

\$camon \$cotland, 31 October 2023

Frankenfish Nightmare of RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon

- Shocking video footage lifts the lid on the hell inside salmon cages
- Investors & shareholders spooked by horrific death rates
- 1,000 mile 'End Salmon Farming' tour starts on Halloween outside the RSPCA

Campaigners are showcasing gruesome video footage of RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon at supermarkets across the UK with protests outside M&S and Selfridges in London yesterday; events at RSPCA Assured in Horsham and Waitrose in Bracknell today; the Soil Association in Bristol tomorrow and ending in Edinburgh on 6 November (read more [online here](#)).



Covert surveillance inside over a dozen salmon farms during 2023 has exposed the welfare nightmare of RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon - watch a summary of the horrific video footage [online here](#) [1].



“Salmon farming is a Frankenfish horror story,” said Don Staniford, Director of \$camon \$cotland who [kicks off on a 1,000 mile ‘End Salmon Farming’ tour of the UK on Halloween at the RSPCA’s head office in Horsham](#). “It is painfully clear from the covert video footage that RSPCA Assured salmon farming is a welfare nightmare. Please avoid Scottish salmon – greenwashed as ‘responsibly sourced’ via RSPCA Assured, the Soil Association and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council - like the proverbial plague. Shoppers are urged to join the global boycott of Scottish salmon and put an end to the suffering of tens of millions of Atlantic salmon crammed in cages around the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. People have to be brain-dead to eat zombie Scottish salmon!”



RSPCA Assured raked in over £690,000 in certification fees to greenwash Scottish salmon in 2022 with every salmon farming company in Scotland now accredited as RSPCA Assured and 51 salmon farms greenwashed by the ASC [2]. A further nine salmon farms are certified by the Soil Association as ‘organic’ [3].

Salmon farming in Scotland – 99% of which is controlled/owned by foreign capital/companies – is haemorrhaging \$almoney with massive financial losses forecast when the Q3 2023 results are published next month [4].

Public opposition to salmon farming is growing with more and more high profile people speaking out against farmed salmon [5].

Contact:

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

Notes to Editors:

[1] Longer individual video files are available via:

[Bakkafrost, Isle of Mull](#)
[Bakkafrost, Loch Carron](#)
[Bakkafrost, Portree](#)
[Loch Duart, Sutherland](#)
[Mowi, Loch Sunart](#)
[Mowi, Loch Torridon](#)
[Mowi, Sconser Quarry](#)
[Scottish Sea Farms, Loch Kishorn](#)
[Scottish Sea Farms, Loch Linnhe](#)
[Wester Ross Fisheries \(Mowi\), Loch Broom](#)

Video messages from Don Staniford:

[End Salmon Farming on Land & Sea - please join the Scottish salmon boycott!](#)
[Please Join the Scottish Salmon Boycott!](#)
[End the Welfare Nightmare of RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon!](#)

Other video footage shot inside RSPCA Assured salmon farms during 2023 is available via:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vivacampaigns/sets/72177720311285139/with/53196052138/>
<https://viva.org.uk/animals/campaigns/investigation-scottish-salmon-2023/>
<https://animalequality.org.uk/blog/2023/09/11/countryfile-deaths-scottish-salmon-farms-fish-welfare-expert-says-bbc-didnt-go-far-enough/>
<https://wildfish.org/latest-news/certification-of-farmed-salmon/>

[2] The Times [reported \(24 October 2023\)](#): “The amount salmon farming and associated groups pay in membership and licence fees to the RSPCA Assured charity, which aims to improve farm animal welfare, has risen. The figure increased from £500,000 in 2020 to £690,000 last year.”

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.....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.....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).”

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

RSPCA Assured has refused to publish a list of all salmon farm accredited as ‘welfare friendly’ and ‘responsible’.

