

Immediate Release, 10 February 2022



**It's Official: Infectious Salmon Anaemia Back to Haunt Scottish Salmon**

- ISA reported to the World Organization for Animal Health for the first time since 2012!
  - FOI disclosure by Scottish Government lifts lid on ISA at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull
  - 369,195 farmed salmon described as 'susceptible' for ISA in May 2021
  - Scottish Sea Farms supplies M&S with RSPCA Assured salmon
  - Another case of ISA at Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery in November 2021 "awaiting publication" by Scottish Government
- ISA outbreak in 1989-9 involving Scottish Sea Farms cost £100 million & 200 jobs



A [Freedom of Information disclosure by the Scottish Government](#) last week (2 February) reveals that Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) was [officially reported by the Scottish Government to the World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#) via a 'Notification of OIE-Listed Aquatic Diseases and Infections' submitted by the Fish Health Inspectorate on 15 September 2021.

SIX-MONTHLY REPORT ON THE NOTIFICATION OF OIE-LISTED AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES AND INFECTIONS

1. Report date:	15/09/2021	2. Reporting period:	Year	2021	Semester
4. Name of the sender:	<REDACTED – PERSONAL INFORMATION>		5. Position of the sender:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January - June	<input type="checkbox"/> July - December	3. Country:	SCOTLAND		

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE TECHNICAL MANAGER

Infectious salmon anaemia virus (Inf. with) (HPR-deleted or HPR0 genotypes)

The [OIE report filed by the Scottish Government/DEFRA in September 2021](#) detailed ISA in farmed Atlantic salmon with ‘Infection/Infestation limited to one or more zones’ and listed 369,195 ‘susceptible’ farmed Atlantic salmon in May 2021 (the site or company was not named in the OIE report but [in August 2021 the Scottish Government’s Fish Health Inspectorate reported ISA at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull following on inspection in May 2021 which detailed 369,195 salmon on site](#)).

SIX-MONTHLY REPORT ON THE NOTIFICATION OF OIE-LISTED AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES AND INFECTIONS

Part 2. Quantitative information

<b>1. Disease name</b>		<b>Infectious salmon anaemia</b>			
SCOTLAND	Atlantic salmon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Farmed fish	5 <sup>th</sup> month		
<b>4. Number of outbreaks</b>					
<b>New</b>		<b>Total</b>			
1		1			
<b>9. Total number of</b>					
Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Killed and disposed of	Killed for commercial or own use	Vaccinated in response to the outbreak(s)
369,195	1	None reported	0	0	0

“Infectious Salmon Anaemia is officially back to haunt Scottish salmon,” said Don Staniford, Director of [Scamon Scotland](#) (formerly Scottish Salmon Watch) who [visited the RSPCA Assured salmon farm operated by Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms \(Norskott Havbruk\) in Loch Spelve in May 2021](#) prompting [the Scottish Government inspection which revealed ISA](#). “This is first time ISA has been reported to the World Organization for Animal Health since 2012 and Scottish salmon farming is no longer ‘ISA-free’. Official confirmation of ISA in Scottish salmon completely vindicates secret filming inside fish farms. How many more cases of ISA are lurking on salmon farms across Scotland?”

The [OIE report filed in September 2021 by the Scottish Government via DEFRA \(or vice versa – a FOI request to DEFRA is seeking further information\)](#) detailed a ‘disease notification’ for both farmed and wild fish but only 4 samples were collected for farmed salmon and zero for wild fish:

SIX-MONTHLY REPORT ON THE NOTIFICATION OF OIE-LISTED AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES AND INFECTIONS

1. Report date:	15/09/2021	2. Reporting period:	Year	2021	Semester
4. Name of the sender:	<REDACTED – PERSONAL INFORMATION>			5. Position of the sender:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January - June		<input type="checkbox"/> July - December		3. Country:	SCOTLAND

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE TECHNICAL MANAGER

Infectious salmon anaemia virus (Inf. with) (HPR-deleted or HPRO genotypes)

8. Preventive and control measures

Species	Preventive and control measures	Compartmentalisation	Disease notification	General surveillance	Monitoring	Movement control inside the country	Precautions at the borders	Targeted surveillance	Number of samples collected	Vaccination prohibited
Farmed fish		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Wild fish		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The [OIE report dated 15 September 2021](#) detailed:

