)) and [Bagh Dail nan Ceann](#); a [Kames](#) salmon farm at [Rubh an Trilleachain in Shuna Sound](#) ([a site already exhibiting welfare problems](#)); [The Scottish Salmon Company](#) in [Loch Fyne](#); and [Scottish Sea Farms](#) sites at [Dunstaffnage in the Firth of Lorne](#) and [Shuna in Loch Linnhe](#). The latter [triggered a warning from Police Scotland to vacate the area](#).



Watch drone footage of farmed salmon banging into the side of the cages [online here](#)



Yesterday (21 July), Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to Police Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Crown Estate Scotland, APHA and the Scottish Government asking for a set of guidelines and protocols to be put in place.](#)



Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit: Contactus@scotland.pnn.police.uk
Animal & Plant Health Agency: APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate: ms.fishhealth@gov.scot
Scottish Environment Protection Agency: terry.ahern@sepa.org.uk
Crown Estate Scotland: Alex.Adrian@crownestatescotland.com

21 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Protocol & Guidelines for Filming Salmon Farms

Would it be possible to draft a protocol and guidelines for filming with respect to salmon farms?

During 2018 and 2019 Scottish Salmon Watch has been filming at salmon farms and we are planning further filming in the coming weeks with a 'Salmonwatch' weekend of citizen science and surveillance scheduled for 31 August & 1 September.



"Scottish Salmon Watch wants to ensure safety on the water and if we're dressed as seals then we're at real risk of being shot," continued Staniford. "We're also asking for information on which salmon farms and well boats are dousing fish with toxic chemicals so we can avoid poisoning. Samples of the salmon farm effluent and any floating fish will be taken for analysis to see what infectious diseases, pathogens, viruses and contaminants are spewing out of the open net cages."



On 2 September (when the Scottish Parliament returns after the Summer recess) Scottish Salmon Watch is planning to present Fergus Ewing ([Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy](#) and [champion of salmon farming](#)) and Roseanna Cunningham ([Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform](#)) with a pickled farmed salmon (framed in a tank of Formaldehyde styled on Damien Hirst's shark artwork '[The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living](#)') and a skip-full of diseased farmed salmon waste.



**The Shocking Death & Welfare Nightmare
of Chemically Embalmed Salmon**

Scottish Salmon Watch [submitted \(20 July\) a dossier of damning video evidence](#) to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate.



Contact:

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

Notes to Editors:

[1] On 18 July 2019, Mowi's legal representative sent the following email:

From: **McSherry, Euan** <emcsherry@acandco.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 18, 2019 at 6:16 PM
Subject: Unauthorised intrusion at Bagh Dail nan Ceann (694168)
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Mr Staniford

Unauthorised Access

This firm has repeatedly written to you on instruction of our client, Mowi Scotland Limited (**Mowi**) - formerly known as Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited - asking you to remove defamatory material which you have communicated on public forums and to cease your unauthorised incursions and activities at Mowi's fish farms and processing plants in Scotland.

This email focuses on the latter in relation to the content of two online videos published by you and accessed via the following links:

<https://vimeo.com/348700568>

<https://vimeo.com/348017172>

These videos demonstrate that, on the evening of 2nd July 2019, you attended at Mowi's Bagh Dail nan Ceann fish farm (the **Farm**) without authorisation. It is not known how you accessed the Farm but it is probable that you did so with the assistance of a fuel-powered vessel. Specifically, you are filmed (i) on the outer rim of one circular cage at the Farm, (ii) penetrating the above-surface netting of the cage with what appears to be an electronic device and (iii) inserting the said device below the water surface of the cage. Your incursion and activities occurred without obtaining the permission of Mowi or the relevant authorities. This incident has been reported to the police in line with Mowi's policy for responding to intruders. In the circumstances detailed in this email, and in order to protect fish, visitors, staff and property, Mowi requires you to desist from taking any further unauthorised access to, or having any further unauthorised interaction with, its fish farm at Bagh Dail nan Ceann in the Sound of Shuna and requests that you provide an undertaking to desist in the terms contained in the undernote to this email.