Read more via: [Media Backgrounder: Chris Packham & RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon](#) (October 2023)

Unlike RSPCA Assured, the Aquaculture Stewardship Council publishes a list of all salmon farms certified as ‘responsible’ [via an online search portal which as of 29 October 2023 list 51 salmon farms in Scotland](#) – including Mowi’s Sconser Quarry, Invasion Bay & Torridon salmon farms:

Seafood lovers Producers Business More about us

ASC CERTIFICATE: [ASC01480](#)

Mowi Scotland

CAB CERTIFICATE ID: [ASC-F-0158](#)

FARM (UOC)	Sconser Quarry Fish Farm	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	United Kingdom
SPECIES	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	STATUS	Certified
CERTIFIED UNTIL	2026-03-23 00:00:00	PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL	

[READ MORE](#) →

Seafood lovers Producers Business More about us

ASC CERTIFICATE: [ASC01727](#)

Mowi Scotland

CAB CERTIFICATE ID: [ASC-F-0114](#)

FARM (UOC)	Invasion Bay	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	United Kingdom
SPECIES	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	STATUS	Certified
CERTIFIED UNTIL	2024-12-21 00:00:00	PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL	

[READ MORE](#) →

Seafood lovers Producers Business More about us

ASC CERTIFICATE: [ASC02026](#)

Mowi Scotland

CAB CERTIFICATE ID: [ASC-F-0148](#)

FARM (UOC)	Torridon Fish Farm	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	United Kingdom
SPECIES	Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	STATUS	Certified
CERTIFIED UNTIL	2025-11-08 00:00:00	PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNTIL	

[READ MORE](#) →

[3] The Soil Association does not publish a list but instead has a [‘Certification checker’ which provides an online search facility](#). Mowi’s Torrison and Invasion Bay salmon farms are currently [certified as ‘organic’ by the Soil Association](#) (as of 29 October 2023):

Check if a business is certified to organic standards

If you would like to find out if a particular farm or company holds a licence with Soil Association Certification you can do so here, using our [online search facility](#).



Certification checker

Mowi Scotland Limited - Invasion Bay

GB SA Producer Aquaculture On Growing Sites

Licence Status: Licensee

Licensee: Kate Stronach

Farm / Organisation: Mowi Scotland Limited - Invasion Bay

Address: Ardgour, Corran, Fort William, Highland, Scotland, PH33 7AF

Licence no: AK30807

Access date: 29/10/2023

Mowi Scotland Limited-Torrison

GB Producer Aquaculture On Growing Sites

Licence Status: Licensee

Licensee: Kate Stronach

Farm / Organisation: Mowi Scotland Limited-Torrison

Address: Loch Torrison, Sheildaig, Kyle, Highland, Scotland, IV54 8XP

Licence no: AQ31250

Access date: 29/10/2023

The Scottish Government [reported earlier this month \(4 October 2023\)](#):

Organic Production

Table 39: Organic production of Atlantic salmon during 2013-2022

Year	Number of active pen sites	Number of pen sites certified as organic	Production (tonnes)
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
2022	209	9	17,768

Of the 209 active Atlantic salmon seawater pen sites in 2022, nine were certified as organic, producing 17,768 tonnes.

[4] Q3 2023 reports:

[7 November 2023 – Bakkafrost](#)

[8 November 2023 – Mowi](#)

[15 November 2023 – Scottish Sea Farms \(owned by Leroy & SalMar via Norskott Havbruk\)](#)

Scamon Scotland reported earlier this month (20 October 2023) via [Microjellies Suffocate Scottish Salmon to Death](#):

Bakkafrost Scotland is Dead in the Water:

“The Bakkafrost Scotland third quarter harvest will be down by almost half the total of last year, a trading update from the company has revealed,” [reported Fish Farmer \(5 October\)](#) via an article titled: ‘Near 50% drop in Bakkafrost Scotland harvest’. “The company continues to battle various biological issues in Scotland”.

Bakkafrost’s [2021 Annual Report](#) – published in October 2022 - references the “deadly cocktail” of micro-jellyfish and reduced gill health:



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

In Scotland, we had severe mortality in Q3 and Q4, with a total of 262 mDKK in exceptional mortality costs. The underlying issue was linked to the reduced gill health the fish develops due to the extended growth cycle in the marine environment, up to 22 months, due to the small average smolt size on release. The fish are exposed to hazards that impair their gills during this period. Late in Q3 and into Q4, there was a significant bloom of hydrozoans and micro-jellyfish, which deteriorated the gill health even more and led to very high mortality across several sites. In short, the micro-jellyfish bloom on top of reduced gill health was a deadly cocktail.

