

Scottish Salmon Watch, 25 February 2021

[Caught in the Cross-Hairs:
Illegal Killing of Seals by Scottish Salmon Farms](#)



- FOI disclosure reveals Mowi was reported to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit over "unnecessary" killing of a harbour seal - a protected species - at their RSPCA Assured and Soil Association certified 'organic' salmon farm Loch Ewe in January 2020
- Scottish Government [admitted in February 2020](#) that Mowi's killing of the juvenile male seal was "not something that was carried out under a marine licence and should be reported to the police wildlife crime unit" [see photos [online here](#) and [online here](#)]



- "Upon examining the animal there was no clear pathological reason for this animal to have been euthanized," [wrote the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme in February 2020](#). "Given the protected nature of this species it is concerning from both an individual and population basis if animals are being removed unnecessarily"



- The seal was "shot apparently on welfare grounds and under instruction from the SSPCA, due to a 'substantial wound to the rear flipper'," [stated the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme in February 2020](#). "If possible could you clarify why this animal was euthanized, who made the decision and on what basis?"

- "I know an insider at Mowi who confirms the company shoots a lot more seals than what they report," wrote a whistleblower to Scottish Salmon Watch in October 2020 (prompting a [FOI request to the Scottish Government in December 2020](#)). "Plenty goes unreported".

- [RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms](#) (who supply M&S and have killed the most seals since 2011 of any salmon farming companies operating in Scotland - according to [data reported by Marine Scotland](#)) were recently reminded by Scottish Government of their legal obligations after repeated breaches of Seal Licences in Shetland, Orkney and the West coast of Scotland
 - "Marine Scotland has established that your company has acted outwith the conditions of your Seal Licence under the above Act [Marine Scotland Act 2010 Conservation of Seals]," stated a [letter from the Scottish Government to Scottish Sea Farms dated 14 January 2021](#)

SEALS KILLED BY SALMON FARMS (2011 to 2020*) - as officially reported to the Scottish Government										
	Scottish Sea Farms	Mowi/Marine Harvest	The Scottish Salmon Co	Hjaltland/Grieg	Loch Duart	Cooke	Wester Ross	Kames	Others	TOTAL
2011	37	34	54	50	10		1	2	47	235
2012	45	16	39	50	20		1	2	33	206
2013	33	5	14	32	13		3	1	14	115
2014	33	7	14	7	13		4		10	88
2015	15	20	11		9	3	2	2	8	70
2016	14	26	2		12	8	2		1	65
2017	12	13	7	1	15	1				49
2018	11	24	6		2	9	2			54
2019	13	25	18		7	2				65
2020	22	15	17		5	1	2	1		63
TOTAL	235	185	182	140	106	24	17	8	113	1010

* Q4 2020 data missing

- Mowi cited for breach of Seal Licence for failing to report the killing of a seal at their Carradale salmon farm in Kilbrannan Sound within the 48 hour period demanded by law
 - Scottish Government official [concedes in April 2020](#) that "during this time these seal licence misdemeanours will not be actioned"

- "Failure, without reasonable cause, to send a seal licence report is an offence under section 113(4) of the Act," [wrote Marine Scotland in a letter to Mowi in May 2020](#). "Section 128 of the Act states that a person guilty of an offence under section 113(4) is liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both"



- "The information provided does not really demonstrate the shooting of the seal was the last resort or support why additional seal numbers should be added to the licence," [wrote the Scottish Government in an email to Mowi in February 2020](#) in relation to seal killing at their salmon farms in Carradale in Kilbrannan Sound
- "In theory, there is no reason to increase their allocation for harbour seals," [wrote the Sea Mammal Research Unit in March 2020](#). "However, there does seem to high predation by seals at this site and, unless the specific seal causing the damage is removed, increasing their allocation may have no impact on the damage to caged fish whatsoever. It does seem surprising that seals are able to enter cages. We wonder whether their existing anti-predators systems can be functioning properly?"
- "Going around the farm you will see the seals popping up around you and yes there was one seal in a pen," [wrote Mowi in February 2020](#). "We are continually having seal kill"



- "We agree that there would appear to be something amiss with The Scottish Salmon Company anti-predator strategy," [wrote the Scottish Government in January 2020](#). "We've had another request from The Scottish Salmon Company to vary licence W108/2019 again. Same scenario as last time, they have a significant seal predation problem in Loch Roag and have shot all of the allocation (including the additional we gave in August)"
- "This is the second time The Scottish Salmon Company have asked for an increase in the numbers allocated for Loch Roag under their current licence," [wrote the Sea Mammal Research Unit](#). "It seems highly unusual for fish farms in one area to be targeted so heavily by seals. In fact it is unprecedented, to our knowledge, and strongly suggested that something must be amiss"
- Documents reveal a lack of photographs of dead seals and recovered carcasses reported to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme despite a "concerted effort" in 2020 "I have never heard of a recovery [of a dead seal carcass]!" [admit Scottish Government](#)
- "I always ask for a photo of the animal when we get a report, though as you can see they aren't particularly good at providing them," [said an officer with the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme in April 2020](#)
- "They are supposed to make every effort to recover the seal when shot but very few seem to," [concede Scottish Government](#)

Read more on the FOI disclosure via:

[Media Backgrounder: FOI Opens Sealed Documents on Killing by Salmon Farms](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch's FOI request in December 2020 ([FOI-202000118346](#)) was prompted by the following email from a whistleblower in October 2020:

From:
Date: Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 5:11 PM
Subject: Seal shooting
To: dstaniford@gaaia.org <dstaniford@gaaia.org>

I know an insider at Mowi who confirms the company shoots a lot more seals than what they report. Plenty goes unreported.

[Note that Mowi changed their name in 2019 from Marine Harvest due to what their CEO admitted as "[negative consumer perception](#)"]



"Scottish salmon - even fish certified as 'organic' by the Soil Association and welfare-friendly via RSPCA Assured - is stained with the blood of dead seals," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#) who [won a landmark FOI victory in 2015 forcing the disclosure of seals killed by salmon farms](#).



"Salmon farms have killed over 1,000 seals since 2011 with trigger-happy Mowi (Marine Harvest), Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company and Loch Duart leading the killing spree," said Staniford. "Official data published by Marine Scotland reveal that in the first nine months of 2020 (Q4 data is not published yet) 63 seals were killed led by Norway's Scottish Sea Farms (supplier to M&S and certified via RSPCA Assured), The Scottish Salmon Company ([owned by the Norwegian Government](#)) and RSPCA Assured Mowi. Dozens more seals may have been killed illegally and unreported by rogue operators."



