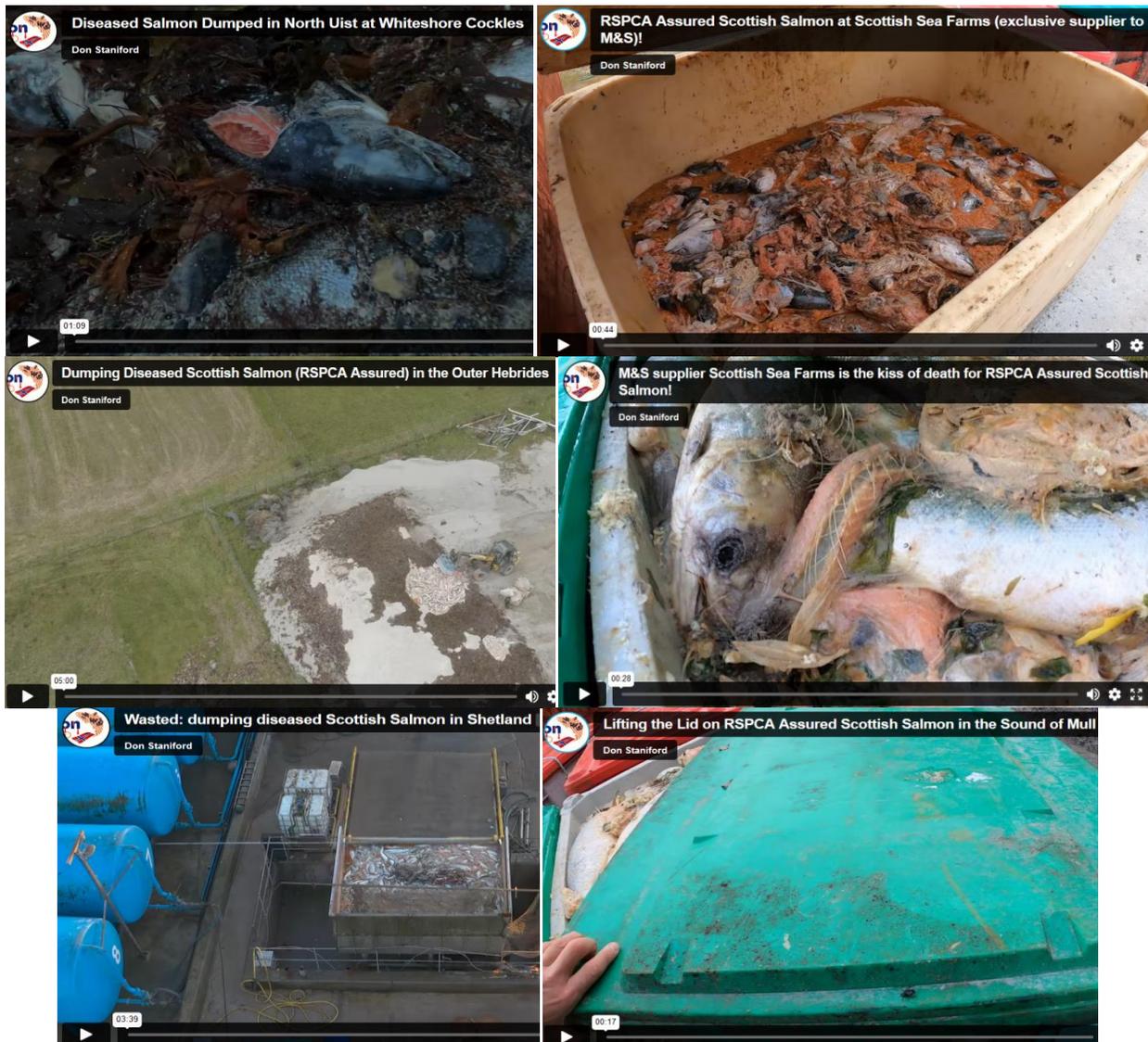


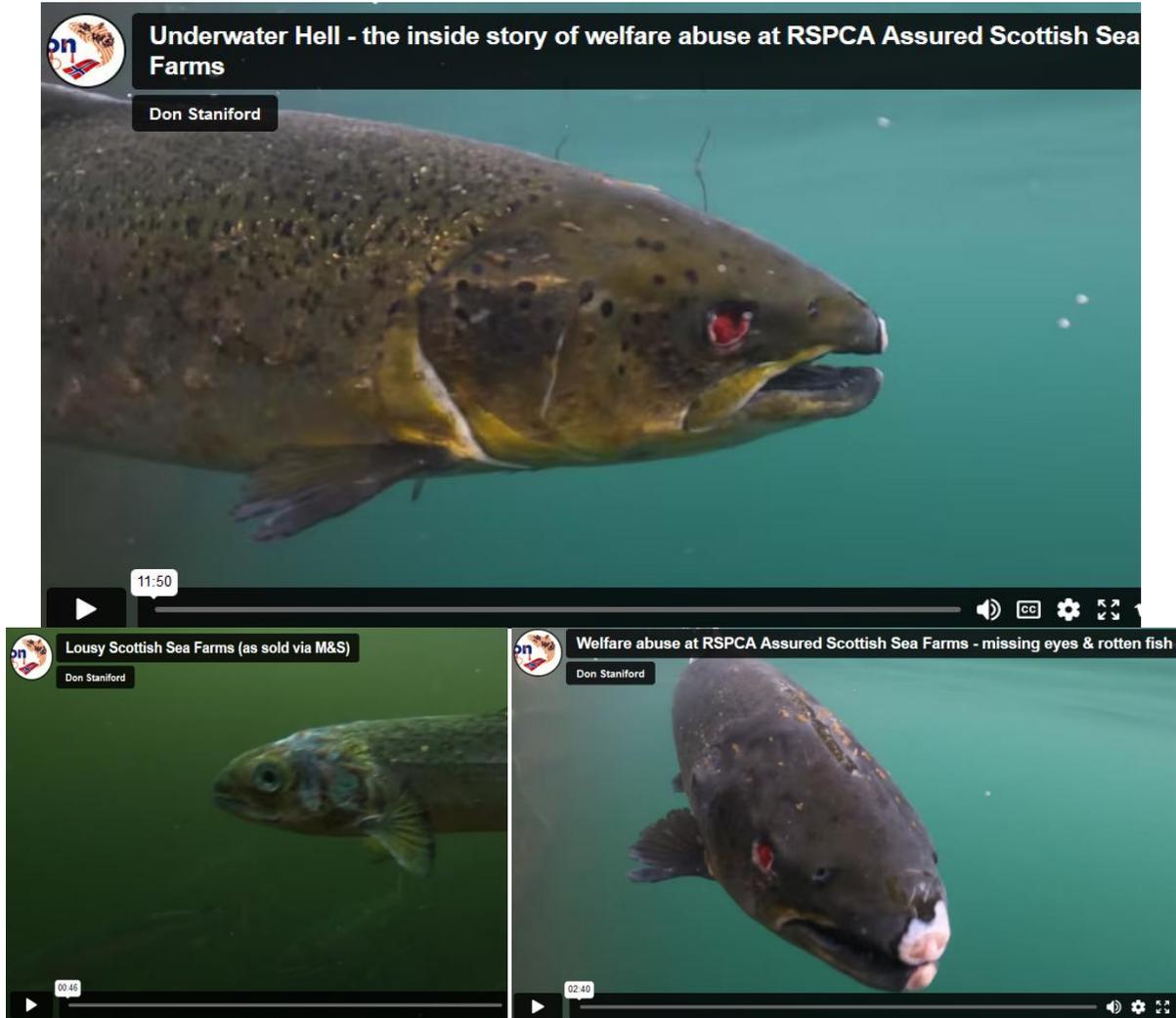
[FishyLeaks](#), 3 February 2023

- **Leaked Videos Expose Welfare Nightmare of RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon**
- **Mowi, Bakkafrøst (The Scottish Salmon Company), Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood & Cooke Aquaculture (all certified via RSPCA Assured) are named & shamed**
- **Legal threats by Salmafia ‘killed’ media coverage in March 2021**
- **CIWF lambasted for close relationship to salmon farming companies & the RSPCA**

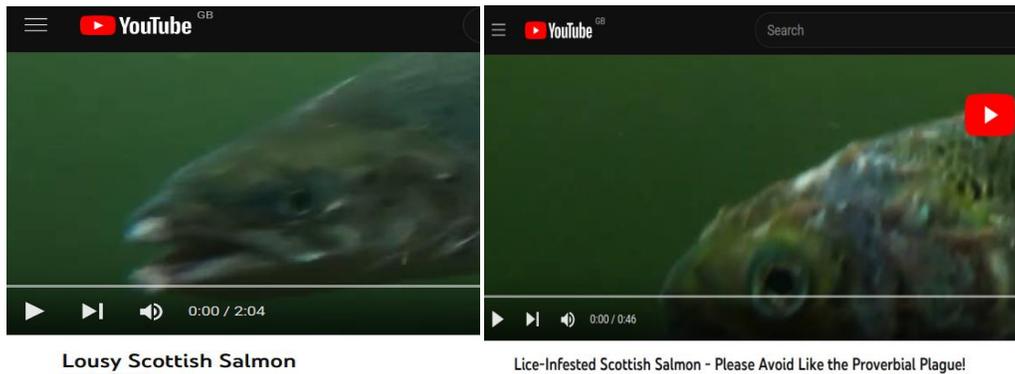
A public library of X-rated videos exposing welfare abuse inside RSPCA Assured salmon farms and disease-ridden mortars dumped across Scotland is now [online via FishyLeaks](#) after a two-year embargo blocking publication expired [1]. Sites operated by Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms (Norskott Havbruk), Bakkafrøst (The Scottish Salmon Company), Grieg Seafood and Cooke Aquaculture – [companies certified as ‘welfare friendly’ via RSPCA Assured](#) - are outed publicly for the first time (when Compassion in World Farming [published a summary of video footage in March 2021](#) they failed to name and shame the RSPCA or identify specific salmon farms).



The [leaked CIWF videos](#) feature footage shot secretly inside Scallastle Bay salmon farm operated by RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms ([exclusive supplier to M&S](#)) in October 2020:

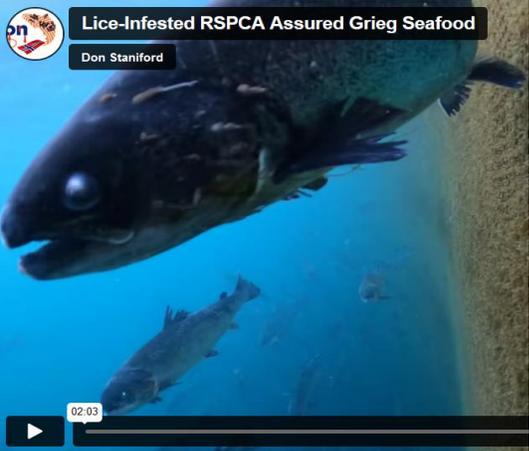


RSPCA Assured Bakkafrost (then [known as The Scottish Salmon Company – they changed their name in June 2022](#)) features in CIWF’s video footage shot secretly inside Quarry Point salmon farm in Loch Fyne, Argyll, in September 2020:

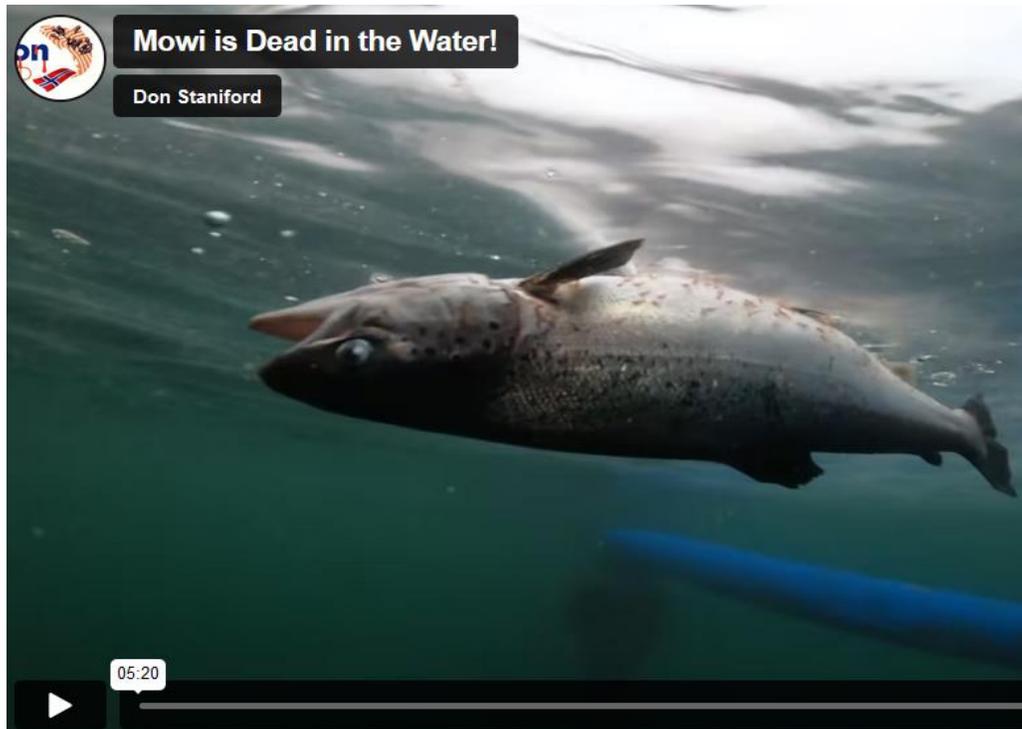




RSPCA Assured Grieg Seafood ([bought out by Scottish Sea Farms in December 2021](#) and then [partially sold to Loch Duart in December 2022](#)) features in CIWF's video footage shot secretly inside Gob na Hoe salmon farm in Loch Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye in October 2020 (Grieg Seafood [shut down their Skye salmon farms in late 2020 due to mass mortalities](#)):



Norwegian giant Mowi (owned by [‘Viking Raider’ John Fredriksen](#) – ranked 158th on the [Forbes Billionaires List with a fortune of \\$11.5 billion](#) and ranked 18th on [The Sunday Times Rich List 2022 with a fortune of £8.3 billion](#)) features in CIWF’s video footage shot secretly inside their RSPCA Assured salmon farm at Port na Cro in Shuna Sound near Oban in October 2020 ([the Aquaculture Stewardship Council audited Port na Cro salmon farm last month](#)):



And dead farmed salmon floating on the surface of Mowi’s RSPCA Assured Loch Hourn salmon farm were captured via drone video footage shot by CIWF investigators in October 2020:



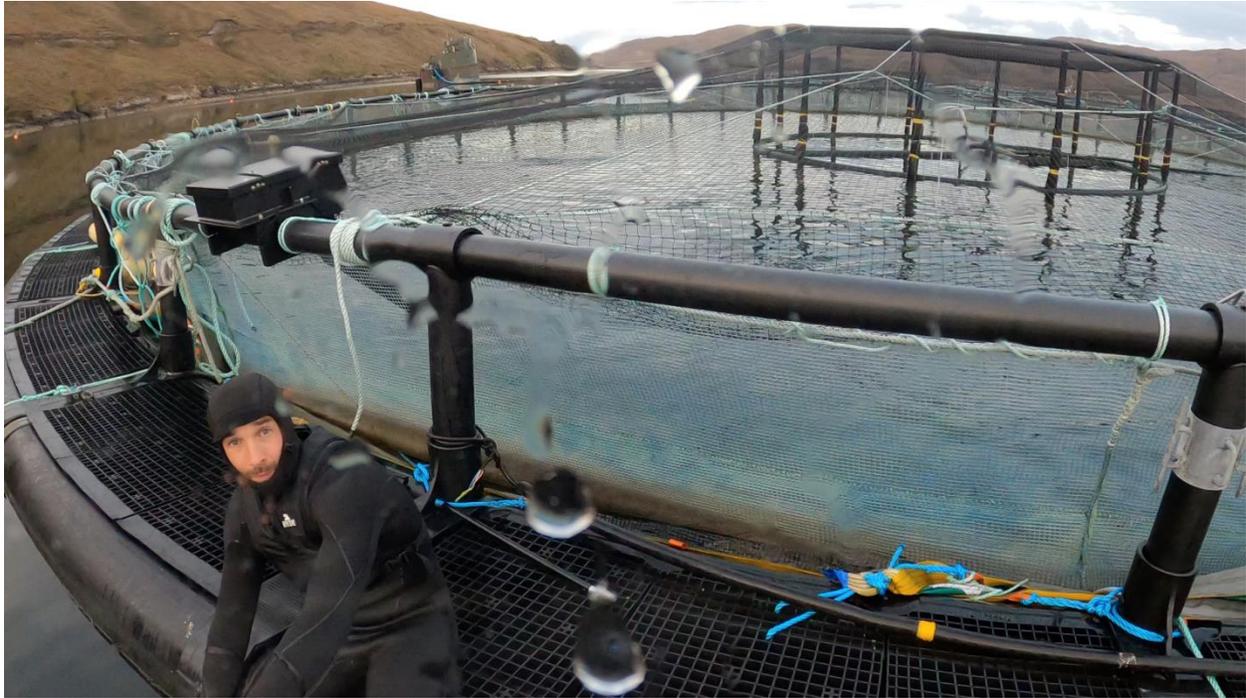
RSPCA Assured Cooke Aquaculture (a company with salmon farms [certified as 'organic' by the Soil Association](#)) features in CIWF's video footage shot secretly inside Ness of Copister salmon farm in Shetland in November 2020:



The [leaked CIWF video footage](#) includes gruesome images of dead farmed salmon – [certified as 'responsibly sourced' via RSPCA Assured](#) – dumped at [Whiteshore Cocks in North Uist in October 2020](#) and at TWMA in Shetland in November 2020:



A leaked CIWF Google Drive [1] includes [video footage](#) and a [photo](#) of a diver filming at Mowi's Cairidh salmon farm in Loch Ainort on the Isle of Skye in October 2020 (a [site exposed earlier in 2020 as the source of disease-ridden and RSPCA Assured salmon spilled onto the A86 in September 2019](#)).