Biological ‘Risks’ & ‘Problems’ Reported by BBC Scotland in August:

“Some of Scotland's biggest salmon farms have reported significant and continuing ‘biological’ problems,” [reported BBC Scotland’s business and economy editor \(23 August\)](#). “That often refers to sea lice or disease and there has also been a challenge from exceptionally high sea temperatures, bringing more jellyfish. Leroy, the Norwegian firm that owns half of Scottish Sea Farms, said April to June was ‘extremely challenging’ Scottish Sea Farms have revised their estimated full-year output to 27,000 tonnes, having produced 38,000 tonnes over the whole of 2022.”

“Scottish Sea Farms cuts harvest estimate by 10,000 tonnes,” [reported Fish Farming Expert \(23 August 2023\)](#). “Company made £10.6m operating loss in Q2”. The Q3 2023 financial results from Scottish Sea Farms (co-owned by SalMar and Leroy under the company name Norskott Havbruk) will be [published on 15 November 2023](#).

“High temperatures caused some feeding issues due to the challenges of storing and handling feed in such high air temperatures,” [reported BBC Scotland \(23 August\) in relation to Mowi Scotland](#). “These also led to more challenging environmental conditions related to increased presence of plankton, algae and jellyfish.”

Loch Duart Warns Investors of ‘Changing Climate’ Risks:

“Risks in relation to fish health and mortality levels are inevitable in aquaculture,” reported Loch Duart in a ‘Strategic Report’ [published in December 2022](#). “The changing climate, with recent warm dry summers, has changed the underlying risk levels and will require innovation in farming practice to cope” [4].

Mowi is Feeling the Heat:

[‘Mowi projects EUR 37 million earnings drop in Q3’](#) reported Seafood News (19 October) on a financial update for the world’s biggest salmon farmer. Mowi’s Q3 2023 report will be [published on 8 November 2023](#).

“Over the summer, temperatures have been high and biology challenging,” said Pareto Securities analyst Sander Lie in an article - [‘Should weaker results outside of Norway be a concern for Mowi?’](#) - published by Salmon Business (18 October 2023).

“The update was disappointing, and will probably lower expectations for the next quarter,” analyst Wilhelm Roe at Danske Bank [told IntraFish \(18 October 2023\)](#). “The company mentions that Canada has had challenges with algae that have affected both profit and volume, but in general Chile, Canada, Scotland and Iceland have all come in weaker than expected. This is probably due to both lower price achievement and higher costs than expected, and it has been somewhat more challenging biology than expected.”

“There was probably some problematic biology in both Scotland and Chile, as well as Canada,” said another financial analyst in the Intrafish article titled: [Shares in world's largest salmon farmer Mowi sink after disappointing profit setback](#).

Mowi’s Q2 2023 report – [published in August 2023](#) – flagged up “higher than normal” seawater temperatures and the “increased presence of plankton, algae and jellyfish” which could reduce production later this year:

“Biological performance was relatively stable in Scotland whilst seawater temperatures were higher than normal throughout the quarter which may impact biological performance in the second half of 2023.” (p5)

“Biological performance in the quarter was relatively good, especially taking into consideration the record-high seawater temperatures. However, the high temperatures caused some feeding issues due to the challenges of storing and handling feed in such high air temperatures. The high temperatures also led to more challenging environmental conditions related to increased presence of plankton, algae and jellyfish.” (p10)

Mowi’s Q4 2022 report – [published in February 2023](#) – cited “significant issues with micro-jellyfish in the aftermath of a record warm summer” and “relocation to inshore sites during the jelly fish bloom”:

“Harvest volumes in Scotland dropped slightly compared with the fourth quarter of 2021, which was below guidance. Supply was negatively impacted by adverse biological issues related to SRS following significant issues with micro-jellyfish in the aftermath of a record-warm summer.” (p5)

“Salmon which were relocated to inshore sites during the jelly fish bloom, recovered well and were harvested at the end of the fourth quarter, with some stocks being deferred for harvesting into the first quarter.” (p10)