7. **Note for Farmed fish** (max. 1024 characters) Targeted surveillance interpreted as scheduled, risk-based, physical inspections of farms with diagnostic samples collected as appropriate. Targeted surveillance maintained for HPR deleted, HPRO would only be detected at diagnostic test. 1 case of HPRO in semester. **Disease (HPR-deleted) absent, infection (HPR-0) limited.**

**Note for Wild fish** (max. 1024 characters) HPR deleted only identified in fish in close association with clinical outbreaks in farmed fish. Neither HPR 0 nor HPR deleted detected in reporting semester

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

The date of last occurrence of ISA in Scotland was listed in the [OIE report in September 2021](#) from the Scottish Government as 8 May 2012. The Scottish Government [previously reported to the World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\) in late May 2021](#) that ISA had not been reported on Scottish salmon farms since 31 December 2009.

“Apologies again for providing contradictory information,” [wrote the Fish Health Inspectorate Technical Manager at Marine Scotland Science in an email to DEFRA dated 25 October 2021](#) (copied to Charles Allan – head of Marine Scotland’s Fish Health Inspectorate). “Will the system permit two selections here? The ISA strain relates to both HPR-deleted strain which we would record as disease absent and HPR-0 strain which would be infection/infestation limited to one or more zones. If only one selection is allowed it would probably have to be the latter – infection/infestation limited to one or more zones.”

“The system permits only one presence code per disease, but it allows to provide quantitative data for each ISA genotype to be notified,” [wrote DEFRA’s Animal and Plant Health & Welfare Directorate \(Veterinary Trade Facilitation, Global Animal Health\) in an undated email](#) (understood to be from October 2021 – Scamon Scotland has asked the Scottish Government to provide the missing information).

Here’s an [email from DEFRA to the Scottish Government’s Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen dated 22 October 2021](#):

Sorry <REDACTED - PERSONAL INFORMATION> but I have another question:

- Infectious salmon anaemia: on Part 1 of your return, Qualitative information, you have selected “**disease absent**” for both farmed and wild fish. However, on Part 2. Quantitative information, you have entered that there was an outbreak in May 2021. So I should change the presence code for farmed fish from “**disease absent**” to one of these two codes:
  - **Disease limited to one or more zones**: The disease is present with clinical signs and limited to one or more zones/compartments (in farmed species or aquatic wildlife)
  - **Infection limited to one or more zones**: Confirmed infection using diagnostic tests, but no clinical signs observed and limited to one or more zones/compartments (in farmed species or aquatic wildlife)

Could you please confirm which code would be most appropriate?

“ISA – the last known occurrence of ISA in Scotland was in 2009, however we did not declare absence until completion of the surveillance programme following re-stocking,” [explained the Fish Health Inspectorate’s Technical Manager at Marine Scotland Science in an email to DEFRA dated 22 October 2021](#). “8 May 2012 is when we were officially recognized as free of ISA again.”

Here’s [an email from DEFRA to Marine Scotland Science dated 19 October 2021](#):

Thank you for your return on aquatic diseases for Scotland.

I am in the process of finalising the reports and I have a few queries regarding your return. I would be really grateful if you could clarify them for me please:

Infectious salmon anaemia virus: on the WAHIS system it says that the date of last occurrence in farmed fish was the 31/12/2009, but in your return it says it was the 8/05/2012. Was there an outbreak in May 2012 that was never reported to the OIE on the WAHIS system?

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

“This is not an attempt to hide information: rather it states that the information given earlier in the response was also sent on to Defra as required,” [wrote the Scottish Government in a FOI review reply letter dated 2 February 2022](#). “This correspondence with Defra was not included in the original response as it was believed to include the same information, and was not directly relevant to the request”.

Read the FOI disclosure from the Scottish Government on 2 February 2022 in full via: [FOI Lifts Lid on Scotland's Secret: ISA in Scottish Salmon Officially Reported in September 2021 to World Organization for Animal Health](#)

**Contact:**

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



## Media Backgrounder: ISA Lurking in Scottish Salmon

The Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate [visited Loch Spelve salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms on 14 May 2021](#) – the inspection visit was triggered by [secret filming on 7 May 2021 and a welfare complaint filed on 10 May 2021 by Scottish Salmon Watch](#) (renamed Scamon Scotland on 1 February 2022).



