

Scottish Salmon Watch, 1 October 2020

Massive Attack on 'Scottish' Salmon
"Norwegian interests risk bringing the whole rotten edifice of 'Scottish Salmon' crashing down" warns Hendrix MD in email to Scottish Ministers



- **Scottish Ministers warned by Hendrix in 2019 of "an absurdly flawed bio-security self certification policy that risks the import of further Norwegian disease, a threat capable of destroying Scotland's entire salmon industry"**
- **Hendrix rails against "this Scottish Government's abject failure to defend Landcatch from the dubious tactics of the Norwegian salmon farming industry and the blatantly unlawful actions of their government" in email to Scottish Ministers in 2019**
- **AquaGen is "one of the companies who had most to gain by destroying the Scottish competition from Landcatch, and were undoubtedly instrumental in the Norwegian ban on Landcatch salmon ova" writes Hendrix to Scottish Ministers in 2019**
- **"That Norwegian interests should risk bringing the whole rotten edifice of 'Scottish Salmon' crashing down, and with it the risk of collateral damage to the integrity and provenance of the wider Scottish Food and Drink brand, should be of an immediate concern," warned Hendrix in an email to Scottish Ministers in 2019**

- **Hendrix Genetics lobbied Scottish Ministers over "massive risk" of Infectious Salmon Anaemia in imported salmon eggs (ova) from AquaGen in Norway**
 - **Meanwhile, Hendrix imported millions of ova from Norway, Iceland & Ireland**
 - **FOI disclosures reveal that Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery has imported over 21 million salmon eggs from AquaGen in Norway, Stofnfiskur in Iceland & Mowi Ireland**
 - **FOI ruling by Scottish Information Commissioner forced disclosure of 'commercially damaging' ova import data**
 - **Hendrix Genetics (via Landcatch) entered into a 'Confidentiality Agreement' with AquaGen & Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms**
 - **"The Landcatch strain originated from three Norwegian strains between 1980 and 1984," admitted Hendrix Genetics MD to Fergus Ewing in 2016**

Documents disclosed by the Scottish Government cast light on the murky world of 'Scottish' salmon farming. Freedom of Information (FOI) disclosures reveal that since 2016 Hendrix Genetics has imported over 21 million salmon eggs (ova) from Norway, Iceland and Ireland into their Ormsary Hatchery in Argyll to produce 'Scottish' salmon [1]. Further documents reveal that whilst [Dutch-owned Hendrix Genetics](#) was importing millions of potentially virus-laden ova into Scotland via Landcatch Natural Selection, Managing Director Neil Manchester was lobbying Scottish Ministers to stop rival company AquaGen from importing ova from Norway due to the "massive risk" of Infectious Salmon Anaemia [2].

"So-called 'Scottish' salmon is a sham, scam and a consumer con," said Don Staniford, Director of Scottish Salmon Watch who was [assaulted last month by the General Manager of the Ormsary Hatchery owned by Hendrix Genetics](#). "The sheer hypocrisy of Hendrix illustrates how morally repugnant and ethically bankrupt the salmon farming industry really is. In view of mass mortalities, diseases, deformities, antibiotics and the use of the carcinogenic chemical Formalin (Formaldehyde) at their Ormsary Hatchery it is no wonder that Hendrix are hostile to visitors. Following the assault and harassment last month, Scottish Salmon Watch plans to return next week (7 October) to take more samples of sewage effluent to test for pathogens, viruses, bacteria and infectious diseases."

In December 2019, Scottish Salmon Watch [published ova import data](#) following a [landmark ruling from the Scottish Information Commissioner](#). The data which Scottish Ministers argued was [commercially sensitive and could cause substantial harm to commercial interests](#) included details of millions of ova imported by Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery (owned by Hendrix Genetics). Further ova import data was [disclosed by the Scottish Government in February 2020](#) and [published online via the Scottish Government earlier this month](#) - detailing over 21 million ova imported by Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery since 2016 via at least 22 consignments from Norway, Iceland and Ireland:

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
21/01/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	585000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
20/02/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	SAL	OVA	2457000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
19/03/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	670000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
12/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Loch Duart Ltd	SAL	OVA	450000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
27/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	675900	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
28/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	SAL	OVA	2320500	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
11/12/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Saumon de France	SAL	OVA	350000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
07/02/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,500,000	Republic of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
01/03/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	575,000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
01/03/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	800,000	Republic of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
13/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	750,000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
27/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	2,197,000	Norway	AS Bolaks
30/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	315,000	Norway	AS Bolaks
20/12/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	250,000	Norway	Salmobreed
30/01/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	755,300	Norway	Grieg Seafood Rogaland
14/02/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest	Salmon	Ova	584,000	Republic of Ireland	Mowi Ireland

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
23/02/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,200,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
30/11/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	400,000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur
08/12/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	300,000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
18/02/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,100,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest (Ireland)
03/03/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	144,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest (Ireland)
08/12/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	988,000	Norway	Aquagen AS

AquaGen has been [owned by the German company EW Group since 2013](#) when [Mowi/Marine Harvest](#) and [Cermaq](#) sold their stakes. In 2011, [The New York Times](#) fingered [AquaGen](#) in Norway as the likely source of the ISA outbreak in Chile following a scientific paper [published in the Archives of Virology](#) [3].



Stofnfiskur is a subsidiary of [Norwegian-owned Benchmark](#) (the company seeking to use the banned neonicotinoid Imidacloprid in Scottish salmon farming). Benchmark's [largest shareholder is Norwegian-owned Ferd Capital](#) - controlled by [Norwegian investor and Norway's fifth richest person Johan Henrik Andresen](#). Benchmark's [second largest shareholder is Norwegian-owned Kverva](#) who owns salmon farming giant [SalMar](#) (which itself co-owns [Norskott Havbruk](#), [owner of Scotland's second largest salmon farmer Scottish Sea Farms](#)).

In December 2018, [The Seattle Times](#) reported that Cooke Aquaculture were forced to destroy 800,000 juvenile Atlantic salmon after testing required by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife determined the fish were infected with an exotic strain of Piscine Orthoreovirus (PRV). [Salmon Business](#) reported that the Icelandic company StofnFiskur – a subsidiary of [Norwegian-controlled Benchmark Genetics](#) – supplied the ova to Cooke Aquaculture and [admitted that there was an 'optional service of screening against PRV'](#).

Dutch giant Hendrix Genetics [bought Landcatch from Lithgows in 2011](#) [4].

When Scottish Salmon Watch visited Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery last month we were [assaulted by the General Manager Jarl van den Berg](#) (believed to be the son of Hendrix Genetics CEO Antoon van den Berg) triggering a warning from Police Scotland.



And during another visit we were [harassed and intimidated by Sir William Lithgow's son and heir to the Baronet of Ormsary James Lithgow](#) leading to a warning by Police Scotland for the Chairman of Lithgows.



Read more via:

[Lithgow Baron Warned by Police for Threatening Behaviour Over Filming at Hendrix](#)
[Hendrix Boss Plays It Heavy Like Jimmy!](#)
[Mass Mortalities, Diseases, Deformities, Antibiotics & Carcinogenic Chemicals at Landcatch \(Hendrix Genetics\)](#)

In August 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed that AquaGen had resumed importing ova from Norway following the ban in 2019](#) even though [ISA continued to plague Norwegian salmon farms](#):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Norwegian Salmon Ova Slip Back Into Scotland (as Infectious Salmon Anaemia plagues salmon farms in Norway)
tinyurl.com/yyrzsa6m @GreenerScotland @marinescotland @APHAgovuk @DefraGovUK @InfoMattilsynet @FergusEwingMSP @HGSalmonUK @EWNutritionGmbH @WeAreBenchmark @scotseafarms

Scottish Salmon Watch, 25 August 2020

SCOTTISH SALMON WATCH  **VIRUSES**

[Norwegian Salmon Eggs Slip Back Into Scotland](#)
[\(as Infectious Salmon Anaemia plagues salmon farms in Norway\)](#)
- Close the Borders to Deadly Diseases & Viruses Demand Campaigners!



6:13 AM · Aug 26, 2020

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

#COVID19 has taught us that closing borders is vital in stemming the spread of infectious diseases, viruses & pathogens tinyurl.com/yyrzsa6m Salmon farms using imported eggs should be quarantined until they can prove they're free of deadly viruses! @GreenerScotland #ISA #PRV



11:09 AM · Aug 26, 2020

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

Further reading:

[The National: "Ministers deny risk of contaminating Scots salmon with Norwegian egg imports"](#)

[Norwegian Salmon Ova Slip Back Into Scotland \(as Infectious Salmon Anaemia plagues salmon farms in Norway\)](#)

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

[EFTA disclose documents on disease-ridden Norwegian salmon farming but refuse more citing commercial confidentiality](#)

['Scottish' salmon resumes imports of "ISA-free" eggs from Norway?](#)

[Salmon ova transport ban between Norway and Scotland, brought on by ISA, slowly ending](#)

[FOI letter to Norwegian Food Safety Authority re. Infectious Salmon Anaemia](#)

[Undercurrent News: "Iceland replaces Norway as main source of Scottish salmon eggs following import ban"](#)

[Benchmark gains more than it loses from ban on Norwegian ova](#)

[Norway egg ban 'boost for Scottish broodstock'](#)

[Scotland's ban on Norwegian farmed salmon eggs threatening growth prospects](#)

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

[The Ferret: "Imports of Norwegian salmon eggs banned over deadly virus"](#)

['Nightmare Scenario': Norwegian Salmon Egg Exports Banned Due to Disease Risks](#)

[FOI Dossier - Norwegian Ova Banned Due to ISA](#)

['Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland](#)

[FOI Victory: Scottish Ministers Forced to Come Clean on 'Scottish' Salmon](#)

[The National: "Watchdog demands release of government facts about Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Scottish Government ordered to release 'confidential' salmon farming data](#)

[Scottish government ordered to give up information about imported salmon eggs](#)

[Mail On Sunday: "90% of Scottish salmon 'ISN'T' from Scotland" - 66m eggs shipped in from abroad"](#)

[Scottish salmon not Scottish, campaigners claim](#)

[Salmon Eggsclusive: Scotland's 'King of Fish' is Now Viking Not Scottish!](#)

[Easter Egg Ban for 'Scottish' Salmon?](#)

[Deadly virus outbreak prompted fears over import of fish farm eggs to Scotland](#)

[Game Ova for Scottish Salmon - Deadly disease delays egg imports from AquaGen in Norway](#)

[Concerns raised over Scottish salmon roe imports](#)

[AquaGen buys Dumfries hatchery from Scottish Sea Farms for broodstock site](#)

['Secret' Scottish Salmon - Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms refuse to disclose information for ova imports as it would "cause substantial harm to their commercial interests"](#)

[Government 'failing to protect Scottish salmon'](#)

[Complete Mockery of the Brand 'Scottish Salmon': Norway bans import of Scottish salmon eggs citing disease risks & genetic impacts under the Nature Diversity Act](#)

[Imported eggs ruling 'makes a mockery of Scottish salmon'](#)

[Scottish row on salmon roe](#)

[Norway decides to ban import of salmon eggs: EIR release](#)

[Norway keeps ban on import of Scottish roe](#)

[AquaGen to start egg production in Scotland](#)

[Tartan imposters' charge as fish egg imports hit 90%](#)

[Invasion of the Viking salmon](#)

['Norwegian' genes found in wild salmon populations in Wester Ross](#)

[Scots fish are 'Vikings with kilts on'](#)

A History of Hypocrisy at Hendrix Genetics - Exposed by FOI:

"The Landcatch strain originated from three Norwegian strains between 1980 and 1984," [wrote Neil Manchester, MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture, in an email to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy \(Fergus Ewing\) June 2016.](#)

Neil Manchester, MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture, [wrote to the Scottish Government in June 2016:](#)

For information, at no stage have the Norwegian Government taken any genetic samples from our strain in Scotland to support their notion that it is sufficiently distinct from Norwegian strains as to qualify as an exotic species. Their recent permission to the movement of Icelandic eggs was based in a written assurance only that these originated from Norway in 1980 (as did the Landcatch strain).

Our next action is to compare the DNA of the Landcatch strain to that of current Norwegian strains, to further disprove this argument.

Neil Manchester, MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture, [wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy \(Fergus Ewing\) in February 2018:](#)

The Landcatch breeding programme, established in 1980 by Sir William Lithgow, heavily funded during the 1990's through Scottish Enterprise, and the only independent Scottish salmon egg producer in existence, will now be terminated.

This means that the Scottish salmon industry is now 100% reliant on imported eggs- both a massive risk in the event of borders closing for disease issues (and also the transfer of ISA from infected countries such as Norway), but also making a complete mockery of the brand 'Scottish Salmon'.

This also means that the extensive R&D projects conducted between Landcatch and the Universities of Glasgow, Stirling, and Edinburgh, once lauded as great examples of Smart Successful Scotland, will now require the involvement of Norwegian breeding companies operating in Norway. Phrases other than smart and successful come to mind.

Neil Manchester, MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture, [wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy \(Fergus Ewing\) in March 2018:](#)

However, I fear that the Minister may be misinformed slightly. It isn't the case that the Norwegian government have simply prevented the import of one consignment of Atlantic salmon eggs, but rather that they have banned the movement of all salmon eggs from Scotland into Norway. This decision has been reported in the media already, as per this link: <http://salmonbusiness.com/norway-keeps-ban-on-import-of-scottish-roe/>

I have attached a copy of the 22 page letter sent to us by the Norwegian government explaining their reasoning. The conclusion clearly states that importing eggs of Scottish or even partial Scottish origin is seen as a serious threat to wild Norwegian salmon, and will not be allowed.