Mowi's Q3 2022 – [published in November 2022](#) – cited how “micro-jellyfish impacted growth and harvest volumes” leading to relocation to other sites and “accelerated harvesting”:

“Harvest volumes in Scotland dropped slightly compared with third quarter of 2021, which was below guidance. Biological issues related to gill health and effects from micro-jellyfish impacted growth and harvest volumes.” (p5)

“Non-seawater costs were significantly impacted by incident-based mortality of EUR 7.6 million (EUR 1.5 million), or EUR 0.52/kg, related to micro-jelly fish blooms around Skye and the Western Isles causing elevated mortalities in some of our farms. As a response to these challenges several fish groups were relocated to other sites with good results.” (p10)

Mowi's [Q3 2022 report](#) cited “elevated mortality costs in Scotland and Ireland caused by issues with micro-jellyfish”:

“Results within Farming were good in the quarter due not only to strong prices and record-high volumes, but also relatively stable farming costs compared to the previous quarter, despite elevated mortality costs in Scotland and Ireland caused by issues with micro-jellyfish.” (p20)

Mowi's Q2 2022 report – [published in August 2022](#) – cited in relation to Scotland:

“Incident based mortality losses in the quarter amounted to EUR 2.8 million (EUR 1.5 million) mainly related to gill issues, treatment mortality and predators. In addition to the issues related to stocks grown from externally sourced eggs, the biological situation has been negatively impacted by gill issues, including AGD, algae and jelly fish.” (p10)

Mowi's ‘Salmon Farming Industry Handbook 2023’ – [published in July 2023](#) – included (p99):

Salmon Farming Industry Handbook 2023

MOWI

Risk Factors

12.2 Most important health risks to salmon

Gill Disease (GD): GD is a general term used to describe gill conditions occurring in sea. The changes may be caused by different infectious agents; amoeba, virus or bacteria, as well as environmental factors including algae or jellyfish. Little is known about the cause of many of the gill conditions and to what extent infectious or environmental factors are primary or secondary, how they interact, and causes of disease.

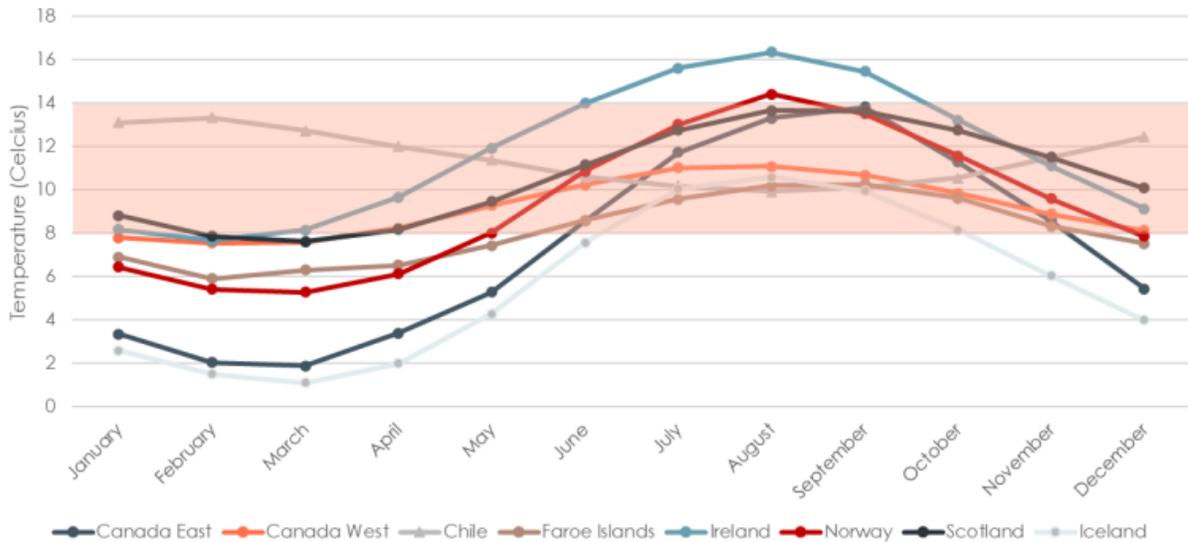
Mowi's [Salmon Farming Industry Handbook 2023](#) includes (p28):

“The optimal temperature range for salmon is between 8 and 14 degrees C”.