Mowi has legitimate and grave concerns about this intrusion as it contravenes their biosecurity and health and safety policies and safe ways of working. All Mowi farms (whether aquatic or terrestrial) operated throughout Scotland need to ensure the highest standards of animal health and welfare, and of staff and visitor health, safety and wellbeing. All visitors need to comply with site specific protocols in order to protect fish, visitors, staff and property. As well as the risk to fish health and welfare, Mowi has duties to its staff, its regulators, the Crown Estate and the public to ensure that it prevents your potentially hazardous interference with Mowi's sites. For those reasons, it will be forced to take further action unless you co-operate with its requests and desist from further unauthorised access at any of its sites. Further unauthorised activities and incursions will be reported to Police Scotland. Mowi reserves the right to take civil proceedings against you should you continue to pursue unauthorised activities on, over or at our client's fish farms and processing plants across Scotland.

If you refuse or delay to confirm your undertaking in these terms Mowi will be left with no choice but to take steps to protect the Farm, and its rights in relation thereto, through the courts. No further warning will be given. We trust that will not be necessary and look forward to receiving the requested undertaking from you no later than 5pm on Monday, 22nd July.

Regards,

Euan McSherry

Partner | Aberdeen Considine

Undernote:

I, Don Staniford, hereby undertake to Mowi Scotland Limited (the **Company**), that neither I, nor any person instructed on my behalf, will access or interfere with the Company's fish farm at Bagh Dail nan Ceann in the Sound of Shuna, and for the avoidance of doubt neither I nor any person instructed on my behalf, will take, or cause to be taken on to the Company's fish farm at Bagh Dail nan Ceann in the Sound of Shuna, any equipment, vehicles, vessels, goods, gear or other apparatus without the express written consent of the Company.

I replied later on 18 July 2019:

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 18, 2019 at 8:19 PM
Subject: Re: Unauthorised intrusion at Bagh Dail nan Ceann (694168)
To: McSherry, Euan <emcsherry@acandco.com>

I acknowledge receipt of your email.

For the record, I used a rowing boat to access the site. Nobody was on the site and there was no intimidation or intrusion with respect to Mowi's "safe ways of working".

When you refer to obtaining permission from "the relevant authorities" who do you mean exactly?

I took appropriate safety precautions and followed appropriate biosecurity and disinfection protocols as advised by the Scottish Government. Details online via: [Biosecurity Precautions for Filming Salmon Farms](#)

I observed leaping salmon and suspected that Mowi was in breach of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) - specifically in relation to "[Unnecessary Suffering](#)", "[Cruel Operations](#)" and "[Ensuring Welfare of Animals](#)". I honestly believe I had good reason, justification and probable cause to suspect potential welfare abuse similar to the [gruesome photographic evidence obtained from the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate in 2018](#).

I also believe that this issue represents a public interest issue - especially since Mowi operates in public waters. Hence the video and photographic evidence will be made available.

You will see for yourself the video and photographic evidence (taken with a Go Pro camera safely inserted into the salmon farm via the open nets) in the report submitted to Marine Scotland, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit.

The video and photographic evidence certainly contradicts the claim in your email that Mowi ensures "the highest standards of animal health and welfare".

I note your demand to sign the stated undertaking by 5pm on Monday 22 July and will reply in due course.