"It is shocking to read that seal licence 'misdemeanours' are ignored by the Scottish Government and seal carcasses are not being photographed let alone recovered for analysis," continued Staniford. "Despite the ban on killing seals the danger is that salmon farms will continue to break the law with yet more seals slaughter illegally. The [£5,000 reward offered by Animal Concern](#) is welcome but the Scottish Government and Police Scotland must stop companies breaching wildlife laws and marksmen shooting seals without a licence. The sure-fire way to ensure the safety of seals is to boycott Scottish salmon."



"By turning a blind eye, the Scottish Government has effectively given salmon farmers licence to kill," added Staniford. "Unless there is proper government enforcement and sanctions against rogue operators the slaughter of seals will continue."

John Robins of [Animal Concern](#) said: "The information Scottish Salmon Watch have uncovered deserves a very detailed response from both the Scottish Government and Police Scotland. It is hard not to come to the conclusion that the Government and Police Scotland both turned a blind eye to the illegal shooting of seals by a major salmon farm company. If that is the case the seal killers must be prosecuted and those responsible for covering this up must also answer for their actions."



Animal Concern is extremely worried that some salmon farmers may try to get around the ban on shooting seals: "Salmon farmers in remote areas may simply ignore the ban and continue shooting, knowing there are no eyewitnesses to what they are doing," said Robins (who has [campaigning for five decades to protect seals](#)). "It should also be noted that the Scottish Government left a huge loophole and did not completely ban seal shooting. They will continue to issue shooting licences to organisations involved in recreational wild salmon fishing. If salmon farmers and salmon anglers make an unholy alliance to persecute seals I, and the American Government, would like to know about it."



Read more via:

[£5,000 reward offered for information on illegal shooting of seals](#)

[Victory Sealed After 50-Year Campaign - But the Battle to Save Marine Mammals from Salmon Farms Continues!](#)

[Scottish Salmon's Slaughter of Seals Has Not Stopped!](#)

Photos disclosed by the Scottish Government on 1 February 2021 (via [FOI-202000118346](#)):

Juvenile seal killed illegally - without a marine licence - by Mowi in Loch Ewe in January 2020 (case [reported in February 2020 to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit](#) - FOI request filed by Scottish Salmon Watch in February 2021 for further details):



Download PDF via [#46 Photo of Mowi Loch Ewe seal killed](#)



Download PDF via [#48 Photo of Mowi Loch Ewe seal killed flipper wound](#)



Download via [#41 Photo Mowi Loch Ewe dead seal flipper](#)



Download via [#42 Photo Mowi Loch Ewe dead seal flipper close up](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch has now [filed another FOI request](#) for further photos including seals killed by Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Loch Duart and Grieg Seafood. This dead harbour seal was washed up on the shore of Loch Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye in January 2021 (Grieg Seafood operate three [disease-ridden salmon farms in Loch Dunvegan](#)).



Ann
@toms2_ann

@FerretScot Loch Dunvegan

Ann @toms2_ann · Jan 18

Sad to see this on my walk today. Harbour seal with bullet wound to head.



2:02 PM · Feb 8, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Further Background: The Devil in the Detail

Scottish Salmon Watch have [filed a FOI request with Police Scotland](#) to identify the names of 'nominated' marksmen (redacted by the Scottish Government) listed on Seal Licences from Mowi, The Scottish Salmon Company, Scottish Sea Farms and Loch Duart.

	Nominated Marksman	
Annex A Nominated Marksmen	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	Issued By Police Scotland	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	Issued By Police Scotland	Issued by Police Scotland
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	Issued by Police Scotland
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	Issued by Police Scotland
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	Issued by Police Scotland
[Redacted]	Issued by Police Scotland	Issued by Police Scotland

Campaigners fear the ban on seal killing by salmon farms may lead to increased slaughter by fisheries acting on behalf of salmon farming interests. Following the ban which [came into effect on 1 February 2021](#), Animal Concern issued a £5,000 reward for information leading to the first successful prosecution under new legal protection for seals. John Robins of Animal Concern said: "Most salmon farms are in remote areas and the shooting of seals was never monitored while it was legal and I am sure it will still not be policed now it is illegal."

Read more via: ["£5,000 reward offered for information on illegal shooting of seals"](#)

In June 2020, [The Ferret reported](#) that the number of seals shot by the fish farming industry had doubled ahead of the ban. [Official figures](#) revealed that salmon farmers killed 31 seals in the first three months of 2020, compared to 15 in the same period in 2019.

Read more via: ["Seal shooting at fish farms doubles before ban"](#) and ["Seal shooting by fish farms to be banned to save exports to US"](#)

Data published by the Scottish Government on 63 seals killed by salmon farms during 2020 (up to Q3) has now been made [available online](#) following Scottish Salmon Watch's FOI request in December 2020.

Scottish Sea Farms accounted for 22 seal kills; The Scottish Salmon Company 17; Mowi 15; Loch Duart 5; Wester Ross 2; Cooke 1 and Kames 1. Here's the full list of seals killed during

2020 (Q4 data still not published) according to official statistics [published by the Scottish Government](#):



2020

Records of seal licenses granted across Scotland since the coming in to force of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.