Mowi’s ‘[Salmon Farming Industry Handbook 2023](#)’ includes (p54):

Salmon Production and Cost Structure

8.3 Influence of seawater temperature

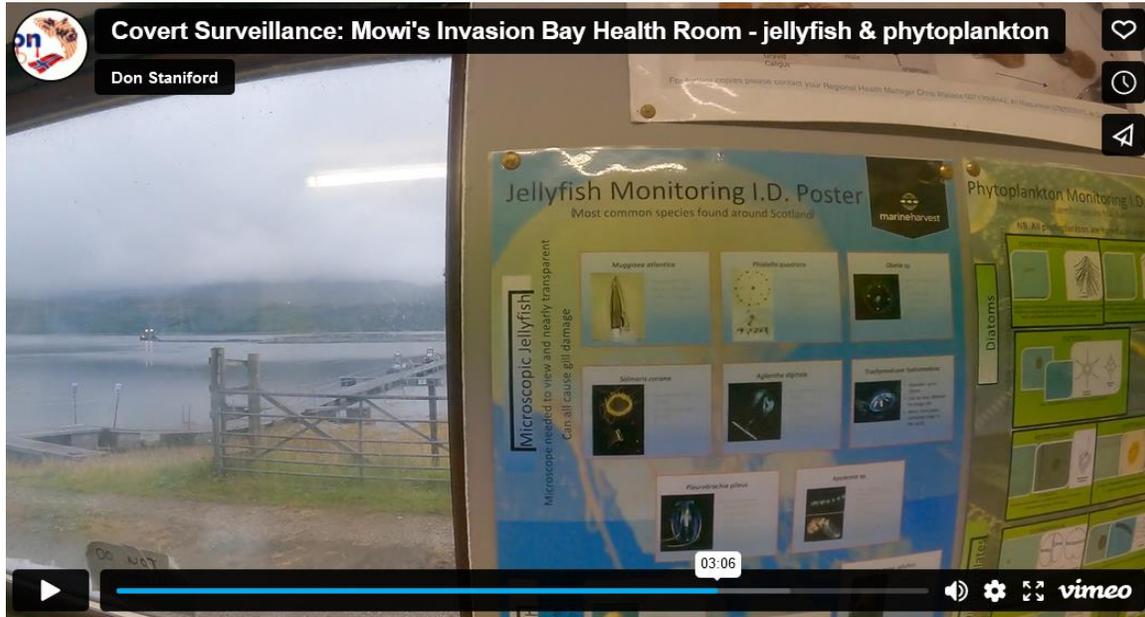


Seawater temperatures vary considerably throughout the year in all production regions. While the production countries in the northern hemisphere see low temperatures at the beginning of the year and high temperatures in autumn varying by as much as 10°C, the temperature in Chile is more stable varying between 10°C and 14°C. Chile and Ireland have the highest average temperature of 12°C, and the four other regions have an average temperature of about 10°C, except from Iceland which have the lowest average temperature of 6°C.

As the salmon is a cold-blooded animal (ectotherm), water temperature plays an important role in its growth rate. The optimal temperature range for Atlantic salmon is 8-14°C, but they thrive well from 4-18°C. Temperature is one of the most important natural competitive advantages that Chile has compared to the other production regions as production time there has historically been shorter by a few months.

With high seawater temperatures the risk of disease increases, and with temperatures below 0°C, mass mortality becomes more likely, both of which cause the growth rate to fall.