The leak comes in the wake of [shocking video footage released before Xmas from Dale Vince at Ecotricity via The Daily Express](#) (undercover investigators filmed at RSPCA Assured salmon farms across Scotland during 2022 with [supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Waitrose, Lidl, Aldi, Iceland, Morrisons and M&S named and shamed](#)):



Last month (16 January 2022), [Animal Equality published video footage](#) of dead farmed salmon – understood to be [farmed by RSPCA Assured Bakkafrost at disease-ridden Meall Mhor salmon farm in Loch Fyne](#) – being lifted up via a ‘mort sock’ and crane in October 2022:



A damning report – [“Scottish salmon farms facing boycott call as fish deaths double”](#) – published in The Observer (15 January 2023) detailing 15 million dead salmon on fish farms in 2022 was followed up by [The Scotsman](#), [The Times](#) and [Daily Record](#) (although the real figure is much higher since the \$almafia has refused to disclose mortality numbers since 2012 – [arguing that disclosure would be commercially damaging](#)).

In 2020, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) hired investigators to co-ordinate filming inside salmon farms operated by Mowi, The Scottish Salmon Company (Bakkafrost Scotland), Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood and Cooke Aquaculture (companies all certified via RSPCA Assured) and [published a short 3-minute summary of the video footage in March 2021](#) [2]. The CIWF video footage was [featured in the UK media by The Ferret](#) and [The Scotsman](#) and [with press coverage in Italy, France, Poland and other countries](#) such as [New Zealand](#) and [Australia](#).



Despite repeated requests CIWF has refused to publish further video footage from their extensive three-month long investigation with hours of unpublished filming and dozens of photos left to rot. “We made some strategic decisions regarding the way we publish and talk about our investigation footage and therefore don’t plan to release the footage in relation to this article at this moment,” explained [Dr Krzysztof Wojtas, CIWF’s Head of Fish Policy](#) in May 2021. “It’s a matter of a wider approach and strategy (taking to account both public-facing as well as lobbying and policy work) that we are taking with our final objective in mind” [3].



When [CIWF talked publicly in April 2021](#) about their undercover investigation they did so generically (failing to identify particular sites or publicly shame RSPCA Assured) and campaigned for a moratorium on salmon farming with the Scottish Government rather than

targeting companies or the RSPCA (CIWF only published one summary video [not videos as suggested](#)):

YouTube GB Search

Investigators found examples of:

- Parasite (sea lice) infestations
- Missing chunks of flesh
- Abrasions
- Missing eyes
- Deformities
- Fin erosion
- Poor water quality
- Dead fish



YouTube GB Search

Investigators found examples of:

- Parasite (sea lice) infestations
- Missing chunks of flesh
- Missing eyes
- Abrasions
- Deformities
- Fin erosion
- Poor water quality
- Dead fish

For videos go to:
ciwf.org.uk/scottishsalmon



YouTube GB Search

Our salmon campaign

- Moratorium – halt to any expansion
- Collecting signatures on an open letter
- Aimed at the Scottish Government
- Launched in 30 different countries



SIGN OUR OPEN LETTER

103,276 signatures Let's get to 120,000!

Please sign our **open letter** to the Scottish Government.

Demand a moratorium to stop the reckless expansion of Scottish salmon farming.

First Name *

SIGN NOW

UNDERWATER CAGES, PARASITES AND DEAD FISH:



Why a Moratorium on Scottish Salmon Farming Expansion is Imperative

OneKind COMPASSION in world farming

ciwf.org.uk/scottishsalmon

In July 2021, CIWF demanded Scottish Salmon Watch sign a '[licensing agreement](#)' before they released [video footage of RSPCA Assured mass mortalities dumped illegally at Whiteshore Cockles](#). CIWF's gagging order (which Scottish Salmon Watch refused to sign) included: "Agree to not use the footage to target retailers, food businesses, salmon producers, farmers or the RSPCA" [3].

All the photos in this press release are sourced from the [CIWF investigation in 2020](#) – high res images are available upon request via Don Staniford on salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com and a photo gallery showcasing RSPCA Assured Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, Bakkafrost (The Scottish Salmon Company), Cooke Aquaculture and Grieg Seafood as well as the mort disposal sites operated by Whiteshore Cockles and TWMA has been uploaded via '[Scamon Scotland](#)'.











Industry intimidation - such as a [legal complaint made to The Times newspaper in May 2021](#) following publication of an article showcasing [video footage shot by Scottish Salmon Watch at Whiteshore Cockles salmon dump in North Uist](#) [4] and a legal threat made to a ‘Scottish non-broadcast media outlet’ which ‘killed’ an exclusive in March 2021 [5] - as well as an institutional drive to appease the funder of CIWF’s ‘Rethink Fish’ campaign (Open Philanthropy) via a policy of industry ‘engagement’ and ‘cooperation’ are believed to be behind CIWF’s reluctance to publish video footage and photos identifying specific RSPCA Assured salmon farms [6].

“Shame on CIWF for cravenly kowtowing to the \$almafia’s lawyers and burying damning video evidence which exposes the welfare nightmare of [RSPCA Assured](#) Scottish salmon,” said Don Staniford, [Director of \\$camon \\$cotland](#) (formerly Scottish Salmon Watch). “Instead of presenting Scotland’s biggest salmon farming company (Mowi) with a welfare award and focusing on the humane slaughter of farmed salmon, CIWF should be shining a light on lice infestation and unnecessary suffering inside sea cage salmon farms and freshwater hatcheries across Scotland. Millions of Atlantic salmon are killed inside sea cages – [2.8 million deaths were reported by Salmon Scotland in September 2022](#) alone with [15 million reported officially by the Scottish Government during 2022](#) – with one in four sea cage farmed salmon not even making it to slaughter. CIWF is turning a blind eye to endemic welfare abuse on RSPCA Assured salmon farms across Scotland.”



“The public should know that BINGOs (Big Industrial NGOs) like CIWF are more interested in building close business relationships with salmon farming multinationals – and leaping into bed with the enemy - rather than removing this ethically bankrupt industry cage by cage,” continued Staniford who has [covertly filmed inside salmon farms since 2018](#) and is [currently being sued by Norwegian giant Mowi for secret filming](#). “When [CIWF campaigns for an ‘End to the Cage Age’](#) it specifically includes pigs, hens, rabbits, ducks and quail yet fails to even mention salmon. Calling only for a moratorium on Scottish salmon farming – which legitimises [over 200,000 tonnes of farmed salmon production via over 200 marine salmon farms and 74](#)

[freshwater sites](#) - is the kiss of death for [tens of millions of RSPCA Assured salmon dying inside freshwater hatcheries and feedlots](#). The only way to end cruelty and torture inside salmon farms is to close down every cage in Scotland – including ‘responsibly sourced’ Scottish salmon green-washed by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, Soil Association and RSPCA. Salmon cages have spread around the Highlands and Islands of Scotland like a malignant cancer and must all be ripped out now to safeguard the health of both wild and RSPCA Assured farmed fish as well as a healthy tourist economy. CIWF and RSPCA Assured should know full well that there is no right way to do the wrong thing.”



In March 2021, [CIWF's Global Director of Campaigns](#) refused to comment on the suggestion that legal threats from the salmon farming industry were behind their decision not to publish further video footage. "Any conversations that Compassion has had with the industry remain confidential, and I'm sure you appreciate why," wrote [Sean Gifford \(now Managing Director of the Humane League\)](#) in an email to Scottish Salmon Watch. "I'd rather not talk about the specifics on our team's efforts to secure a media story in the UK and push back from industry, as the situation is still unfolding and we don't want the details in the public realm because doing so could undermine our work," wrote CIWF's Global Director of Campaigns ([Sean Gifford](#)) in another email. "I'm simply not giving you any comment to these specific questions, so please instead say that Compassion had 'no comment'." [7]



In June 2022, Norwegian salmon farming giant Mowi ([the largest salmon farming company in Scotland and the largest in the world by far](#)) was [presented with a welfare award by CIWF](#) [8] prompting criticism from campaigners. "CIWF have now been completely cornered into doing a job for MOWI comms teams while at the same time providing a veneer of ostensible independent credibility," wrote [Corin Smith](#) of [Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots](#) in an email to CIWF in August 2022. "CWIF have been outthought, outmanoeuvred and are now out of credibility on salmon farming, certainly in Scotland and it would appear internationally too. Just another captured greenwashing NGO à la RSPCA Assured. I hope the cash was worth it." [9]



CIWF has refused to provide an answer to the question of funding by Mowi [10].

CIWF's Global Campaigns Manager on Fish Welfare ([Sophie Peutrill](#), who [left CIWF in late March 2021](#)) explained to Scottish Salmon Watch in early March 2021 (a few weeks prior to the launch of the video footage summary): “We are requesting the completion of an MOU – this is as we are naming the producers, so to try to protect ourselves from legal challenges have needed to be particularly careful for the wording of the investigation and corresponding materials. So, the MOU mostly refers to the use of the materials and the core messaging for the investigation – aiming all ‘attacks’ at the Scottish government (rather than the named producers) and demanding a moratorium for the growth of the industry.” [11]



“It was a difficult but necessary decision to focus the pressure from this investigation around the government rather than producers for this launch,” explained CIWF's Global Campaigns Manager on Fish Welfare ([Sophie Peutrill](#)) in an email dated 8 March 2021. “At Compassion, we often don't mention the names of farms/producers in our investigation, and are only doing so to make it clear that this investigation covers +96% of the industry (and it is not a few ‘bad eggs’). Also, we build relationships with retailers and producers through our food business work to improve the lives of many animals, and so directly targeting these groups can impact our other strands of work. Although we do not purposefully mention the RSPCA, they certify farms covered by these producers, and as a result it'll indirectly put pressure on them to improve/better enforce their standards for fish.” [11]

CIWF's [‘Rethink Fish MOU for Groups’](#) (which Scottish Salmon Watch refused to sign) included:

“Agree to keep the focus, target and messaging on the Scottish government, not on the salmon producers, farmers or the RSPCA. For example, please only tag the Scottish government in social media posts and target the Scottish government in any email action when calling for them to halt the expansion of the industry. Please do not attack/criticise retailers in your country, or campaign against the producers where footage was gathered in the investigation (Mowi, etc) by targeting them on social/supporter emails/etc. This is to ensure that Compassion can build on the

impact of our global campaign by establishing relationships with these producers and working with them to improve welfare standards.” [11]

“We are not making the individual farm details public because our role is to change the inherent, endemic, cruelty in salmon factory farming, not target individual farmers,” [explained another CIWF document – ‘Scottish Salmon Investigation FAQ’ - marked ‘strictly confidential’](#) [11].

Scottish Salmon Watch openly criticised CIWF’s tactics – including CIWF’s lily-livered [moratorium message](#) - via a blog published in March 2021: “[CIWF's watered down 'moratorium' message lets diseased & abused Scottish salmon slip off the hook - please Rethink!](#)”



Surely the shocking welfare abuse uncovered by video surveillance - in addition to damning photos published [@marinescotland](#) - demands shutting down salmon farming now? How can you condone the status quo and be content with a moratorium on expansion?
[@media_ciwf](#) [@philip_ciwf](#)



12:32 PM · Mar 24, 2021



Scamon Scotland has good reason to believe that legal threats by the \$almafia – [the European Commission is still investigating Norwegian-owned Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms and Grieg for price-fixing as part of an ongoing cartel enquiry launched in 2019](#) – are the *modus operandi* of an industry lobby intent on silencing criticism via an menacing policy of omertà.

“Everyone in the west coast is terrified to say anything about the salmon farming companies,” [said Corin Smith in an interview with the West Highland Free Press in December 2021](#) (after [The Ferret & Herald exposed how The Scottish Salmon Company had hired a private investigator to spy illegally on Corin Smith and a second, unnamed activist](#) - believed to be Don Staniford).

In May 2021, the [BBC caved in to a threat by the \\$almafia over an ‘illegal’ photo taken by photographer Colin McPherson for Getty Images at a RSPCA Assured salmon farm operated by Norwegian giant Mowi](#) (Getty stood firm and the offending photo is [still online](#) along with [other photos shot during secret filming at Mowi](#)).

In July 2022, a Scottish broadcaster was poised to report on welfare abuse inside RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms (using video evidence filmed by \$camon \$cotland) but a threat of legal action is understood to have stymied the broadcast [12]. The [offending video footage](#) was subsequently [reported by The Times in July 2022 who published a photo sourced from the secret filming](#).

RSPCA investigates Scottish salmon supplier to M&S over lice accusations

Marc Horne

Saturday July 16 2022, 12:01 am.
The Times



Scottish Salmon Watch filmed fish covered in parasites at four fish farms, with open wounds and with eyes and flesh missing
DON STANIFORD

The company that supplies Marks and Spencer with its Scottish salmon is being investigated by welfare authorities after underwater cameras captured images of fish covered in lice.

In September 2021, [Mowi launched a legal action against Don Staniford for secret filming inside RSPCA Assured salmon farms](#). Secret filming by Scottish Salmon Watch in July 2021 – as featured via [The Mail on Sunday](#), [The Times](#), [The Ferret](#), [Seaspiracy](#) and [France 5](#) – [exposed welfare abuse and lice infestation inside Mowi’s RSPCA Assured salmon farms around the Isle of Shuna in Argyll](#). Secret filming at Mowi’s ‘Bay of the Dead Heads’ salmon farm in July 2019 [exposed welfare abuse of ‘cleaner fish’](#) – with the [Animal & Plant Health Agency criticising Mowi for breaches of the Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#). Mowi’s salmon farms around the Isle of Shuna near Craobh Haven – including RSPCA Assured Poll na Gille

which was [assessed by OneKind in 2018 as the worst salmon farm in Scotland](#) and ‘Bay of the Dead Heads’ - were [audited on 16-20 January 2023 by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#).

Every salmon farming company in Scotland – including all five companies named in CIWF’s investigation (Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood, Cooke Aquaculture and The Scottish Salmon Company/Bakkafrost) – are certified as ‘welfare friendly’ via [RSPCA Assured](#). “All of Scotland’s salmon farmers are allied to RSPCA Assured and are included in the directory apart from Skye farmer Organic Sea Harvest, which is certified by the Soil Association and covered by the Association’s own welfare standards,” [reported Fish Farming Expert in October 2021 \(Organic Sea Harvest’s website now displays the RSPCA Assured logo\)](#). 100% of Scottish salmon farming production could therefore be certified via RSPCA Assured (who refuse to publish a list) although [Salmon Scotland claims “around 70%”](#) [13].



In February 2020, The Sunday Times [reported that the RSPCA raked in £513,000 from RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland in 2019 \(up from £446,481 in 2018 and £468,808 in 2017\)](#) [14]. [CIWF’s 2020/2021 Annual Report \(p68\)](#) reveals how CIWF paid £20,562 to the RSPCA in 2020 with [£40,000 paid to the RSPCA in 2019](#) and [£20,000 to the RSPCA in 2018](#).

In October 2022, Scamon Scotland [wrote to the RSPCA demanding an end to the certification of Scottish salmon as 'welfare friendly' via RSPCA Assured and the ASC \[15\]](#).