2020 Returns Licence No:	Licence Name:	Site (date)	Quarter 1		Site (date)	Quarter 2		Site (date)	Quarter 3	
			Grey	Common		Grey	Common		Grey	Common
ONC11/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Orkney and Eriboll	Wyre (02/02, 06/03, 13/03, 16/04)	4	0	Wyre (28/05)	1	0	Wyre (14/10)	1	0
S01/2020/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0	Cloudin (14/05)	1	0		0	0
S08/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Vidlin North (28/02, 05/04, 21/04, 30/04) Swarta Skerry Dury Voe (24/03, 25/03)	6	0	Swarta Skerry Dury Voe (03/05, 17/05) Vidlin North (05/05)	3	0		0	0
SW07/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Eilean Grianain (12/02 - Com, 03/03 - Grey, 25/04 - Com)	1	2		0	0		0	0
SW08/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Tarbert South (05/02 - Grey, 02/03 - Grey) Strone (03/03 - Com) Ardgadden (13/03 - Com) Glenan Bay (20/03 - Com) Rubha Stallaig (31/03 - Com) Ardcastle (23/04 - Grey)	3	4	Gob a Bharra (16/05 - grey) Ardcastle (24/06 - com)	1	1		0	0
WI08/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Taranaish (12/03 - Grey) Kyles Vuia (03/04 - Com, 10/04 - Grey)	2	1	Taranaish (02/07 - Grey, 22/07 - Com)	1	1	Taranaish (06/08) Vacasay (23/09)	2	0
WI11/2020/W	Loch Duart Ltd		0	0	Loch Carnan (14/07, 23/07)	2	0		0	0
WI14/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Caolas A Deas (15/03)	0	1		0	0	Hellisay (12/10, 12/10) Ornish (15/10)	3	0
WS12/2020/W	Kames Fish Farming Ltd		0	0		0	0	Shuna SW (Rubhan Trille)	0	1
WS13/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Nevis A (09/03 - Grey) Shuna (28/03 - Com, 03/04 - Com)	1	2	Lismore West (05/05) - Com Kishorn A (South) (08/05) - Com Nevis A (11/06) - Grey Kishorn B (North) (09/07) - Com	1	3		0	0
WS16/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Isle Ewe (30/04)	1	0		0	0		0	0
WS19/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Gometra (05/03)	1	0		0	0		0	0
WS21/2020/W		Colonsay (09/04) Kingairloch (19/02)	0	2	Sconser Quarry (20/05)	1	0	Sconser (17/08 - Com, 26/10 - Com) Harport (16/09 - Com) Sconser Quarry (18/09 - Grey)	1	3
	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd									
WS22/2020/D	Northern Salmon Management Group	NWSMG (04/04)	0	1	Loch A Chairn Bhain (09/05)	1	0	Loch A Chairn Bhain (17/10, 17/10) Wester Ross Fisheries (27/10, 27/10)	0	4

Data for 2011 to 2019 is [online here](#).

Read more via: [Data Analysis - Lethal Scottish Salmon: the Norwegian-owned companies killing seals in Scotland! \(1,000+ seals slaughtered since 2011\)](#)

Download an Excel spreadsheet detailing 1,010 seals killed - as officially reported to the Scottish Government by salmon farming companies - since 2011 [online here](#)

A [letter from the Scottish Government to Scottish Salmon Watch dated 1 February 2021](#) explained:

Data held by Marine Scotland in relation to the killing of seals since 1 January 2020 is either already published online, or found in the form of returns. These returns are completed via web portal only accessible by the applicants themselves, but the information is subsequently reported on our Scottish Government web pages. Please see point 2 of this response below for details of how to access online the data and returns made for 2020 to date.

2. In your request you stated that "In terms of data available," your organisation "cannot find any data online for 2020." The answers to your questions are provided below:

- All data held for 2020 is available online in the Excel file available to download at the top right hand corner of the 2020 tab of the "Marine licensing: seal licensing records" web page that can be found at the following web link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-seal-licensing-records-2011-present/pages/2020/>
- I can confirm that all data online is now up to date, which includes removal of the expired link (below) you referred to in your information request: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-seal-licensing-records-2011-present/documents/seal-licensing---2020-licenses.xml>
- Full lists of seal licences issued annually from 2011 to 2019, by region and company, with the number of seals shot each quarter, by site can be found at the following web link: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-seal-license-returns-2011-18/>

This data is published at the end of a full licensing year and will be available for the 2020 licences in due course after 31 January 2021 (which is the end date of the 2020 seal licences issued).

- In your email you stated that "the data for 2020 reported by OneKind and The Ferret in June 2020 appears to have vanished."

I can now confirm that the links you refer to in the articles (links to the articles given below) now work again and refer the reader to the Scottish Government web site where the data to date for 2020 is available: [Marine licensing: seal licensing records, 2011-present - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-seal-licensing-records-2011-present/pages/2020/)

- <https://www.onekind.scot/ban-on-seal-shooting-must-be-watertight/>

- <https://theferret.scot/seal-shooting-doubles-before-ban-comes-into-force/>

The Scottish Government refused Scottish Salmon Watch's FOI request for information on seals killed illegally or unreported.

3. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not hold any information on seals killed illegally or unreported since 1 January 2020.

Therefore we are refusing part of your request under the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs. The reason why that exception applies is explained in the Annex to this letter.

4. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because exceptions under regulations 10(5)(b) (The course of justice, etc.) and 11(2) (Personal information of a third party) of the EIRs apply to that information. The reason why these exceptions apply is explained in the Annex to this letter.

ANNEX

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Under the terms of the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs (information not held), the Scottish Government is not required to provide information which it does not have. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested because we do not hold any information on seals killed illegally or unreported from 1 January 2020 to 2 December 2020 inclusive.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. While we recognise that there may be some public interest in information about seals killed illegally or unreported, clearly we cannot provide information which we do not hold.

Exceptions apply

An exception under regulation 10(5)(b) (the course of justice, etc) of the EIRs applies to some of the information you have requested.

This exception applies as release of this information would, or would be likely to, cause substantial prejudice to our operational and law enforcement capabilities.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception.

We recognise that there is some public interest in release because there may be some public interest in Wildlife Crime intelligence held by the Scottish Government. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in not releasing such information which could potentially allow people to examine and analyse our methods and mechanisms of operating and try and identify ways to circumvent them or otherwise thwart our activity.

An exception under regulation 11(2) (personal information of a third party) of the EIRs applies to some of the information you have requested.

Regulation 11(2) – To the extent that environmental information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject and in relation to which either the first or second condition set out in paragraphs (3) and (4) is satisfied, a Scottish public authority shall not make the personal data available.

An exception under regulation 11(2) of the EIRs (personal information of a third party) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

Scottish Salmon Watch have [filed a new FOI with the Scottish Government](#) requesting information on the illegal killing and reporting of seals by salmon farming companies including any cases reported to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit.

Last week, the [Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation](#) wrote to the Scottish Government demanding £13 million compensation for seal attacks.



Writing in [The Herald](#) (22 February 2021), John Robins said:

The Herald

Letters letters@theherald.co.uk

SALMON FARMERS ARE CULPABLE

TAVISH Scott, chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation, was wrong when he said the Scottish Government had stopped fish farmers taking action to protect the welfare of their fish by banning the shooting of seals at salmon farms ("Salmon farmers issue plea for compensation over seal attacks", The Herald, February 19).

Rather than upset the industry the Scottish Government refused my many requests over the last 20 years to force salmon farmers to spend the money required to protect their fish properly and humanely from the attention of predators. The Scottish Government has only stopped issuing licences allowing salmon farmers to shoot seals because it was forced to do so by the US Government.

Salmon farmers have known for five years that they were going to have to stop killing seals from the end of this month at the latest. By failing to install and maintain tensioned predator exclusion nets to keep seals and other predators at a distance from the net cages holding their stock, salmon farmers have in my view been in breach of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 since the day it came into force.