When Scamon Scotland [visited Mowi's Invasion Bay salmon farm in Loch Sunart in August 2023](#) we saw warnings of jellyfish, microjellies and plankton on the walls of the 'Health Room':



Scamon Scotland [reported \(4 October 2023\)](#):

A new Scottish Government report – ‘[Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey 2022](#)’ – published on 4 October 2023 detailed an 18% fall in salmon farming production (p23):

Table 24: Annual production of salmon (tonnes) 2002-2022 and projected production in 2023

Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference	Year	Tonnes	Percentage difference
2002	144,589	4	2013	163,234	1
2003	169,736	17	2014	179,022	10
2004	158,099	-7	2015	171,722	-4
2005	129,588	-18	2016	162,817	-5
2006	131,847	2	2017	189,707	17
2007	129,930	-1	2018	156,025	-18
2008	128,606	-1	2019	203,881	31
2009	144,247	12	2020	192,129	-6
2010	154,164	7	2021	205,393	7
2011	158,018	3	2022	169,194	-18
2012	162,223	3	2023	187,725*	

*Industry estimate of projected tonnage based on stocks currently being on-grown.

The total production of Atlantic salmon during 2022 was 169,194 tonnes, a decrease of 36,199 tonnes (18%) on the 2021 total.



Don Staniford
about 3 weeks ago



Yahoo News: "Scottish salmon is dead in the water with 2023 shaping up to be the worst year ever," said Don Staniford, director of the campaigning group Scamon Scotland. "A deadly cocktail of warming water temperatures, swarms of jellyfish, gill problems, infectious diseases, plagues of parasites and toxic algal blooms has already killed off millions of salmon this summer."



UK.NEWS.YAHOO.COM

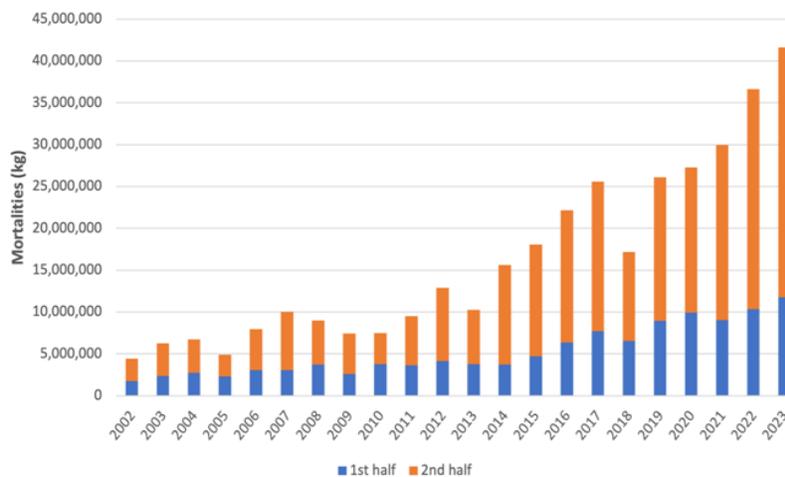
Just how disastrous is Scottish salmon farming? The late...

A new Scottish Government survey has revealed that salmon farming pr...

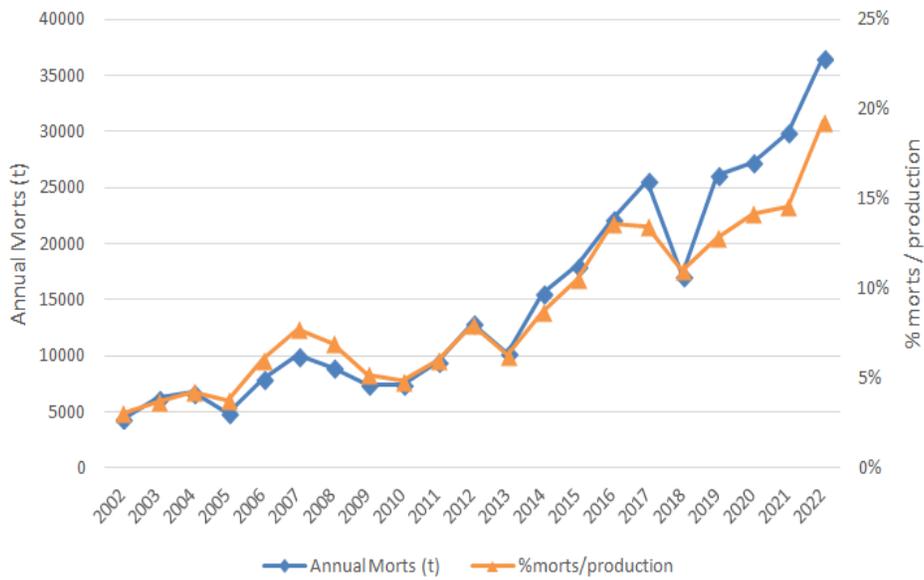
Read more via: [Media Backgrounder - Dead in the Warming Water](#)