The [Fish Health Inspectorate's 'Case Information'](#) which details 369,195 on site at the Loch Spelve salmon farm was not [published until August 2021](#) and was [first publicized in August 2021 by Scottish Salmon Watch](#) via:

**Infectious Salmon Anaemia officially reported at Scottish Sea Farms on the Isle of Mull (Loch Spelve) at RSPCA Assured salmon farm supplying M&S!**

Case No:	2021-0132	Date of visit:	14/05/2021
Time spent on site:	5.5 hours	Main Inspector:	
Site No:	FS0253	Site Name:	Loch Spelve (B)
Business No:	FB0125	Business Name:	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd

Samples were screened for infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) by QPCR as part of surveillance program for control of listed diseases. The samples tested positive for infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) by QPCR and the sequence data confirmed to be ISAV HPR0, the non-pathogenic form of the virus. Additionally, an ISAV immunochemistry (IHC) assay that target against the pathogenic form of the virus (ISA-deleted nucleoprotein) was performed and confirmed to be negative for the pathogenic form.

**ISAV**

Pool Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
P1	15.18	35.23	37.01	36.63	POSITIVE



Image 10: petechial haemorrhaging of the liver (fish 1 from



Image 11: spots (possibly fat) on the spleen (fish 5, from

[Breaking News: ISA reported at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms on the Isle of Mull](#)  
[Damning Disease Report for RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve](#)  
[Letter to Scottish Ministers re. ISA in Scottish Salmon](#)

The UK media ignored the report of ISA in Scottish salmon although the trade press did report:  
[Top story on Intrafish reports on ISA at Scottish Sea Farms!](#)  
["Activist challenged over claim about fish virus" \(Fish Farming Expert\)](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported in June 2021](#) how M&S had dropped their fake ‘Lochmuir’ brand – which was [pioneered by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve](#) – in favour of RSPCA Assured accreditation.



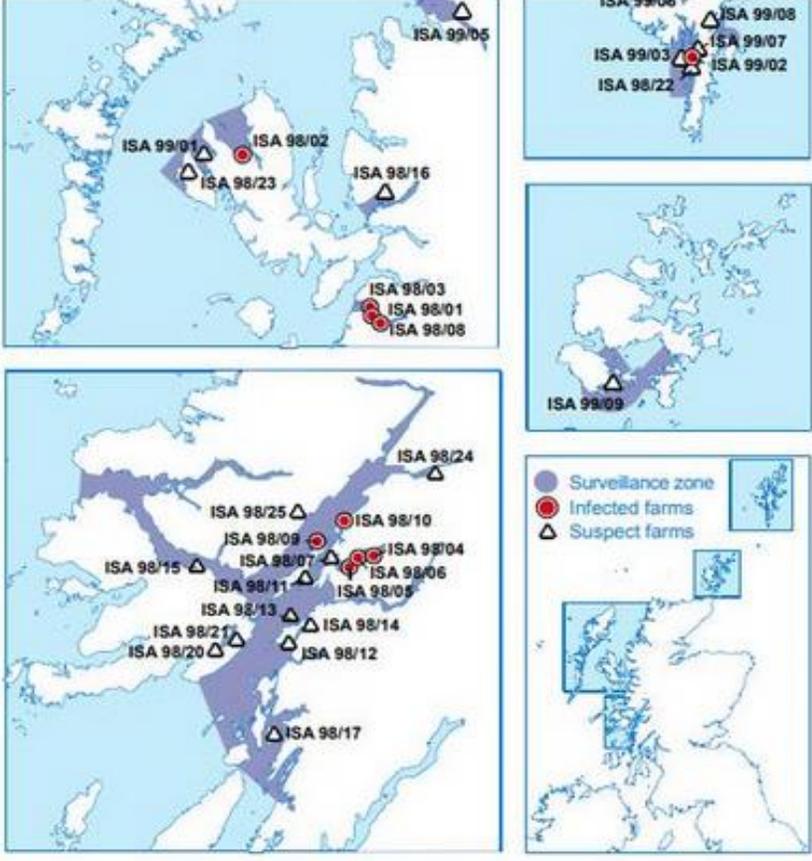
In May 2021, [the RSPCA temporarily suspended Loch Spelve from the RSPCA Assured scheme](#) following a [welfare complaint filed by Scottish Salmon Watch](#).