Thanks,

Don

With a further reply on 21 July 2019:

From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Jul 21, 2019 at 7:35 PM

Subject: Breach of Animal Health & Welfare Act at Bagh Dail nan Ceann (Bay of the Dead Heads)

To: McSherry, Euan <emcsherry@acandco.com>

Euan,

Further to my initial response of 18 July, the video footage and photos I referred to are now online via:

[Shocking Video Footage from Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' \(Bagh Dail nan Ceann\)](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch's letter to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit, APHA and Marine Scotland dated 20 July is online via <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/letter-re.-bdnc-breach-of-animal-health-welfare-act-2006-20-july-2019.pdf>

Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit: Contactus@scotland.pnn.police.uk
Animal & Plant Health Agency: APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate: ms.fishhealth@gov.scot

20 July 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Unnecessary Suffering & Cruel Operations
at Mowi's at Bagh Dail nan Ceann salmon farm (Sound of Jura)**

Further to [Scottish Salmon Watch's](#) email of 18 July (re-enclosed at the end of this letter and [online here](#)), video footage of dead and dying cleaner fish at Mowi's [Bagh Dail nan Ceann](#) (Bay of the Dead Heads) - a salmon farm located within the [Argyll Coast & Islands Hope Spot](#) in the Sound of Jura - is [now available online](#).



Dying a Slow Death at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'
Don Stanford



Dead in the Water - Mowi's Bad Movie from Bagh Dail n...
Don Stanford



Dead Cleaner Fish at Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads'
Don Stanford



Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' (Bagh Dail nan Ceann)
Don Stanford

There is more context to our filming via:

[Photos of Secret Filming at Scottish & Irish Salmon Farms](#)

To confirm that I will not be removing the material you specified and I will not be signing the Undernote you drafted by 5pm tomorrow or at any time in the future for that matter.

I look forward, if that is how Mowi intends to proceed, to debating the issue of disease-ridden & toxic salmon farming in open court. As I [re-state at the end of my blog](#) I honestly believe that Mowi (formerly Marine Harvest) is a [morally bankrupt and environmentally repugnant](#) company.

If Mowi would like to meet prior to my visit to their salmon farms on 31 August/1 September to discuss any safety, biosecurity and legal concerns I would be happy to do so. I will forward you a letter to Police Scotland, SEPA and Marine Scotland outlining a suggest protocol and guidelines for filming salmon farms.

Thanks,

Don

This exchange is posted online via [Shocking Video Footage from Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' \(Bagh Dail nan Ceann\)](#)

[2] When Scottish Salmon Watch filmed at a salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Shuna in Loch Linnhe in July 2019 they were [paid a visit by Police Scotland](#). The sergeant from Appin police station [claimed that Scottish Salmon Watch needed permission from the Norwegian-owned salmon farming company to be in the water near a salmon farm](#).



Police Scotland [told Scottish Salmon Watch to leave](#) even though the area they were filming in was public and navigable waters. Scottish Salmon Watch believe that they had every right to navigate and film in a public area - and that Scottish Sea Farms does not have exclusive jurisdiction of the area.



The sergeant, when pressed on what laws or regulations were being broken, claimed that Police Scotland had received a call suggesting a theft was taking place. Yet when Police Scotland first approached Scottish Salmon Watch they did not ask to search the boat or even question whether a theft was taking place. It appeared that Police Scotland's motive was primarily to force Scottish Salmon Watch from the public waterway, intimidate and stipulate that permission was needed from a Norwegian-owned private company to enjoy a public waterway in Scotland.

Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to Police Scotland](#) on 15 July 2019:



Subject:

Police Scotland Acting as Private Security Enforcement for Scottish Sea Farms?

Brief details of query: *

You may be interested in a video report of an incident involving Police Scotland on 3 July 2019:

I understand the leading police officer involved was Sergeant Johnston from Appin (the other police officer remained silent and did not identify himself).

Scottish Salmon Watch is concerned that Police Scotland acted outwith their powers and gave false information - specifically in relation to permission from Scottish Sea Farms being required to be located within a public waterway.

Scottish Salmon Watch understands that the area is a navigable waterway afforded legal protection to members of the public - and not the exclusive private jurisdiction of a Norwegian-owned salmon farming company which we understand has a lease area rented from the Crown Estate (i.e. the Queen) and/or the local authority.

If Scottish Salmon Watch is incorrect in our assertion that we had every right to be in the navigable waterway - and even anchor if we had chosen to do so - could you please point us to the relevant regulation or law?