Read more via:

[Leaked Videos Expose Welfare Abuse at RSPCA Assured Bakkafrost in Loch Fyne - soon to be ASC-certified as 'responsible'?!](#)

[FishyLeaks: Videos Expose Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon \(as certified by RSPCA Assured\)!](#)

[Media Backgrounder: Leaked Video & Photos from Whiteshore Cockles CIWF Investigation 'Illegal' dumping of dead fish in Outer Hebrides continues despite ban vow](#)

[Tens of Millions of Scottish Farmed Fish Dying Before Slaughter Each Year: Footage released by Animal Equality shows buckets full of dead salmon being collected from Meall Mhor Loch Fyne in Scotland, in a process known as 'lift up'](#)

[The Times: Number of dead salmon at Scottish fish farms rises to 15 million](#)

[Observer: "Scottish salmon farms facing boycott call as fish deaths double"](#)

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

[Uncovering Welfare Abuse on Salmon Farms - undercover filming since 2016 has lifted the lid in Scotland, Canada, US, Norway & Iceland!](#)

[Daily Express: "The 'cruelty' of Britain's salmon farms exposed - Dale Vince has released undercover footage exposing alleged 'cruelty and disease' at salmon farms across Scotland"](#)

['Salmon Shame': An eye-opening video that exposes the horrors of open-net salmon farming in Scotland!](#)

[Go Pro Filming Inside Salmon Farms - the Inside Story!](#)

[Video Exclusive: Secret Filming Exposes Horrific Welfare Abuse Inside RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[Video of France 5s 'The Truth About Salmon' featuring Mowi & The Scottish Salmon Company](#)

[You Tube Streams 'Eating Our Way to Extinction' - watch the lid lifted on Scottish salmon!](#)

[Caught on Camera - How the Go Pro Dealt the Death Blow to Salmon Farming](#)

[Backgrounder: Secret Filming Exposes the Welfare Nightmare of Factory Fish Farming](#)

[Video Nasties of Dead Farmed Salmon Pile Up All Over the World!](#)

[Video Compilation of Welfare Abuse Inside Salmon & Steelhead Trout Farms in Scotland!](#)

[Secret Filming Exposes Welfare Abuse Inside Salmon Cages in Iceland & Scotland](#)

[Video Nasty: Scottish Salmon's Toxic Soup in Loch Carron!](#)

[Videos of Welfare Abuse at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron \(West Strome salmon farm\)](#)

[Videos of Welfare Abuse at Kames Fish Farming in the Sound of Jura \(Shuna Castle\)](#)

[Seaspiracy's Salmon Shocker: Please Boycott RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon!](#)

[Video/Photo Exclusive: Mowi's RSPCA Assured Welfare Nightmare - complaints filed for breaches of welfare laws](#)

[Secret Filming Exposes RSPCA 'Abused' Scottish Salmon - Welfare Complaint Filed Against M&S Supplier Scottish Sea Farms](#)

[Video Exposes Mass Graves of Millions of Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

[Mowi's 'Healthy' RSPCA Assured & ASC-Certified Salmon Farm at Gorsten \(as featured in Seaspiracy\)](#)

[The Go Pro Camera Never Lies \(Unlike Salmon Farmers\)](#)

Contact:

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



Notes to Editors:

[1]

The screenshot displays the Google Drive interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with the following items: a 'New' button with a plus icon, 'My Drive', 'Computers', 'Shared with me', 'Recent', 'Starred', and 'Trash'. Below these is a 'Storage' section showing a progress bar and the text '98.86 GB of 2 TB used', with a 'Buy storage' button. The main area on the right shows a search bar at the top with the text 'Search in Drive'. Below the search bar, the breadcrumb path is 'Shared with me > CIWF' followed by a dropdown arrow and a group icon. A list of folders follows, each with a folder icon and a person icon: 'CIWF Stills', 'Cooke', 'Fish Pit', 'Greig', 'MOWI', 'SSC', 'SSF Ltd', and 'TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov'. At the bottom of the list is a document icon with a 'W' and the text 'Footage Notes.docx' and a group icon.

Drive

Search in Drive

New

My Drive

Computers

Shared with me

Recent

Starred

Trash

Storage

98.86 GB of 2 TB used

Buy storage

Shared with me > CIWF

Name ↑

CIWF Stills

Cooke

Fish Pit

Greig

MOWI

SSC

SSF Ltd

TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov

Footage Notes.docx

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills ▾

Name ↑

 Cooke Highlights

 Fish Pits

 Grieg Highlights

 MOWI Highlights

 SSC Highlights

 SSF Highlights

 TWMA Fish Waste

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > Cooke Highlights ▾

Name ↑

 Bow of Hascosay - Harvesting - Drone - 29 Nov1.png 

 Bow of Hascosay - Harvesting - Drone - 29 Nov2.png 

 Bow of Hascosay - Harvesting - Drone - 29 Nov3.png 

 Bow of Hascosay - Harvesting - Drone - 29 Nov4.png 

 Mid Yell - Shorebase - Logo - 30 Nov.png 

 Ness of Copister - Drone - 28 Nov1.png 

 Ness of Copister - Drone - 28 Nov2.png 

 Ness of Copister - Drone - 30 Nov.png 

 Ness of Copister - UW - 29 Nov4.png 

 Ness of Copister - UW - 29 Nov8.png 

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > Fish Pits ▾



Fish Landfill Pits 1.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 8.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 2.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 9.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 3.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 10.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 4.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 11.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 5.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 12.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 6.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 13.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 7.png 👤



Fish Landfill Pits 14.png 👤

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > Grieg Highlights ▾

Name ↑



Dunvegan Pier Morts 3 Oct 1.jpeg 👤



Dunvegan Pier Morts 3 Oct 2.jpeg 👤



Dunvegan Pier Morts 3 Oct 3.jpeg 👤



Dunvegan Pier Morts 3 Oct 4.jpeg 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct1.png 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct2.png 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct3.png 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct4.png 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct5.png 👤



Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct6.png 👤

Name ↑

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 1.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 2.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 3.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 4.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 5.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 6.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 7.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 8.png 👤

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct 9.png 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 1.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 8.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 9.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 10.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 11.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 12.jpeg 👤

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct 13.jpeg 👤

 Port Na Cro (UW) Oct 16 1.png 👤

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > SSC Highlights ▾

Name ↑

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 1.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 2.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 3.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 4.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 5.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 6.png 👤

 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep 7.png 👤

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > SSF Highlights ▾

Name ↑

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 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 7.png 👤

 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 8.png 👤

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 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 12.png 👤

 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 13.png 👤

 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 14.png 👤

 Scallaste 7 Oct UW 15.png 👤

Shared with me > CIWF > CIWF Stills > TWMA Fish Waste ▾

Name ↑



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov1.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov2.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov3.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov4.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov5.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov6.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov7.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov8.png 👥



TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30 Nov9.png 👥

Shared with me > CIWF > Cooke ▾

Name ↑



Bow of Hascosay - Harvesting - Drone - 29 Nov



Drone Surveyed Farms - 28 Nov



Mid Yell - Shorebase - Drone - 30 Nov



Mid Yell - Shorebase - Logo - 30 Nov



Ness of Copister - Drone - 28 Nov



Ness of Copister - Drone - 30 Nov



Ness of Copister - UW - 29 Nov

Shared with me > CIWF > Fish Pit

Name ↑

 3 Oct (Drone)

 4 Oct (Go Pro Land Based)

 5 Oct (Drone)

Shared with me > CIWF > Greig

Name ↑

 Dunvegan Pier 3 Oct

 Dunvegan Pier Morts 3 Oct

 Gob Na Hoe (UW) 2 Oct

 Gob Na Hoe 3 Oct

 Loch Snizort East 3 Oct

Shared with me > CIWF > MOWI ↓

Name ↑

 Cairidh (UW) 5 Oct

 Cairidh 5 Oct

 Cheese Bay 5 Oct

 Gorsten 8 Oct

 Loch Hourn 2 Oct

 Lochboisdale Pier 4 Oct

 MOWI B roll

 Port Na Cro (UW) Oct 16

 Port Na Cro Oct 18

 Torridon 10 Dec

Shared with me > CIWF > SSC Shared with me > CIWF > SSF Ltd

Name ↑	Name ↑
 Glenan Bay 1 Oct	 Fishnish 6 Oct
 Glenan Bay 1 Oct (SLR)	 Fiunary 6 Oct
 Quarry Point (UW) 30 Sep	 Loch Creran 8 Oct
 Quarry Point 1 Oct	 Scallaste 6 Oct (Drone)
 SSC B Roll	 Scallaste Shore Base 6 Oct (Land Based)
 Strondoir Bay 1 Oct	 Scallastle 7 Oct (UW)

Shared with me > CIWF > TWMA Fish Waste - Drone - 30...

Name ↑
 DJI_0398.MOV 
 DJI_0399.DNG 
 DJI_0399.JPG 
 DJI_0400.DNG 
 DJI_0400.JPG 
 DJI_0401.DNG 
 DJI_0401.JPG 
 DJI_0402.MOV 

Videos not posted [online via FishyLeaks](#) are available from Don Staniford via salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

[2] CIWF [reported on 23 March 2021](#):



MURKY DEPTHS OF THE SCOTTISH SALMON INDUSTRY EXPOSED IN NEW UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

Our new investigation into the Scottish salmon industry, released today (23rd March), uncovers the hidden suffering of salmon on an industry-wide and endemic scale, breaches in animal welfare legislation, and shocking mortality rates.

Warning: Some viewers may find the following footage distressing.



CIWF [reported on 23 March 2021](#):

ABOUT US

NEW INVESTIGATION EXPOSES SCOTTISH SALMON INDUSTRY

DEFORMITIES, PARASITE INFESTATIONS, AND HIGH DEATH RATES: THE MURKY DEPTHS OF THE SCOTTISH SALMON INDUSTRY EXPOSED IN NEW UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

The biggest ever exposé into the Scottish salmon industry reveals suffering on an industry-wide and endemic scale, breaches in animal welfare legislation, and shocking mortality rates. The undercover investigation and accompanying report titled '[Underwater Cages, Parasites & Dead Fish: Why a Moratorium on Scottish Salmon Farming Expansion is Imperative](#)', released today by a global network of NGOs in 30 countries and led by farmed animal welfare charity Compassion in World Farming, uncovers the grim reality for many fish raised in sea cages producing world-famous Scottish salmon.

Scotland is the third largest producer of farmed Atlantic salmon worldwide (approximately 38 million fish raised in 2019), with exports to over 50 countries—including the United States which imported more than 54,000 lbs in 2019, making it the second largest international market. The Scottish government currently supports plans for massive industry expansion by 2030. Over 96% of Scottish salmon production is handled by five companies: Cooke Aquaculture, Grieg Seafood, Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, and The Scottish Salmon Company. Compassion investigated 22 farms in total, both using drone technology and, at six farms, underwater divers, between September and November 2020. On several of these farms, investigators found severe sea lice infestations and high mortality levels.

More information:

- *The investigation was carried out across 22 farms with footage gathered on several of these farms in Scotland between September and November 2020.*
- *Upon reviewing the footage, the investigators found that a considerable proportion of the fish appeared to be in an extremely poor state at a Scottish Sea Farms farm. Significant welfare problems were seen throughout the pen: lice damage, seaweed growing in open wounds, gill damage, fin damage, white heads, abrasions and lesions and damage to mouths. Some fish were missing eyes and had large chunks of flesh missing. Compassion promptly reported these findings to the Animal and Plant Health Agency, believing these findings are in violation of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.*

Other findings included:

- *At a Cooke Aquaculture farm: large numbers of fish and overcrowding were filmed with dead salmon floating in the pens, and cleaner fish in use.*
- *At a Grieg Seafood farm: major welfare problems included damage caused by lice eating away at the salmon skin and bodies, fin and gill damage, seaweed growing in fish wounds, abrasions and lesions, plus infection and damage to mouths. Investigators also filmed footage of hydrogen peroxide being used on the fish, suggesting a sea lice problem, and bins filled with dead fish.*
- *At two Mowi Scotland farms, lethargic salmon were filmed working hard to breath in dirty water. Salmon with deformity of the spine, and many with lesions and lice. Cleaner fish were found with lice and seaweed growing out of open wounds, plus dead fish were left floating in the cages.*
- *At a farm of The Scottish Salmon Company: a hydrolicer boat was filmed in action, conducting lice checks on treated salmon before throwing them back into the water. Also, fish found that were substantially damaged, with fin damage and white heads on fish. Water in and around the cage was brown and murky.*
- *At the Scottish Sea Farms farm: our investigator also found cleaner fish problems included lice, seaweed growing from wounds and fungal damage. Boats were filmed removing large quantities of dead fish from cages. Our investigators also found dumpsters filled with dead fish exposed to wildlife, possibly posing a biosecurity risk*

CIWF published photos [online here](#)

Salmon investigation

Created by Jordan Collins



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80484



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80483



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80482



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80481



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80480



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80479



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80478



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80477



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80475



Salmon Investigation 2020
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ID: 80465



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Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
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Salmon Investigation 2020
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Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
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Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80452



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80451



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80450



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80449



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80448



Salmon Investigation 2020
Show more details: © Compassion in World Farming
ID: 80447



The Ferret [reported \(23 March 2021\):](#)

The Ferret

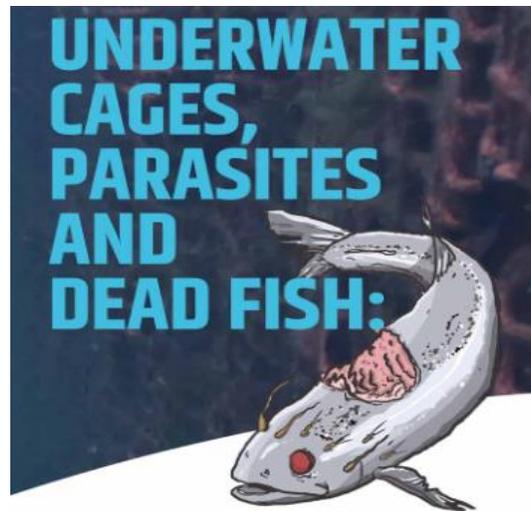
Account Log Out ...

Weekly email

Suffering 'endemic' at Scottish salmon farms

Rob Edwards - March 23, 2021

A report - [‘Underwater Cages, Parasites & Dead Fish: Why a Moratorium on Scottish Salmon Farming Expansion is Imperative’](#) - published by CIWF and OneKind in March 2021 included:



Why a Moratorium on **Scottish Salmon** Farming Expansion is Imperative



UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION

In the winter of 2020, Compassion in World Farming sent a team of undercover investigators to salmon sites off the West coast of Scotland, the Isle of Skye and the Shetland islands to witness the conditions experienced by farmed Atlantic salmon, which in the wild would migrate thousands of kilometres in their lifetime. The investigative team visited farms from each of the main producers, that account for over 96% of the Scottish salmon industry and found that welfare issues in the cages are widespread and that there is an industry-wide failure to protect these sentient animals. Sea lice and disease problems were seen on farms owned by each of the producers, and both salmon and cleaner fish were suffering in sea cages.

CALL TO ACTION

Compassion in World Farming, OneKind and other organisations worldwide are calling for a moratorium on the growth of the Scottish salmon industry.

In the winter of 2020, Compassion in World Farming sent a team of undercover investigators to the West coast of Scotland, the Isle of Skye and the Shetland islands to document the welfare issues faced by farmed salmon living, and dying, in Scottish waters. The investigation team visited 22 farms, covering each of the 5 top (in terms of annual production tonnage) salmon producer companies operating in Scotland. The team visited Mowi (formally Marine Harvest), Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood, The Scottish Salmon Company and Cooke Aquaculture, who together produced over 96% of Scottish salmon in 2019 (Ramsden, 2020). Investigators filmed overwater footage at 22 sites and additional underwater

footage was secured from six of these. Footage gathered from these trips showed that right across the industry, salmon are suffering on a large scale and the welfare of these sentient animals is not being sufficiently protected.

Investigators were faced with some haunting images; salmon swimming blindly around the cages with missing eyes, or those with large chunks of skin and flesh that had been eaten away. Many of the fish were covered in parasitic sea lice that were eating into their skin, some had seaweed growing in open wounds. There was also evidence of gill damage, fin damage, abrasions and lesions, infection, and mouth



damage. There were many individuals that had clearly been suffering for a prolonged time – fish that should have been removed from the cages and humanely culled long before.

Cleaner fish were also recorded in some of the sea cages. These are fish that are used as a treatment for sea lice on salmon, but their inclusion inevitably introduces additional welfare issues. Investigators saw cleaner fish that were themselves being attacked by lice, had wounds with seaweed

growing from them, and suffered damage from fungal infection. Water condition at some dived sites was poor, with visible particulate (oil, feed, faeces, algae) suspended in the water. Fish were overcrowded, and at one site the water appeared to be deoxygenated.

Based on the severity of the current industry problems, plans to expand are irresponsible and will lead to increased immense animal suffering, and environmental damage.



A salmon with a missing eye and mouth damage (Investigation footage)



Dead farmed salmon being dumped in landfill (Investigation footage)

Our investigators filmed at a landfill site in Scotland which was still burying dead fish (as of October 2020). However, use of landfill for disposal of aquaculture products is prohibited by European Union legislation (Animal by-products Regulation (2009)). Previously there was a derogation that allowed fish farms in remote areas (which applies to most Scottish salmon sites) to dispose of fish in landfill, but the interpretation of this derogation has since changed, and from 1st January 2016 it applied only to terrestrial livestock (Scottish Government, 2016).

In Shetland, our investigators also filmed at a waste management site where dead salmon were being transported. Dead fish were found in a large open skip which was left exposed to wildlife; a flock of birds was flying around the skip and interacting with the waste.



Dead salmon rotting in landfill (Investigation footage)



Birds interacting with dead salmon at a waste management site (Investigation footage)

A BREACH OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION

Salmon on Scottish fish farms should be protected under the following legislation:

- Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 places a duty of care on those responsible for any vertebrate to promote their welfare and prevent suffering. That means looking after their physical and mental wellbeing and providing them with a suitable environment that encourages natural behaviour, supplying an appropriate diet and protecting them from pain, injury, and disease.

Scottish salmon farming breaches animal welfare legislation in the following ways:

- Causes stress and increases exposure to disease and parasites
- Puts salmon at risk of physical injury from handling, contact with equipment, and predation
- Prevents natural behaviours such as under taking long-distance migrations
- Forces them to live in environments with poor water quality and reduced oxygen levels (Brown, Gowen, & McLusky, 1987)
- Inflicts salmon with treatments such as thermolicers that intentionally expose them to temperatures known to cause them pain and stress, and processes known to cause physical injury and death.



The findings of our investigation, and footage from past investigations shows salmon in very poor health and welfare state and with obvious signs of suffering. Upon reviewing the footage from a particular farm, our investigators found that a significant proportion of the fish were in an extremely poor state. Significant welfare problems were seen throughout the pen: lice damage, seaweed growing in open wounds, gill damage, fin damage, 'white heads' (large areas of exposed flesh on the head), abrasions and lesions, infection, damage to mouths. Some fish were missing eyes and had significant chunks of flesh missing. Compassion in World Farming reported these findings to the Animal and Plant Health Agency. We believe these findings are in violation of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, which states that:

(1) A person commits an offence if the person does not take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which the person is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice. (2) The circumstances to which, for the purposes of subsection (1), regard is to be had include— (a) any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept, (b) any lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal. (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), an animal's needs include— (a) its need for a suitable environment, (b) its need for a suitable diet, (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, (e) its need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease.