John F Robins, Animal Concern, Dumbarton.

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Why not bite the bullet and relocate salmon farms away from seal nursery areas? @SOSealsFund @SealScotland @SealifeA

Seals inhabited the coast of Scotland long before foreign-owned factory farms! @LeroySeafood @Folketrygdfoond @ScotlandMowi @salmon_scottish @scotseafarms

 **Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation** @SSPOsays · Feb 18

Our members cannot be expected to cope with millions of pounds in losses every year with absolutely no workable Government guidance on how to approach the issue of seal predation with virtually every option of deterrence now removed. scottishsalmon.co.uk/news/press-rel...



2:54 PM · Feb 18, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Feb 18

Greedy salmon farmers call for financial compensation for fish lost to seal attacks - what about recompense to the marine environment for killing off nature?



Salmon farmers call for financial compensation for fish lost to seal attacks
SALMON farmers have asked the Scottish Government to consider financial compensation for fish lost to seal attacks.

 heraldscotland.com

Read more via [Greedy Salmon Farmers Demand £13 Million Compensation for Seal Attacks!](#)

Earlier this month (3 February 2021), [The Ferret reported](#) that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency were turning a blind eye to salmon farmers across Scotland breaching pollution laws.

Environmental campaigner Pete Bevington of Hillswick Wildlife Sanctuary said the new law, which came into force on 31 January 2021, was long overdue. "We are very happy that this legislation has been passed and we hope that it proves to be a deterrent to salmon farmers, or anyone else for that matter, to stop shooting seals," Bevington said. "Fish farms were supposed to have effective anti-predator nets under the seal licensing legislation and it was disappointing that it took the threat of this law coming in for many to introduce them." "The problem with any legislation like this is the policing of it, so if the reward from Animal Concern helps with this we can only applaud it," continued Bevington.

Read more via: [Ban on shooting seals welcomed by campaigners](#)

The Scottish Salmon Company claimed in January 2021 that 52,000 salmon were killed on 31 December 2020 by seals at their salmon farm off Portree on the Isle of Skye. The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation claimed that around 530,000 Scottish farmed salmon, worth around £13m, died due to seal attacks between May 2019 and May 2020 – either from incurring an attack or “indirectly from stress”.

Read more via: [Thousands of salmon lost in 'major' seal attack](#) and [Seals launch 'major' attack on Scottish fish farm, killing thousands of salmon](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch recently [filed a FOI request with the Scottish Marine Animals Strandings Scheme](#) for information - including photos - on seals killed by salmon farms.



Read more via:

[Exposed: FOI Opens Sealed Documents on Killing by Salmon Farms](#)

[Media Backgrounder: FOI Opens Sealed Documents on Killing by Salmon Farms](#)

[Data Analysis - Lethal Scottish Salmon: the Norwegian-owned companies killing seals in Scotland! \(1,000+ seals slaughtered between 2011 and 2020\)](#)

[Ban on seal shooting must be watertight](#)

Contact:

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

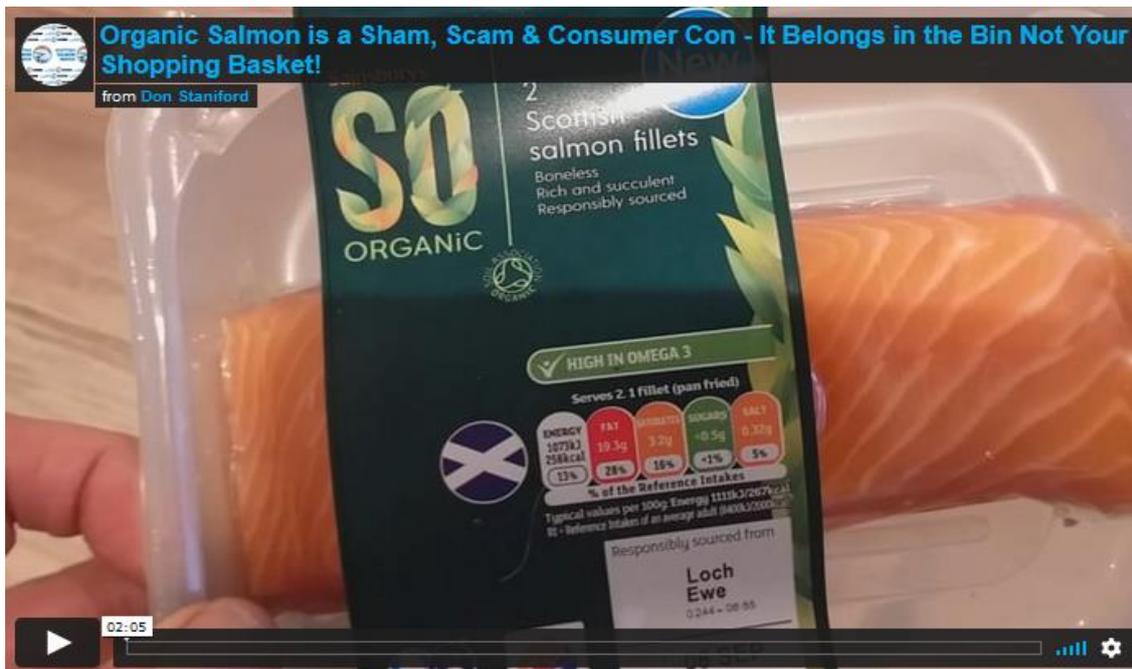


John Robins (Animal Concern): 07721 605521 (info@animalconcern.org)



Notes to Editors:

[1] Mowi's Loch Ewe salmon farm is certified as 'organic' by the Soil Association and welfare-friendly via RSPCA Assured and sold via Sainsbury's.



Read more via: "[Organic Salmon Belongs in the Bin Not Your Shopping Basket!](#)" and "[RSPCA in firing line over Marine Harvest's seal-killing spree in Scotland](#)"

[2] Photos of seals in Loch Alsh 'Special Area of Conservation' killed by Mowi (formerly Marine Harvest - they changed their name in 2019 due to "[negative consumer perception](#)" despite [objections from the Mowinckel family](#)) were taken by [tourist operator Nigel Smith](#) who also found [headless corpses](#) (one thought to have been a heavily pregnant female and the other a juvenile):



Download image [online here](#)



Download high res image [online here](#)



Download high res image [online here](#)



Download image [online here](#)

Tourist operator Nigel Smith [told BBC News in 2008](#): "Tourists on board my boat who saw these decapitated seals were appalled and amazed that seals can be killed in Scotland. This killing is damaging my business and has the potential to affect many other businesses in coastal communities."