Scottish Salmon Watch [published a media backgrounder in August 2021](#) detailing how Scottish Sea Farms was the company fingered for the spread of ISA in Scotland back in 1998-9 which cost £100 million:

 **Don Staniford**  
@TheGAAIA

Remember that the ISA outbreak in Scotland in 1998-9 was traced back to Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms - it cost the 'Scottish' salmon farming industry £100 million & 200 jobs [tinyurl.com/d4b2hxhw](https://tinyurl.com/d4b2hxhw)  
[@scotseafarms](#) [@LeroySeafood](#) [@Folketrygdfond](#)  
[@marinescotland](#) [@scotgov](#)



7:52 AM · Aug 30, 2021

Read in full via: [Media Backgrounder: Scottish Salmon's Recurring ISA Nightmare](#)

Another media backgrounder detailed the spread of ISA all over the world since 1984:  
[Media Backgrounder: Norway's Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse – Going Global Since 1984!](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported in December 2021](#):



[FOI-2021-00234467](#) disclosed by the Scottish Government in October 2021 [revealed that 7% of Scottish farmed salmon sampled between 2002 and 2012 tested positive for Infectious Salmon Anaemia \(396 ISA positives out of 5,395 samples\)](#).

A [Freedom of Information reply from the Scottish Government dated 5 January 2022](#) detailed three cases of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) on Scottish salmon farms since 2013 – at Marine Harvest (Mowi) in Loch Greshornish on the Isle of Skye in 2014; at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull in May 2021 and at Landcatch’s Ormsary Broodstock Unit in Argyll in November 2021.

The [FOI disclosure \(FOI-2021-00259475\) dated 5 January 2020](#) included:

In addition, a further positive result (ISA HPR0) has been obtained from the Ormsary Broodstock Unit operated by Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd - case number 20210470. Case information has not yet been published as this is still in the course of completion. This will be published in due course in line with the Scottish Government publication plan concerning aquatic animal health surveillance, as referenced above. Relevant information to your request is extracted from our records as follows – site visit date - 1 November 2021; one positive result - ISAv Real Time QPCR was obtained and was confirmed as ISAv (HPR0) which is not subject to statutory control measures. The test result related to a pooled sample of three fish.

In both the Loch Spelve and Ormsary Broodstock Unit cases initial movement restrictions were placed on first suspicion and then revoked following the confirmation of the presence of ISA (HPR0), as opposed to the presence of ISAv (HPR-deleted). We have previously explained in significant detail the differences between ISAv – HPR0 and HPR-deleted strains and I would urge that the information provided to you through Fol 202100234467 is carefully considered as context with respect to this Fol response.

The above was reported via:

[Infectious Salmon Anaemia Reported at Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery in November – was ISA imported via infected salmon eggs \(ova\) from Iceland?](#)  
[Front Page Splash on ISA at Landcatch in the Argyllshire Advertiser!](#)

**Don Staniford**  
@TheGAAIA

Front page splash on Infectious Salmon Anaemia at Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery @HGSalmonUK @BetterBreeding in this week's Argyllshire Advertiser @argyllshiread "Salmon farming is a cancer on the coast" @ScotlandSalmon @marinescotland @MairiGougeon @tavishscott @HamishMacdonell

**argyllshire advertiser**  
we ♥ local THANK YOU

**Disease claims unfounded, says Ormsary fish hatchery**

Continued from page 1.  
Marine Scotland to a Freedom of Information request.  
In its response, Marine Scotland confirmed that, among others in Scotland, one case of ISA was found on November 1, 2021 at Ormsary Broodstock Unit, operated by Landcatch.  
Routine movement restrictions were placed on the unit before being revoked when the presence of ISA HPR0 was confirmed.  
Iarl van den Berg, general manager for Hendrix Genetics UK salmon operations, said: "There has been no ISA (HPR-deleted) found in Ormsary. What has been down and after five days it was clear that it was the non-pathogenic HPR0 strain and all measures were lifted."  
He added: "As an industry in Scotland we are clear of ISA and have been for many years and will continue to be so thanks to the efforts of institutions like Marine Scotland."  
Mr Staniford also suggested that ISA might have been imported via infected salmon eggs (ova) from Iceland.  
Mr van den Berg responded: "The import of eggs has nothing to do with it. It is common for Scotland to import eggs from neighbouring regions and these are all tested for a

8:35 AM · Jan 16, 2022

A Fish Health Inspectorate report detailing an inspection of Landcatch's Ormsary Broodstock Unit in Argyll on 1 November 2021 is still ["awaiting publication" via the Scottish Government's 'Case Information'](#).