In order to keep fish "protected from suffering, injury and disease" there should have been interventions that prevented the salmon getting to the state they were found in. The individuals with severe injuries should have been removed from the pen to be humanely killed to end their suffering.

While the farm that we reported was a particularly bad case we believe the conditions that salmon are provided with as standard industry practice are themselves causing suffering and are not in line with existing legislation on animal welfare.

Fish Farming Expert [reported in March 2021](#):

Attack on fish farming ‘wrong and misleading’

A highly critical report on Scottish salmon farming funded by Facebook billionaire Dustin Moskowitz is “wrong, inaccurate and misleading”, the industry said today.

Gareth Moore

PUBLISHED Tuesday 23. March 2021 - 13:10



The report has been authored by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), a Surrey-based organisation that campaigns to “peacefully to end all factory farming practices”, and Edinburgh-based OneKind.

In the [emotively written 44-page report](#), the organisations allege the industry is “rife with welfare issues” and demand an immediate moratorium on salmon farming expansion.

The report includes a photo of a salmon with a missing eye (see photo, right), another with lice damage and several sea lice attached to its head and another with a large, exposed wound on its back, all taken by a team of undercover investigators hired by CIWF to carry out an investigation between September and November last year. The cover of the report features a drawing of a salmon with a combination of all these injuries.



Open Philanthropy

The CIWF report is funded by the San Francisco-based Open Philanthropy Project, primarily funded by Cari Tuna and her husband Dustin Moskowitz, a co-founder of Facebook and a multi-billionaire.

In 2019 the Project approved two grants totalling £1.76 million over two years to CIWF to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in the UK and Europe. The money was for staffing needs, marketing, social media, advocacy work, investigations, and technical and operational costs.

CIWF was previously given £805,000 by the Project in 2017 to advance fish welfare in Europe.

Fish Farming Expert [reported in April 2021](#):



Salmon sites cleared of alleged welfare breaches

Five Scottish salmon farms have had their RSPCA Assured certification reinstated after inspections found no evidence to support claims made by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and anti-fish farm activists about poor welfare.

Gareth Moore

PUBLISHED Friday 09. April 2021 - 13:24



'Wrong and misleading'

When the report was published, SSPO chief executive Scott said key elements were "wrong, inaccurate and misleading - claims we would have pointed out to CIWF, had they approached anybody in the Scottish salmon farming sector before publishing it".

Ronnie Soutar, head of veterinary services at Scotland's third-largest salmon farmer, Scottish Sea Farms, and a long-standing fish vet, said at the time: "By selectively publicising those very few pictures, CIWF are being hugely misleading. Those pictures do not reflect my experience of the extraordinarily high standards Scotland's fish farmers are setting."

The CIWF report, which was funded Facebook billionaire Dustin Moskovitz's US-based Open Philanthropy Project, made a number of allegations, including that as of October last year a landfill site in Scotland was being illegally used to bury dead fish. However, the majority of its content was simply a repetition of accusations made by opponents of the industry.

CIWF claimed that sea lice are out of control and quoted selected figures from Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, the angling body most hostile to salmon farming.

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

Date: Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:48 AM

Subject: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles

To: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>

It seems that CIWF has gruesome video footage from Whiteshore Cockles shot in October 2020 (way worse I think than the footage which prompted today's Times article):

[The Times: "Islanders raise a stink over vast salmon graveyard"](#)

[Video Exposes Mass Graves of Millions of Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

Our press release today cites the CIWF video footage [online here](#)

Instead of sitting on it and allowing it to be buried, maybe it should be published?

Just a thought. You might actually get some decent media coverage.

The video footage CIWF and One Kind released in March 2021 is awesome but it stinks that it's not all being released.

Scottish Salmon Watch would be only too happy to release it if you've been stymied by an injunction or legal threats.

And Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots has some amazing video footage posted on their You Tube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWJwjW2Nf3wUXvyFZ9IPTrQ>

Best fishes,

Don

From: **Dr Krzysztof Wojtas** <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>

Date: Thu, May 27, 2021 at 12:40 PM

Subject: ODP: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles

To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, bob.elliott@onekind.org <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>

Hi Don,

Thanks for your email.

We made some strategic decisions regarding the way we publish and talk about our investigation footage and therefore don't plan to release the footage in relation to this article at this moment. It's a matter of a wider approach and strategy (taking to account both public-facing as well as lobbying and policy work) that we are taking with our final objective in mind. I think you had a conversation with Sean about it so hopefully you understand the detailed reasoning behind the decision.

Thank you for including our video footage in your press release.

Best wishes,

Krzysztof



Dr Krzysztof Wojtas
Head of Fish Policy
www.rethink.fish

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@ Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org | 🌐 www.ciwf.org

📍 United Kingdom



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

Date: Thu, May 27, 2021 at 1:05 PM

Subject: Re: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles

To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>

Cc: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, bob.elliott@onekind.org <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>

Sounds like a whitewash to me.

Sean didn't want to speak as he objected to going on the record. That says it all.

CIWF has completely f****d up on this one.

By the time you release what footage you have it will be too late to make a difference.

Is your final objective to let the disease-ridden salmon farming industry slip off the hook?

If so, you're doing an amazing job.

It strikes me that legal action - bolstered by video evidence via undercover filming - can blow the welfare nightmare of salmon farming out of the water.

CIWF's continued silence serves only to protect the sector from public scrutiny. Publish or perish!

Best fishes,

Don

From: **Dr Krzysztof Wojtas** <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>
Date: Thu, May 27, 2021 at 3:57 PM
Subject: ODP: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Hi Don,

For clarity, Compassion did release the investigation footage from key sites that were visited-- our campaign videos and media reel footage used a selection of the strongest footage and most relevant parts, including the site that you speak of in your email. If you, or any other NGOs, want to use investigation footage from Compassion's archive for campaigning purposes, all they need to do is ask and we can see what we can make happen.

I appreciate that Compassion and Scottish Salmon Watch have different strategies for challenging the industry and that you don't necessarily like our approach. I do hope we can remain respectful allies in this field as we are all working toward the same end goal.

Best wishes,

Krzysztof



Dr Krzysztof Wojtas
Head of Fish Policy
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📍 United Kingdom



From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 27, 2021 at 4:07 PM
Subject: Re: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles
To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org

Can you please release footage from Whiteshore Cockles?

Thanks,

Don

From: **Dr Krzysztof Wojtas** <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>
Date: Mon, May 31, 2021 at 9:22 AM
Subject: ODP: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Hi Don,

We have released the footage in our campaigns video. We have selected the most hard-hitting parts and used it in this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tuj3HcYEGAg>. There is nothing more to the footage really in my opinion.

If you would want to see the whole raw footage however I could try to arrange it. How would you intend to use it (we always sign an MOU with groups that we agree with on the use of footage so we would have to do that).

Best wishes,

Krzysztof



Dr Krzysztof Wojtas
Head of Fish Policy
www.rethink.fish

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📍 United Kingdom



From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 31, 2021 at 9:38 PM
Subject: Re: CIWF video footage from Whiteshore Cockles
To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>

You should get all the Whiteshore footage out publicly - it would help

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 3, 2021 at 6:59 PM
Subject: Video footage from Whiteshore Cockles?
To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>

Now would be a great time to release your video footage from Whiteshore Cockles in full!

[Taking the Fish - Illegal Salmon Dump Caught Taking Diseased Fish from the Mainland Despite 'Derogation'!](#)

[P&J: "Lives of Western Isles residents 'severely hampered by rotting fish dump'"](#)

[The Times: "Fish graveyard 'severely hampers' life for islanders, officials claim"](#)

[FOI Lifts Lid on the Stench of Scottish Salmon: Government Legal Department Target Illegal Dumping of Diseased Salmon](#)

Tweet:

<https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1411278883144491018>

Best fishes,

Don

From: **Dr Krzysztof Wojtas** <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>
Date: Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 9:53 AM
Subject: ODP: Video footage from Whiteshore Cockles?
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Hi Don,

Thanks for the email.

As stated before, CIWF would very happily share our raw undercover footage with campaigners that hope to use it to draw attention to the cause.

Best wishes,

Krzysztof



Dr Krzysztof Wojtas
Head of Fish Policy
www.rethink.fish

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📍 United Kingdom



From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 10:07 AM
Subject: Re: Video footage from Whiteshore Cockles?
To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>

Please share via We Transfer then - thanks!

From: **Dr Krzysztof Wojtas** <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>
Date: Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 8:06 AM
Subject: ODP: Video footage from Whiteshore Cockles?
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Hi Don,

Thanks for your interest in using the footage.

Attached is Compassion's standard licensing agreement. Please read, sign and send it back to me and then we'll send you the footage links.

Please can you also confirm how and when you will be using this footage.

Best wishes,

Krzysztof



Dr Krzysztof Wojtas
Head of Fish Policy
www.rethink.fish

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📍 United Kingdom



7 July 2021

PARTIES

(1) **COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING INTERNATIONAL** whose registered office is at River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EZ (the “**Licensor**”); and

(2) **[Don Staniford]** of **[Scottish Salmon Watch]** (“**the Licensee**”).

INTRODUCTION

The Licensor agrees to license to the Licensee the use of the Footage in the Territory for the License Period on the terms contained in this Agreement. The Parties agree that the exchange of rights and obligations between them under this Agreement constitutes good and valuable consideration.

1. LICENCE TERMS

The Licensor agrees to grant a non-exclusive licence of the Footage to the Licensee on the following terms:

The Footage	Investigation footage from a landfill at Whiteshore Cocks, showing dead salmon dumped on landfill (3 x MP4 format clips). Non-exclusive.
Permitted Usage	The Licensee shall only be permitted to use the Film as agreed with the Licensor – for social media, website and media - with no modification or editing of the footage permitted. You: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agree to not use the footage to target retailers, food businesses, salmon producers, farmers or the RSPCA.- Agree not to edit the content of the videos.- Agree to use provided content for the aims and objectives listed. (i.e., not direct fundraising), unless other uses are agreed with Compassion in advance. Any usage of the Footage must always be on the basis that the Licensor is credited every time it is used.
Licence Period	3 months from the date of this Agreement (up to 7 October 2021)
Licence Fee	No fee applies
Territory	United Kingdom

2. OWNERSHIP OF COPYRIGHT

Ownership of the copyright in the Footage shall remain with the Licensor at all times.

3. ASSIGNMENT

The Licensee shall not be entitled to assign the whole or any part of its rights benefits and obligations under this Agreement.

4. TERMINATION

The Licensor shall be entitled to terminate this agreement immediately if the Licensee uses the Footage in a manner not agreed with the Licensor including without limitation if it edits or modifies the Footage or uses it in a way which is misleading.

5. PARTNERSHIP

Nothing contained in this agreement is or shall be construed as constituting or creating a partnership, joint venture or any other form of corporate association between the parties.

6. GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and any dispute arising therefrom shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the London courts.

Signed by: FOR AND ON BEHALF OF <i>Compassion in World Farming International</i>	Signed by: FOR AND ON BEHALF OF [Don Staniford]
Print: Position: Date:	Print: Position: Date:

[Download proposed MOU as a PDF [online here](#)]

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 8:12 AM
Subject: Re: Video footage from Whiteshore Cockles?
To: Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>

Please publish the video footage yourselves - it would be great to see it out there publicly!

[4] Scottish Salmon Watch [published video footage shot at Whiteshore Cockles in May 2021](#) – with a photo sourced from the video footage [published by The Times](#) leading to a legal complaint by Angus MacDonald of Whiteshore Cockles:

Islanders raise a stink over vast salmon graveyard

Marc Horne

Thursday May 27 2021, 12:01am,
The Times



Islanders have complained about the stench from salmon being buried in sand dunes on a beach in North Uist.

Share    

Save 

This article is the subject of a legal complaint from Angus MacDonald and Whiteshore Cockles.

[5] Information sourced from a journalist in March 2021.

\$camon \$cotland gave Scottish non-broadcast media outlets (The Scotsman, The Herald, The National and The Daily Record) an opportunity for comment:

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

Date: Sun, Jan 29, 2023 at 7:56 PM

Subject: Legal threats by salmon farming industry re. CIWF video footage?

To: <scotsman.editor@scotsman.com>

Neil,

\$camon \$cotland is running a story next week on how lawyers acting for the salmon farming industry 'killed' an exclusive with a "Scottish non-broadcast media outlet".

The exclusive was scheduled to run on 22/23 March 2021 with Compassion in World Farming - featuring secret video footage shot inside salmon farms in Scotland. CIWF's press release was issued generally on 23 March 2021 via <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/news/2021/03/murky-depths-of-the-scottish-salmon-industry-exposed-in-new-undercover-investigation>

CIWF's video footage was featured by The Ferret on 23 March 2021:
<https://theferret.scot/suffering-endemic-scottish-salmon-farms-video/>

However, the exclusive with a "Scottish non-broadcast media outlet" was apparently spiked by legal threats from the salmon farming industry.

On 26 March 2021, The Scotsman published an Op-Ed by Philip Lymbery of CIWF which linked to a You Tube clip of CIWF's video footage:
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/animal-welfare-fish-are-complex-emotional-and-intelligent-beings-and-yet-we-treat-them-so-cruelly-if-only-they-had-fur-philip-j-lymbery-3178405>

Was The Scotsman the "Scottish non-broadcast media outlet" which pulled an exclusive with CIWF in March 2021 following legal threats by the salmon farming industry?

A comment would be much appreciated by the end of tomorrow (30 January).

Thanks,

Don Staniford

Director, \$camon \$cotland

[6] Open Philanthropy [reported in September 2019](#):



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Grant investigator: [Lewis Bollard](#)

This page was reviewed but not written by the grant investigator. Compassion in World Farming staff also reviewed this page prior to publication.

The Open Philanthropy Project recommended two grants totaling £1,759,701 over two years (\$2,169,429 at the time of conversion) to Compassion in World Farming to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in the UK and Europe. These funds will support staffing needs, marketing, social media, advocacy work, investigations, and technical and operational costs.

This follows our [October 2017 support](#) for work to end the use of cages and our [January 2017 support](#) for work on fish welfare, and falls within our focus area of [farm animal welfare](#).

Open Philanthropy [reported in January 2017](#):



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Grant investigator: [Lewis Bollard](#)

This page was reviewed but not written by the grant investigator. Compassion staff also reviewed this page prior to publication.

The Open Philanthropy Project recommended two grants totaling £805,000 (\$1,026,253 at the time of conversion) to Compassion in World Farming (Compassion) to advance fish welfare in Europe. The funding will allow Compassion to significantly expand its existing corporate engagement, research, campaigning and legislative advocacy on fish welfare in the United Kingdom and EU.

Specifically, Compassion plans to build a dedicated fish welfare team focused on engaging with food retailers and corporations; launch a new online information hub featuring resources on fish welfare such as white papers, technical reports, and case studies; conduct and commission new research and evidence-gathering on topics related to intensive fish farming, higher welfare systems, and to improve understanding of the welfare needs of fish. Compassion will also produce and promote public-facing materials designed to achieve a cultural and attitudinal shift toward fish in the longer-term. They will also conduct advocacy work in the EU and United Kingdom focused on securing enforcement of existing animal welfare laws which apply to farmed fish while also promoting species-specific protections. One of these grants was made by a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization, to which we occasionally make [funding recommendations](#).

This grant falls within our focus area of [farm animal welfare](#).

Sources

Document	Source
Compassion, Farmed Fish Budget, 2017	Source

The '[Compassion, Farmed Fish Budget, 2017](#)' specified 'business engagement', 'industry engagement' and a 'corporate engagement programme'.

Open Philanthropy's '[Farm Animal Welfare](#)' program believes in "phasing out the worst factory farm practices":

Farm Animal Welfare

Factory farms confine tens of billions of animals globally.



We seek to improve the lives of the billions of animals confined on factory farms.

We believe that phasing out the worst factory farm practices and working to promote alternatives could significantly reduce animal suffering.

We are particularly interested in advocating for reforms that would improve the lives of the greatest number of animals. Especially when directed at chicken and fish — the two most numerous vertebrate farmed animals — we think that these reforms could potentially impact a large share of the animals confined on farms today.

The following Open Philanthropy staff oversee the Farm Animal Welfare program.



Lewis Bollard
SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER,
FARM ANIMAL WELFARE



Amanda Hungerford
PROGRAM OFFICER, FARM
ANIMAL WELFARE



In November 2017, Open Philanthropy [gave a grant of €459,000 \(\\$533,036\) to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council to develop a fish welfare standard:](#)



Grant investigator: [Lewis Bollard](#)

This page was reviewed but not written by the grant investigator. Aquaculture Stewardship Council staff also reviewed this page prior to publication.

The Open Philanthropy Project recommended a grant of €459,000 (\$533,036 at the time of conversion) over two years to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) to develop a fish welfare standard. ASC's goal is to develop an objective, evidence-based standard that is applicable to all eligible ASC-certified species and recognized globally. The fish welfare standard will be linked to the ASC farm standards. ASC intends to share its approach to fish welfare with all farms engaged with the program and encourage adoption of it.

Our Program Officer for Farm Animal Welfare, Lewis Bollard, began looking into funding opportunities related to farmed fish welfare last year, due to the number of animals affected by fish farming.

ASC intends to use these funds for expenses related to standard development, such as salaries, consulting, outreach and communications, overhead, market testing, and travel and administrative costs.

This grant falls within our focus area of [farm animal welfare](#).