The point here is that if the Minister accepts this decision, and thereby the reasoning behind it, then he must answer why he is unwilling to afford the same level of protection to wild Scottish salmon.

Alternatively, since our independent salmon breeding and egg production business in Argyll has been destroyed by this decision and the time it has taken to reach it, I would hope that Scottish government would recognize this and act/ react accordingly.

"If at all possible can we restrict the information you release?" [asked Hendrix Genetics \(Landcatch\) in June 2018 in an email to the Scottish Government](#). "The reason we ask for this is we do not want to be used nor seen as the bad guys, we fully support the Scottish industry and indeed respect the Scottish governments decision around Norway. After all we have moved on and no longer have our own broodstock in Scotland."

Another [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government in July 2019](#) included documents relating to a meeting between Neil Manchester of Hendrix Genetics and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy (Fergus Ewing) in the Scottish Parliament:

CABINET SECRETARY MEETING WITH MR [REDACTED], HENDRIX GENETICS: REJECTION BY NORWAY OF SCOTTISH DERIVED SALMON OVA: TUESDAY 5 JUNE, 3.30-4.15PM: T3,25: SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Annex F

Correspondence from [REDACTED]

17/04/2018

Dear [REDACTED]

- With reference to your letter dated 15th March, I would be very interested to meet with you to discuss how we can extract something positive from the current impasse with Norway.
- Given the definitive decision from Norway to prevent the import of salmon eggs from Scotland, which I remain firmly of the belief is illegal and anti-competitive, we have had to accept that continuation of the Landcatch pedigree breeding programme in Scotland is uneconomic.
- Landcatch Natural Selection has suffered a significant financial loss through the termination of this operation, and the historical loss of many millions of pounds investment from both private and public funds. I am sure you will agree that this is not a good story for the Scottish industry, but I want to be pragmatic about the situation and rather than make life difficult in continuing to fight a lost battle I am keen to seek ways to restructure and develop our business in Argyll.
- Given the fact that Scottish Government has been unable to challenge the Norwegian government, I do wonder if we can source government funding to invest in key sustainable developments in our Argyll operations.
- We have already engaged with the Scottish Salmon Company to assist with the development of their Native Hebridean brand using the Argyll facility, but can see great opportunities to incorporate new technologies and energy efficient systems at Ormsary that would maintain the Landcatch business in a profitable state (thereby preserving local rural employment) and also promote this collaborative Scottish initiative in a very positive light.

In March 2019, [an 'offensive' email from the MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture to Michael Russell MSP \(Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs\) and Fergus Ewing](#) referred to "the destruction of something very valuable to Scotland, that represented the life's work of a number of your constituents" and "Norwegian lobby efforts and Siren promise of inward investment":

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10 March 2019 at 16:48:52 GMT
To: "Russell MW (Michael), MSP"
<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>
Cc: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>,
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Rural Economy - Renewables and Crippling Non-Domestic Rates
Dear Michael,
I have no idea what Scottish Ministers did or did not do to challenge the Norwegian's ban on Landcatch egg imports, by last year it was no longer my battle, however the consequence of the illegal ban and the lack of any determined support from the Scottish Government was the destruction of something very valuable to Scotland, that represented the life's work of a number of your constituents. I never had a reply from Fergus to my letter of last March.
I have asked for your support and that of Scottish Ministers on a number of issues of significance to our business. Oftentimes this has brought positive and immediate results, which we of course recognise as being the great benefit of an engaged Scottish Government, other times and particularly in relation to the salmon industry, I suspect our message has been drowned out by the Norwegian lobby efforts and their Siren promise of inward investment.
We are not the ones in power in Government, do you suppose I should cease bringing these matters to your attention for fear of offending the powerful ? The sense of shared purpose for a better Scotland that first enthused us and characterised this Government, has grown a little thin in some areas, especially where the hard choices of Government might be criticised. I am not your political opponent, I [REDACTED] are just trying hard to keep things going at Ormsary, against an increasing head wind.

Another [email in March 2019 from the MD of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture to Michael Russell MSP \(Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs\) and Fergus Ewing](#) stated that "Landcatch had been a victim of the illegal acts of the Norwegian Government":

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 8 March 2019 at 15:44
To: "Russell MW (Michael), MSP"
<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>
Cc: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: The Rural Economy - Renewables and Crippling Non-Domestic Rates
Dear Michael,
Thank you for your note, and indeed I have been in direct communication with Fergus. I appreciate Brexit is placing incredible demands on government at present. Just under a year ago I wrote to Fergus, I attach a copy of my private letter. At that time you had suggested that you had been a 'strong supporter' of Landcatch, and you had pointed out that Landcatch had been a victim of the illegal acts of the Norwegian Government, as if that excused the fact that these illegal acts went (and continue to be) unchallenged by our own Government, and you suggested in some way it should have been for the Dutch Government to intercede on behalf of a wholly Scottish Company.

The email continued:

I had drawn a line under this Scottish Government's abject failure to defend Landcatch from the dubious tactics of the Norwegian salmon industry and the blatantly unlawful actions of their government. Having written privately in stark terms to Fergus at that time, I had hoped that that Scottish Government might recognise the significant economic injury inflicted on Landcatch; despite assurances to the contrary the subsequent lack of any support from the Scottish Government has been disappointing, a pretty hollow ring to Scottish Government support for the owners of Landcatch. This continued lack of support from our own Government is a

particularly bitter pill to swallow, given the recent comments from Fergus (or his press officer). Welcoming the news, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy Fergus Ewing said: 'AquaGen's investment speaks volumes of the confidence from the sector of doing business in Scotland and supports the aims of Scotland's 10 Year Farmed Fish Health Framework, helping to improve the security of Scotland's ova supply.'? <https://salmonbusiness.com/aquagen-signs-deal-to-buy-scottish-sea-farmsfreshwater-hatchery/>

Aquagen being one of the companies who had most to gain by destroying the Scottish competition from Landcatch, and were undoubtedly instrumental in the Norwegian ban of Landcatch salmon ova. That this foreign company should now be publicly lauded for their actions by Fergus, expunging from the record what Landcatch and indigenous Scottish science had established over 34 years, whilst confirming the critical strategic need for an indigenous producer of salmon eggs (now exclusively controlled by Norway). The irony is not lost, that this same Scottish Government could not even summon the energy to raise the matter of the Norwegian egg ban with either the UK Government or Brussels, when previous Scottish Governments had successfully joined forces with London, Dublin and Brussels to bring the illegal and uncompetitive salmon 'dumping' activities of Norway to a halt. The price collapse triggered by Norwegian state sponsored dumping, effectively killed off the independent and non-Norwegian salmon farming sector in Scotland and Ireland. The Norwegian dominated Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) recently announced their intention to alter the Scottish Code of Practice, to allow the import of

Norwegian Smolts into Scotland to then be passed off as 'Scottish Salmon', as Scottish produce continues to sell at a premium over Norwegian. The SSPO intend that such imports of live Norwegian salmon should only require a 'risk assessment' by the receiving (Norwegian owned) customer, an absurdly flawed bio-security selfcertification

policy that risks the import of further Norwegian disease, a threat capable of destroying Scotland's entire salmon industry. The Norwegian salmon companies in Scotland have long been abusing the terms of the Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) and the associated French Label Rouge, previously our own attempts to have the Scottish Government look into the matter, resulted in the then Minister's officials breaching all confidence and to brief the Norwegian controlled SSPO. Again matters entirely in the Scottish Government's remit.

That the European Commission and other parties are again taking a close interest in the lawfulness or otherwise of Norwegian salmon companies operating in Scotland, should come as no surprise; the Norwegian salmon industry has a long track record of scant regard for the law - fully backed by the Norwegian Government. That Norwegian interests should risk bringing the whole rotten edifice of 'Scottish Salmon' crashing down, and with it the risk of collateral damage to the integrity and provenance of the wider Scottish Food and Drink brand, should be of an immediate concern to our Government and our food and farming industry.

I have covered a number of points, but my principle concern is that whilst it will always be politically expedient to push the blame elsewhere, our business and that of Landcatch has been (and continue to be) badly damaged by issues which in part or whole, are matters that are the principle responsibility of our Scottish Government today.

Background:

In April 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed mass mortalities, deformities, infectious diseases and the use of antibiotics and the carcinogenic chemical Formalin \(Formaldehyde\) at Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery.](#)



In April 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed an abject lack of testing for imported ova.](#)



In February 2020, [The Ferret reported](#):

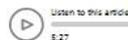


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Imports of salmon eggs from Norway have been banned over fears a deadly viral disease could spread to Scotland, we can reveal.

The ban on ova exports from Norway in June 2019 led to zero Norwegian imports of ova to Scotland for the rest of the year, after a shipment to fish farm company, Mowi, arrived on 22 May 2019.

SSW said that all shipments after that date – at least up to the end of 2019 when data is available – came from an Icelandic firm called [Stofnfiskur](#).

The [documents](#) also reveal that in 2018 Scotland imported 66 million ova in total with 48.3 million from Norway, 10.1 million from Iceland, and 7.3 million from the Republic of Ireland.

Last February, [The Ferret reported](#) that Scottish and UK government officials had raised concerns over the import to Scotland of salmon eggs from Norwegian firm, [AquaGen](#), after the outbreak of a deadly virus. AquaGen is one of the world's major suppliers and exported 22.6 million ova to Scotland in 2016 alone.

Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed in June 2019](#) that over half the farmed salmon from Scotland (and other unnamed countries) tested in 2018 and 2019 by Marine Scotland Science were positive for PRV.

A [letter sent by Scottish Salmon Watch to Scottish Ministers in April 2019](#) called for increased surveillance of ova, smolts and farmed salmon for infectious diseases, pathogens, bacteria, parasites and viruses.



In a [FOI reply dated 6 March 2019 \(FOI/19/00420\)](#), the Scottish Government admitted that "there is no statutory sampling conducted with respect to ova and smolts prior to their entry into sea water, either in relation to imported or domestically produced animals".

In February 2019, [The Ferret revealed](#) that Government officials raised concerns over the import to Scotland of salmon eggs from a AquaGen after the outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anaemia.



The documents also show that in July 2017, [Hendrix Genetics](#) – owners of Landcatch, the only independent Scottish salmon egg producer – [asked the Scottish Government](#), “if the ISA outbreaks in Norway, in particular AquaGen, would have any effect on their ability to export eggs into Scotland”.

In a later email to [Fergus Ewing](#), Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, in February 2018, Landcatch accused the Scottish Government of taking a “massive risk” by allowing salmon eggs from Norway and Iceland to flood Scottish salmon farms, citing the danger of “transfer of ISA from infected countries such as Norway”.

An inspection of [AquaGen's Holywood Salmon Farm](#) in November 2018 ([owned by Scottish Sea Farms up until September 2018](#)) by the Scottish Government's Fisheries Health Inspectorate [reported](#) that: "The biosecurity measures plan for the site was inspected and found to be inadequately maintained".

Insider [reported in March 2019](#) that AquaGen had bought the Holywood Salmon Farm off Scottish Sea Farms and were planning an annual production of 50 million ova.

In May 2018, a front page exclusive by The National [reported](#):

THURSDAY MAY 31, 2018 THE NATIONAL WWW.THENATIONAL.SCOT 80p

THE NEWSPAPER THAT SUPPORTS AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

Lesley Riddoch Scotland doesn't have to look far for inspiration

'Ministers are failing to protect Scottish salmon'
Exclusive: Call for import ban on eggs to safeguard native species

STURGEON: SNP REPORT REJECTS AUSTERITY

● Party leader defends new economic case for independence in response to criticism from the Left
● **Gordon MacIntyre-Kemp:** Don't forget the most important thing – Indyref2 is back on the agenda

EXCLUSIVE 25 mins ago

Government 'failing to protect Scottish salmon'

Exclusive by Kirsteen Paterson [@kapaterson](#)
Journalist



The head of Scotland's largest independent salmon egg producer hit out over the Scottish Government's refusal to introduce 'protection' for wild fish

SCOTTISH salmon could become a “complete mockery” after ministers failed to protect native species, the head of a major fish firm claims.

In a scathing letter to Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing, the head of the country's largest independent salmon egg producer hit out over the Scottish **Government's** refusal to introduce “protection” for wild fish.

READ MORE: [How much is the salmon industry worth to Scotland?](#)

READ MORE: [Scotland the brand set to go before Westminster](#)

In the message, released under Freedom of Information legislation, Neil Manchester of Hendrix Genetics says the failure to impose an import bar on roe for the country's lucrative salmon farms will leave **Scotland's** multi-billion pound industry “reliant on imported eggs” from rivals like Norway and Iceland and make a “mockery of the brand ‘Scottish salmon’”.

This, Manchester said, poses a “massive risk” to the supply chain and a danger to wild stocks if the “foreign” fish escape into the country's rivers.

It has also forced a change of strategy for Landcatch, the Argyll breeding centre which has worked with scientists at **Edinburgh, Glasgow** and Stirling universities on genetic breakthroughs aimed at countering sea lice, the potentially deadly pests that plague fish farms by causing costly losses of the penned produce.

The parasites are also a major concern to environmentalists who fear the explosion in fish farming could see the suckers spread through key waters in increasing numbers.