You can watch the video online via <https://vimeo.com/348103463>

I've also just Tweeted this tagging Police Scotland and former police officer John Finnie MSP <https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1150698707760889857>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Don Staniford

Don Staniford [Tweeted](#) (15 July):



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



Police Scotland Acting as Private Security for Scottish Sea Farms? vimeo.com/348103463
[@policescotland](#) [@scotseafarms](#) Instead of telling the public to stay out of public waterways, why doesn't the Police investigate salmon farms for breaches of welfare laws?
[@JohnFinnieHI](#)



Police Scotland Acting as Private Security Enforcement f...

When Scottish Salmon Watch filmed at a salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in the Sound of Shuna in Loch Linnhe in July 2019 they were paid a visit by Police...

vimeo.com

10:28 AM - 15 Jul 2019

Howard Wood ([Goldman Environmental prize winner in 2015](#)) [Tweeted in reply](#) (15 July):



Howard Wood

@howardlwood

Following



This is a very serious issue of [@policescotland](#) attempting to deny the public right to navigate freely. This is [#Scotland](#) moving towards [#Trump](#) politics. [@HumzaYousaf](#) [@ScotGovFM](#) [@marinescotland](#) [@strathearnrose](#) [@markruskell](#)

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Police Scotland Acting as Private Security for Scottish Sea Farms? [vimeo.com/348103463](#) [@policescotland](#) [@scotseafarms](#) Instead of telling the public to stay out of public waterways, why doesn't the Police investigate salmon farms for breaches of welfare laws? [@JohnFinnieHI](#)

11:00 AM - 15 Jul 2019

Don Staniford [Tweeted](#) (15 July):



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



[@HumzaYousaf](#) Is it Scottish Government policy for Police Scotland officers to be acting as private security for Norwegian-owned companies? Surely ushering the general public away from public waters is not the job of [@policescotland](#)? [vimeo.com/348103463](#)

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Police Scotland Acting as Private Security for Scottish Sea Farms? [vimeo.com/348103463](#) [@policescotland](#) [@scotseafarms](#) Instead of telling the public to stay out of public waterways, why doesn't the Police investigate salmon farms for breaches of welfare laws? [@JohnFinnieHI](#)

11:49 AM - 15 Jul 2019

Howard Wood [posted on Facebook](#) (15 July):



Howard Wood There is a much bigger issue here. It is not only Don who has been told not to approach or go near salmon feedlots. COAST were emailed by the Scottish Salmon Company a couple of years ago and told to keep away. When we replied as to what law allowed them to instruct us to keep out of the area of the feedlot they went quiet, but once again SSC reported it to the local police who came along to Lamlash pier to question us. My understanding of the law in Scotland is as long as you don't damage any feedlot gear. you have every right to be in the sea as the master of a boat, swimmer or diver. The bigger issue is the police allowing themselves to be involved when feedlot companies phone up but not being interested when environmental laws & regulations are broken. The more we can politicize this the better the chance of a fairer application of the law.

Like · Reply · 1h



Russ Cheshire [Tweeted](#) (15 July):



Russ Cheshire

@RussCheshire

Following



The toxic [#salmon](#) industry pays [@CrownEstateScot](#) mooring dues for its sites; it does not have the right to impede safe navigation in open waters.

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Police Scotland Acting as Private Security for Scottish Sea Farms? vimeo.com/348103463 @policescotland @scotseafarms Instead of telling the public to stay out of public waterways, why doesn't the Police investigate salmon farms for breaches of welfare laws? @JohnFinnieHI

9:19 PM - 15 Jul 2019

Ewan Kennedy [Tweeted](#) (16 July):

Dear Sirs

I am writing to request certain information under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act and/or the Environmental Information Regulations.

I would draw your attention to an exchange that took place near Appin earlier this month, which was filmed and can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/348103463>

The clip shows a vessel named the Island Trader, with a Sergeant Johnston and an unnamed Police Constable aboard approaching Mr Don Staniford, who is aboard a private yacht near Appin. You will see that Mr Staniford answers all questions put to him accurately and respectfully tries to find out what he is being accused of. I do not know the ownership of the Island Trader and whether or not she had been chartered by Police Scotland.