Yesterday (9 February 2022), [Scamon Scotland wrote to Scottish Ministers](#) calling for the border to be closed to imports of salmon eggs (ova), parr and smolts to safeguard against disease and genetic risks. Scamon Scotland [revealed that Benchmark Genetics Iceland \(formerly called Stofnfiskur\) was still importing ova to Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery despite the report of ISA in Iceland.](#)



“Scamon Scotland is calling on the Scottish Government to close the border to imports of ova, parr and smolts and increase surveillance of salmon farms to stop the spread of infectious diseases, viruses and pathogens,” concluded Don Staniford, Director of Scamon Scotland. “Consumers should boycott Scottish salmon – even RSPCA Assured, ‘organic’ and ASC-certified products – like the proverbial plague. Scottish salmon is a [disease-ridden](#), [virus-laden](#) and [lice-infested](#) health disaster. Scottish salmon belongs in the bin not your shopping basket.”

Read more via:

[Letter to Scottish Ministers: Please Close the Border to Imports of Salmon Ova, Parr & Smolts! Iceland Still Importing Ova to 'Scottish' Salmon Farms Despite Disease Risks](#)

[Escape at ISA-Hit Laxar - why is 'Scottish' Salmon Still Importing Millions of Ova from Iceland?](#)

[Front Page Splash on ISA at Landcatch in the Argyllshire Advertiser!](#)

[Game Ova for Imports & Exports: Close the Borders to Stop the Spread of Diseases & Genetic Pollution!](#)

[Infectious Salmon Anaemia Reported at Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery in November – was ISA imported via infected salmon eggs \(ova\) from Iceland?](#)

[The Catch with Landcatch - how Lithgows sold Scottish salmon down the river to Dutch & US investors!](#)

[Iceland Slaughters ISA-Infected Salmon - is Scotland next in the firing line?](#)

[ISA hits Scottish Sea Farms owner SalMar in Norway - how many hidden cases are lurking on salmon farms in Scotland?](#)

[Letter to Scottish Ministers calling for a ban on ova imports from Iceland](#)

[Revealed: Infectious Salmon Anaemia Lurking in Scottish Salmon](#)

[Scottish Ministers with Egg on Their Faces - is it game ova for imports of salmon eggs from Iceland & Norway?](#)

[Scottish Scamon Eggsposé: The Foreign Companies Importing Over 320 Million Salmon Eggs \(Ova\) Into 'Scottish' Fish Farms Since 2016!](#)

[Press Statement: Ban All Ova Imports to Protect 'Scottish' Salmon!](#)

[ISA in Iceland - will Scotland ban ova imports to prevent disease risks as with Norway?](#)

[Mowi fined for breaching ISA laws in Norway - is ISA lurking at Mowi salmon farms in Scotland?](#)

[Top story on Intrafish reports on ISA at Scottish Sea Farms!](#)

[Salmon Farming is Like the Black Death Plague!](#)

[Mowi's Mortality Nightmare - Farmed Salmon is Dead in the Water!](#)

["Activist challenged over claim about fish virus" \(Fish Farming Expert\)](#)

[Breaking News: ISA reported at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms on the Isle of Mull](#)  
[Damning Disease Report for RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve](#)

[Letter to Scottish Ministers re. ISA in Scottish Salmon](#)

[Media Backgrounder: Scottish Salmon's Recurring ISA Nightmare](#)

[Media Backgrounder: Norway's Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse – Going Global Since 1984!](#)

[Norway's Infectious Salmon "Horror Show" Secretly Playing Now In Scotland?](#)

[Norwegian Salmon Egg Exports Banned Due to Disease Risks](#)

[Letter to Scottish Ministers: "Bio-security Protocols & Safety Precautions re. Ova Imports"](#)