Download image [online here](#)

BBC News [reported in 2005](#): "Local tour boat operator Nigel Smith said he had evidence that seals were not being shot cleanly, with animals left to die of their wounds."

Read more via:

[Headless seals may have been shot](#)
[Seal killing concern at fish farm](#)



Marine Harvest's Slaughter of Seals in Loch Alsh, Scotland

1,614 views • Nov 18, 2012

8 9 SHARE SAVE ...

[3] A photo of a harbour seal with a bullet wound washed up on the shore of Loch Dunvegan - where Grieg Seafood operates three salmon farms - was [posted on Twitter in January 2021](#).



@FerretScot Loch Dunvegan

Ann @toms2_ann · Jan 18
Sad to see this on my walk today. Harbour seal with bullet wound to head.



2:02 PM · Feb 8, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Note that Grieg Seafood has a [Seal Licence issued by Marine Scotland](#) to kill two grey seals and one harbour seal from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021 at their salmon farms on the Isle of Skye including Corlarach, Gob Na Hoe and Leinish in Loch Dunvegan:

marine scotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: PART 6 – CONSERVATION OF SEALS

Seal Licence

Licence authorising the killing of seals to protect the health and welfare of farmed fish in Scotland

Licence Number: WS23/2020/W

The Scottish Ministers (hereafter referred to as "the Licensing Authority"), in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 110(1)(f) and 112 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (hereafter referred to as "the Act"), and in accordance with section 116(1) of the Act following consultation with the Natural Environment Research Council, hereby license:

Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd (hereafter referred to as "the Licensee")

to kill and take seals for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of farmed fish at certain fish farm sites in Scotland.

The licence is valid from **01 February 2020** until **31 January 2021**.

The licence is subject to conditions.

Signed:



For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

Date: 31 January 2020

Licence Number: WS23/2020/W

DATED: 31 January 2020

LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. A maximum of **2** grey seals and **1** harbour seal may be killed under the authority of this licence.
2. The licence authorises the killing of seals for the purpose of the protection of the health and welfare of farmed fish only by the use of a firearm by a nominated marksman. Nominated marksmen are named, and their firearm certificate numbers and the issuing authority of such certificates are given, in Annex A.
3. The licence only authorises the shooting of seals in waters within 150 metres of those fish farms which are specified in Annex B.
4. The Licensee must report any killings, and takings, of seals to the Licensing Authority within 48 hours of the seal being killed or, as the case may be, taken.

Licence Number: WS23/2020/W

DATED: 31 January 2020

Annex A

Nominated Marksman



Issued by Police Scotland



Issued by Police Scotland

Licence Number: WS23/2020/W

DATED: 31 January 2020

ANNEX B

Fish Farms in respect of which this Licence relates

FS1287 Corlarach
FS1175 Gob na Hoe
FS0800 Leinish
FS1309 Snizort
FS0881 Uig Bay

Read Seal Licence in full [online here](#)

[4] Photos of five dead seals killed near salmon farms in Shetland [featured in a video by Lush and Lizzie Daly in 2018:](#)



Silent Slaughter: The Shooting of Scotland's Seals

The Guardian [reported in 2010](#):

Gunman sought after seals found shot in Shetlands

Three of the six dead common seals found washed up along the shore had gunshot wounds to the head, say animal welfare officials

Severin Carrell, Scotland correspondent

[@severincarrell](#)

Wed 16 Jun 2010 15:03 BST



27



▲ One of the six dead common seals found washed up on a Shetland beach. All are believed to have been shot. Photograph: SSPCA

Animal welfare officials have launched an investigation after six dead seals, including two females carrying large pups, were [found washed up on a Shetland beach](#) earlier this month.

The Scotsman [reported in 2013](#):

Ex-Shetland salmon farm chief fined over seal nets

THE FORMER regional manager of a Shetland salmon farm has become the first person in the UK to be convicted of using nets for the purposes of trapping and killing seals under new conservation regulations.

By [PETE BEVINGTON](#) and [FRANK URQUHART](#)

Tuesday, 28th May 2013, 6:07 pm



[5] In March 2019, the Scottish Government [published the following information in response to a FOI request from Scottish Salmon Watch](#):

 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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PUBLICATION - FOI/EIR RELEASE

Fines, prosecutions and other offences in relation to seals and salmon farms since 1 January 2017: EIR release

Published: **5 Mar 2019**
Directorate: [Marine Scotland Directorate](#)
Part of: [Environment and climate change](#), [Marine and fisheries](#), [Public sector](#)

Information request and response under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

FOI reference: FOI/19/00384
Date received: 4 Feb 2019
Date responded: 4 Mar 2019

Information requested
Please provide information on any fines, prosecutions and other offences in relation to seals and salmon farms since 1 January 2017.

The answer to your question is that, in two separate cases, we have issued an advisory letter for breach of a seal licence. We have also issued a fixed penalty notice of £2000 (which was paid) for breach of a seal licence.

Scottish Salmon Watch's FOI request cited an article [published in the Shetland Times in February 2019](#):

 Hans J Marter
3 February 2019 19:37

419  Like 204

Marine / 'Salmon farms and seals can co-exist' – aquaculture industry insists

Thirteen seals killed in Shetland last year as salmon industry invests millions into anti-predator nets



One of the shot seals found at Basta Voe last summer. Photo: Lizzie Daly

Cooke Aquaculture, the only salmon producer on the islands of Yell and Unst, readily admits that it had “probably” been them that had killed the seals in Basta Voe, and conceded that they should have done more to prevent the carcasses from coming ashore.



Following an investigation by Marine Scotland the company was fined £2,000 for failing to report the killing of seals to the licencing authority within 48 hours.

The government agency repeatedly refused to release this information saying only that its investigation had been completed “satisfactorily”. They also said that the presence of shot seals did “not in itself confirm illegal activity”.

Cooke farm manager David Brown said the company was in the process of investing a total of £4.7 million into anti-predator nets designed and developed by the Indian company Garware-Wall Ropes.

