

[Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 6 March 2018

Protests Against 'Diseased & Dangerous' Scottish Salmon - Scottish Parliament Grills Salmon Farming Industry Until Mid-May

Fresh from a roasting on [BBC's Reporting Scotland last night](#) and still [reeling from negative media coverage](#) following the [publication of a damning report by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee](#), the salmon farming industry is bracing itself for three months of further [scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament](#).



Parliamentary Committee to scrutinise the farmed salmon industry in Scotland

In May, [Scottish Salmon Watch](#) will be organising protests outside the Scottish Parliament when Marine Harvest (2 May) and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity (16 May) are [grilled by the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee](#).

Tomorrow (7 March) [MSPs will question](#) Professor Paul Tett of the Scottish Association of Marine Science and Professor James Bron and Professor Herve Migaud of the University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture.

Last month, the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee [launched an inquiry](#): "To consider the current state of salmon industry in Scotland, identify opportunities for its future development and explore how the various fish health and environmental challenges it currently faces can be addressed".

According to a [press release issued by the REC Committee](#): "A deadline of 27 April has been given for written submissions. The Committee will produce a report detailing its findings once it has concluded its anticipated evidence taking in March, April and May."

Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed last week](#) that the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO), Marine Harvest and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) met with the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee [before they agreed their remit for the inquiry and before they officially launched a call for views](#).

Tomorrow's [Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee](#) meeting will see the first witnesses give oral evidence with Salmon & Trout Conservation (who [filed the petition which kick-started the Scottish Parliament's inquiry](#)), Scottish Environment LINK and Fisheries Management Scotland scheduled to give evidence on 14 March; Highlands & Islands Enterprise on 25 April; Marine Harvest and the Scottish Seafood Association on 2 May; and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity testifying on 16 May. Here's the [timetable of the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee's salmon farming inquiry](#):

7 March	Evidence session with aquaculture research bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Association Marine Science; University of Stirling Institute for Aquaculture; Steve Westbrook.
14 March	Evidence session with environmental organisations. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Environment LINK, Salmon & Trout Conservation, Fisheries Management Scotland, Lochaber District salmon Fishery Board.
18 April	Evidence session with regulatory bodies
25 April	Evidence session with development bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scotland Food & Drink, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
2 May	Evidence session with salmon farming representatives. Confirmed witnesses include Marine Harvest, Scottish Seafood Association
16 May	Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

"By the time the Scottish Parliament has finished grilling Marine Harvest and the [Minister for Salmon Farming Expansion](#) in May there might only be the charred remains of this disease-ridden industry left," said Don Staniford, Director of [Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Yesterday's damning report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming lays bare the industry's problems with infectious diseases, mass mortalities, dead seals, polluted lochs and toxic chemical wastes. The industry's expansion [plans to double production by 2030](#) are now dead in the water along with the [millions of diseased salmon](#) which die each year on Scotland's [lice-infested farms](#). Scottish salmon farms should be placed in quarantine and closed off as a biohazard. Far from being 'healthy', Scottish farmed salmon is [diseased](#) and [dangerous](#)."



Andrew Graham-Stewart of Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [told The National](#) (5 March): "This is a complete vindication of what we have been arguing for many years now, often in the face of denials and opposition from within Scottish Government and Scottish public authorities, that open cage salmon farming in sea lochs is way out of balance with the environment, particularly with the conservation of wild salmon and sea trout."



Victory for Freedom of Information - Opening the Can of Worms!

- In November 2017, Salmon & Trout Conservation [published damning data on 62 salmon farms breaching lice limits](#).
- In December 2017, the [BBC's 'One Show' broadcast](#) footage of diseased salmon wastes leaking from haulage trucks on '[The Dead Salmon Run](#)' prompting a [complaint to the European Commission](#).

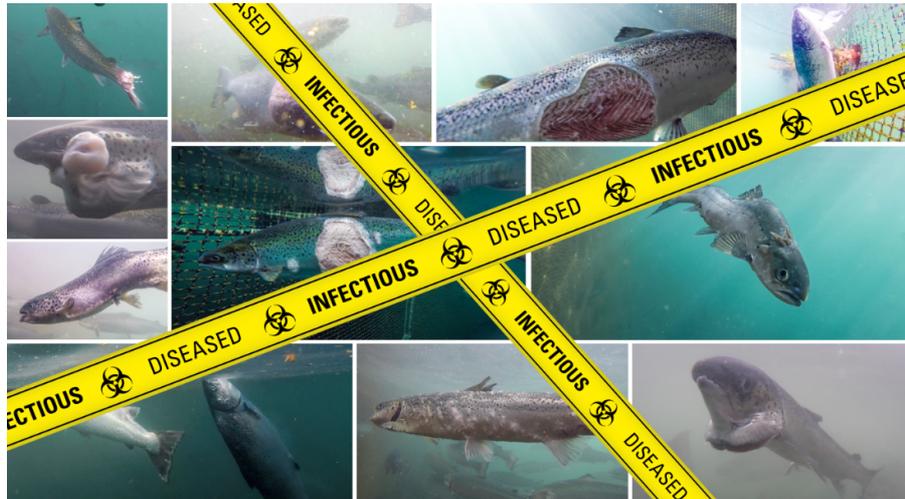


- In February 2018, the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture [published shocking data on infectious diseases and mortalities](#).