In June 2021, Open Philanthropy [donated \\$300,000 to the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance “to secure corporate commitments to fish welfare improvements”](#):



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Grant investigator: [Lewis Bollard](#)

This page was reviewed but not written by the grant investigator. Dyrevernalliansen also reviewed this page prior to publication.

Open Philanthropy recommended a grant of \$300,000 over two years to Dyrevernalliansen (The Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance) to support efforts to improve fish welfare in Norway. Dyrevernalliansen intends to use this funding to secure corporate commitments to fish welfare improvements.

This follows our [February 2017](#) support and falls within our focus area of [farm animal welfare](#).

In March 2017, Open Philanthropy [donated \\$378,000 to the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance to expand its animal welfare engagement with the Norwegian fish farming industry including “to work cooperatively with producers and retailers”](#):



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Published: March 2017

The Open Philanthropy Project recommended a grant of \$378,000 over two years to Dyrevernalliansen (The Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance) to enable it to expand its animal welfare engagement with the Norwegian fish farming industry as part of a larger effort to build the field of farmed fish welfare advocacy. Dyrevernalliansen plans to use this grant to work cooperatively with producers and retailers to identify important fish welfare considerations that can easily be changed. We expect that some of these considerations may be related to farmed salmon environmental conditions, equipment design, handling procedures, and slaughter method.

According to the best estimates we are aware of, fish account for about three quarters of all vertebrate farmed animals.¹ Although conditions vary greatly by species and country, our understanding is that most fish are farmed for longer and in harsher conditions than those experienced by most other farm animals. Consequently, we find it plausible that fish farming could be the greatest cause of farm animal suffering globally. Despite this, we are not aware of any major animal welfare groups that have campaigns focused on fish welfare, and we therefore believe that it is important to start building this area of farm animal welfare advocacy.

Sources

DOCUMENT	SOURCE
Farm Animal Statistics, Open Philanthropy Summary	Source

In July 2021, Open Philanthropy “[recommended four grants totaling £3,648,000 over three years \(\\$5,055,105 at the time of conversion\) to Compassion in World Farming \(CIWF\) to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in Europe](#)”.



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Fish welfare exhibition. (Photo courtesy of Compassion in World Farming.)

Grant investigators: [Lewis Bollard](#) and [Amanda Hungerford](#)

This page was reviewed but not written by the grant investigators. Compassion in World Farming staff also reviewed this page prior to publication.

Open Philanthropy recommended four grants totaling £3,648,000 over three years (\$5,055,105 at the time of conversion) to Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in Europe. Our farm animal welfare team believes that these programs have built momentum and are well-positioned to seize the current window of opportunity in Europe.

This follows our [September 2019](#) support and falls within our focus area of [farm animal welfare](#).

\$camon \$cotland wrote to Lewis Bollard at Open Philanthropy on 22 January 2023:

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

Date: Sun, Jan 22, 2023 at 6:39 PM

Subject: Scottish Salmon - please stop the greenwashing of welfare abuse via RSPCA Assured & the ASC!

To: <info@openphilanthropy.org>

FAO Lewis Bollard:

\$camon \$cotland is interested in Open Philanthropy's 'Farm Animal Welfare' program which advocates "phasing out the worst factory farm practices":

<https://www.openphilanthropy.org/focus/farm-animal-welfare/>

In particular, Scamon Scotland has been tracking Open Philanthropy's funding in September 2019 of "grants totaling £1,759,701 over two years (\$2,169,429 at the time of conversion) to Compassion in World Farming to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in the UK and Europe":

<https://www.openphilanthropy.org/grants/compassion-in-world-farming-fish-welfare-and-efforts-to-end-cages/>

Open Philanthropy's funding in 2019 followed funding in January 2017 of "two grants totaling £805,000 (\$1,026,253 at the time of conversion) to Compassion in World Farming (Compassion) to advance fish welfare in Europe..... to significantly expand its existing corporate engagement, research, campaigning and legislative advocacy on fish welfare in the United Kingdom and EU":

<https://www.openphilanthropy.org/grants/compassion-in-world-farming-fish-welfare/>

The '[Compassion, Farmed Fish Budget, 2017](#)' specified 'business engagement', 'industry engagement' and a 'corporate engagement programme'.

In July 2021, Open Philanthropy "[recommended four grants totaling £3,648,000 over three years \(\\$5,055,105 at the time of conversion\) to Compassion in World Farming \(CIWF\) to support work on fish welfare and efforts to end the use of cages and crates for all farmed animal species in Europe](#)".

Does Open Philanthropy's stated aim of 'corporate engagement' explain why [CIWF's undercover investigation inside RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland in 2020](#) was not publicised more in terms of video footage?

Whilst CIWF [published summary video footage in March 2021](#) - and [a photobank](#) - it did not name particular sites or criticise the RSPCA (who certify all salmon farming companies in Scotland) and [only made publicly available less than 3 minutes of video footage](#).

CIWF's '[Rethink Fish MOU for Groups](#)' (March 2021) included:

"Agree to keep the focus, target and messaging on the Scottish government, not on the salmon producers, farmers or the RSPCA. For example, please only tag the Scottish government in social media posts and target the Scottish government in any email action when calling for them to halt the expansion of the industry. Please do not attack/criticise retailers in your country, or campaign against the producers where footage was gathered in the investigation (Mowi, etc) by targeting them on social/supporter emails/etc. This is to ensure that Compassion can build on the impact of our global campaign by establishing relationships with these producers and working with them to improve welfare standards."

"We are not making the individual farm details public because our role is to change the inherent, endemic, cruelty in salmon factory farming, not target individual farmers," [explained another CIWF document – 'Scottish Salmon Investigation FAQ' - marked 'strictly confidential'](#).

Scottish Salmon Watch openly criticised CIWF's tactics – including CIWF's lily-livered [moratorium message](#) - via a blog published in March 2021: “[CIWF's watered down 'moratorium' message lets diseased & abused Scottish salmon slip off the hook - please Rethink!](#)”

In June 2022, Compassion in World Farming's corporate engagement with Norwegian salmon farming giant Mowi (the largest salmon farming company in the world) resulted in the awarding of a fish welfare award: <https://mowi.com/blog/mowi-wins-prestigious-fish-welfare-award/> and <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/our-impact/food-business-programme/good-farm-animal-welfare-awards/recognition-awards/>

Scamon Scotland also note that in November 2017 Open Philanthropy "recommended a grant of €459,000 (\$533,036 at the time of conversion) over two years to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) to develop a fish welfare standard": <https://www.openphilanthropy.org/grants/aquaculture-stewardship-council-fish-welfare-standard-development/>

At the time of writing, there are 32 salmon farms (mostly Mowi sites) certified in Scotland as 'responsible' via the ASC with a further 17 currently being audited - in addition to 304 salmon farms certified by the ASC in Norway; 126 in Chile; 21 in Canada; 17 in the Faroe Islands; 8 in Australia and 3 in Ireland: <https://www.asc-aqua.org/find-a-farm/>

Read more via: [Greenwashing by the Deadly ASC \(Abominable Salmon Council\) Leaps to Over 30 Fish Farms - with another 17 waiting to be rubber-stamped!](#)

Yet mass mortalities and welfare abuse inside salmon farms - certified via RSPCA Assured and the ASC - are escalating:

[Death Stalks Scottish Salmon - Rising Mortalities Plague RSPCA Assured & ASC-Certified Sites!](#)

[Abominable Salmon Certification - the Aquaculture Stewardship Council is Sponsoring Serial Killing in Scotland!](#)

[ASC-Certified/Audited Mass Mortalities Pile Up at Lousy Mowi & Scottish Sea Farms!](#)

Open Philanthropy has also granted money to the RSPCA (who now certify all salmon farming companies in Scotland via RSPCA Assured):

<https://www.openphilanthropy.org/grants/royal-society-for-the-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals-organizational-development/>

In February 2020, The Sunday Times [reported that the RSPCA raked in £513,000 from RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland in 2019](#) (up from £446,481 in 2018 and £468,808 in 2017).

The \$almafia has well and truly [captured, co-opted and corrupted the RSPCA and RSPCA Assured](#).

[CIWF's 2020/2021 Annual Report \(p68\)](#) reveals how CIWF paid £20,562 to the RSPCA in 2020 with [£40,000 paid to the RSPCA in 2019](#) and [£20,000 to the RSPCA in 2018](#).

However, far from raising welfare standards on salmon farms in Scotland [the RSPCA Assured scheme is sponsoring welfare abuse and mass mortalities](#). In October 2022, \$camon Scotland wrote to the RSPCA demanding an end to the certification of Scottish salmon as 'welfare friendly' via [RSPCA Assured and the ASC](#).

Open Philanthropy has also funded welfare work in Norway (Norwegian-owned/controlled companies account for ca. 80% of salmon farming production in Scotland). In March 2017, Open Philanthropy [donated \\$378,000 to the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance to expand its animal welfare engagement with the Norwegian fish farming industry including "to work cooperatively with producers and retailers"](#). In June 2021, Open Philanthropy [donated \\$300,000 to the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance "to secure corporate commitments to fish welfare improvements"](#).

Yet mass mortalities, welfare abuse and infectious diseases are widespread in the salmon farming industry in Norway as in Scotland. Suffice to say that \$camon Scotland is seriously concerned that Open Philanthropy is actively green-washing - or welfare-washing to be more precise - endemic welfare abuse inside salmon farms in Scotland (and globally).

Recent video footage shot inside salmon farms across Scotland in 2022 - [published by Dale Vince of Ecotricity in December 2022](#) - lifts the lid on ongoing welfare abuse: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s027Lo3hfcQ>

Just this week, Animal Equality published gruesome video footage of mass mortalities at a salmon farm in Scotland (at a company certified as 'welfare-friendly' by RSPCA Assured): <https://animalequality.org.uk/news/millions-of-farmed-fish-die-before-slaughter-each-year/>

This follows Animal Equality's shocking video footage showing welfare abuse inside a slaughterhouse operated by The Scottish Salmon Company (Bakkafrost): <https://animalequality.org.uk/act/scottish-salmon>

Video footage published by Compassion in World Farming in March 2021 - sourced from undercover investigations in Scotland between September and November 2020 - also exposes welfare abuse inside salmon farms: <https://theferret.scot/suffering-endemic-scottish-salmon-farms-video/>

FishyLeaks recently (20 January 2023) published further leaked video footage shot by CIWF investigators in 2020: [FishyLeaks: Videos Expose Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon \(as certified by RSPCA Assured\)! Media Backgrounder: Leaked Video & Photos from Whiteshore Cockles CIWF Investigation](#)

The Ferret also published (16 January 2023) leaked video footage shot by CIWF investigators at Whiteshore Cockles (an illegal dump disposing of RSPCA Assured and ASC-certified Scottish salmon from Mowi, Bakkafrost and Loch Duart): [The Ferret: "'Illegal' dumping of dead fish in Outer Hebrides continues despite ban vow"](#)

The widespread nature of welfare abuse on salmon farms has been exposed more recently in the latest mortality data published by the Scottish Government and salmon farming industry via Salmon Scotland (including 64% mortality at ASC-certified and RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Nevis):

[Named & Shamed: Scotland's Most Deadly Salmon Farms in 2022 \(as sponsored by RSPCA Assured & the ASC\)!](#)

[The Observer: "Scottish salmon farms facing boycott call as fish deaths double" 64% Mortality at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Nevis - as sold by M&S as "responsibly sourced"?!!](#)

The situation inside RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland is clearly getting worse not better. "All of Scotland's salmon farmers are allied to RSPCA Assured and are included in the directory apart from Skye farmer Organic Sea Harvest, which is certified by the Soil Association and covered by the Association's own welfare standards," [reported Fish Farming Expert in October 2021 \(Organic Sea Harvest's website now displays the RSPCA Assured logo\)](#).

In view of rising mortalities and rampant welfare problems inside salmon farms across Scotland (and globally), why is Open Philanthropy funding the green-washing of factory farmed salmon?

If Open Philanthropy was seriously interested in "phasing out the worst factory farm practices" then surely it should be funding video surveillance of salmon farms, direct action and legal remedies to close down every single salmon farm in Scotland?

Even 'the best' salmon farms in Scotland (as green-washed by RSPCA Assured, the Soil Association and the ASC) have welfare standards so low that they are ethically and morally bankrupt. Put simply, there is no right way to do the wrong thing when it comes to farming Atlantic salmon.

Please 'end the sea cage age' by funding investigative work designed to close down salmon farms rather than shameless green-washing and 'corporate engagement' which rewards multinationals like Mowi - the Monsanto/McDonald's of the oceans - for endemic welfare abuse, unnecessary suffering and failure to ensure the welfare of fish.

Best fishes,

Don Staniford

Director, [Scamon Scotland](#)

[7]

From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Sent: 29 March 2021 12:15

To: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>

Cc: Emma Rush <Emma.Rush@ciwf.org>

Subject: Re: Meeting to discuss salmon

In terms of unanswered questions:

Was there threatened legal action by the salmon farming lobby?

Why was there zero UK media coverage?

Is CIWF funded by retailers, the RSPCA Assured and salmon farming industry?

2pm Thursday is good to video call.

Thanks,

Don

On Monday, March 29, 2021, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org> wrote:

Hello Don,

I'd rather not talk about the specifics on our team's efforts to secure a media story in the UK and push back from industry, as the situation is still unfolding and we don't want the details in the public realm because doing so could undermine our work.

Many thanks,

Sean



Sean Gifford

Global Director of Campaigns

+44 1483 521 974

@ Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Sent: 29 March 2021 13:30

To: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>

Cc: Emma Rush <Emma.Rush@ciwf.org>

Subject: Re: Meeting to discuss salmon

Fair enough - but if I write a blog it's correct to say:

Legal threats from Scotland's salmon lobby blocked publication of media stories featuring shocking video footage gathered by CIWF.

Lawyers representing Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Cooke and Grieg (the five foreign owned companies named and shamed in the video footage) took legal action against CIWF and OneKind.

The Ferret stood alone in the UK in publishing the video footage.

On Monday, March 29, 2021, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org> wrote:

Hello Don,

The statement that you wrote there isn't accurate and didn't come from us, so please don't publish it. The Ferret has published the video footage in the UK, which is great, so feel free to write about that.

Many thanks,

Sean



Sean Gifford

Global Director of Campaigns

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@ Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Sent: 29 March 2021 14:07

To: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>

Cc: Emma Rush <Emma.Rush@ciwf.org>

Subject: Re: Meeting to discuss salmon

What's inaccurate about the statement?

Isn't it true that lawyers representing the salmon farming lobby threatened legal action?

On Monday, March 29, 2021, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org> wrote:

Hello Don,

Any conversations that Compassion has had with the industry remain confidential, and I'm sure you appreciate why.

Many thanks,

Sean



Sean Gifford

Global Director of Campaigns

+44 1483 521 974

@ Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Sent: 29 March 2021 14:23

To: Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>

Cc: Emma Rush <Emma.Rush@ciwf.org>

Subject: Re: Meeting to discuss salmon

I understand but it's a legitimate subject.

For the record then, is this correct?

CIWF denied that legal threats had been made by lawyers representing salmon farming lobbyists.

CIWF told Scottish Salmon Watch that discussions had taken place with the salmon farming industry but that they remained "confidential".

Media coverage in the UK was non-existent but CIWF denied that "push back from industry" was behind the press blackout.

On Monday, March 29, 2021, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org> wrote:

Hello Don.

That new copy that you wrote below also not correct—I'm simply not giving you any comment to these specific questions, so please instead say that Compassion had 'no comment'.

Many thanks,

Sean



Sean Gifford

Global Director of Campaigns

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@Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



[8] Mowi [reported in June 2022](#):

MOWI®

Mowi wins prestigious fish welfare award



Mowi is proud to have been awarded a special recognition award at **Compassion in World Farming** (CIWF)'s Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards.

Compassion in World Farming [reported in June 2022](#):



RECOGNITION AWARDS

Compassion awards **Special Recognition Awards** to companies that demonstrate outstanding innovation, commitment or achievement in the field of farm animal welfare.

2022 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

As part of its 2022 Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards Compassion presented two Special Recognition Awards:

- **MOWI (Global)** - MOWI, the world's largest producer of Atlantic salmon, received a Special Recognition Award in 2022 for becoming the first producer to make global welfare commitments on the rearing and slaughter of Atlantic salmon. [Read more here](#)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HUMANE SALMON SLAUGHTER

MOWI received a **Special Recognition Award** this year for becoming the first producer to make **global commitments** on the humane slaughter of Atlantic salmon.

MOWI[®]



Fish Farmer [reported in June 2022](#):

Dr Gordon Ritchie, Group Manager Fish Health & Welfare, Mowi ASA said: "Mowi are very proud to receive this prestigious award from CIWF, for recognition of our standard on the humane slaughter of fish using percussive stunning. This policy, which matches CIWF's Flagship recommendation, is applied to all our ocean reared salmon globally, harvested on an annual basis. By recognising the importance of fish sentience, Mowi has implemented several other husbandry standards directed towards the welfare and well-being of our fish.

"As the largest producer of ocean reared salmon, it is our responsibility to develop industry leading standards on welfare and sustainable practices and to make continuous improvements, all underpinned by investment in robust research and development by dedicated teams across the entire value chain.

"Mowi would like to thank CIWF for their continued direction and consultation in leading us forward and targeting other Flagship recommendations"

Dr Tracey Jones, Global Director of Food Business at Compassion concluded: "This year's Awards have been truly inspirational with companies showing genuine leadership and motivation at a time when the global food industry has been confronted with serious issues following the pandemic, and now the war in Ukraine. The continued progress for animal welfare is heartening, whilst the ongoing work in the future food space is encouraging and signals that the food industry is ready to tackle one of the biggest challenges of our time – how to build a humane, sustainable, and resilient food system for all.