The Sunday Post also [reported in February 2019](#):

The SUNDAY POST

Could 2019 see the end of seal shooting in the name of farmed salmon stocks?

by Megan McEachern

February 5, 2019, 1:19 pm



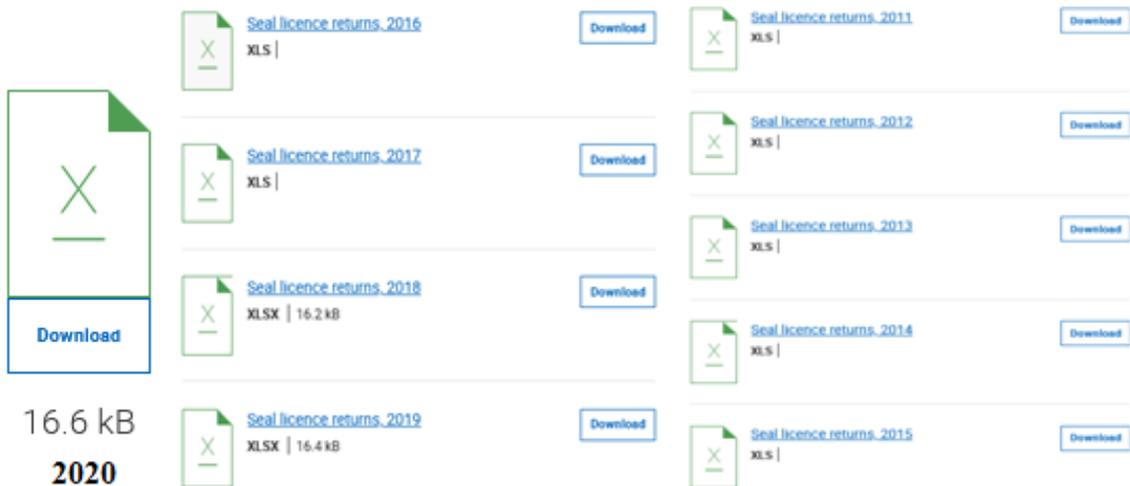
A dead seal shot to protect salmon stocks in Shetland. (Lizzie Daley)

Calls to outlaw the shooting of seals in Scotland were made by environmental campaigners after tourists discovered five shot seals on the coastline at Basta Voe on Shetland’s main island.

Following an investigation by Marine Scotland Cooke Aquaculture was fined £2,000 for failing to report the killing of seals in Basta Voe to the licencing authority within 48 hours.

Cooke farm manager David Brown said the company was in the process of investing a total of £4.7 million into anti-predator nets.

[6] Information on the number of seals killed by salmon farms compared to wild fisheries interests is sadly not disaggregated in the data published by the Scottish Government (data for the years 2011 to 2019 is [online here](#) and 2020 data - still missing Q4 data - is [online here](#)).



Last week (18 February 2021), the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation [published data on the number of seals killed by salmon farms since 2014](#) including data for the whole of 2020 (including Q4) which is still not published by the Scottish Government:



- Seal shootings on or around salmon farms 2014-2020. The figures below show the number of seals shot as a result of seal attacks, fish worrying or entering fish pens. The estimated minimum population of common and grey seals in Scotland is 132,000 (source: SMRU 2018). (Annual figures are collated start Feb through to end Jan).
- 2014, 88
 - 2015, 68
 - 2016, 65
 - 2017, 49
 - 2018, 54
 - 2019, 63
 - 2020, 79

The SSPO data more or less tallies with Scottish Salmon Watch's analysis of the Scottish Government data which details over 1,000 seals officially reported as killed since 2011:

[Data Analysis - Lethal Scottish Salmon: the Norwegian-owned companies killing seals in Scotland! \(1,000+ seals slaughtered between 2011 and 2020\)](#)

Data Analysis - Lethal Scottish Salmon: the Norwegian-owned companies killing seals in Scotland! (1,000+ seals slaughtered between 2011 and 2020)



Summary:

Over 1,000 seals have been killed by salmon farms since 2011 according to official statistics [published online by the Scottish Government](#). Norwegian-owned company Scottish Sea Farms leads the slaughter with 235 seals killed followed by Norwegian giant Mowi (known as Marine Harvest until 2019) with 185 seals killed and The Scottish Salmon Company (the Norwegian Government is the largest shareholder) with 182 seals killed.

SEALS KILLED BY SALMON FARMS (2011 to 2020*) - as officially reported to the Scottish Government										
	Scottish Sea Farms	Mowi/Marine Harvest	The Scottish Salmon Co	Hjaltland/Grieg	Loch Duart	Cooke	Wester Ross	Kames	Others	TOTAL
2011	37	34	54	50	10		1	2	47	235
2012	45	16	39	50	20		1	2	33	206
2013	33	5	14	32	13		3	1	14	115
2014	33	7	14	7	13		4		10	88
2015	15	20	11		9	3	2	2	8	70
2016	14	26	2		12	8	2		1	65
2017	12	13	7	1	15	1				49
2018	11	24	6		2	9	2			54
2019	13	25	18		7	2				65
2020	22	15	17		5	1	2	1		63
TOTAL	235	185	182	140	106	24	17	8	113	1010

* Q4 2020 data missing

Download Excel spreadsheet summarizing the data [online here](#)

Norwegian-owned Grieg Seafood (Hjaltland) has not officially reported a dead seal since 2017 and only one since 2015 (up to Q3 2020) when [ITV News](#) exposed the lethal practice of shooting seals. Mowi killed 123 seals between 2015 and 2020 with 87 killed by Scottish Sea Farms, 61 killed by The Scottish Salmon Company and 50 by Loch Duart.



Campaign group Sea Shepherd claim footage shows a member of the salmon industry shooting a seal.
Credit: Sea Shepherd

Excel spreadsheets detailing seals killed by salmon farms in Scotland during 2020 (up to Q3 - data for Q4 is expected soon) was recently published by the Scottish Government [online here](#)



2020



Records of seal licenses granted across Scotland since the coming in to force of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

Here's the 63 seals killed in 2020 by Scottish Sea Farms (22), The Scottish Salmon Company (17), Mowi (15), Loch Duart (5), Wester Ross Fisheries (2), Cooke (1) and Kames (1) during the first nine months of 2020 (Q4 data is not yet available):