The Ormsary facility, set up in 1980 by the Port Glasgow-based Lithgow family, was heavily supported by Scottish Enterprise in the 1990s but Manchester, whose firm acquired the site several years ago, told Ewing its plans were “destroyed” by competition problems.

The claim is based on the impact of Norway’s decision to bar Scottish roe from its salmon farms.

Landcatch had hoped to break into the market there, but the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment ruled doing so could threaten its biodiversity.

The ministry said its decision was “based on scientific assessments” that concluded that “escapes of farmed salmon of partly Scottish origin increases the probability of negative effects on the Norwegian wild salmon populations”. This includes “a high probability” of “genetic mixing” that would “increase the loss of genetic diversity”.

Urging Ewing to intervene in a message sent earlier this month, Manchester stated: “If the minister accepts this decision, and thereby the reasoning behind it, then he must answer why he is unwilling to afford the same level of protection to wild Scottish salmon.”

Data released last spring show nine out of ten salmon farmed in Scotland are reared from eggs imported from overseas. Last night the Scottish Government confirms it has “no plans” to bring in new restrictions.

It stated: “The Scottish Government is disappointed by the Norwegian decision to refuse the import of Scottish derived Atlantic salmon ova.

“We do not consider Atlantic salmon ova of Norwegian origin to be an alien or locally absent species according to the definitions provided in EU Regulation and have no plans to restrict their import into Scotland.”

But campaign group Scottish Salmon Watch, which wants tougher controls on the sector, says the email chain is evidence of the “scam” played on consumers buying products labelled “Scottish salmon”. Calling for a ban on roe imports, director Don Staniford called the situation “extremely embarrassing” for **Holyrood** leaders, adding: “It speaks volumes that the Norwegian government is fighting to protect biodiversity and values wild salmon highly while the Scottish Government is happy to sell wild salmon down the river.

“‘Scottish’ salmon is a sham, scam and a consumer con.”

Speaking to The National, Manchester said the livestock trade “is built on movement of genetic material” and provenance relates to the country animals are reared in. He said Dutch-owned Hendrix Genetics “accepts the decision” and will “focus on supporting the Scottish industry”.

In February 2018, [Norway's Ministry of Climate & Environment](#) banned the import of Scottish salmon eggs citing risks of disease and genetic impacts of escapes under the Norwegian [Nature Diversity Act](#).

"Farmed salmon with partial Scottish origin increases the likelihood of a negative impact on Norwegian wild populations above negative effects with Norwegian farmed strains," [stated the 22-page letter of refusal](#) dated 9 February 2018 from [Norway's Ministry of Climate & Environment](#) to Hendrix Genetics (owners of Landcatch). "There is a high probability that genetic mixing between Norwegian wild salmon and farmed salmon of partly Scottish origin will increase the loss of genetic diversity."

In a [blistering email to Fergus Ewing \(Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity\) in February 2018](#), the head [Landcatch \(owned by Hendrix Genetics\)](#) accused the Scottish Government of taking a "massive risk" by allowing salmon eggs from Norway and Iceland to flood 'Scottish' salmon farms citing the danger of "transfer of ISA from infected countries such as Norway".

"This means that the Scottish salmon industry is now 100% reliant on imported eggs - both a massive risk in the event of borders closing for disease issues (and also the transfer of ISA from infected countries such as Norway), but also making a complete mockery of the brand 'Scottish Salmon'," stated the [email to Fergus Ewing dated 12 February 2018](#).

In an email [obtained via FOI in December 2018 from the Scottish Government](#), the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity (Fergus Ewing) was warned that Norway's ban on ova imports "reeks of discriminatory trade practice".

[FOI documents disclosed by the Scottish Government to Scottish Salmon Watch on 1 February 2019 reveal](#) that Scottish salmon and trout farmers (including it appears Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery) received ova during the 2016/2017 season from broodstock held at a [ISA suspected site operated by AquaGen at Tingvoll](#).

In July 2017, [Hendrix Genetics \(owners of Landcatch\) asked the Scottish Government](#) "if the ISA outbreaks in Norway, in particular AquaGen, would have any effect on their ability to export eggs into Scotland".



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Is deadly Infectious Salmon Anaemia already lurking in Scottish salmon farms & hatcheries? @FergusEwingMSP @marinescotland @strathearnrose @KateForbesMSP @MowiScotlandLtd @WeAreBenchmark @EWNutritionGmbH @scotseafarms @GriegShetland @salmon_scottish @HGSalmonUK @SSPOsays #ISA



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Infectious Salmon Anaemia "horror show" plagues #Norway @InfoMattilsynet @fiskeridir @seafoodnorway @EFTAsecretariat @LeroySeafood @vetinst_no @IntraFishNorge intrafish.com/salmon/expert-...

6:54 AM · Aug 20, 2020



Notes to Editors:

[1] In September 2020, the [Scottish Government finally published a Freedom of Information reply dated 7 August 2020](#).



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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PUBLICATION - FOI/EIR RELEASE

Imports of Salmon eggs and Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) since 16 December 2019: EIR release

Published: 3 Sep 2020

Directorate: [Marine Scotland Directorate](#)

Part of: [Economy, Marine and fisheries](#),
[Public sector](#)

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

FOI reference: FOI/202000058422

Date received: 8 Jul 2020

Date responded: 7 Aug 2020

The [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government](#) detailed 3.8 million ova imported from Stofnfiskur in Iceland to Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery in November and December 2019 and a further 3.7 million ova imported from Stofnfiskur in Iceland to Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery between January and March 2020:

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
12/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Loch Duart Ltd	SAL	OVA	450000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
27/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	675900	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
28/11/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	SAL	OVA	2320500	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
11/12/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Saumon de France	SAL	OVA	350000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
21/01/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	585000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
20/02/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	SAL	OVA	2457000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.
19/03/2020	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest Ltd	SAL	OVA	670000	Iceland	Stofnfiskur Hf.

Information [published by the Scottish Government via FOI/2020/00058422 in September 2020](#) included:

From: <REDACTED> (MARLAB)
Sent: 21 January 2020 10:02
To: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>
Subject: ova

Hi <REDACTED>

Some notes on ova imports and Aquagen

60.2 million salmon ova imported into Scotland in 2019 (figures from health certificates) - 26.3 million from Iceland (Stofnfiskur), 23.7 million from Norway (Aquagen, Grieg Seafood Rogaland and Mowi Norway) and 10.2 million from Republic of Ireland (Mowi Ireland).

We have not received any consignments from Norway since May 2019. The number of ova imported from Iceland in 2019 has increased to fill the gap caused by the issues in Norway (increased from 10.1 million in 2018 to 26.3 million in 2019).

Aquagen now have a salmon hatchery in Dumfries, Scotland (Holywood Breeding Centre) which they will use to supply Scottish industry (not sure if this will be exclusively or if there will be some imports from Aquagen Norway as well to Scottish industry, will depend on demand). <REDACTED> – Out of scope

<REDACTED> – Out of scope

From: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2020 11:26
To: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED><<REDACTED>@gov.scot>
Cc: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED><<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED><<REDACTED>@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED>(<REDACTED> <REDACTED>@gov.scot>; MS Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED>(<REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>@gov.scot>
Subject: media inquiry - Salmon egg ban - the Ferret

Good afternoon <REDACTED> <REDACTED> and colleagues

The Ferret has asked about a ban on Salmon egg imports to Scotland from Norway following a Scottish Salmon Watch FOI request.

The reporter is looking for SG comment on SSW's claim that Icelandic ova has been problematic and 'have history of disease problems' and asking 'could you also say how this ban has affected fish production due to Scotland's reliance on Norwegian imports?'

SSW Say

"A staggering 99% of co-called 'Scottish' salmon is actually controlled and owned by foreign companies with 65% under Norwegian control. The ban on ova imports from Norway is a slap in the face for Norwegian companies exploiting Scotland's wild image. It beggars belief that Norway bans imports of Scottish ova **yet the Scottish Government are falling over themselves to import ova from countries (eg Iceland) with a history of disease problems.**"

Have enclosing previous lines from a similar inquiry last week (Mail on Sunday Fol) as a starting point.

This covers the question re Norwegian ban's effect on production, so would propose reissuing, but with new line to address the question of any issues with Icelandic ova.

Grateful for assistance in drafting a response.

Thanks

<REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> <REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Sent: 24 February 2020 11:37

To: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>;

<REDACTED><<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Cc: <REDACTED><<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED><<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>

<<REDACTED>[@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; MS Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>; <REDACTED>

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED><<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>(MARLAB)

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>(MARLAB)

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: media inquiry - Salmon egg ban - the Ferret

<REDACTED>, thanks. I agree we need to head off the accusations of disease in Icelandic eggs though suggest we don't address the accusation directly but respond re rigorous trade process, disease-free status etc. So, copying to FHI colleagues for their comment/standard line.

Regards, <REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Sent: 01 April 2020 15:51

To: <REDACTED>(MARLAB) <<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED> (MARLAB)

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED> <REDACTED> <<REDACTED>[@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:REDACTED@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)>; <REDACTED>

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Cc: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>(MARLAB)

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>(MARLAB) <REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>; <REDACTED>(MARLAB)

<<REDACTED>[@gov.scot](mailto:REDACTED@gov.scot)>

Subject: Import of salmon ova from Norway

Hi all

I have received notification from Aquagen that a consignment of 100,000 salmon ova from their Rimstad site in Norway are due to arrive on 8th of April following approval of the site as ISA free by Mattilsynet. These are elite ova that will be used for broodstock in the UK in 3-4 years. The ova are going to be delivered to Rysa Incubation Unit in Orkney and ongrown with Cooke Aquaculture.

Aquagen are taking the opportunity to import elite ova to cover production in 3-4 years and while there are still flights available.

Data [disclosed by the Scottish Government via FOI in February 2020](#) detailed imports of ova to Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery including from Aquagen in Norway back in 2016:

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
18/02/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,100,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest (Ireland)
03/03/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	144,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest (Ireland)
08/12/2016	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	988,000	Norway	Aquagen AS

The [FOI disclosure in February 2020](#) also detailed 7.7 million ova imported to Landcatch's Ormsary hatchery from Norway, Iceland and Ireland in 2018 and up to February 2019.

Date consignment due	Destination site name	Destination business name	Consignee Business name (if different from destination business)	Species	Stage	Number in consignment	Source Country	Import consignor
07/02/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,500,000	Republic of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
01/03/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	575,000	Iceland	Stofniskur Hf.
01/03/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	800,000	Republic of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
13/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	750,000	Iceland	Stofniskur Hf.
27/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	2,197,000	Norway	AS Bolaks
30/11/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	315,000	Norway	AS Bolaks
20/12/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd		Salmon	Ova	250,000	Norway	Salmobreed
30/01/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	755,300	Norway	Grieg Seafood Rogaland
14/02/2019	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Organic Sea Harvest	Salmon	Ova	584,000	Republic of Ireland	Mowi Ireland

A [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government in December 2019](#) detailed 2.9 million ova imported by Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery in 2017:

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
23/02/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,200,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
30/11/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	400,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
08/12/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	300,000	Iceland	Stofniskur

[2] A [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government in February 2020](#) included:

"Specifically the information categories relating to third party 'Operator' and 'Site of Destination' (Ormsary Hatchery, Landcatch Natural selection Ltd.), 'Source Country' for entries Republic of Ireland as Marine Harvest Ireland are the only supplier in that country and all entries under category 'Number' and 'Source Company', as this information is subject to confidentiality clauses within contractual agreements provided by law between Scottish Sea Farms Ltd., and third party producer or egg supplier respectively and as such the disclosure of the information would invalidate our contractual obligations," [said Scottish Sea Farms in an email to the Scottish Government dated 12 June 2018](#). "This confidentiality is protecting a legitimate economic interest as disclosure this information would reveal company or industrial commercial strategy for production of salmon in freshwater and intellectual property knowhow on commercial strategy of genetic selection programme which is based on an extensive research and development by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd. As such, disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality and therefore the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exception."

"We are unable to provide copies of the full contractual agreements based on the same confidentiality restrictions, however extracts of the specific confidentiality clauses are provided below as requested to help with your decision," [continued Scottish Sea Farms in an email to the Scottish Government dated 12 June 2018 \(who were forced in December 2019](#)

[by a ruling from the Scottish Information Commissioner to disclose this ova import information](#)). "As you will read, public disclosure of the content of the supply agreement is restricted by contract Law, i.e. 'source company', 'destination site', 'operator' and 'number of eggs' supplied due to the economic value of this Evaluation material of business strategy and as such we further request that this information not be released into the public domain. Should you decide to proceed to publish the information I would gratefully ask for prior notice so that we can honour our contractual obligation to inform our suppliers specifically under clause 7 of the 2) mutual confidentiality agreement in order to make any legal challenge."

"If at all possible can we restrict the information you release?" [asked Hendrix Genetics \(Landcatch\) in June 2018 in an email to the Scottish Government](#). "The reason we ask for this is we do not want to be used nor seen as the bad guys, we fully support the Scottish industry and indeed respect the Scottish governments decision around Norway. After all we have moved on and no longer have our own broodstock in Scotland."