"Awareness of the sentience of fish and of the welfare issues relating to fish farming is relatively new compared to other farmed animals but getting such a big player as MOWI on board, and actively making changes to their policies, is a big step forward in achieving wider recognition of the need to improve the plight of farmed fish. As the first salmon producer to make global welfare commitments for both humane slaughter and reduced stocking densities of this magnitude, MOWI really is setting an example for others to follow and wholly deserves the Special Recognition Award."

[9] From: **corin@wildrisecompany.com** <corin@wildrisecompany.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 9:33 AM

Subject: Re: Awesome job CIWF!

To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

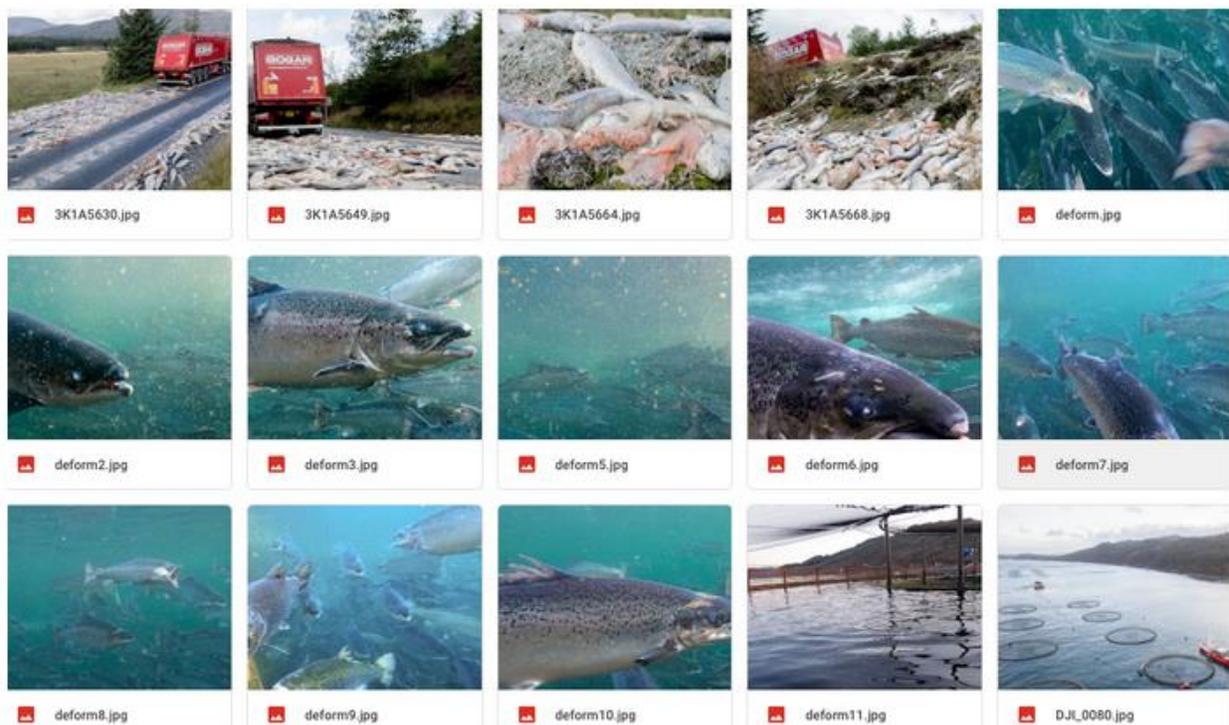
Cc: Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Dr Natasha Boyland <Natasha.Boyland@ciwf.org>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, Bob Elliot <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org.uk>, Jennifer White <JenniferW@peta.org.uk>, Mimi Bekhechi <MimiB@peta.org.uk>, JFRobins <john@jfrogins.force9.co.uk>, Claire Bass cbass@hsi.org

Entirely predictable. Another NGO completely outmaneuvered by MOWI's Comms strategists.

Firstly although the CIWF award relates to only a tiny element of a salmon's life on a salmon feedlot, it is presented by the MOWI Comms teams as being an award related to the entire life.

Secondly, now CIWF can be used by MOWI as a shield to defend themselves against accusations of low welfare given that when I produce images from MOWI farms as shown below (which I could do any day of the year) CIWF will have to admit that either 1. They made an error giving MOWI an award in the first place (which they won't) or 2. That the CIWF policies on aquaculture practices make no difference, in fact, to the lives of farmed salmon. Both require the NGO to admit they either failed and lacked judgment when deciding to partner with MOWI or (as RSPCA Assured are also forced to do in order to protect their own reputation) defend the producer. Of course the third option will be to discredit investigators like myself, without which CIWF would have no awareness of the issue in the first place and who are closer to the realities of salmon feedlots than any member of CIWF. And so CIWF have now been completely cornered into doing a job for MOWI comms teams while at the same time providing a veneer of ostensible independent credibility.

CIWF have been outthought, outmanoeuvred and are now out of credibility on salmon farming, certainly in Scotland and it would appear internationally too. Just another captured greenwashing NGO a la RSPCA Assured. I hope the cash was worth it.



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

Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 7:12 AM

Subject: Awesome job CIWF!

To: Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Dr Natasha Boyland

<Natasha.Boyland@ciwf.org>

Cc: Corin Smith <corin@wildrisecompany.com>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, Bob Elliot <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org.uk>, Jennifer White <JenniferW@peta.org.uk>, Mimi Bekhechi <MimiB@peta.org.uk>, JFRobins <john@jfrobins.force9.co.uk>, Claire Bass cbass@hsi.org

p16 of Mowi's Q2 2022 report out today: <https://ml-eu.globenewswire.com/Resource/Download/14559692-7415-4f20-bba8-94c30125ab8f>

Mowi wins prestigious fish welfare award

Mowi has been awarded a special recognition award at Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)'s Good Farm Animal Welfare Awards. The awards, which took place in London in June, showcase the work of food businesses around the world that make genuine and meaningful improvements to the lives of farmed animals and the sustainability of their supply chains.

See below for Mowi's Q2 2022 disaster.

And read yesterday's blog detailing 56% mortality at RSPCA Assured and ASC certified Mowi at Greanem (Grey Horse Channel Outer) in the Sound of Harris:

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

Watch later today for a new blog detailing more welfare problems for CIWF-approved Mowi - here's a photo sourced from a Scottish Government inspection report in May 2022 (taken by FHI inspectors at a RSPCA Assured & ASC certified Mowi salmon farm):



Posted later today via: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2022/08/mowis-disease-welfare-nightmare-in-loch-linnhe-again-.html>

Best fishes,

Don

----- Forwarded message -----

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

Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 7:01 AM

Subject: Mowi's Q2 2022 report - 32% fall in Scottish production due to disease etc

To:

See links below for Mowi's Q2 2022 presentation and report.

Harvest volumes were down over 6,000 tonnes on Q1 2021 - falling from 19,162 tonnes to 12,954 tonnes (that's a 32% fall!)

Salmon of Scottish origin

(EUR million)	Q2 2022	Q2 2021
Operational EBIT	20.7	29.9
EBIT	67.8	37.5
Harvest volume (GWT)	12 954	19 162

Tweets picking out various Scottish problems via:

<https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1562317557385797632>

<https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1562312407422304256>

<https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1562313318332776448>

<https://twitter.com/TheGAAIA/status/1562314957240295424>

Best fishes,

Don

[10]

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

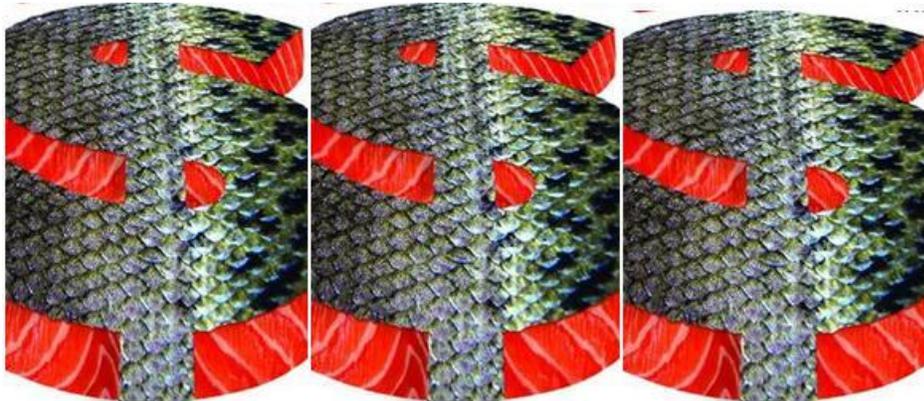
Date: Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 10:46 AM

Subject: Re: Awesome job CIWF!

To: corin@wildrisecompany.com <corin@wildrisecompany.com>

Cc: Phil Brooke <phil@ciwf.org>, Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>, Dr Krzysztof Wojtas <Krzysztof.Wojtas@ciwf.org>, Sean Gifford <Sean.Gifford@ciwf.org>, Dr Natasha Boyland <Natasha.Boyland@ciwf.org>, Eve Massie <eve.massie@onekind.org>, Bob Elliot <bob.elliott@onekind.org>, Edie Bowles <edie.bowles@advocates-for-animals.com>, Lex Rigby <lex@viva.org.uk>, Abigail Penny <abigailp@animalequality.org.uk>, Jennifer White <JenniferW@peta.org.uk>, Mimi Bekhechi <MimiB@peta.org.uk>, JFRobins <john@jfrobbins.force9.co.uk>, Claire Bass <cbass@hsi.org>

How much \$almoney did Mowi pay to CIWF?



[11] From: **Sophie Peutrill** <Sophie.Peutrill@ciwf.org>
Date: Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 9:36 AM
Subject: RE: Salmon campaign this month?
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Cc: Natasha Smith <Natasha.Smith@ciwf.org>

Good morning Don,

For the salmon investigation launch, we will be launching the footage internationally (in countries that import salmon), to place international pressure on the Scottish government for a moratorium of the growth of the industry, and to do so are partnering up with international NGOs to support the work in their country. We are also partnering with a few key NGOs in the UK for the launch, so although CIWF will be leading with the media release, selected UK organisations (of which I'd like to invite Scottish Salmon Watch) have the option to either co-launch the investigation on their social media channels and emailing supporters, or spread the word by sharing the investigation on social channels. For either option, there'll be a Twitterstorm on 24 March to participate in.

If choosing the former, we are requesting the completion of an MOU – this is as we are naming the producers, so to try to protect ourselves from legal challenges have needed to be particularly careful for the wording of the investigation and corresponding materials. So, the MOU mostly refers to the use of the materials and the core messaging for the investigation – aiming all 'attacks' at the Scottish government (rather than the named producers) and demanding a

moratorium for the growth of the industry. Of course, if you'd prefer to use different messaging, you can instead share the investigation on the launch day.

The comms/campaigns pack for the investigation can be found below (and is password protected). As you are aware, please keep this pack confidential and do not share widely.

Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pqqk1ifx5hq4x8a/AAC12eiyoZnZexm1OFXSZ3pa?dl=0>

Password: ScottishSalmon2021

Let me know if you'd like to jump on a call with Tash and myself to discuss any of this, as there is a fair amount to navigate. I'll add the report to the pack once final designs are ready.

Best,

Sophie



Sophie Peutrill (she/her/hers)

Global Campaigns Manager - Fish Welfare

+44 1483 521 892

Sophie.Peutrill@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



Scottish Salmon Investigation March 2021

from Compassion in World Farming International (Fish Team)

Save to Dropbox

Download

Name

1) Strategy & Information

2) Investigation & Stills

3) Report

4) Media & Social Media

5) Open Letter Action & Email Copy

CIWF's [Dropbox package](#) included:

MOU	Please sign the MOU that covers the launch of the investigation. It relates to the use of the assets we will share and the core focus of campaign messaging (on the Scottish government rather than producers). This is a one-off MOU that covers the March launch of the investigation and the use of the assets provided.
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CIWF's '[Rethink Fish MOU for Groups](#)' detailed:



River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EZ, UK
E : sophie.peutrill@ciwf.org

[Insert date]

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

Compassion in World Farming, Charity registered in the UK under the registration number 1095050, located River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EZ, UK, duly represented by Sophie Peutrill acting as Global Fish Campaign Manager

And

[Insert name/

Compassion in World Farming ("Compassion") is working to release an investigation of Scottish Salmon Farming under the 'Rethink Fish' campaign banner which calls for a moratorium on the growth of the Scottish salmon farming industry based on welfare and environmental criteria. In addition to securing a moratorium, the campaign will raise awareness globally of the plight of farmed fish.

This agreement confirms an intention to support this work.

This is an agreement between Compassion and the Partner organisation (hereafter referred to as the "Parties").

I. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this MOU is to provide the framework arrangement between Compassion and [name of organisation] on campaigning actions.

The benefit of the MOU is so that both organisations have a clear understanding.

II. Description of the campaign

Title: Rethink Fish Scottish Salmon Campaign

Subject-matter

Hundreds of millions of Scottish Salmon are kept in cages for up to 2 years, suffering from disease, sea lice infestations and inescapable boredom. We call on the Scottish Government to issue a moratorium on the growth of this industry. **AIMS**

Primary aim:

Halt the expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry.

Secondary aims:

- Improve salmon welfare regulations in Scotland, and the enforcement of these regulations.
- Rally support among global citizens and decision makers – particularly those in salmon-importing countries – for the campaign.
- Raise international awareness of the welfare and environmental issues with the industry.

OBJECTIVES

Primary objective:

Secure a moratorium on the expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry

Secondary objectives:

- Generate high profile, global media coverage of the investigation and report.
- Mobilise supporters to take a variety of tailored supporter actions, including some UK-focused actions and other more globally-relevant options.

III. Responsibilities and mutual commitments

By signing this MOU, you:

- **Agree to support the campaign for a moratorium in March 2021** – the level of involvement being agreed with your CIWF contact (please refer to the brief for examples of involvement), primarily launching the investigation across your social media channels and email list, and by asking your supporters/ mailing list(s)/social media followers to participate in a global Twitter storm.

You also:

- **Agree to only release the provided materials on or after 23rd March 2021 at 08.00am (GMT)** [please adjust for time zone], and only use until 1 September 2021.
- **Agree to keep the focus, target and messaging on the Scottish government**, not on the salmon producers, farmers or the RSPCA. For example, please only tag the Scottish government in social media posts and target the Scottish government in any email action when calling for them to halt the expansion of the industry. Please do not attack/criticise retailers in your country, or campaign against the producers where footage was gathered in the investigation (Mowi, etc) by targeting them on social/supporter emails/etc. This is to ensure that Compassion can build on the impact of our global campaign by establishing relationships with these producers and working with them to improve welfare standards.

If, in your supporter communications, you wish to supplement the primary ask (for a moratorium on industry expansion) with a secondary ask (e.g., encouraging people to eat a more plant-based diet), you can do so – as long as the primary focus remains the moratorium ask.

- **Agree not to edit the content of the videos**, unless doing a direct translation or after discussion and agreement with Compassion. **Videos are allowed to be edited to include new branding and for translations.**
- **Agree to use provided content for the aims and objectives listed above only** (i.e., not direct fundraising), unless other uses are agreed with Compassion in advance.

Compassion will provide you with a toolkit that will include key facts and figures, videos, images, draft media release, communications.

IV. Effective date and signature

This MOU shall be in effect upon its date of signature by the Parties and for the duration of the campaign, which runs for 6 months following 23 March 2021, except in the case of prior termination by one of the Parties in application of the Termination clause.

The Parties indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

V. Confidentiality

Compassion and [name of organisation] agree to maintain confidential all information disclosed by the other Party that is referred to as confidential unless said information has entered the public domain. Any information

relating to the campaign prior to the launch of the campaign by Compassion shall remain strictly confidential, unless otherwise agreed in written between the Parties.

VI. Termination

Each Party shall have the right to terminate the MOU by giving written notice in writing to the other Party at any time. If the MOU is terminated by either Party, steps shall be taken to ensure that the termination does not affect any prior obligation, project or activity already in progress, with respect to the objective of the campaign.

Duly signed in two originals,

For [name of your organisation]

For Compassion in World Farming
Signature:

Duly authorised for and on behalf of:

Organisation

Address

Duly authorised for and on behalf of:

Compassion in World Farming

Address: River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, UK

Email address: Sophie.peutrill@ciwf.org

Telephone number: +44 1483 521 950

Another CIWF document – ‘[Salmon Investigation Briefing](#)’ – marked “strictly confidential” included:

This document is strictly confidential



SALMON INVESTIGATION BRIEFING

The objective of the investigation is to generate international media coverage and mobilise public support for the campaign, which ultimately aims to secure a moratorium from the Scottish Government to halt further expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry.

Primary Objective

Secure a moratorium on expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry.

Target

The Scottish government.

Call to Action/Method

Call for a moratorium via an open letter action directed to the Scottish government (optional) and a Twitterstorm action.