Scamon Scotland [reported \(2 October 2023\)](#):

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) publishes mortality data by weight [online via 'Scotland's Aquaculture'](#) with 2022 the worst year on record at over 36,000 tonnes of morts and 2023 set to surpass 41,000 tonnes (see Appendix below for more detailed analysis).



Nor is the trend of rising mortalities solely related to increasing salmon farming production – the mortality rate per tonne of production has sky-rocketed over the last two decades:



Increases in mortalities on salmon farms have been correlated with rising water temperatures. “At salmon farms, a strong link between milder winter temperatures, disease and increased fish mortality has been identified,” reported a ‘Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership’ paper co-authored by Marine Scotland Science and the Institute of Aquaculture in Stirling [published in November 2022](#). “We have statistical evidence of an existing association of salmon mortality with milder winters and evidence of the emergence of amoebic gill disease in UK waters in association with warm summers and persistence with mild winters.”



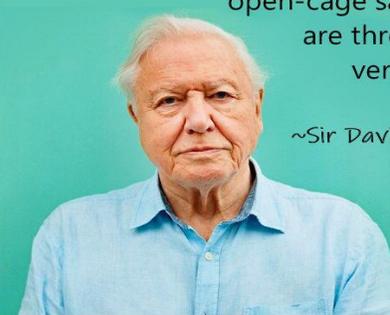


“ On the surface the idea of farming salmon, perhaps to reduce demand for the rapidly diminishing wild stocks, seems a good one, but beneath the surface it's a grim apocalypse fuelled by power and profits. ”

~from the book 'Back To Nature' by Chris Packham & Megan McCubbin



“ The salmon is the king of fish and yet now, their very survival is at risk. Dams blocking their rivers, over-exploitation, pollution of the water, the spread of parasites, diseases, and fish escaping from open-cage salmon farms... are threatening their very survival. ”



~Sir David Attenborough



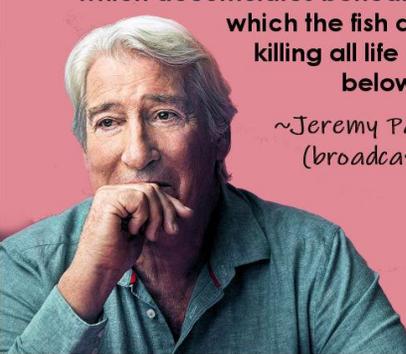
“ ...so when Icelandic and Norwegian businessmen started buying fish farms in the majority of our fjords, it was a big shock. We don't understand how they had been able to do this for a decade with almost no regulations stopping them. This has already had devastating effect on wildlife and the farmed fish are suffering in horrid health conditions, and since a lot of them have escaped, they have started changing the DNA in the Icelandic salmon to the worse, and could eventually lead to its extinction. ”



~björk
(Singer-songwriter & environmental activist)



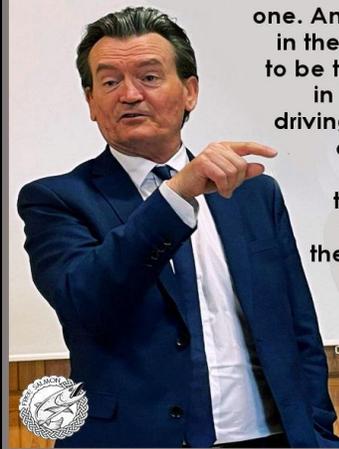
“ Very bad things happen when animals are concentrated together unnaturally. About one fifth of caged salmon are killed by disease and parasites before they can be 'harvested'. Survivors produce enormous amounts of waste, which accumulates beneath the cages in which the fish are imprisoned, killing all life on the seabed below them. ”