Note the following pages detailing the confidentiality agreement between AquaGen, Landcatch and Scottish Sea Farms are presented as disclosed i.e. they are not complete:

Scans of the agreements themselves, as follows:

1. Extract from contractual supply agreement between egg suppliers and SSF:

7. Confidentiality

Both parties agree to treat the agreement and the content as confident

2. Text of contractual agreement between Aquagen, Landcatch and SSF:

MUTUAL CONFIDENTIALITY

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into on 30th

Aqua Gen AS having its principle place of business at P.O. Box 100, 4000 Norway, (hereinafter referred to as "Aqua Gen"); and

Landcatch Natural Selection Limited having its principal place of business at Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8PE, United Kingdom (hereinafter referred to as "Landcatch");

WHEREAS, Aqua Gen and Landcatch are entering into negotiations for the acquisition of the Business on behalf of Scottish Sea Farms (the "Business"); and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize and agree that the Business must be kept in the strictest of confidence, and in order to protect both parties, their respective businesses and themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The parties agree to conduct the Business negotiations confidentially.

2. All information, together with analyses and records prepared by either party or their representative, and all such information, whether furnished before, on or after the date of this Agreement, in written or oral, or provided in response to a specific inquiry,

violation of this Confidentiality Agreement; or (iii) by any Representative from a third party who doesn't owe the duty of confidentiality in relation thereto.

5. Each party agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the other party and its Representatives harmless from and against any losses, claims, damages, costs and expenses incurred by the respective party or its Representatives in connection with this Agreement by the respective party or its Representatives for all expenses (including legal fees and costs) incurred by the other party. The obligations set forth in this paragraph shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

6. Each party acknowledges and agrees that the other party is entitled to a remedy at law and could be irreparably harmed in the event the other party does not perform in accordance with their specific terms and provisions agreed that the parties shall be entitled to injunctive relief (including, but not limited to, actually showing monetary damages) to prevent breaches of the terms and provisions hereof, in addition to any other remedy available at law or in equity. If either party shall enforce this Agreement through the courts, the party enforcing this Agreement shall be entitled to reasonable legal fees and costs.

7. If either party is legally compelled to disclose confidential information to a third party, the other party shall be notified promptly and the other party shall be given the opportunity to seek a protective order or other remedy and/or waive compliance with this Agreement. If such a protective order or other remedy is not obtained, or if the other party waives compliance with this Agreement, the party disclosing such information as is legally required and will exercise the right to disclose such information shall be accorded confidential treatment.

8. Neither party shall publicize this Agreement or the terms and provisions hereof without the prior written consent of the other party. Any confidential information disclosed to parties which represent a stricter obligation of confidence

Other documents disclosed included:

From: [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com
Sent: 08 June 2018 09:52
To: [Redacted] (MARLAB)
Subject: RE: Request for information under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

Dear [Redacted],

I am sure you are aware of the recent press release which was in the National newspaper, basically highlighting the failures in Scottish Government to enforce an import ban on Norwegian eggs. The paper had requested details under FOI from Scottish Government in relation to our own set of circumstances being denied access to the Norwegian market.

Anyway, I am not sure if the below request is linked in anyway to that but if at all possible can we restrict the information you release? Ideally we would not share Site of destination, Operator and Consignee on certificate. The reason we ask for this is we do not want to be used nor seen as the bad guys, we fully support the Scottish industry and indeed respect the Scottish governments decision around Norway. After all we have moved on and no longer have our own broodstock in Scotland.

Let me know what you think?

Regards

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Atlantic Salmon

T +44 (0)1880 [Redacted]
M +44 (0) [Redacted]
E [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com
W www.landcatch.co.uk



Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd
Ormsary Fish Farm, Lochgilphead
Argyll, PA31 8PE, Scotland, UK-EU

From: [Redacted]@scottishseafarms.com
Sent: 12 June 2018 10:02
To: [Redacted] (MARLAB)
Subject: RE: Request for information under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004
Importance: High

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for informing us of the request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs) for information on imports of Atlantic salmon ova into Scotland during 2017 and 2018. Whilst we understand that this consultation is a courtesy, not a statutory obligation, we wish to raise our objection to the release of specific categories of information under 12.—(5) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect - (e) the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest. Specifically the information categories relating to third party 'Operator' and 'Site of Destination' (Ormsary Hatchery, Landcatch Natural selection Ltd.), 'Source Country' for entries Republic of Ireland as Marine Harvest Ireland are the only supplier in that country and all entries under category 'Number' and 'Source Company', as this information is subject to confidentiality clauses within contractual agreements provided by law between Scottish Sea Farms Ltd., and third party producer or egg supplier respectively and as such the disclosure of the information would invalidate our contractual obligations. This confidentiality is protecting a legitimate economic interest as disclosure this information would reveal company or industrial commercial strategy for production of salmon in freshwater and intellectual property knowhow on commercial strategy of genetic selection programme which is based on an extensive research and development by Scottish Sea Farms Ltd. As such, disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality and therefore the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exception.

We are unable to provide copies of the full contractual agreements based on the same confidentiality restrictions, however extracts of the specific confidentiality clauses are provided below as requested to help with your decision. As you will read, public disclosure of the content of the supply agreement is restricted by contract Law, i.e. 'source company', 'destination site', 'operator' and 'number of eggs' supplied due to the economic value of this Evaluation material of business strategy and as such we further request that this information not be released into the public domain. Should you decide to proceed to publish the information I would gratefully ask for prior notice so that we can honour our contractual obligation to inform our suppliers specifically under clause 7 of the 2) mutual confidentiality agreement in order to make any legal challenge.

Should you require clarification on any of the above please don't hesitate to contact me, and I would appreciate to be informed as to the outcome of your decision.

Best regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 June 2018 08:39

To: [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Request for information under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your communications regarding Fol/18/01553 concerning information on salmon ova imports since 1 January 2017.

As you will be aware, as a public authority Marine Scotland is legally bound to comply with the requirements of the freedom of information regulations, in this case the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs) apply. Under the regulations there is a general presumption in favour of the release of information and whilst exemptions exist which can permit information to be withheld, this approach is to be applied in a restrictive manner. We must be requester-blind, which means we must treat everyone equally and we can't consider why they are requesting the information.

We can withhold information only if an exception under the regulation applies to that information and the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exception. The decision on release remains solely for the public authority holding the information, taking account of any third party views received in so far as they help inform that decision. That said, a third party does not have a veto on disclosure of the information.

Within the EIRs regulation 10(5)(e) exists and this covers the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided for by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

On this occasion we will be withholding most of the information requested which relates to your business interest, however we will be releasing information detailed below in Andrea's email which relates to the consignment associated with The Scottish Salmon Company.

Thank you for your communications and assistance in dealing with this request.

Regards,
[Redacted]

The FOI disclosure also included:

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 15 March 2018 13:15
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted] SG staff
Subject: FW: Quarantine requirements for third country imports for research

Hi [Redacted]

Sorry to burden you with another trade related issue so quickly after the last – also relating to Hendrix Genetics! (Copied to [Redacted] re sensitivities). Please see the below email from the Fish Health Inspectorate.

I agree with [Redacted]'s interpretation of the legislation (that the movement can't go ahead). You will note that pre aquatic animal health directive (2006/88), we could have permitted this with conditions if we were content to do so. The complicating issue here (amongst others) is the movement from one research institute to the other – or the being made available on the market therefore having to be considered under farming certificate.

I wonder if there is a way this could perhaps be allowed if the onward travel to Cefas wasn't necessary and some of the ova/fish being kept over 60 days so that they can be tested. I tried to phone [Redacted] to discuss today, because I was interested to know why Cefas thought this would be ok to do. It is perhaps an issue of Cefas scientists not speak to Cefas Fish health inspectorate.

I would be grateful for your initial views on this. [Redacted] will be out of the office until next week so we have time to consider. Would it be possible for you to consider and get back to me by mid week next week? I see that this has been an on-going conversation so we might have a bit of wiggle room with response if required.

Happy to discuss further – [Redacted]

Cheers

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com
Sent: 15 February 2019 14:04
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot;
Cc: [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com; [Redacted]@organicseaharvest.co.uk;
[Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com
Subject: Import Notification

Good Afternoon [Redacted]
Please find attached import notification of 584,000 Fanad eggs arrived from Ireland yesterday.

In the Intra trade certificate that came along with the shipment Consignee details were printed incorrect. Instead of Organic sea Harvest it was printed Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

Consignor have advised us that it has been amended both with their Irish authorities and with Marine Scotland Science, Scotland. It's just for your information that the document that I hold has to be amended.

I am aware that there is an inspection in our fish farm on 25th of this month from Marine Scotland and can be amended by that time by our authorities.

Many Thanks
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Atlantic Salmon

T [Redacted]

E [Redacted]@hendrix-genetics.com
W www.landcatch.com



Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd
Ormsary Fish Farm, Lochgilphead
Argyll, PA31 8PE, Scotland, UK-EU

From: [Redacted] (MARLAB)
Sent: 14 March 2018 14:08
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: Quarantine requirements for third country imports for research

Hi [Redacted]

I have a query regarding the import of fish from third countries for research and require some policy advice.

I have been approached by [Redacted] at Hendrix Genetics who wishes to import farmed Atlantic salmon ova from Chile. The ova are for genetic research to be carried out at the Roslin Institute and Cefas (see research statement and further details in attached email).

<< File: Research_statement_20170712 JP updates.docx >> << Message: RE: Noticias sobre el destino final de embriones en Roslin // Direct contact among parties!! >>

I have been in contact with the Chilean authorities and although the potential farm source of the ova has a history of testing for ISA and Chile is declared free from the other listed diseases, they state that cannot complete the required EU certificate with regard to ISA.

Imports for research are not directly addressed in Directive 2006/88 or Regulation 1251/2008 (trade requirements) and the legislation only refers to imports for farming, relaying, ornamental purposes etc. There is no explicit exemption from the import legislation for imports for research, therefore we apply the certification requirements depending on species being imported (susceptible/non susceptible) and facility type (open/closed).

In this case, as they wish to import susceptible species and intend to move them to another facility, we require the consignment to be accompanied by the certificate for farming.

<< File: TC certificate for farming relaying open ornamental.pdf >>

There is an option in the legislation to import animals that do not meet the certification requirements if quarantine is carried out before export or upon arrival in the EU. Unfortunately for susceptible species this option is only allowed for wild aquatic animals on the farming health certificate, not for farmed aquatic animals (Section II.4 of the health certificate, last statement 'in the case of wild aquatic animals, have been subject to quarantine in accordance with Decision 2008/946').

<< File: Decision 2008 946 EC implementing Council Directive 2006 88EC as regards requirements for quarantine of aquaculture animals.pdf >>

Quarantine is not meant to be permanent for the imported animals, susceptible species must be tested. Fish should be quarantined for a minimum of 60 days (article 13 (1)) and either they or sentinel animals tested to demonstrate freedom before release. The research is being carried out on the early stages and the embryos will be destroyed pre first feeding therefore it is unlikely that that animals will complete the minimum 60 day quarantine period and probably not before transfer of some of the embryos to Cefas.

According to the information that has been provided and our application of the legislation, it does not appear that this import of Atlantic salmon from a farm in Chile for research can go ahead for the following reasons

- There is no exemption from the certification requirements for consignments for research
- As the import is of a susceptible species (Atlantic salmon for ISA) and some of the animals will be transferred to Cefas, the appropriate certificate is that for farming (Part A, annex IV, Regulation 1251/2008)
- The Chilean authorities have stated that they cannot sign the health certificate as the country/compartiment is not approved as free from ISA
- Quarantine before or after importation is allowed, but for susceptible species this is only allowed for wild aquatic animals not farmed.
- Therefore quarantine does not appear to be a viable option to allow the import to proceed.

Are Policy content with our interpretation of the legislation regarding imports of research from third countries and applying the certification requirements for farming which may in some cases prevent imports for research? Before Directive 2006/88, imports for research from third countries were licenced and we could apply our own requirements as long as the consignment was going to be held in a suitable bio-secure facility.

Please call or email if you have any questions. [Redacted] is keen to progress this import so I would appreciate some guidance soon

In December 2019, Scottish Salmon Watch issued a press release - ['Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland](#) - including:

The [Scottish Information Commissioner's ruling via Decision Notice \(160/2019\)](#) included reference to a "mutual confidentiality agreement" that Scottish Sea Farms had entered into between AquaGen AS and Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd:

Submissions from the Ministers

25. The Ministers submitted that there was "a clear commercial nature to this information as it contains details of third party operators and source companies that have imported salmon ova into Scotland." The Ministers explained that SSF had entered into a mutual confidentiality agreement with Aqua Gen AS, and Landcatch Natural Selection Limited, which showed that the information (which was covered by the agreement) was commercially confidential in nature.
26. The Ministers' submission explained that, when dealing with the initial request, they contacted all companies that had imported ova into Scotland since 1 January 2017, asking for their views on whether the information the Ministers held relating to them should be disclosed. In response, SSF provided their reasons for not disclosing specific information, which they considered was excepted under regulation 10(5)(e). In support of this, SSF provided extracts of relevant confidentiality clauses within contractual agreements.
27. The Ministers said that to disclose this information would breach the terms of the confidentiality agreement in place, and would cause substantial harm to the interests of SSF. If the information were released, it would disclose company or commercial strategy in the production of salmon in freshwater, which would substantially prejudice future production strategies.
28. The Ministers acknowledged that similar information relating to other companies had been released, but commented that but these other companies did not object to disclosure of that information in reliance on a confidentiality agreement.

"So called 'Scottish' salmon is a sham, scam and consumer con," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Far from a natural wild salmon product, tens of millions of ova are imported from Norway, Iceland and Ireland and on-grown first in hatcheries and then in cages in the sea to be marketed as 'Scottish' salmon by foreign companies who control 99% of production. Why Scottish Ministers were so desperate to hide where Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms sourced their ova is as murky as the untreated wastes and viruses spewing out from a salmon farm. Scotland should follow Norway's lead and ban all ova imports."