Timeline

- Launch investigation, report and global open letter action/prime for Twitter storm – **23 March 2021 08.00am (GMT)**.
- Twitterstorm - **24 March 2021**

Key media messaging	The key target for our investigation is the Scottish Government, not the salmon farming industry/producers. As such, our primary messaging is around the moratorium on the further expansion of the industry.
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Another document – ‘[Scottish Salmon Investigation](#)’ – shared by CIWF (again marked “strictly confidential”) included:

Scottish Salmon Investigation

This document is strictly confidential



Scottish Farmed Salmon Producers

- The top five salmon producers in Scotland account for over 96% of the entire Scottish salmon industry.
- These producers are:
 1. MOWI Scotland (previously called Marine Harvest)
 2. Scottish Sea Farms
 3. The Scottish Salmon Company
 4. Cooke Aquaculture
 5. Grieg Seafood

Aims & objectives

Aims

Primary aim:

Halt the expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry.

Secondary aims:

- Improve salmon welfare regulations in Scotland, and the enforcement of these regulations.
- Rally support among global citizens and decision makers – particularly those in salmon-importing countries – for the campaign.
- Raise international awareness of the welfare and environmental issues with the industry.

Objectives

Primary objective:

Secure a moratorium on expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry until the welfare and environmental challenges are addressed.

Secondary objectives:

- Build and maintain engagement with the top five producers, and the Scottish Government, on improving regulations.
- Generate high profile, global media coverage of the investigation and report.
- Mobilise supporters to take a variety of tailored supporter actions, including some UK-focused actions and other more globally-relevant options.
- Maintain engagement with supportive, influential political figures in Scotland to keep them on board with our campaign (e.g. MSPs, relevant committees).

Another document – ‘[Scottish Salmon Investigation FAQ](#)’ – also marked “strictly confidential” included:

This document is strictly confidential

Scottish Salmon Investigation FAQ

This document is strictly confidential



What were the key findings from the investigation?	Some of the main welfare issues identified across the farms included salmon overcrowded in cages, sea lice parasite infestations and damage, fin erosion. Investigators also found blind fish and seaweed growing from open wounds. One of the farms was so poor that we reported it to the Scottish authorities. We also captured harrowing footage of poor cleaner fish welfare, dead fish being dumped into open pits, and a hydrolicer boat in action.
Are these one-off welfare issues?	Our investigator captured animal welfare issues across 6 farms from 5 salmon producers that cover over 96% of the entire Scottish salmon farming industry. It is clear from the footage, and the report, that these kinds of animal welfare and environmental issues, such as sea lice, disease and pollution, are endemic across the industry. It's urgent that the Scottish Government puts in place a moratorium. <i>More info:</i> It is also not the first time some producers have been exposed for poor conditions, e.g.) https://theferret.scot/mowi-fish-farming-deaths/ https://www.ciwf.org.uk/news/2019/05/salmon-farming-exposed

Investigation

When and where was the investigation conducted?	This footage was captured from salmon farms off the coast of Scotland and the Shetland Islands in October-December 2020. In total investigators visited 22 farms and were able to film underwater at six. Our investigators found intense animal suffering across the five main Scottish salmon producers, that account for over 96% of the entire Scottish salmon farming industry.
What are the names of the farms?	We are not making the individual farm details public because our role is to change the inherent, endemic, cruelty in salmon factory farming, not target individual farmers. We will make more change for more animals by campaigning for systemic change. It's urgent that the Scottish Government puts in place a moratorium.
Did you report any of the fish farms to authorities?	Yes. One of Scottish Sea Farms' sites displayed major welfare issues which we believe was a violation of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, meriting reporting to the Animal Plant and Health Agency. This included salmon with eyes missing, major lice damage, one with a big chunk of flesh missing from its tail, fungal/parasitic infections, fish with lesions and 'white heads' (large areas of exposed flesh on the head). Authorities have told us the farm is still being investigated.
Did you cause any biosecurity risk to the fish?	We created a biosecurity protocol for this investigation. Our investigators took steps to minimise any biosecurity risk to the surrounding environment. For instance, the investigator disinfected their diving gear between each dive. Of course, Scottish salmon farming itself may post a biosecurity risk with open pits of dead fish often left exposed.

<p>Did you break any laws when accessing the farms? What are the current laws such as for trespassing?</p>	<p>The team did not illegally trespass on company property, did not enter cages, and did not damage nets or any other company property. Law on 'right to roam' is broader in Scotland than the UK so the team used their rights to access and film where permitted.</p> <p>Current laws relevant to this are:</p>
	<p>The Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865 Land Reform Act 2003</p> <p>The Land Reform Act 2003 was introduced to improve “general rights of access, servitudes and encampment on private land”. The act established universal access rights to most land which people have the rights. If these rules are exercised properly “respecting other people’s privacy, safety and respecting the environment around them” then it is not considered trespass.</p> <p>The sea is also not owned by salmon farmers, so it is more about the land-based facilities.</p>

Producers

Please note we are targeting the Scottish Government, not producers. This information is provided in case you are asked specific questions – in which case please feel free to share this information.

<p>Which producers run the farms in the investigation?</p>	<p>Our investigator captured footage from the farms contracted to 5 key salmon producers, which collectively account for over 96% of the industry. These include MOWI Scotland, Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood, The Scottish Salmon Company and Cooke Aquaculture.</p>
<p>How much salmon does each producer produce in Scotland? ¹</p>	<p>In 2019, the total amount of farmed salmon produced in Scotland was as much as 165,200 tonnes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOWI Scotland produced 65,400 tonnes of salmon in 2019, which is 39.6% (40%) of the total. • Scottish Salmon Company produced 33,800 tonnes of salmon in 2019, which is 20.5% of the total. • Scottish Sea Farms produced 25,900 tonnes of salmon in 2019, which is 16% of the total. • Cooke Aquaculture produced 23,400 tonnes of salmon in 2019, which is 14.2% of the total. • Grieg Seafood produced 11,300 tonnes of salmon in 2019, which is 6.8% total.
<p>What percentage of the industry do these producers cover?</p>	<p>These 5 producers altogether cover over 96% of the entire Scottish salmon farming industry. The other ~3% is produced by Loch Duart, Organic Sea Harvest, and Wester Ross Salmon.</p>

Are these farms assured by the RSPCA?	Information is not available on whether the individual farms investigated are RSPCA assured. However, the RSPCA does assure much of the Scottish salmon industry. It appears that all of MOWI's, Grieg Seafood, and Scottish Sea Farms are RSPCA assured.
Is this cruelty the RSPCA's fault?	<p>The RSPCA does incredible work improving the lives of millions of farmed animals through their farmed animal certification programs and other activities. Countless farmed fish undoubtedly have better lives because of the RSPCA's involvement, but overall, the salmon industry has such widespread and systemic welfare problems it needs to be halted.</p> <p>We have shared our findings with our friends at the RSPCA and are in dialogue with them over the Scottish salmon industry and ways our organisations can work together to improve it.</p>
Would you recommend people buy RSPCA Salmon?	At the moment, the Scottish salmon industry is responsible for an animal welfare and environmental crisis. The entire industry needs an overhaul, and while some farmers are adhering to higher standards than others, we would recommend consumers are cautious when buying farmed salmon in general. Due to the serious animal welfare and environmental consequences, we therefore do not encourage consumers to buy farmed salmon, Scottish or otherwise.

[Note that at the time of CIWF's undercover investigation of salmon farms, [Emma Slawinski](#) was 'Director of Campaigns and Communications' at CIWF and since May 2021 has been 'Director of Policy, Prevention and Campaigns' at the RSPCA]

From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Sent: 08 March 2021 12:48
To: Sophie Peutrill <Sophie.Peutrill@ciwf.org>
Cc: Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>
Subject: Re: Salmon campaign this month?

Firstly, the video footage is f***ing awesome and horrendous. Bloody brilliant work and I take my hat off to your investigation team. Wow.

For two reasons, I cannot be publicly associated directly with your amazing work (via Scottish Salmon Watch and GAAIA).

And we don't need to fall out about it - I am sure we can agree to disagree on them and I will certainly be supporting the amazing video footage via social media and generally.

1) Calling for a moratorium on expansion is so weak it is embarrassing. In my book it's like saying foie gras farming should not be expanded. i.e. I will continue to call for an end of salmon farming as it is ethically and environmentally bankrupt. By calling for a moratorium on

expansion you're basically saying 200,000 tonnes per year of salmon farming production at ca. 200 salmon farms in the sea is OK.

2) Not calling out companies including supermarkets, shareholders and the RSPCA and SSPCA is misguided and misses the real target. I will continue to name and shame particular companies. The RSPCA endorse ca. 60-70% of salmon farming production and the SSPCA (chaired by the head vet at Scottish Sea Farms) condone current practices - hence they warrant fierce criticism.

Anyway, that said the work here is superb and opens the way to secure even more video footage this Summer. Congratulations to CIWF and the investigation team - 10/10. It's just a real shame about the messaging associated with it!

Best fishes,

Don

From: **Sophie Peutrill** <Sophie.Peutrill@ciwf.org>
Date: Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 2:48 PM
Subject: RE: Salmon campaign this month?
To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Cc: Philip Lymbery <philip@ciwf.org>

Hi Don,

Thanks for your kind comments, and for the feedback around messaging. I do agree that it is a weaker overall message, and it was a difficult but necessary decision to focus the pressure from this investigation around the government rather than producers for this launch.

At Compassion, we often don't mention the names of farms/producers in our investigation, and are only doing so to make it clear that this investigation covers +96% of the industry (and it is not a few 'bad eggs'). Also, we build relationships with retailers and producers through our food business work to improve the lives of many animals, and so directly targeting these groups can impact our other strands of work. Although we do not purposefully mention the RSPCA, they certify farms covered by these producers, and as a result it'll indirectly put pressure on them to improve/better enforce their standards for fish.

Again, I do appreciate your feedback and it's something worth continued consideration. And, of course, I am grateful for your insight and support to get us to this point with a powerful investigation that'll raise international awareness on the horrors of salmon farming in Scotland.

Best,

Sophie



Sophie Peutrill (she/her/hers)
Global Campaigns Manager - Fish Welfare

+44 1483 521 892

Sophie.Peutrill@ciwf.org | www.ciwf.org

River Court, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EZ, United Kingdom



[12] Sourced from a broadcast journalist who stated on 10 July 2022 that “Salmon Scotland sounded very litigious”.

[13] RSPCA Assured refuse to publish a list of salmon farms in Scotland accredited via RSPCA Assured but it seems clear that all salmon farming companies – and perhaps all salmon farms in Scotland – are certified via RSPCA Assured:

From: **Hello** <hello@rspcaassured.org.uk>

Date: Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 2:02 PM

Subject: Re: Open Letter to the RSPCA & ASC - please stop certifying Scottish salmon as "responsibly farmed"!

To: Don Staniford salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Hi Don,

Thanks for getting in touch, we will take a look at your letter.

As explained previously, we are unable to publish a list of all of our members but most salmon companies state which assurance schemes they are part of on their websites.

Kind regards

Emily

RSPCA Assured

In December 2022, [Fish Farming Expert reported](#): “all of Scotland’s salmon farmers are now members of the RSPCA Assured scheme”.

In April 2021, [RSPCA Assured reinstated certification for Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company \(since renamed Bakka Frost Scotland\), Cooke Aquaculture and Grieg Seafood after suspending the five companies shamed in the CIWF video footage published in](#)

[March 2021](#). In a statement, [RSPCA Assured told Fish Farmer](#): “We were really shocked and upset by some of this footage taken last year, especially as some of the farms were reported to be RSPCA Assured certified. We immediately launched an investigation, as soon as we received details of the farms on 23 March 2021, and suspended those sites in the video that were members of RSPCA Assured, pending investigation.

Mowi is 100% RSPCA Assured ([including four Mowi salmon farms around the Isle of Shuna exposed as suffering from welfare abuse in July 2021](#)).

“Our Scottish operations are 100% certified against the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) standard,” [states Mowi’s 2021 Annual Report \(p55\)](#).

“We are proud that all of our farms in Scotland are RSPCA Assured and are farmed responsibly in the pristine, strong tidal waters of the west coast of Scotland,” [states Mowi via Seafood Scotland](#).

“We’re regularly checked by RSPCA’s independently certified farm assurance scheme and are proud to meet their standards,” [states Mowi](#).

“We’re proud to farm to [RSPCA welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon](#),” [states Scottish Sea Farms](#) (including [Loch Spelve salmon farm which was suspended temporarily in May 2021 following secret filming by Scottish Salmon Watch](#)).

“All our superior salmon are accredited by RSPCA Assured,” [states Cooke Aquaculture](#).

“Grieg Seafood Shetland is assured according to the animal welfare charity, RSPCA,” [reported Grieg Seafood’s Annual Report 2019](#) (p59).

“We are RSPCA certified” [states Wester Ross Salmon](#) (owned by Mowi since June 2022)

“All stages & aspects of our production are covered by the RSPCA welfare standards,” [states Kames](#).

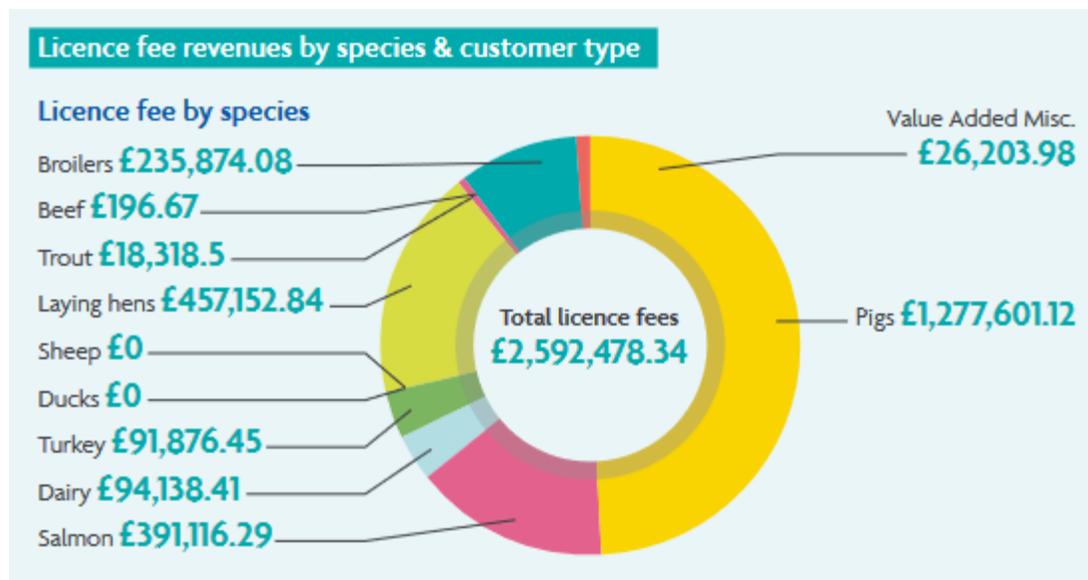
Loch Duart’s [website displays the RSPCA Assured logo](#) and [lists RSPCA Assured as one of its accreditations](#). Note that [one of RSPCA Assured’s Field Assessors \(Giada Desperati\) used to work for Loch Duart](#). Loch Duart was the [first salmon farming company – in 2002 – to be accredited via RSPCA Assured \(formerly Freedom Food\)](#).

“To ensure our salmon are raised to the highest welfare standards, we also adhere to independent third-party accreditations, including RSPCA Assured,” [stated Bakkafrost’s 2021 Sustainability Report published in March 2022](#).

FARMING - FRESHWATER			
BUSINESS UNIT			CERTIFICATION
Bakkafrost Faroe Islands			Global G.A.P. / VLOG
Bakkafrost Scotland			GAA BAP, Global G.A.P., Label Rouge, COGP*, RSPCA Assured, ISO14001
FARMING - MARINE			
BUSINESS UNIT			CERTIFICATION
Bakkafrost Faroe Islands			ASC (100%), Global G.A.P. / VLOG
Bakkafrost Scotland			GAA BAP, Global G.A.P., Label Rouge, PGI, COGP*, RSPCA Assured, ISO14001
PROCESSING			
BUSINESS UNIT	FACTORY	PROCESSING TYPE	CERTIFICATION
Bakkafrost Faroe Islands	Glyvrrar	Primary & Secondary	BRCGS, IFS, Global G.A.P. / VLOG, ASC CoC, Kosher, SEDEX
Bakkafrost Faroe Islands	Vágur	Primary	Global G.A.P. / VLOG, ASC CoC, Kosher
Bakkafrost Scotland	Cairndow	Primary & Secondary	BRCGS, GAA BAP, Global G.A.P., Label Rouge, PGI, COGP*, RSPCA Assured, SEDEX
Bakkafrost Scotland	Marybank	Primary & Secondary	BRCGS, GAA BAP, Global G.A.P., Label Rouge, PGI, COGP*, RSPCA Assured, SEDEX

“Around 70 per cent of Scottish salmon are certified to the RSPCA Farm Assured scheme,” [claims Salmon Scotland](#).

RSPCA Assured’s [Annual Review 2020](#) sees salmon ranked third after pigs and laying hens in the licence fee revenue:



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

Date: Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 2:39 PM

Subject: Re: Open Letter to the RSPCA & ASC - please stop certifying Scottish salmon as "responsibly farmed"!

To: Hello <hello@rspcaassured.org.uk>

Emily,

Thanks - so if Mowi, for example, states that they as a company are RSPCA Assured does this mean that ALL their salmon farms are RSPCA Assured?

Fish Farming Expert reported in March 2021 via:

<https://www.fishfarmingexpert.com/compassion-in-world-farming-rspca-assured-salmon/scottish-salmon-farmers-urge-auditors-to-make-surprise-site-inspections/1360930>

"All Scottish salmon farmers are now signed up to the RSPCA Assured accreditation scheme apart from Organic Sea Harvest, which adheres to organic standards through the Soil Association"

So does that mean that all Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, Cooke, The Scottish Salmon Company/Bakkafrost, Loch Duart, Wester Ross and Kames have all their salmon farms certified via RSPCA Assured?