~Jeremy Paxman
(broadcaster)



“ You have other countries in the world, for example, now beginning to shut down salmon farming, see Canada, for one. And there's one country in the world that still seems to be trying to lead the way in being supportive and driving the industry forward and that's the Scottish Government. Well, they're possibly about to find themselves on the wrong end of history on this one. ”

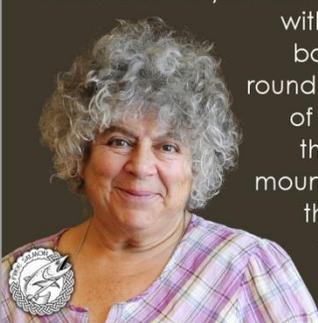


~Feargal Sharkey
(Former Undertones frontman/ eco activist)



Miriam Margolyes on Salmon Farming

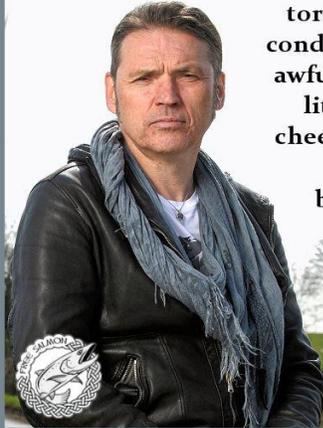
“ Eating this fish is not good for you. Industrial preservatives, trans fats and saturated fats all there as a result of the chicken feathers, beaks, feet, carcasses and additives used to make its breakfast, lunch and dinner. Their flesh is coloured for your dining pleasure and laced with chemicals which are banned elsewhere. Their round cages are a cauldron of disease and deformity that sits over a bubbling mound of filth that smothers the seabed and starves the water of life-giving oxygen. ”



Extracted from *The Toxic Truth*



“ Salmon are majestic, intelligent creatures, evolved to swim thousands of miles in their lifetime, that’s their nature. Cramming them, one hundred thousand at a time into tiny nets is torture. And the cramped conditions lead to far more awful things - they live in a literal soup of parasites, cheek by gill with the dead and dying - and those being eaten alive by sea lice.”



~Dale Vince
(Ecotricity founder)

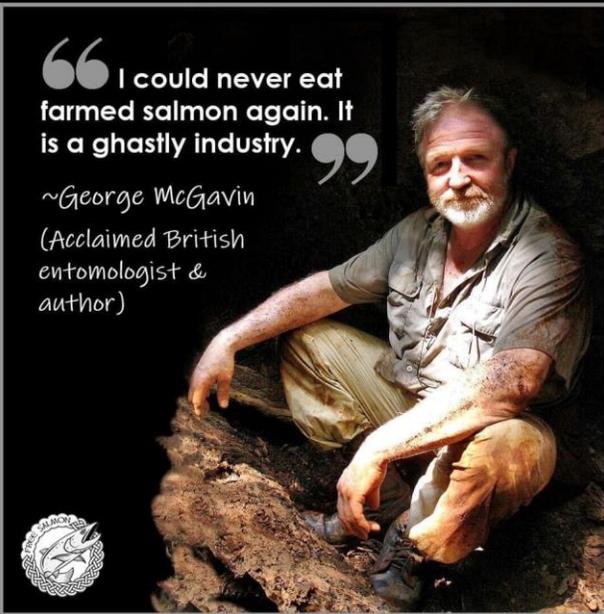
“ Salmon farming is a gross negligence against nature. Farming is a disgusting example of profiteering with complete abandon for the natural world and its inhabitants.”

~Douglas McMaster
(Chef & owner of zero waste restaurant, Silo)



“ I could never eat farmed salmon again. It is a ghastly industry.”

~George McGavin
(Acclaimed British entomologist & author)



“ I tend to steer clear of eating farmed salmon. Our precious wild salmon population is under such pressure so I avoid the farmed variety. It particularly annoys me when farmed salmon is sold as ‘organic’ which is just greenwashing nonsense. Unsuspecting Londoners buy it not realising it is just as harmful to wild salmon. None of us should be eating salmon right now.”

~Paul Whitehouse
(Actor & comedian)