"This case highlights how decidedly dodgy 'Scottish' salmon really is," continued Staniford, author of ['Scottish Scamon'](#). "We now know thanks to the Scottish Information Commissioner's ruling that Scottish Sea Farms imported ova from Mowi in Ireland and from Stofnfiskur in Iceland via Landcatch. But it's still unclear why the disclosure of this information would be so commercially damaging. Did the ova come from salmon stock infected by diseases, pathogens and viruses? Why rivals AquaGen and Landcatch would

enter into a mutual confidentiality agreement with Scottish Sea Farms is shrouded in secrecy. Scottish Salmon Watch has filed a further FOI to try and get to the bottom of this fishy mystery. What is crystal clear: consumers should avoid 'Scottish' salmon like the plague!"

The [FOI reply from Scottish Ministers dated 2 July 2018 \(FOI-18-01553\)](#) - which prompted Scottish Salmon Watch's appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and [victory in November 2019](#) - disclosed an Excel spreadsheet which was redacted in relation to Scottish Sea Farms only:

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
09/02/2017	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
23/02/2017	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
30/11/2017	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	Iceland	REDACTED
08/12/2017	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	Iceland	REDACTED
07/02/2018	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
01/03/2018	REDACTED	REDACTED	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
18/01/2017	Knock Hatchery	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
09/02/2017	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
07/11/2017	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	Iceland	REDACTED
18/01/2018	Knock	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED
15/02/2018	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	REDACTED	REDACTED	REDACTED

Information on ova imports involving all other companies including [Marine Harvest \(re-named Mowi on 1 January 2019\)](#) and [The Scottish Salmon Company](#) was disclosed in full:

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
25/01/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	156,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
16/02/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	4,000,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
29/03/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,664,900	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
29/03/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,285,100	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
13/06/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,506,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
13/06/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,494,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
16/11/2017	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	3,600,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
20/12/2017	Inchmore	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,950,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
20/12/2017	Inchmore	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,950,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
31/01/2018	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	216,592	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
07/02/2018	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,884,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
08/02/2018	Inchmore	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,300,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
18/04/2018	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	3,500,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
16/05/2018	Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	3,800,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway
15/05/2018	Inchmore	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,300,000	Norway	Marine Harvest Norway

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
11/01/2017	Kinlochmoidart Hatchery	Sunbeam Aquaculture	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	785,250	Norway	AquaGen AS
16/02/2017	Kinlochmoidart Hatchery	Sunbeam Aquaculture	The Scottish Salmon Company	Salmon	Ova	562,500	Norway	AquaGen AS
11/01/2017	Tullich Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	1,176,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
15/02/2017	Geocrab Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	876,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
01/03/2017	Geocrab Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	396,000	Norway	AquaGen AS
23/02/2017	Geocrab Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	55,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
09/11/2017	Tullich Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	2,714,250	Iceland	Stofniskur
22/11/2017	Kinlochmoidart Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	1,522,500	Iceland	Stofniskur
15/11/2017	Barvas Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	172,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
01/02/2018	Tullich Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	1,360,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
30/01/2018	Barvas Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	1,047,500	Norway	Salmobreed
30/01/2018	Amhuinnsuidhe Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	400,000	Norway	Salmobreed
01/03/2018	Kinlochmoidart Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	615,000	Iceland	Stofniskur
27/02/2018	Geocrab Hatchery	The Scottish Salmon Company		Salmon	Ova	508,000	Norway	Salmobreed

Download the data in full [online here](#) (also includes import certificates from [Marine Harvest Ireland](#), [AquaGen](#) and [Stofniskur](#))



[Copy of Fol-18-01553 - Import information.xlsx](#)

XLSX | 15.6 kB

[Download](#)

Other information [disclosed by Scottish Ministers via FOI-18-01553 in July 2018](#) relates directly to Marine Harvest in Ireland ([Marine Harvest was re-named Mowi in January due to negative consumer perception despite vehement objections from the Mowinckel family who gave their name to Mowi](#)). These documents indicate that there was no physical inspection of the consignments of ova prior to import to Scotland from Ireland although reference is made to "disease problems" and "the risk of disease transfer" (download documents [online here](#)).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 February 2017 10:46
To: [REDACTED]@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Salmon eggs

Hi [REDACTED]

Long time no hear – hope you are keeping well.

I have a query about a consignment of eggs which is due to leave Marine Harvest Donegal next week bound for Scotland.

We have our Inspector there today to certify some other consignments which are due to go this week and to satisfy himself that all's fine in the hatchery and that the certs can be signed. Would you be satisfied that if all's in order, that he will also sign the cert for next week's consignment when he is there and that it will then be dispatched with the consignment this day next week? Obviously the hatchery will be advised that if anything changes in relation to the health status of the site in the meantime that they must let us know.

I don't see anything in the legislation that precludes this approach but i thought I'd better check with you first.

Many thanks and regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@marine.ie]
Sent: 15 February 2017 11:16
To: MS FishHealth
Subject: FW: Salmon eggs

Hi,

I see that [REDACTED] is out of the office. I would be grateful if somebody else could deal with the query below in her absence.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
FHU Manager
Marine Institute
Rinville
Oranmore
Co. Galway
Ireland

From: MS.FishHealth@gov.scot [mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot]
Sent: 15 February 2017 14:36
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Salmon eggs

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in responding to you, we are a bit thin on the ground today and indeed [REDACTED] is out in the Field this week.

[REDACTED]

With the EU ova exports (as I'm sure you are aware) it states in the certificate that 'in the case of egg and molluscs, come from a farm or area where according to the records of the farm or mollusc farming area, there is no indication of disease problems'

We have interpreted this as meaning that we do not need to physically inspect these consignments however we do get the farm to confirm mortality figures and confirm that there are no unexplained mortalities.

To meet the requirements of section II.4.3 which states that 'the transport container or well boat prior to loading is clean and disinfected and previously unused' we get confirmation that they are using new transport boxes or confirm what disinfection has been used.

We then post the certificate to the site using recorded next day delivery service. We would always try to get this completed as close to the time the consignment is to be sent to ensure that there is less chance for the health status to change.

We think this is a fairly pragmatic approach and technically meets the requirements of the legislation and indeed Norway has also adopted this method of working.

Whilst technically you could certify a consignment seven days in advance we would prefer that the certificate is signed and issued as close to the time it is due to be sent to provide assurances that the records have been checked and that there is no indication of disease problems on the site.

If you need to discuss or need further clarification please give me a call, I believe [REDACTED] may be in later as well.

With regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Fish Health Inspector

Fish Health Inspectorate
Marine Scotland Science
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Tel (direct): 01224 [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

marinescotland

[REDACTED] (MARLAB)

From: [REDACTED]@marine.ie>
Sent: 15 February 2017 14:39
To: MS FishHealth
Cc: [REDACTED] (MARLAB)
Subject: RE: Salmon eggs

That's all very clear, [REDACTED] - many thanks.

I will ensure the certificate is posted to MH as close to the time of departure as possible although I believe the checks we already have in place as outlined below mitigate against any real risk of disease transfer.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

The consignment discussed above is understood to relate to the import of 2.2 million ova by Scottish Sea Farms (via Landcatch) to the Ormsary Hatchery on 23 February 2017 ([as disclosed via FOI-18-01553 on 16 December 2019](#)):

Date	Site of destination	Operator	Consignee on certificate (if different from operator)	Species	Stage	Number	Source Country	Source Company
23/02/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	2,200,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
16/02/2017	Cairndow Hatchery	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cooke Aquaculture Freshwater Ltd	Salmon	Ova	1,400,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
09/02/2017	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	1,500,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
09/02/2017	Wester Fearn	Highland Salmon Company Ltd	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Salmon	Ova	400,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland
18/01/2017	Knock Hatchery	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd		Salmon	Ova	1,500,000	Rep of Ireland	Marine Harvest Ireland

Scottish Salmon Watch's polite request to meet with Landcatch to discuss the disease risks of ova imports was refused earlier this year - but [we visited their Ormsary Hatchery anyway](#).



Shining A Light on the Murky World of 'Scottish' Salmon

from Don Staniford



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA

'Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in Ireland & Iceland tinyurl.com/vooq9c Here's the information which @scotgov claimed "would cause substantial harm to commercial interests" @scotseafarms @HGSalmonUK @FergusEwingMSP Thanks to Scottish Information Commissioner @FOIScotland

Scottish Salmon Watch, 18 Decem

CONFIDENTIAL - DIS

'Scottish' Salmon Exposed As Made in I

- FOI disclosure reveals Scottish Sea Farms imported 1 Mowi in Ireland & 1.4 million ova from St
- Ruling by Scottish Information Commissioner
- Scottish Ministers claimed disclosure "would cause interests" & "prejudice substantially the confidential



'Confidential' information published this week via Freedom Scottish Sea Farms imported over 11 million ova (salmon named Mowi in 2019) in Ireland and 1.4 million ova from Landcatch) in 2017 and 2018 (data up to March) [1]. Here Ministers claimed "would cause substantial harm to comm

Date	Site of destination	Operator
18/01/2017	Knock Hatchery	Scottish Sea
09/02/2017	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea
18/01/2018	Knock	Scottish Sea
15/02/2018	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea
23/02/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Na
07/02/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Na
01/03/2018	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Na
09/02/2017	Wester Fearn	Highland Saln
07/11/2017	Couldoran Incubation Unit	Scottish Sea
30/11/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Na
08/12/2017	Ormsary Hatchery	Landcatch Na

A [Freedom of Information disclosure by the Scottish Government in May 2018](#) included various emails from Neil Manchester, Managing Director of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture (owners of Landcatch):

From: Neil Manchester [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 11:57 AM
To: Cowan WJ (Willie)
Subject: Prevention of movements of live genetic material from Scotland to Norway.

Dear Mr Cowan

I am the managing director of Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture BV, being the current owners of Landcatch Ltd, Ormsary, Argyll. You may recall meeting me previously with Paul Wheelhouse. I tried calling today without success, but would be happy to discuss the following matter with you personally.

Earlier this year, the Broodstock Committee of the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate recommended the issue of two broodstock licenses to allow Hendrix Genetics/ Landcatch to develop an Atlantic salmon breeding operation in Norway, complementing the programmes already operating in Scotland and Chile. The application and recommendation specifically noted that the programme in Norway would be based on genetic material from the Landcatch strain in Scotland, and indeed the Broodstock Committee commended this as improving the competitive advantage within Norway.

The first eggs had received all necessary approvals and inspections under the regulation of Marine Scotland, and there was no legal obstruction to the transfer of eggs between Scotland and Norway.

However, on 15th March 2016 the Environment Directorate of the Norwegian Government prohibited the import of live Atlantic salmon eggs from Landcatch Ltd, Ormsary, Argyll to a hatchery contracted by Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture BV on the grounds as per the attached letter (with English translation also attached).

The import was prevented because the genetic material was not native and therefore posed an unacceptable threat to wild Atlantic salmon in the destination region, and made reference to just one document, NINA Mini report 381, stating that Atlantic salmon belong to seven distinct phylogeographic groups namely: North-Russia/North Norway; South- Norway/West-Sweden; The Baltic; Iceland-Greenland; the Northern British Isles; the southern British Isles/North-France; and southern France/Spain.

The report then states that mixing between these groups is potentially damaging to the environment.

Hendrix Genetics is in the process of an appeal to the Norwegian Government, pointing out that the report referenced is speculative rather than factual, and the whole argument is based on assessment of risk of escapes and risk of interbreeding with wild fish by effectively alien species.

It is interesting to note that this year there have been approved movements into Norway of Atlantic salmon eggs from Iceland, rainbow trout eggs from Denmark, live halibut fry from Canada and Scotland, and wild caught wrasse/ lumpfish from non-Norwegian waters. There is also free movement of Atlantic salmon eggs between North and South Norway, in apparent contravention of the report's recommendations.

While we are currently appealing this decision on scientific grounds, we believe that this action is anti-competitive and protectionist and therefore in breach of EU trade laws. Without a satisfactory response from the Norwegian government we will have no choice but to pursue this matter through the European Courts (and Scottish Government).

In the short term, however, I hope that you share our concerns at this apparent mistreatment by the Norwegian Government, and make immediate enquiries to your counterparts in Norway as to why our application to import eggs into Norway from Scotland is prohibited.

Furthermore, I trust that you review the information that the Norwegian Government has used to make such a decision, and act in a reciprocal fashion regarding all Imports of live salmon eggs and smolts from Norway into Scotland until a definitive joint policy between the trading nations can be defined.

We have requested a meeting with the Fisheries Minister in Norway at the first available opportunity, and I would be very happy to meet you and discuss this matter in detail with you and your colleagues at a convenient time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Neil Manchester

Neil Manchester
Managing Director



Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture B.V.
Villa 'de Körver', Spoorstraat 69, 5831 CK Boxmeer
P.O. Box 114, 5830 AC Boxmeer, The Netherlands-EU
www.hendrix-genetics.com

From: Neil Manchester [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2016 08:44
To: Cowan WJ (Willie)
Cc: Mitchell A (Alastair), [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Movement of salmon eggs from Scotland to Norway

Dear Willie

Our appeal to the Environment Agency in the Norwegian government against their decision to prohibit the movement of live genetic material from Scotland into Norway has thus far drawn no response from the government. We have, however, been told that there is no time limit on their appeal review procedure and this can be pushed down the list indefinitely.