Cooke, for example, is certified via the Soil Association but not all of their salmon farms are certified as organic.

And Mowi and Scottish Sea Farms are certified via the ASC but not all of their farms.

What you seem to be suggesting is that RSPCA Assured certifies a company and by extension therefore certifies all of their salmon farms. Is that correct?

Thanks,

Don

[RSPCA Assured did not reply to the email above]

Note that Fish Farming Expert [reported in October 2021](#): "All of Scotland's salmon farmers are allied to RSPCA Assured and are included in the directory apart from Skye farmer Organic Sea Harvest, which is certified by the Soil Association and covered by the Association's own welfare standards"]

The '[Business to Business Supplier Guide & Directory for RSPCA Assured Products](#)' (October 2021) includes:

Salmon

Distribution: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland



Cooke Seafood

<https://www.cookeseafood.com/>

Grieg Seafood

<http://www.griegseafood.com/>

Loch Duart Ltd

<http://www.lochduart.com/>

Mowi (Scotland, Ireland & France)

<https://www.mowi.com>

Scottish Salmon Company

<https://www.scottishsalmon.com/>

Scottish Sea Farms

<https://www.scottishseafarms.com/>

Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd

<http://www.wrs.co.uk/>

Smokehouses

Bleikers Smokehouse Ltd

<https://bleikers.co.uk/>

John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd

<http://www.johnrossjr.com/>

Severn and Wye Smokery

<https://severnandwe.co.uk/>

St James Smokehouse (Scotland) Ltd

<https://www.stjamessmokehouse.com>

Salmon

Manufacturing & value added products



Associated Seafoods Ltd

<https://www.associatedseafoods.com>

Aquascot Ltd

<https://www.aquascot.com/>

Bidfresh T/A Direct Seafoods

<http://www.directseafoods.co.uk>

Cooke Seafood

<https://www.cookeseafood.com/>

Copernus Ltd

<https://copernus.co.uk/hooked-on-fish/>

Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd

<https://www.dawnfresh.co.uk/>

Farne Salmon & Trout Ltd

<https://farnesalmon.com/>

Grieg Seafood

<http://www.griegseafood.com/>

Highland Smoked Salmon (Scotland) Limited

<https://www.highlandsmokedsalmon.co.uk>

JCS Fish

<https://www.jcsfish.co.uk/>

JK Thomson

<https://www.jkthomson.com/>

John Ross Jr (Aberdeen) Ltd

<http://www.johnrossjr.com/>

Salmon

Manufacturing & value added products (continued)



Loch Duart Ltd

<http://www.lochduart.com/>

Lunar Freezing & Cold Storage Co Ltd

<http://www.lunarfreezing.co.uk/>

Marine Products Scotland Limited

graeme@marineproductsscotland.com

Mowi

(Scotland, Ireland & France)

<https://www.mowi.com>

Prime Processors

<https://www.primeprocessors.co.uk/>

R R Spink & Sons

<http://www.rrspink.com/>

Scottish Salmon Company

<https://www.scottishsalmon.com/>

Scottish Sea Farms

<https://www.scottishseafarms.com/>

Seachill (Hilton Food Group)

<https://www.hiltonfoodgroupplc.com/en/>

Seafood Products Ltd

<https://seafood-products.com/>

Subzero (Grimsby) Ltd

<https://www.subzerofish.com/>

Thistle Seafoods Limited

<https://www.thistleseafoods.com/>

Salmon

Manufacturing & value added products (continued)



Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd

<http://www.wrs.co.uk/>

Youngs Seafood

<https://youngsseafood.co.uk/>

Value added products

Aquascot Ltd

<https://www.aquascot.com/>

Ferndale Foods Ltd - (Oscar Mayer)

<https://www.oscarmayer.co.uk/>

Fresh Pak Chilled Foods

<https://www.fresh-pak.co.uk/>

Greencore Food To Go

<https://www.greencore.com/>

Lossie Seafoods Ltd

<https://www.associatedseafoods.com>

Macrae Foods (Youngs)

<https://youngsseafood.co.uk/>

Mowi (Scotland, Ireland & France)

<https://www.mowi.com>

Youngs Seafood

<https://youngsseafood.co.uk/>

As of 14 January 2023, Organic Sea Harvest displays the RSPCA Assured logo on their website:
<https://organicseaharvest.co.uk/about-us/organic-status.html>

Organic Sea Harvest operate to some of the strictest farming standards and regulations in the world. These are laid out by our certification bodies, a number of which allows us to market our product as organic.

Furthermore, we aim to go above and beyond these statutory requirements through technical discussions on how the standards can be improved between generations (i.e each salmon "cycle") - providing information on best practice with an overall aim of maximizing the quality of life for our fish at all times.



RSPCA Assured claim not to profit from salmon farming:

From: **Hello** <hello@rspcaassured.org.uk>

Date: Tue, Oct 25, 2022 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Re: Open Letter to the RSPCA & ASC - please stop certifying Scottish salmon as "responsibly farmed"!

To: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>

Dear Don,

Thank you for your recent letter.

We agree that there are many challenges facing salmon farming - as there are with terrestrial farming. Therefore we are working hard with RSPCA Assured members, the wider salmon industry and academics to find ways to tackle these issues, for example the challenge of disease and sea lice outbreaks.

Some of them aren't easy to resolve but animal welfare is our absolute priority and, as an animal welfare charity, we are duty-bound to keep doing all we can to help improve the welfare of all animals, including salmon.

That's why the RSPCA chose to develop around 500 standards aimed solely at improving the welfare of farmed salmon at every stage of their life. These standards have been a catalyst for change throughout the entire salmon industry, not just on RSPCA Assured certified farms.

But there is still much work to be done. Whilst we don't have answers to all of the challenges at present, we are continually working with the salmon industry, retailers and experts to look at further ways to enhance the welfare of fish and reduce the risk of sea lice infestations and disease. We won't give up trying to bring about further welfare improvements.

RSPCA Assured is a charity and, as explained to you previously, we do not profit from salmon farming. Our sole mission is to help improve farm animal welfare.

You may not agree with us but we hope this helps explain why we are involved in salmon farming. We firmly stand by the approach we have taken, as it has helped bring about many significant improvements to the welfare of many millions of farmed salmon and will continue to do so.

If we walked away from the salmon industry because of challenges like sea lice and disease, it could result in many millions of fish being reared to lower standards and an increase in health and disease problems. And, as an animal welfare charity, we will not turn our back on helping improve the lives of all farm animals.

Kind regards

RSPCA Assured

Read more on the scam which is RSPCA Assured via:

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

[3 million Scottish Salmon Die Inside RSPCA Assured Feedlots in September?!](#)

[Death Stalks Scottish Salmon - Rising Mortalities Plague RSPCA Assured & ASC-Certified Sites!](#)

[Scottish Scamon: Piscine Reovirus, skin lesions/boils & "hanging" salmon in Loch Creran \(sold by M&S as "responsibly sourced" & certified via RSPCA Assured\)!](#)

[RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon Infested with 50 Lice, Poxvirus, Necrosis, Lesions & Myocarditis!](#)

[Salmon Hell on 'God's Island' - Mass Mortalities Pile Up \(Again\) at RSPCA Assured Bakkafröst off Isle of Gigha!](#)

[Open Letter to the RSPCA & ASC - please stop certifying Scottish salmon as "responsibly farmed"!](#)

[Named & Shamed: The Most Deadly Salmon Farms in Scotland \(as greenwashed as "responsible" via RSPCA Assured & the ASC\)!](#)

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

[Exposed: 10 Million Morts at RSPCA Assured Mowi Since 2019!](#)

[Video Exclusive: Secret Filming Exposes Horrific Welfare Abuse Inside RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[Rest Assured - the RSPCA has been captured, co-opted & corrupted by the Salmafia](#)

[Press Release: "Secret Filming Exposes Welfare Abuse at RSPCA Assured Mowi - Campaigners call for Mowi to be fined & RSPCA certification rescinded"](#)

[Mowi's RSPCA Assured Salmon - fresh from the West coast of Scotland!](#)

[RSPCA Sponsored Welfare Abuse of Salmon Farms - A Guide to Getting Away with Mass Murder \(Theriacide\)!](#)

[Secret Filming Exposes RSPCA 'Abused' Scottish Salmon - Welfare Complaint Filed Against M&S Supplier Scottish Sea Farms](#)

[Letter to Secretary of State re. Welfare Abuse at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[Whitewashing Welfare Abuse of Scottish Salmon \(as sponsored via RSPCA, SSPCA & APHA\)](#)
[Update: Mortality Rate Over 36% At RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon!](#)
[Mowi's 'Healthy' RSPCA Assured & ASC-Certified Salmon Farm at Gorsten \(as featured in Seaspiracy\)](#)
[Netflix's 'Seaspiracy' Exposes Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon – As Sponsored by the RSPCA & Aquaculture Stewardship Council!](#)
[Media Backgrounder: The Welfare Nightmare of Scottish Salmon \(Updated\)](#)
[RSPCA Suspend Salmon Farm Inspections](#)
[Mmmm Mowi's RSPCA Assured Salmon at Greshornish on the Isle of Skye](#)
[RSPCA Assured Mowi Plagued by Mass Mortalities & Infectious Diseases on Skye](#)
[Be Sure to Boycott RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon - Shocking New Photos Published of Mowi's North Shore Feedlot in Loch Erisort!](#)
[Sunday Times: "RSPCA paid over £500,000 to back Scottish salmon industry"](#)
[Sunday Times: "Scientist hits out at RSPCA for backing Scottish salmon farms"](#)
[Press Release: "Dear RSPCA - Please Stop Certifying Scottish Salmon!"](#)
[Letter to the RSPCA - Please Stop Certifying Scottish Salmon!](#)
[Photo Dossier of Diseased, Deformed & Abused RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon](#)
[Private Eye: "RSPCA: Synchronised Swimming"](#)
[Press Release: "Carry on Killing Says RSPCA"](#)
[Infested fish farm gets RSPCA award](#)

[14]

The Ferret [reported in August 2018](#):

Don Staniford of pressure group [Scottish Salmon Watch](#) accused the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) of earning £1m a year from its fish farm certification scheme. "RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon makes a mockery of high welfare standards," he said. "The RSPCA should launch a campaign to close down poor performing salmon farms. Supermarkets should stop selling 'welfare-friendly' Scottish salmon which is a sham."

RSPCA Assured said it could not comment on the report until it had reviewed its findings but it disputed Staniford's allegation that it made £1m a year from certifying salmon farms. "This is far from the case and makes the erroneous assumption that all the salmon reared to RSPCA welfare standards then goes on to be sold in retail, bearing the RSPCA Assured certification mark," said a spokeswoman.

"In reality, less than half of the salmon produced goes on to be sold as RSPCA Assured and incur a licence fee. Without charging a fee we could not afford to continue to operate the scheme."

The Sunday Times [reported in February 2020](#):

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has revealed it was paid more than £500,000 by Scottish salmon farmers for membership of an ethical food scheme.

The charity admitted the money was received this year from 150 farms – about 60% of the industry – who have signed up to RSPCA Assured, a food label dedicated to farm animal welfare.

Under the RSPCA scheme, salmon farms pay an annual membership – currently £583 – and a quarterly licence fee based on the amount of produce sold in the UK. Last year, about 150,000 tons of farmed Scottish salmon was produced, about half of which was exported.

According to figures that will be published later this year, RSPCA Assured generated a total income of more than £3.3m in 2019-20. The charity does not usually provide a breakdown of income by sector but released data following a request from this newspaper.

The figures show that of the £3.3m, salmon farms in Scotland contributed £513,000, 15% more than in 2018 (£446,481) and 9% more than in 2017 (£468,808).

Read more on the RSPCA and RSPCA Assured via a ‘Subject Access Request’ from Don Staniford – [information disclosed by RSPCA Assured in January 2023](#).

[15] 100% of Scottish salmon farming – [ca. 80% of which is controlled by Norwegian-owned companies and ca. 99.5% of which is controlled by foreign-owned companies](#) – is now greenwashed and welfare-washed via RSPCA Assured (which certifies every salmon farming company in Scotland as ‘welfare friendly’), the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (which certifies [ca. 20% of Scottish salmon farming as ‘responsible’](#)) and the Soil Association (which certifies [ca. 9% of Scottish salmon farming as ‘organic’](#)).

As of 22 January 2023, the [ASC certifies 32 salmon farms – both freshwater and marine - in Scotland as ‘responsible’](#) (out of a [total of 140 active marine salmon farms and 39 active freshwater farms in 2021](#)):

Company Name	ASC Certificate Number	Cab Certificate ID	Farm (UoC)	Country/Territory	Species	Status	Certified Until	Public Consultation Until
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01416</u>	<u>ASC-F-0098</u>	Gorsten	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-01-13	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00123</u>	<u>ASC-F-0091</u>	Arkaig	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2023-09-22	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00141</u>	<u>ASC-F-0080</u>	Glenfinnan	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2023-05-11	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00161</u>	<u>ASC-F-0002</u>	Loch Leven Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-07-13	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00163</u>	<u>ASC-F-0081</u>	Lochy	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2023-05-11	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00164</u>	<u>ASC-F-0097</u>	Marulaig Bay	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-01-13	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00190</u>	<u>ASC-F-0096</u>	Stulaigh	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-01-13	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC00158</u>	<u>ASC-F-0007</u>	Linnhe Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-01-13	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01454</u>	<u>ASC-F-0101</u>	Loch Ness	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-03-02	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01453</u>	<u>ASC-F-0100</u>	Loch Garry	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-03-02	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01578</u>	<u>ASC-F-0110</u>	Rum	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-09-19	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01727</u>	<u>ASC-F-0114</u>	Invasion Bay	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-12-21	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01728</u>	<u>ASC-F-0112</u>	Maclean's Nose	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-12-15	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01726</u>	<u>ASC-F-0128</u>	Camas Glas	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-05-25	
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	<u>ASC01522</u>	<u>ASC-F-0105</u>	Harport	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2024-04-27	

<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01769		Caolas a Deas East	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-05-10
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01770	ASC-F-0129	Caolas a Deas West	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-05-10
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01790	ASC-F-0123	Grey Horse Channel	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-04-07
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01791	ASC-F-0124	Greanem	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-04-07
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01771	ASC-F-0125	Groatay	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-04-07
<u>Scottish Sea Farms</u>	ASC01878	ASC-F-0127	Summer Isles	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-05-17
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC00162	ASC-F-0116	Lochalsh Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-03-27
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC00122	ASC-F-126	Ardintoul Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-04-19
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC00133	ASC-F-0118	Duich Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-03-27
<u>Scottish Sea Farms</u>	ASC01935	ASC-F-0143	Lober Rock	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-09-04
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01965	ASC-F-0137	Colonsay Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-07-17
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC01982	ASC-F-0145	Carradale Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-09-08
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC00167	ASC-F-0150	Muck Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2026-01-05
<u>Mowi Scotland</u>	ASC02026	ASC-F-0148	Torrison Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2025-11-08
<u>Scottish Sea Farms</u>	ASC01990	ASC-F-0151	Nevis	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Certified	2026-01-15
Number of Sites: 3							

Read more on ASC greenwashing via:

[Open letter to the ASC: Please cancel all certification of Mowi's toxic Scottish salmon!](#)

Another 17 salmon farms – including [4 Mowi salmon farms \(Poll na Gille, Port na Cro, Bagh Dail Nan Ceann and SW Shuna\) near Craobh Haven](#) – are currently undergoing an initial ASC audit:

Company Name	ASC Certificate Number	Cab Certificate ID	Farm (UoC)	Country/Territory	Species	Status	Certified Until	Public Consultation Until
Mowi Scotland	ASC01478		Cairidh	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC01479		Maol Ban	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC01480		Sconser Quarry Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC01983		An Camus Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC02055		Scalpay Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC02063		Ornish Fish Farm	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02066		Glenan Bay	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02067		Gob a Bharra	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02068		Sgeir Dughall	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		2023-02-02
Mowi Scotland Number of Sites: 4	ASC02117		Craobh Haven	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Mowi Scotland	ASC02141		Soay	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02145		Ardcastle	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02146		Tarbert South	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		
Bakkafrost Scotland	ASC02147		Meall Mhor	United Kingdom	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	Initial Audit		

The Soil Association's '[Certificate Checker](#)' provides a search facility but [the Soil Association refuse to provide a list of 'organic' salmon farms](#). According to the [Scottish Government's 'Fish Farm Production Survey 2021'](#) (published in October 2022) there were 12 'organic' salmon farms in 2021 including [Cooke Aquaculture's disease-ridden Ouseness salmon farm](#):

Organic Production

Table 39: Organic production of Atlantic salmon during 2012-2021

Year	Number of active cage sites	Number of cage sites certified as organic	Production (tonnes)
2012	255	7	4,597
2013	253	8	5,207
2014	257	8	3,588
2015	250	5	2,382
2016	248	5	3,903
2017	222	5	4,644
2018	217	5	4,219
2019	224	4	4,462
2020	231	9	12,528
2021	212	12	18,285

Of the 212 active Atlantic salmon seawater cage sites in 2021, 12 were certified as organic, producing 18,285 tonnes.



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Organic Scamon: here's what Cooke Aquaculture's salmon from Westray on Orkney look like (as inspected by @marinescotland in May)
@The_Orcadian @bbcorkney @OrkneyCouncil
Why does the @SoilAssociation certify salmon farms as 'organic'? @SoilAssocScot @CookeScotland @cookeseafood



Papay Ranger and 9 others

11:48 AM · Aug 24, 2022