After stating that the spot "is not suitable for anchorage" (the yacht wasn't anchored) and that the location was in some way unsafe Sergeant Johnston states that Mr Staniford should have obtained permission from Scottish Sea Farms Limited. Towards the end of the exchange Sergeant Johnston seems to accuse Mr Staniford of theft, but he does not make an arrest, nor does he make any attempt to check whether or not Mr Staniford has stolen anything. Sergeant Johnston does not disclose if he is acting on his own initiative or in response to a complaint, perhaps from Scottish Sea Farms Limited. The statement "I don't need a regulation" is very disturbing and would be more appropriate in a police state.

I have an interest in this matter, because Mr Staniford is a friend of mine, whom I have known for many years. He is well known internationally as a campaigner against industrial fish farms, currently campaigning under <https://scottishsalmonwatch.org/>. I regard him as a person of total integrity.

Some time ago Mr Staniford approached me for advice, on the basis of my experience as a former solicitor and legal academic, regarding his rights to navigate on the open sea in the vicinity of fish farms. I drew his attention to the excellent discussion paper produced by the Scottish Law Commission, accessible here: https://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/files/9412/7892/7069/dp113_foreshore.pdf

The section on the public rights to navigate is brief and can be quoted in full:

"Navigation 4.11

The public has a right of navigation on the sea and public (tidal) lochs and rivers.

135 The right is basically one of passage from A to B.

136 It does not give the public the right to sail over "every square inch" of the surface of the sea.

137 Thus, for example, the seabed can be used for fish farming provided it does not amount to a material interference with the right of passage: the fact that this use of the seabed is a nuisance or inconvenience is not enough to constitute material interference.

138 The public right of navigation will prevail over a use of the sea or solum that is a hazard or danger to vessels."

I advised Mr Staniford that he was entirely within his rights to navigate close to fish farms, but that if he entered upon an actual structure or created a nuisance he could be liable to consequences under civil law but not criminal law. In the filmed interview there is no suggestion that he had done either of those things, even if it were the responsibility of Police Scotland to seek to enforce private rights.

Mr Staniford is only one of a number of very concerned individuals who are currently exercising their rights to navigate in order to pick up evidence about what is going on in the waters of the Scottish West coast. Recent examples have included footage of severely distressed and diseased salmon on several farms, taken by a campaigner who swam to the sites and video shot at night from a private vessel showing illegal dredging in a protected area. These clips have been shown on national television and have helped to inform the public of what is being done to the seabed, which the Crown is legally charged with holding in trust for all of us. Animal cruelty charities have picked up on them and there are currently accusations of cruelty and neglect with Police Scotland for investigation.

It goes without saying that if Marine Scotland and SEPA made inspections themselves, or took action when called upon to do so (as they refused to do with the dredging incident, apparently because it was night time) members of the public would not be motivated to gather evidence and sometimes risk their lives doing so.

You will understand that I find the possibility that Police Scotland may have now taken on the role of private watchmen for aquaculture very disturbing. It suggests that instead of investigating cases of cruelty you are conspiring to prevent the evidence coming to light.

My questions are as follows:

- 1 Is the Island Trader an asset of Police Scotland? If not from whom had she been chartered? What was the total cost including police time and charter fees?
- 2 Does Police Scotland agree with the above statement of the law in relation to the public right to navigate. If not please explain.
- 3 Is it normal Police Scotland procedure when interviewing a member of the public not to state why he is being questioned but to state simply "I don't need a regulation" ?
- 4 Has Police Scotland undertaken to work privately as a security guard for Scottish Sea Farms Limited? If not what was the purpose of Sergeant Johnston's trip?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ewan Graham Kennedy

Online via [Police Scotland Acting as Private Security Enforcement for Norwegian-Owned Scottish Sea Farms?](#)