As you will recall, the reason for the ban was that the Environment agency considered it inappropriate to allow introduction of different genetic strains of salmon into Norwegian waters (despite permissions this year of eggs from Iceland, trout from Denmark, halibut fry from Canada etc etc).

It is particularly disappointing to read in the news last week that the Environment Agency has granted permission to Salmobreed AS for the import of broodstock eggs from Iceland and also milt/ semen from Faroes (see attached). Neither of which can be conceivably classed as of Norwegian strain.

I pass this on purely for information at this stage, as we are continuing our political battle to gain a rational hearing within the Norwegian government.

However, it further points to the political nature of this decision and the unfair enforcement of a policy that can only be considered as protectionist, and should therefore be addressed at the highest levels.

I remain hopeful that the Scottish Government's response to any application to import Norwegian genetic material into Scottish waters be treated in a similar manner until this matter can be resolved.

Another email [disclosed by the Scottish Government in May 2018](#) contained the admission that the Landcatch strain of 'Scottish' salmon originated from Norway in 1980:

From: Neil Manchester [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 27 June 2016 18:40
To: Cowan WJ (Willie)
Cc: Mitchell A (Alastair); [REDACTED] Allan C (Charles) (MARLAB); [REDACTED] (MARLAB); [REDACTED] (MARLAB)
Subject: Import/ export of salmon eggs

Dear Willie

We have just received confirmation from the Fisheries Department in the Norwegian Government that they have rejected our appeal, and are upholding their decision to prevent the movement of salmon eggs from Scotland into Norway as they believe that mixing phylogeographic strains of salmon will have a serious impact on wild fish stocks.

Please see attached the original letter in Norwegian, and a Microsoft Office translation which gives the general gist of the letter.

For information, at no stage have the Norwegian Government taken any genetic samples from our strain in Scotland to support their notion that it is sufficiently distinct from Norwegian strains as to qualify as an exotic species. Their recent permission to the movement of Icelandic eggs was based in a written assurance only that these originated from Norway in 1980 (as did the Landcatch strain).

Our next action is to compare the DNA of the Landcatch strain to that of current Norwegian strains, to further disprove this argument.

However, given that we now have a definitive negative answer to our appeal I would appreciate the following actions from yourselves:

- a) An immediate query to counterparts in the Norwegian government regarding this decision, and a formal request that it be immediately reconsidered
- b) An assurance from yourselves that exactly the same challenges will be put to any application for the movement of live salmon eggs or smolts from Norway into Scotland, and that movements should only be permitted if it can be proven that the strain matches native Scottish strains of salmon

I look forward to hearing from you by return on what measures you are able to take to both help us with our case in Norway and also to protect our business in Scotland against anti-competitive measures, as I now have to take this matter to the Scottish Parliament and beyond as it appears to be a protectionist policy only.

Yours sincerely

Neil Manchester

The [FOI disclosure in May 2018](#) revealed that Neil Manchester of Hendrix Genetics wrote directly to the Cabinet Secretary of Rural Economy (Fergus Ewing) in June 2016 admitting that "the Landcatch strain originated from three Norwegian strains between 1980 and 1984":

On 28 Jun 2016, 17:31 +0100, Neil Manchester [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Ewing

I would like to bring to your attention an issue that has very serious implications for our aquaculture breeding and production business in Argyll, Landcatch Ltd.

The company was established in 1980 by Sir William Lithgow of Ormsary, and has been a leader in the development of salmon breeding technology as well as a significant employer in rural Argyll for many years.

In 2011, Lithgows sold the company to Hendrix Genetics BV, a Dutch based company which is one of the world's leading multi-species animal breeding companies. James Lithgow, whom you know I believe, now runs the estate and remains our landlord for the business.

Earlier this month, Mike Russell visited the fish farm at Ormsary to hand over the Gold Award for Investors in Young People, and would also have seen the results of a ?2 million capital development project started three years ago.

I started working with Landcatch in 1997, and in May last year I moved to the Netherlands headquarters of Hendrix Genetics to head up the global business development and to position ourselves as a global leader in aquaculture breeding.

In addition to the Landcatch strain of salmon being produced in Scotland and now Chile (I met your predecessor Paul Wheelhouse there in 2014), we are currently seeking to develop breeding and production operations in Norway. This is an essential development for our business as the Scottish market alone simply cannot sustain the level of R&D spend on our Scottish breeding programme. This situation is worsened by the fact that the industry is so dominated by Norway, hence with a general preference for salmon egg supplies from Norway. Access to the Norwegian market, and shared breeding R&D between Scotland and Norway will create a sustainable business and thus guarantee the future for Landcatch in Argyll.

In October 2015 we formed a new company based in Bergen, named Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture AS, and earlier this year were recommended by the Broodstock Committee of the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate to receive two broodstock licenses to operate a breeding programme based on the Landcatch strain of Salmon. Indeed, we received a commendation from the Committee welcoming both Hendrix Genetics and the introduction of Landcatch into Norway as this was seen as increasing competition and choice for the industry.

However, in contradiction, our application to transfer nucleus salmon eggs from our operations in Scotland into Norway was blocked by the Environment Department of the Norwegian Government earlier this year.

We had appealed against this decision, but were told yesterday that the decision was upheld.

The reason cited is that they believe that Scottish strains of Atlantic salmon are an alien species and, if introduced and if any escape from containment, could contaminate native wild stocks.

Regardless of the fact that the Landcatch strain originated from three Norwegian strains between 1980 and 1984, this argument has no scientific basis and at no stage have the Norwegian Government taken genetic samples to verify their assertion.

At the same time as reaching this decision, the same department has allowed the importation of salmon eggs from Iceland and salmon sperm from the Faeroes into Norway for Salmobreed AS (Norwegian company).

We believe that this decision is a blatant attempt to block us from operating in the Norwegian market, is anti-competitive, and simply a protectionist policy. The implications for Landcatch are far reaching, in that if restricted to the available market in Scotland only, the business is inherently uneconomic.

We believe that there are two courses of action from this point:

a) I have advised Willie Cowan and the Marine Scotland team of this situation, and with your assistance in the Scottish Parliament, pressure should be brought to bear on the Norwegian government to reconsider this decision, or

b) If we accept that there is a legal basis to this decision, then reciprocal action should be taken against all imports of Norwegian salmon eggs and live fish into Scotland

I draw this matter to your attention in the hopes that this can be raised in parliament and a concerted effort made towards the Norwegian government to rescind this decision.

I can provide documentary information regarding every aspect of this case, from our original license application and award through to the recent appeal decision. If it would help, I would also be delighted to meet with you in Edinburgh at your convenience to discuss this matter in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Neil Manchester

Neil Manchester
Managing Director

[www.hendrix-genetics.com]<<http://www.hendrix-genetics.com/>>

The [FOI disclosure in May 2018](#) also included:

From: Neil Manchester [REDACTED]

Date: 9 March 2017 at 15:56:26 GMT

To: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"

<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Meeting with Mr Sandberg Today

Dear Fergus

I hope your meeting with Mr Sandberg today has gone well.

I make no apology for bombarding you with information regarding our ongoing battle with the Norwegian government, since this should be an indication of the seriousness of the situation within our Scottish operations and brazen unfairness of application of rules within Norway. I do trust that you recognize the injustice in this matter and took the opportunity to take a strong position regarding the free movement of genetic material between Norway and Scotland.

I would very much appreciate if you could find time to brief me on the nature of this section of your discussion with Mr Sandberg, and hopefully provide an indication of his response to the situation.

I do look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Neil

Neil Manchester

From: Neil Manchester [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 May 2017 16:14

To: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP

<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>

Cc: Russell MW (Michael), MSP

<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>

Subject: Norwegian Government Response

Dear Fergus

We have received the attached letter from the Fisheries Directorate in Norway, and I have also attached a Google translated version for quick reference.

I urge you to review this letter as a priority, as it makes a definitive statement that regardless of trade rules the Norwegian government will not allow imports of any genetic material from Scotland into Norway in order to protect wild stocks.

The whole argument is protectionist, and while disappointed in the content we are pleased that the Norwegian Government have now put on paper the arguments that have been verbally expressed up until now.

I will also be sending this information to Scott Landsburgh.

We believe that this matter now needs to be addressed at highest levels within the UK and the EU, and would appreciate it if you can advise which senior representative in Brussels we should be discussing this with.

I would be very pleased to come to Edinburgh at some point, along with our Norwegian colleagues, to discuss this matter in full detail with you to help expedite action.

I look forward to hearing your response in due course.

If the answer is no, then please advise what actions you intend to take to challenge this unlawful trade barrier.

If the answer is yes, then please advise what reciprocal actions you intend to take to offer similar protection to wild Scottish salmon.

I look forward to an early response from you on the above.

Yours

Neil Manchester

Neil Manchester
Managing Director
#HGsig

W www.hendrix-genetics.com<<http://www.hendrix-genetics.com>>

[cid:image001.jpg@01D3A8AB.D08557B0]<<http://www.hendrix-genetics.com/>>

Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture B.V.
Villa 'de K'rver?', Spoorstraat 69, 5831 CK Boxmeer

From: Neil Manchester [redacted]
Sent: 04 March 2018 05:56
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
Cc: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
Subject: RE: Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity - 2018/0005702

Dear Ewan

Thank you for sending the response from the Minister, and I note that he will be meeting his Norwegian counterpart shortly.

However, I fear that the Minister may be misinformed slightly. It isn't the case that the Norwegian government have simply prevented the import of one consignment of Atlantic salmon eggs, but rather that they have banned the movement of all salmon eggs from Scotland into Norway. This decision has been reported in the media already, as per this link: <http://salmonbusiness.com/norway-keeps-ban-on-import-of-scottish-roe/>

I have attached a copy of the 22 page letter sent to us by the Norwegian government explaining their reasoning. The conclusion clearly states that importing eggs of Scottish or even partial Scottish origin is seen as a serious threat to wild Norwegian salmon, and will not be allowed.

The point here is that if the Minister accepts this decision, and thereby the reasoning behind it, then he must answer why he is unwilling to afford the same level of protection to wild Scottish salmon.

Alternatively, since our independent salmon breeding and egg production business in Argyll has been destroyed by this decision and the time it has taken to reach it, I would hope that Scottish government would recognize this and act/ react accordingly.

I would appreciate it if you could brief the Minister accordingly prior to his meeting with Per Sandberg.

Yours sincerely

Neil

Extract of briefing document for Ms Cunningham's meeting with Per Sandberg scheduled for 8 March and

Extract of briefing document for Mr Ewing's meeting with Per Sandberg scheduled for 8 March

Norwegian Government's decision to ban the import of salmon eggs from Scotland

- In 2016, Landcatch Ltd (Hendrix Genetics) attempted to export to Norway Scottish derived Atlantic salmon ova and were declined by the Norwegian Environment Agency because they considered Atlantic salmon of Scottish origin to be an "alien species"
- Following this, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing MSP, wrote to the Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment, Vidar Helgesen, asking for an explanation as to the refusal.
- The Norwegian response was that an appeal was being reviewed, the conclusions of which would be shared in due course. Mr Ewing wrote once more to Mr Helgesen in August 2017.

Recent Refusal

- In February 2018, the Norwegian authorities again refused to permit the import of Scottish derived Atlantic salmon ova. The Scottish Government have written to the Norwegian authorities to understand a) the outcome of the appeal review and b) on what basis the recent refusal was made.

Norwegian Position

- The Norwegian authorities wrote to SG officials on 1 March 2018, to inform them that their position is to continue to ban the import of Scottish derived Atlantic salmon ova .

Rùnaire a' Chaibneit airson na h-Eaconomaidh
Dhùthchail agus Comas-ceangail
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and
Connectivity
Fergus Ewing BPA/MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Mr Neil Manchester
Hendrix Genetics

By email: [REDACTED]

[5 March 2018

Dear Mr Manchester,

Hendrix Genetics and Norway

I am writing in relation to the ongoing matter of Norway's refusal of the importation of Scottish salmon ova.

I think it would be beneficial to meet to discuss the issues and to explore the available options moving forward. If you are agreeable, please contact my office at cabsecrec@gov.scot to make the necessary arrangements.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Fergus Ewing
[REDACTED]

FERGUS E

Another [Freedom of Information disclosure by the Scottish Government in July 2019](#) included documents relating to a meeting between Neil Manchester of Hendrix Genetics and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy (Fergus Ewing) in the Scottish Parliament:

CABINET SECRETARY MEETING WITH MR [REDACTED], HENDRIX GENETICS: REJECTION BY NORWAY OF SCOTTISH DERIVED SALMON OVA: TUESDAY 5 JUNE, 3.30-4.15PM: T3,25: SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Annex F

Correspondence from [REDACTED]

17/04/2018

Dear [REDACTED]

- With reference to your letter dated 15th March, I would be very interested to meet with you to discuss how we can extract something positive from the current impasse with Norway.
- Given the definitive decision from Norway to prevent the import of salmon eggs from Scotland, which I remain firmly of the belief is illegal and anti-competitive, we have had to accept that continuation of the Landcatch pedigree breeding programme in Scotland is uneconomic.
- Landcatch Natural Selection has suffered a significant financial loss through the termination of this operation, and the historical loss of many millions of pounds investment from both private and public funds. I am sure you will agree that this is not a good story for the Scottish industry, but I want to be pragmatic about the situation and rather than make life difficult in continuing to fight a lost battle I am keen to seek ways to restructure and develop our business in Argyll.
- Given the fact that Scottish Government has been unable to challenge the Norwegian government, I do wonder if we can source government funding to invest in key sustainable developments in our Argyll operations.
- We have already engaged with the Scottish Salmon Company to assist with the development of their Native Hebridean brand using the Argyll facility, but can see great opportunities to incorporate new technologies and energy efficient systems at Ormsary that would maintain the Landcatch business in a profitable state (thereby preserving local rural employment) and also promote this collaborative Scottish initiative in a very positive light.
- Please can you suggest some possible dates through May and June when it might be convenient to meet and discuss these ideas in more detail?
- I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10 March 2019 at 16:48:52 GMT
To: "Russell MW (Michael), MSP"
<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>
Cc: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>,
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: The Rural Economy - Renewables and Crippling Non-Domestic Rates
Dear Michael,

I have no idea what Scottish Ministers did or did not do to challenge the Norwegian's ban on Landcatch egg imports, by last year it was no longer my battle, however the consequence of the illegal ban and the lack of any determined support from the Scottish Government was the destruction of something very valuable to Scotland, that represented the life's work of a number of your constituents. I never had a reply from Fergus to my letter of last March.