2020 Returns Licence No:	Licence Name:	Site (date)	Quarter 1		Site (date)	Quarter 2		Site (date)	Quarter 3	
			Grey	Common		Grey	Common		Grey	Common
S01/2020/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0	Cloudin (14/05)	1	0		0	0
WS12/2020/W	Kames Fish Farming Ltd		0	0		0	0	Shuna SW (Rubhan Trille	0	1
WI11/2020/W	Loch Duart Ltd		0	0	Loch Carman (14/07, 23/07)	2	0		0	0
SW07/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Eilean Grianain (12/02 - Com, 03/03 - Grey, 25/04 - Com)	1	2		0	0		0	0
WI14/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Caolas A Deas (15/03)	0	1		0	0	Hellisay (12/10, 12/10)	3	0
WS16/2020/W	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Isle Ewe (30/04)	1	0		0	0	Ornish (15/10)	0	0
WS21/2020/W		Colonsay (09/04)	0	2	Sconser Quarry (20/05)	1	0	Sconser (17/08 - Com, 26/10 - Com)	1	3
	MOWI (Scotland) Ltd	Kingairloch (19/02)						Harport (16/09 - Com)		
								Sconser Quarry (18/09 - Grey)		
WS22/2020/D	Northern Salmon Management Group	NWSMG (04/04)	0	1	Loch A Chairn Bhain (09/05)	1	0	Loch A Chairn Bhain (17/10, 17/10)	0	4
S08/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Vidlin North (28/02, 05/04, 21/04, 30/04)	6	0	Swarta Skerry Dury Voe (03/05, 17/05)	3	0	Wester Ross Fisheries (27/10, 27/10)	0	0
		Swarta Skerry Dury Voe (24/03, 25/03)			Vidlin North (05/05)					
WS13/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Nevis A (09/03 - Grey)	1	2	Lismore West (05/05) - Com	1	3		0	0
		Shuna (28/03 - Com, 03/04 - Com)			Kishorn A (South) (08/05) - Com					
					Nevis A (11/06) - Grey					
					Kishorn B (North) (09/07) - Com					
ONC11/2020/W	Scottish Sea Farms Orkney and Eriboll	Wyre (02/02, 06/03, 13/03, 16/04)	4	0	Wyre (28/05)	1	0	Wyre (14/10)	1	0
SW08/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Tarbert South (05/02 - Grey, 02/03 - Grey)	3	4	Gob a Bharra (16/05 - grey)	1	1		0	0
		Strone (03/03 - Com)			Ardcastle (24/06 - com)					
		Ardgadden (13/03 - Com)								
		Glenan Bay (20/03 - Com)								
		Rubha Stallaig (31/03 - Com)								
		Ardcastle (23/04 - Grey)								
WI08/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Taranaish (12/03 - Grey)	2	1	Taranaish (02/07 - Grey, 22/07 - Com)	1	1	Taranaish (06/08)	2	0
		Kyles Vuia (03/04 - Com, 10/04 - Grey)						Vacasay (23/09)		
WS19/2020/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Gometra (05/03)	1	0		0	0		0	0

[Note that the Northern Salmon Management Group is a coalition of salmon farming and fisheries interests - the seals killed in Loch A Chairn Bhain are by Loch Duart and Wester Ross Fisheries operates salmon farms in Loch Broom, Little Loch Broom and Loch Kanaird]

Data for the years 2011 to 2019 is published by the Scottish Government [online here](#)



Marine licensing: seal license returns 2011-2019

 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2011 XLS Download	 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2016 XLS Download
 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2012 XLS Download	 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2017 XLS Download
 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2013 XLS Download	 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2018 XLSX 16.2 kB Download
 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2014 XLS Download	 Marine licensing: seal license returns. 2019 XLSX 16.2 kB Download

Download a summary analysis by Scottish Salmon Watch of the 1,010 seals officially reported as killed by salmon farms from 2011 to 2020 (data up to Q3 2020) [online here](#)

65 seals were officially killed by salmon farms in 2019 (Q4 2019 "missing" was only published by the Scottish Government on 15 February 2021) headed by Marine Harvest (Mowi) with 25, The Scottish Salmon Company (18), Scottish Sea Farms (13), Loch Duart (7) and Cooke (2):

2019 Returns Licence No:	Licence Name:	Site (date)	Quarter 1		Site (date)	Quarter 2		Site (date)	Quarter 3	
			Grey	Common		Grey	Common		Grey	Common
ONC10/2019/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0		0	0	Pegal Bay (02/08)	1	0
S01/2019/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0		0	0	Bow of Hascosay (05/09)	1	0
S08/2019/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Teisti Geo (05/03) Holms Geo (05/04)	2	0		0	0	Vidlin North (03/09, 27/09)	2	0
W108/2019/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Vuia Mor (06/04) Vuia Mor (06/04)	2	0	Vuia Mor (02/07) Vuia Mor (11/07) Vuia Mor (11/07)	3	0	Kyles Vuia (23/08, 23/08) - Grey Vuia Mor (01/09, 03/09) - Grey Vuia Mor (05/09) - Common	4	1
W111/2019/W	Loch Duart Ltd		0	0	Sound of Harris (27/07)	1	0	Sound of Harris (12/08, 01/09)	2	0
W114/2019/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Tabhaigh (18/02) - grey Tabhaigh (19/02) - grey North Shore (15/03) - com North Shore (16/03) - com North Shore (15/03) - grey North Shore (17/03) - com	3	3	North Shore (07/06)	0	1			
WS06/2019/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	BDNC (11/03)	0	1		0	0			
WS08/2019/W	The Scottish Salmon Company		0	0	Portree Outer (01/05)	1	0			
WS13/2019/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		0	0		0	0	Fiunary (09/10) Kishom West (12/10)	0	2
WS16/2019/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd		0	0		0	0	Isle Ewe (04/09)	1	0
WS21/2019/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Ardintoul (06/02) - grey Sconser (05/03) - grey Maol Ban (11/03) - com Muck (26/03) - grey NWSMG (25/04) - grey	3	1	Ardintoul (05/06) Greshomish (09/06)	2	0	Greshomish (01/10) Colonsay (18/10) Muck (30/10)	0	3
WS22/2019/D	Northern Salmon Management Group	Calbha (30/04) - com	1	1		0	0		0	0

[Note re. the Northern Salmon Management Group - the seal killed at Calbha is by Loch Duart and the seal killed by NWSMG on 25 April 2019 is presumed to be killed by fisheries interests]

Here's the 54 seals killed in 2018 headed by Marine Harvest (Mowi) with 24 followed by Scottish Sea Farms (11) Cooke (9), The Scottish Salmon Company (6), Loch Duart (2) and Wester Ross Fisheries (2).