- During [questioning in the Scottish Parliament](#) (6 February 2018), the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation [pledged to publish site specific data on diseases, lice and mortalities](#) (this data will be published "in April" [according to David Sandison speaking on BBC Radio Shetland on 5 March 2018](#)).

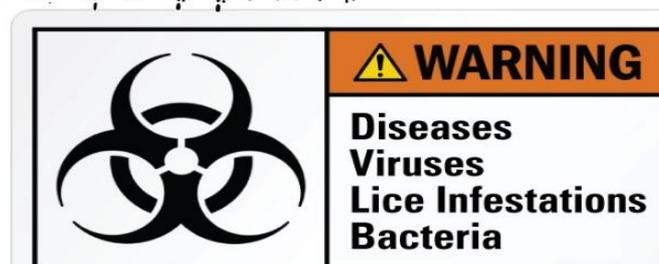
- On 5 March 2018 the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee [published a damning report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#).

- In March, April and May 2018 the [Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee's salmon farming inquiry](#) will "consider the current state of salmon industry in Scotland, identify opportunities for its future development and explore how the various fish health and environmental challenges it currently faces can be addressed."



"Scottish salmon farming is a toxic industry dependent upon a cocktail of hazardous and dangerous chemicals including known lobster-killers," continued Staniford who last month launched '[Scottish Salmon Watch](#)'. "And from a human health perspective farmed salmon has been shown by peer-reviewed science to contain cancer-causing contaminants such as DDT, dioxins and PCBs. Scottish salmon is cheap and nasty and leaves a bad taste in the mouth."

HEALTHY!
SCOTTISH SALMON!?



Take a closer look at the problems plaguing salmon farms via [Scottish Salmon Watch](#)



Read [more news](#) on the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry via:

[Charlie Whelan in the Daily Mail: "We have to act now....before it is too late"](#)

[Daily Mail: "Salmon farms 'a severe risk' to the environment"](#)

[BBC Radio Shetland grills Scottish Salmon Producers on "damning" report](#)

[The Sun: "Eco Threat: MSPs kick up stink over claims salmon industry is risking 'irrecoverable damage'"](#)

[BBC Reporting Scotland \(Evening News, 5 March 2018\)](#)

[Press Update: Scottish Salmon Slapped!](#)

[Key Points: Scottish Parliament's report on the environmental impact of salmon farming](#)

[Shetland News: "Damning salmon industry report warns of 'irrecoverable' environmental damage"](#)

[Scottish Parliament Report: "Environmental Impacts of Salmon Farming"](#)

[BBC News: "MSPs warning over salmon farming impact on environment"](#)

[Press Release: "Scrutiny for Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Update: Written evidence to Scottish Parliament salmon farming inquiry](#)

[Holyrood: "Salmon producers agree to publish reports on fish deaths"](#)

[Official Report: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming \(6 Feb\)](#)

[Scottish Parliamentary inquiry calls for more evidence](#)

[Victory for Freedom of Information](#)

[Media Update: Scottish Salmon Pledges to Publish Data on Diseases & Lice Infestations](#)

[Video: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[The National: "Scotland's fish farmers to release salmon mortality figures"](#)
[Tweet storm at the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#)
['Militant' MSPs Grill Scottish Salmon](#)
[Update: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)
[The Scottish Salmon Polluters Organisation \(SSPO\)](#)
[Loch Duart - The \(Really Not Very\) Sustainable Salmon Company](#)
[Daily Mail: "Salmon crisis as 2.3m are dumped in nine months"](#)
[The National: "Environmental groups urge Scottish fish farms to scale back"](#)
[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon's Mort Mountain Leaps Over 10 Million - FOI reveals 2.3 million dead salmon at Marine Harvest farms in 2017"](#)
[SSPO "sets the record straight"](#)
[Transcript of Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)
[GAAIA's written submission to the Scottish Parliament inquiry](#)
[Review of the Environmental Impacts of Scottish Salmon Farming - call for written evidence \(deadline of 8 February\)](#)
[Daily Mail: "Thousands of fish thrown in a truck - and troubling new questions for salmon farms"](#)
[The Scotsman: "Fish farms increase could lead to more seals being shot"](#)
[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon Farming 101 - Scottish Parliament inquiry opens 'in early 2018'"](#)
[Scottish Salmon Farming 101](#)
[Media Backgrounder: Inquiry into Salmon Farming by the Scottish Parliament](#)
[Parliamentary Question: to ask the Scottish Government how many farmed salmon have died in each year since 2012](#)
[First Minister questioned on leaking wastes from morts - call for a moratorium from Greens](#)
[Campaigners say 'no more salmon farms' after disease on Lewis kills 125,000 fish](#)

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