I have asked for your support and that of Scottish Ministers on a number of issues of significance to our business. Oftentimes this has brought positive and immediate results, which we of course recognise as being the great benefit of an engaged Scottish Government, other times and particularly in relation to the salmon industry, I

suspect our message has been drowned out by the Norwegian lobby efforts and their Siren promise of inward investment.

We are not the ones in power in Government, do you suppose I should cease bringing these matters to your attention for fear of offending the powerful? The sense of shared purpose for a better Scotland that first enthused us and characterised this Government, has grown a little thin in some areas, especially where the hard choices of Government might be criticised. I am not your political opponent, I [REDACTED] are just trying hard to keep things going at Ormsary, against an increasing head wind.

Perhaps we can sit down together at a convenient moment to consider, I don't think email is conducive to progress.

Aye
[REDACTED]

From: Russell MW (Michael), MSP
<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>

Sent: 10 March 2019 15:45

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP

<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>,
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: The Rural Economy - Renewables and Crippling Non-Domestic Rates
Dear [REDACTED]

I will let Fergus answer this, as it is within his remit. But for the purposes of the record let me make it clear the accusation that the Government in general, or any of its ministers in particular, couldn't or wouldn't 'summon the energy' to attempt to protect and support Scottish business (rural or urban) is untrue and offensive.

It is also not conducive to having any sort of positive discussion.

Regards

Michael

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 8 March 2019 at 15:44
To: "Russell MW (Michael), MSP"
<Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Michael.Russell.msp@parliament.scot>>
Cc: "Ewing F (Fergus), MSP"
<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>
Subject: The Rural Economy - Renewables and Crippling Non-Domestic Rates

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your note, and indeed I have been in direct communication with Fergus. I appreciate Brexit is placing incredible demands on government at present. Just under a year ago I wrote to Fergus, I attach a copy of my private letter. At that time you had suggested that you had been a 'strong supporter' of Landcatch, and you had pointed out that Landcatch had been a victim of the illegal acts of the Norwegian Government, as if that excused the fact that these illegal acts went (and continue to be) unchallenged by our own Government, and you suggested in some way it should have been for the Dutch Government to intercede on behalf of a wholly Scottish Company.

I will leave the politics of nationalism to the politicians, and whilst I hope that both you and Fergus could only wish for Landcatch and our own businesses in Argyll to

prosper and develop the indigenous wealth creation which underpins the long term socio-economic opportunity in our fragile rural communities, your comments below and recent statements from Fergus give me pause for thought.

Scottish Non-domestic Rates and the associated valuation process, is a matter entirely for the Scottish Government. That is why the large business supplement burden is double the rate in Scotland (2.6p / %) compared to the rest of the UK (1.3p / %). The impending problem of excessively high rateable valuations on small hydro in Scotland was highlighted to me by concerned Scottish Government officials, some time before John Swinney removed the existing reliefs in 2016. So the responsibility for these excessive rates and the consequent removal of significant cash and investment from our rural economy lies at the door of the Scottish Government. This is not about the principle of paying taxes, it is about our Government actually understanding what a fair and commercially sustainable rate of tax should be for small hydro, and recognising the damaging consequences when they get it so badly wrong, and then fail to move to fix it quickly.

To quote Adam Smith ?? There is no art which one government sooner learns of another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people.?

The continuing issues with the Scottish Farm Payments system, again lie with the Scottish Government.

I had drawn a line under this Scottish Government's abject failure to defend Landcatch from the dubious tactics of the Norwegian salmon industry and the blatantly unlawful actions of their government. Having written privately in stark terms to Fergus at that time, I had hoped that that Scottish Government might recognise the significant economic injury inflicted on Landcatch; despite assurances to the contrary the subsequent lack of any support from the Scottish Government has been disappointing, a pretty hollow ring to Scottish Government support for the owners of Landcatch. This continued lack of support from our own Government is a

particularly bitter pill to swallow, given the recent comments from Fergus (or his press officer). Welcoming the news, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy Fergus Ewing said: 'AquaGen's investment speaks volumes of the confidence from the sector of doing business in Scotland and supports the aims of Scotland's 10 Year Farmed Fish Health Framework, helping to improve the security of Scotland's ova supply.'? <https://salmonbusiness.com/aquagen-signs-deal-to-buy-scottish-sea-farmsfreshwater-hatchery/>

Aquagen being one of the companies who had most to gain by destroying the Scottish competition from Landcatch, and were undoubtedly instrumental in the Norwegian ban of Landcatch salmon ova. That this foreign company should now be publicly lauded for their actions by Fergus, expunging from the record what Landcatch and indigenous Scottish science had established over 34 years, whilst confirming the critical strategic need for an indigenous producer of salmon eggs (now exclusively controlled by Norway). The irony is not lost, that this same Scottish Government could not even summon the energy to raise the matter of the Norwegian egg ban with either the UK Government or Brussels, when previous Scottish Governments had successfully joined forces with London, Dublin and Brussels to bring the illegal and uncompetitive salmon 'dumping' activities of Norway to a halt. The price collapse triggered by Norwegian state sponsored dumping, effectively killed off the independent and non-Norwegian salmon farming sector in Scotland and Ireland. The Norwegian dominated Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) recently announced their intention to alter the Scottish Code of Practice, to allow the import of

Norwegian Smolts into Scotland to then be passed off as 'Scottish Salmon', as Scottish produce continues to sell at a premium over Norwegian. The SSPO intend that such imports of live Norwegian salmon should only require a 'risk assessment' by the receiving (Norwegian owned) customer, an absurdly flawed bio-security selfcertification

policy that risks the import of further Norwegian disease, a threat capable of destroying Scotland's entire salmon industry. The Norwegian salmon companies in Scotland have long been abusing the terms of the Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) and the associated French Label Rouge, previously our own attempts to have the Scottish Government look into the matter, resulted in the then Minister's officials breaching all confidence and to brief the Norwegian controlled SSPO. Again matters entirely in the Scottish Government's remit.

That the European Commission and other parties are again taking a close interest in the lawfulness or otherwise of Norwegian salmon companies operating in Scotland, should come as no surprise; the Norwegian salmon industry has a long track record of scant regard for the law - fully backed by the Norwegian Government. That Norwegian interests should risk bringing the whole rotten edifice of 'Scottish Salmon' crashing down, and with it the risk of collateral damage to the integrity and provenance of the wider Scottish Food and Drink brand, should be of an immediate concern to our Government and our food and farming industry.

I have covered a number of points, but my principle concern is that whilst it will always be politically expedient to push the blame elsewhere, our business and that of Landcatch has been (and continue to be) badly damaged by issues which in part or whole, are matters that are the principle responsibility of our Scottish Government today.

For the sake of our business and dependant community, I hope that you as our MSP and the Scottish Government will be able to address and resolve these issues, and for the sake of Scotland's wider food and drink brand and industry, our Scottish Government will recognise the dangers of posed by the further subjugation of the Scottish salmon industry and the Scottish food brand to the Norwegian commercial interest.

Aye

[REDACTED]

Norwegians Concede a Role in Chilean Salmon Virus

By Alexei Barrionuevo

July 27, 2011



The scientific study at the University of Bergen linking the virus to eggs was commissioned by Cermaq and first published in 2008 in the [Archives of Virology](#). But in early 2009, shortly after publication, a Norwegian company that breeds fish eggs, Aqua Gen — which is partly owned by both Cermaq and Marine Harvest — filed a formal complaint about the study with Norway’s National Commission for the Investigation of Scientific Misconduct, arguing that the science was flawed.

Patrick Dempster, general manager of Aqua Gen in Chile, said that Aqua Gen complained about the study because in 2006 they became the principal exporter of salmon eggs to Chile and were worried about losing business over concern about any vertical transmission connection with Norway.

The [commission ruled](#) on April 6 that there had been no scientific misconduct, clearing the three authors from the University of Bergen. Mr. Dempster said Aqua Gen stood by a study from the University of Prince Edward Island that concluded that the virus most likely entered Chile in 1996, when Aqua Gen was not exporting fish eggs to Chile. He noted that between 1996 and 2007 “a multitude” of Chilean and Norwegian companies sent eggs from Norway to Chile.

“We initiated that research because we wanted to understand how I.S.A. was transmitted,” Ms. Bergan said. “Before that, the scientific consensus” was that the virus “could not be transmitted by eggs.”

Read the Archives of Virology scientific paper [published online in 2008](#).

ISA virus in Chile: evidence of vertical transmission

Siri Vike · Stian Nylund · Are Nylund

Read more via "[Nylund, Vike - The Famous ISA Chile Paper, Scientists Harassed in Norway, AquaGen](#)" and "[ISA - Diary of Disease Disaster](#)"

Read more via:

J Virol, 2014 Jun;88(11):6012-8. doi: 10.1128/JVI.03670-13. Epub 2014 Mar 12.

Bona fide evidence for natural vertical transmission of infectious salmon anemia virus in freshwater brood stocks of farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in Southern Chile.

Marshall SH¹, Ramírez R, Labra A, Carmona M, Muñoz C.

⊕ Author information

Abstract

Infectious salmon anemia (ISA) is a severe disease that affects farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), causing outbreaks in seawater in most salmon-producing countries worldwide, with particular aggressiveness in southern Chile. The etiological agent of this disease is a virus belonging to the Orthomyxoviridae family, named infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV). Although it has been suggested that this virus can be vertically transmitted, even in freshwater, there is a lack of compelling experimental evidence to confirm this. Here we demonstrate significant putative viral loads in the ovarian fluid as well as in the eggs of two brood stock female adult specimens that harbored the virus systemically but without clinical signs. The target virus corresponded to a highly polymorphic region 3 (HPR-3) variant, which is known to be virulent in seawater and responsible for recent and past outbreaks of this disease in Chile. Additionally, the virus recovered from the fluid as well as from the interior of the eggs was fully infective to a susceptible fish cell line. To our knowledge, this is the first robust evidence demonstrating mother-to-offspring vertical transmission of the infective virus on the one hand and the asymptomatic transmission of a virulent form of the virus in freshwater fish on the other hand.

IMPORTANCE: The robustness of the data presented here will contribute to a better understanding of the biology of the virus but most importantly will constitute a key management tool in the control of an aggressive agent constantly threatening the sustainability of the global salmon industry.

Wild and farmed salmon (*Salmo salar*) as reservoirs for infectious salmon anaemia virus, and the importance of horizontal- and vertical transmission

Are Nylund , Jarle Brattespe, Heidrun Plarre, Martha Kambestad, Marius Karlsen

Published: April 16, 2019 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0215478>

Article	Authors	Metrics	Comments	Media Coverage
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Abstract
Introduction
Materials and methods
Results
Discussion
Supporting information
Acknowledgments
References
Reader Comments (0)
Media Coverage (0)
Figures

Abstract

The infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) is an important pathogen on farmed salmon in Europe. The virus occurs as low- and high virulent variants where the former seem to be a continuous source of new high virulent ISAV. The latter are controlled in Norway by stamping out infected populations while the former are spreading uncontrolled among farmed salmon. Evidence of vertical transmission has been presented, but there is still an ongoing discussion of the importance of circulation of ISAV via salmon brood fish. The only known wild reservoirs are in trout (*Salmo trutta*) and salmon (*Salmo salar*). This study provides the first ISAV sequences from wild salmonids in Norway and evaluates the importance of this reservoir with respect to outbreaks of ISA among farmed salmon. Phylogenetic analyses of the surface protein hemagglutinin-esterase gene from nearly all available ISAV from Norway, Faeroe Islands, Scotland, Chile and wild salmonids in Norway show that they group into four major clades. Including virulent variants in the analysis show that they belong in the same four clades supporting the hypothesis that there is a high frequency of transition from low- to high virulent variants in farmed populations of salmon. There is little support for a hypothesis suggesting that the wild salmonids feed the virus into farmed populations. This study give support to earlier studies that have documented local horizontal transmission of high virulent ISAV, but the importance of transition from low- to high virulent variants has been underestimated. Evidence of vertical transmission and long distance spreading of ISAV via movement of embryos and smolt is presented. We recommend that the industry focus on removing the low virulent ISAV from the brood fish and that ISAV-free brood fish salmon are kept in closed containment systems (CCS).