2018 Returns		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
Licence No:	Licence Name:	Site (date)	Grey	Common	Site (date)	Grey	Common	Site (date)	Grey	Common
ONC10/2018/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0		0	0	Lyrava Bay (23/11)	1	0
ONC11/2018/W	Scottish Sea Farms Orkney and Eriboll		0	0	Sian Bay (30/07)	1	0		0	0
S01/2018/W	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland	Cloudin (09/04)	1	0		0	0	Djubavick (02/08) Djubavick (02/08) Djubavick (05/08) Djubavick (05/08)	4	0
S08/2018/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Slocka Ronas Voe (16/02) Slocka Ronas Voe (22/02) South Sound (26/02) Vidlin North (23/03)	4	0		0	0		0	0
SW08/2018/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Quarry Point (19/02) Ardgadden (08/03)	0	2		0	0		0	0
W08/2018/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Taranaish (15/02) Taranaish (04/04) Taranaish (30/04)	3	0		0	0		0	0
W14/2018/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Groatay (19/03)	1	0		0	0	Tabhaigh (22/09) Tabhaigh (18/10)	2	0
WS13/2018/W	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Furnary (07/02) Loch Spelve(B)16/02)	0	2		0	0	Nevis C (Ardintigh) (13/09) Kishorn B (North) (28/10) Kishorn B (North) (28/10)	0	3
WS16/2018/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Isle Ewe (05/03)	1	0		0	0		0	0
WS19/2018/W	The Scottish Salmon Company	Geasgill (26/03)	1	0		0	0		0	0
WS21/2018/W	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Ardintoul (07/03)	1	0	Camas Glas (10/05) - Com Camas Glas (17/05) - Grey Ardnish (20/07) - Grey	2	1	Linnhe (10/08) - Com Maol Ban (10/08) - Grey Gorsten (25/06) - Com Leven (04/06) - Com Gorsten (13/09) - Com Maol Ban (21/09) - Grey Linnhe (24/09) - Com	2	5
WS22/2018/D	Northern Salmon Management Group		0	0		0	0	Wester Ross (31/10)	0	1
								Kingailoch (22/11) - Com Camas Glas (06/12) - Com Soonser (19/12) - Grey Muck (20/12) - Grey Soonser (28/01) - Com Wester Ross (07/11) - Com Calbha (12/12) - Com Oldany (20/12) - Grey	2	3
									1	2

[Note re. the Northern Salmon Management Group - the seals killed at Calbha and Oldany are by Loch Duart and Wester Ross Fisheries operates salmon farms in Loch Broom, Little Loch Broom and Loch Kanaird]

Here's the 49 seals killed in 2017 headed by Loch Duart (15) followed by Marine Harvest/Mowi (13), Scottish Sea Farms (12), The Scottish Salmon Company (7), Cooke (1) and Hjaltland/Grieg Seafood (1).

2017 Returns		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		
Licence No:	Licence Name:	Site	Common	Grey	Site	Common	Grey	Site	Common	Grey
ONC10/2017	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland		0	0		0	0	West fara	0	1
S07/2017	Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd		0	0		0	0		0	0
W11/2017	Loch Duart Ltd	Loch Carnan	0	3		0	0	Loch Carnon	0	3
W11/2017	Loch Duart Ltd		0	0		0	0	Lochmaddy	0	1
W14/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd		0	0		0	0	Scotasay	1	0
SW07/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd		0	0		0	0		0	1
WS06/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Polle na Gille	1	0		0	0		0	0
WS06/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Bagh dail nan Cean	0	1		0	0		0	0
WS16/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd		0	0		0	0	Isle Ewe	0	1
WS21/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Ardnish	0	1	Sconser	0	1	Cairidh	0	1
WS21/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Camas Glas	0	1		0	0	Greshomish	0	2
WS21/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd					0	0	Maol Ban	0	1
WS21/2017	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd					0	0	Maclean's Nose	1	0
WS22/2017	North and North West Salmon Management Group	Badcall Bay	1	0		0	0	Calbha	0	1
WS22/2017	North and North West Salmon Management Group	Outer Bay	1	0		0	0	Loch A Chain bain	2	0
WS22/2017	North and North West Salmon Management Group	NWSMG	0	1		0	0		0	0
ONC11/2017	Scottish Sea Farms		0	0		0	0		0	0
WS13/2017	Scottish Sea Farms	Bloody Bay	3	0		0	0	Loch Spelve	1	0
S08/2017	Scottish Seafarms Ltd Shetland	Dury Voe FS1274	0	4		0	0	Slocka Ronas Voe	0	2
S08/2017	Scottish Seafarms Ltd Shetland	Teisti Geo	0	1		0	0		0	0
W08/2017	The Scottish Salmon Company		0	0		0	0		0	0
W110/2017	The Scottish Salmon Company		0	0		0	0	Loch Roag	0	6
WS19/2017	The Scottish Salmon Company	Inch Kenneth	1	0		0	0		0	0

Read more on the Norwegian companies who control the majority of 'Scottish' salmon via: [Norwegian Government Asked to Divest from 'Unethical' & 'Irresponsible' Scottish Salmon!](#)



Read more on 'Scottish Scamon' [online here](#)

99% OF 'SCOTTISH' SALMON COMES FROM SIX COMPANIES

<p>Mowi</p>  <p>Read section on Mowi online here</p>	<p>Scottish Sea Farms</p>  <p>Read section on Scottish Sea Farms online here</p>	<p>Scottish Salmon Company</p>  <p>Read section on The Scottish Salmon Company online here (updated blog in November 2020)</p>
<p>Cooke Aquaculture</p>  <p>Read section on Cooke Aquaculture online here</p>	<p>Grieg Seafood</p>  <p>Read section on Grieg Seafood online here (updated blog in November 2020)</p>	<p>Loch Duart</p>  <p>Read section on Loch Duart online here</p>

Commenting on the official data detailing over 1,000 seals killed since 2011, [John Robins of Animal Concern](#) said:

"I strongly suggest these official figures be taken with a very large pinch of sea salt. Every year salmon farmers asked to kill x number of seals, the Government issued licences to kill a lower number of animals and the honesty box returns from the shooters usually showed an even lower number killed. Before licences were issued in 2011 I believe several thousands of seals were shot by salmon farmers every year. My guesstimate, based on conversations with fish farm workers who believed I worked within the industry, was that an average of ten seals were killed at every salmon farm site every year. For many years that figure went unchallenged by the industry, perhaps because it was a very conservative estimate. For the number of seals shot to be reduced to a fraction of that as soon as the unpoliced licensing scheme was introduced is simply unbelievable."



John Robins of Animal Concern Scotland and Save Our Seals.

Read more via:

[£5,000 reward offered for information on illegal shooting of seals](#)

[Victory Sealed After 50-Year Campaign - But the Battle to Save Marine Mammals from Salmon Farms Continues!](#)

[Scottish Salmon's Slaughter of Seals Has Not Stopped!](#)

Posted online on 25 February 2021 via:

[Caught in the Cross-Hairs: Illegal Killing of Seals by Scottish Salmon Farms](#)