Including:

Since the discovery of vertical transmission of ISA virus via eggs from farmed salmon in 2005 there has been an ongoing discussion of the relative importance of vertical and horizontal transmission. The Chilean salmon farming industry will no doubt consider vertical transmission, after receiving both Norwegian and Scottish ISA virus via import of embryos, as very important [34, 53]; present study Fig 6). Considering the fact that the dominating ISA viruses in the Norwegian salmon farming industry belong to clade CIII and CIV, and not to the two clades where the majority known viruses from Norwegian wild salmon can be found, suggest that the viruses causing the majority of the ISA outbreaks in Norway are maintained or circulated in farmed salmon. It has already been thoroughly documented that HPR0 viruses can be found in brood fish, in fresh water production, and in salmon at marine sites [48, 53, 55]. Presence of ISA virus in brood fish and at fresh water sites, and the knowledge that the virus can be vertical transmitted, suggest that there could be a high frequency of transmission of HPR0 variants via brood fish in Norway. If this is an important transmission route for ISAV then one should expect to find different ISAV during the annual outbreaks of ISA in Norway. If, on the other hand, horizontal transmission is dominating the pattern should include locally (neighbouring farms) identical ISAV with identical HPRΔ. In Troms county in 2007–2009 the industry experienced 21 separate outbreaks of ISA where a number of these were closely related (CIIIb) and had the same HPRΔ. This was interpreted as an example of horizontal transmission resulting from a primary outbreak [52]. The analyses of our data give support this conclusion, but the situation was more complex, and the hypothesis suggesting an epizootic resulting from a primary outbreak does not give the complete picture of what happened in this area. A total of 78 HE sequences are available from the 21 outbreaks in Troms and these show the presence of seven unique HPRΔ variants which mean that 33.3% of the ISA viruses associated with disease in this area were not a result of horizontal transmission (S1 Table). This observation is best explained as a result of transition from HPR0 already present in the farmed salmon to virulent HPRΔ viruses [46, 48, 53, 55, 58].

In 2017, [Fish Farming Expert](#) reported:

ISA detected at AquaGen brood site



AquaGen says it has enough back-up capacity to meet orders but "exact delivery time and product type" may be affected.

A virulent variant of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) virus has been detected in broodfish from a Norwegian sea site operated by AquaGen, which supplies many of the eggs used in Scottish salmon farming.

"We have found another solution. We lost the one export permit to Scotland and found another solution this year with a partner that delivers to Scotland," [AquaGen's Nina Santi told SalmonBusiness in January 2018](#). "We'll be back with deliveries to Scotland in mid-2018."



ISA in roe could create supply bottleneck

AquaGen chairman Odd Magne Rødseth, [speaking to Fish Farming Expert in November 2017](#): "said the move to start egg production in Scotland would help serve the Scottish industry better and was also a precautionary measure against any ban on the import of eggs. "You never know whether will find some reason to close the border," he said at the time.

In July 2017, [Hendrix Genetics \(owners of Landcatch\) asked the Scottish Government](#) "if the ISA outbreaks in Norway, in particular AquaGen, would have any effect on their ability to export eggs into Scotland":

From: <REDACTED> <REDACTED>@hendrix-genetics.com
Sent: 11 July 2017 13:19
To: <REDACTED> (MARLAB)
Subject: ISA in Norway

Hi <REDACTED>

I was just wondering if the ISA outbreaks in Norway, in particular Aquagen, would have any effect on their ability to export eggs into Scotland this year. Where does Marine Scotland stand on this issue.

Any information would be gratefully received.

Kind Regards

<REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> <REDACTED>@hendrix-genetics.com
Sent: 19 July 2017 10:02
To: <REDACTED> (MARLAB)
Subject: Aquagen eggs

Hi <REDACTED>

I was just wondering what your thoughts are on the Aquagen situation now that the site at Hemne also seems to be affected. Can MS ask for 100% testing for ISA on all broodfish parents of eggs destined for Scotland or are you still reliant on the Norwegians to say they are free of the disease.

Kind Regards

<REDACTED>

<REDACTED>
<REDACTED>
Atlantic Salmon

T <REDACTED>
M <REDACTED>475
<REDACTED>
W www.landcatch.co.uk



Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd
Ormsary Fish Farm, Lochgilphead
Argyll, PA31 8PE, Scotland, UK-EU

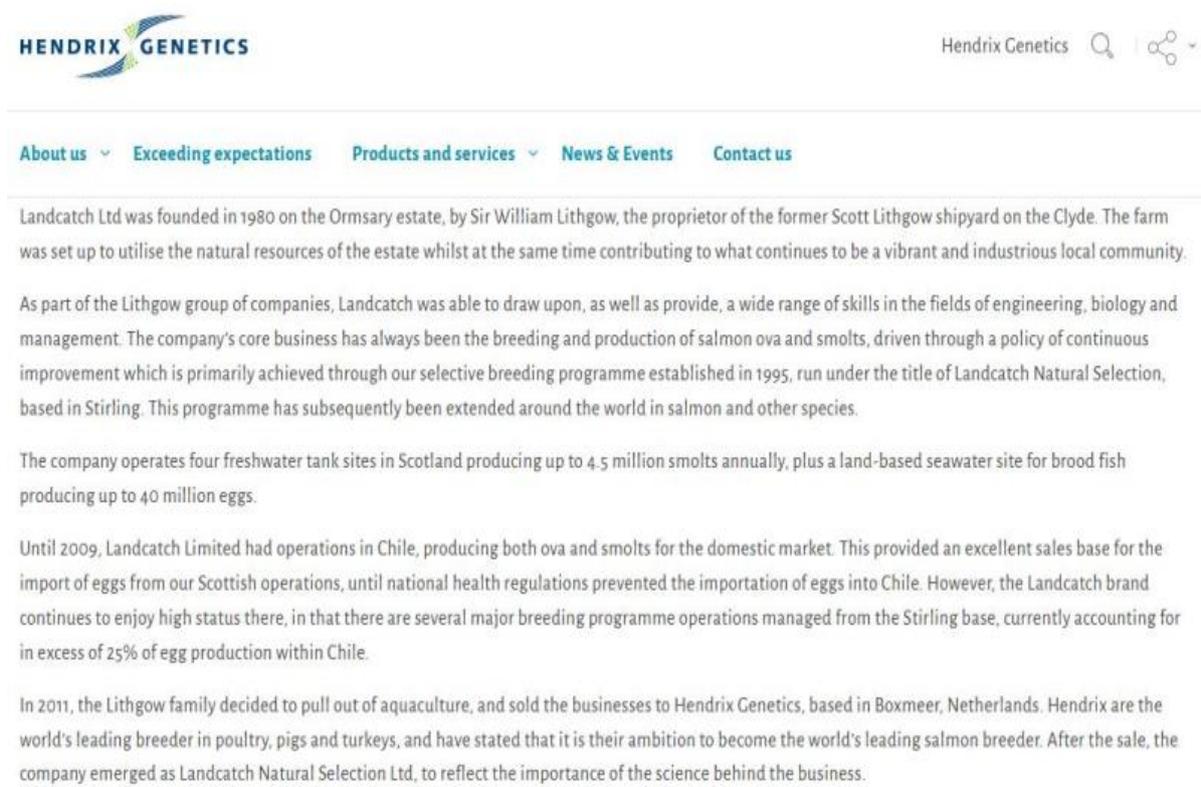
Read more via:

[Restrictions due to ISA suspicion also attached to AquaGens' broodfish departments at the Vestseøra site in Hemne municipality](#)

[ISA detected at salmon broodstock sites](#)

[Aquagen ISA outbreak: cause unknown, but damage contained](#)

[4] Hendrix Genetics [reports on the 'History' of Landcatch](#):



The screenshot shows the Hendrix Genetics website. The header includes the company logo and navigation links: "About us", "Exceeding expectations", "Products and services", "News & Events", and "Contact us". The main content area is titled "Landcatch Ltd" and contains several paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states that Landcatch Ltd was founded in 1980 on the Ormsary estate by Sir William Lithgow. The second paragraph describes the company's core business as breeding and production of salmon ova and smolts. The third paragraph mentions four freshwater tank sites in Scotland and a land-based seawater site for brood fish. The fourth paragraph discusses operations in Chile from 2009. The fifth paragraph notes the company's sale to Hendrix Genetics in 2011.

HENDRIX GENETICS

Hendrix Genetics

About us | Exceeding expectations | Products and services | News & Events | Contact us

Landcatch Ltd was founded in 1980 on the Ormsary estate, by Sir William Lithgow, the proprietor of the former Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde. The farm was set up to utilise the natural resources of the estate whilst at the same time contributing to what continues to be a vibrant and industrious local community.

As part of the Lithgow group of companies, Landcatch was able to draw upon, as well as provide, a wide range of skills in the fields of engineering, biology and management. The company's core business has always been the breeding and production of salmon ova and smolts, driven through a policy of continuous improvement which is primarily achieved through our selective breeding programme established in 1995, run under the title of Landcatch Natural Selection, based in Stirling. This programme has subsequently been extended around the world in salmon and other species.

The company operates four freshwater tank sites in Scotland producing up to 4.5 million smolts annually, plus a land-based seawater site for brood fish producing up to 40 million eggs.

Until 2009, Landcatch Limited had operations in Chile, producing both ova and smolts for the domestic market. This provided an excellent sales base for the import of eggs from our Scottish operations, until national health regulations prevented the importation of eggs into Chile. However, the Landcatch brand continues to enjoy high status there, in that there are several major breeding programme operations managed from the Stirling base, currently accounting for in excess of 25% of egg production within Chile.

In 2011, the Lithgow family decided to pull out of aquaculture, and sold the businesses to Hendrix Genetics, based in Boxmeer, Netherlands. Hendrix are the world's leading breeder in poultry, pigs and turkeys, and have stated that it is their ambition to become the world's leading salmon breeder. After the sale, the company emerged as Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd, to reflect the importance of the science behind the business.

Hendrix's 'history' omits to mention other highlights from Landcatch's past including the spread of the bacterial disease Furunculosis via infected ova imported to Norway and Canada.

Raincoast Research's [web-site reports](#):



The screenshot shows the Raincoast Research website. The header includes the company logo and navigation links: "About", "Wild Salmon Science", "Salmon Farm Impacts", "Blueprint For Wild Salmon", and "Science Resources". The main content area is titled "Furunculosis" and contains several paragraphs of text and a list of bullet points. The first paragraph defines furunculosis as a serious bacterial disease found predominantly in salmonids. The second paragraph describes the 1991 outbreak in Canada. The third paragraph lists three bullet points about the outbreak.

RAINCOAST RESEARCH

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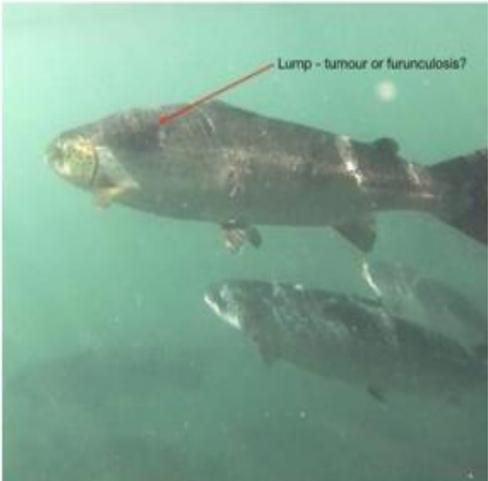
About | Wild Salmon Science | Salmon Farm Impacts | Blueprint For Wild Salmon | Science Resources

Furunculosis

Furunculosis is a serious bacterial disease found predominantly in salmonids. Fish infected with the disease develop boils and blisters on their skin.

In 1991, IBEC brought Atlantic salmon eggs into Canada from the Landcatch hatchery in Scotland. Landcatch was known for having shipped stock infected with furunculosis to Norway – triggering an outbreak that spread to 70 Norwegian rivers.

- When IBEC introduced farm salmon to Musgamaqw Dzwawada'enuwx territory, a furunculosis epidemic broke out in farms shortly after. It then spread to Coho salmon that migrated past the farms and entered a local enhancement hatchery.
- DFO and the Province of BC refused to release information on the strain of the bacteria, preventing discovery of its origin and comparison to the Norwegian strain.
- IBEC was permitted to leave the infected salmon in the water and treat them with large doses of the antibiotic Oxytetracycline.



The Journal of Fish Biology [reported in 1994](#):



The spread of furunculosis in salmonids in Norwegian rivers

B. O. Johnsen, A. J. Jensen

First published: July 1994 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8649.1994.tb01285.x> | Citations: 42

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Abstract

Furunculosis was first discovered in a fish farm in Norway in 1964, following the importation of rainbow trout from Denmark. The disease spread to several farms and to wild fish in the River Numedalslågen, occurring there until 1979. It was eradicated at several farms, the last being disinfected in 1969. In 1985, furunculosis was discovered in marine fish farms in Nord-Trøndelag, following importation of salmon smolts from Scotland. The disease reached Møre og Romsdal in 1988, by which time 32 fish farms were infected in the two counties. By the end of 1992, 550 farms were infected. The disease spread concurrently in natural watercourses, from 22 in 1989, to 74 by the end of 1992. Rapid spread of the disease was associated with several factors including escapes from fish farms, possibly via transport of fish between farms, and natural movement of wild fish in the sea. The disease was not associated with particular physical characteristics in these watercourses, but large aggregations of fish beneath waterfalls combined with high water temperature may trigger disease outbreaks. The ecological consequences of furunculosis are not known. However, some river populations of adult salmon, sea trout and brown trout have suffered. Furunculosis may result in serious negative consequences for populations if a significant number of the brood stock die before spawning.