

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 8 December 2015

RSPCA Savaged Over Seal Killing in Scotland - Over 70% of Lethal Scottish Salmon Certified as 'RSPCA Assured'



London - The Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is coming under hostile fire for sanctioning the slaughter of seals at salmon farms across Scotland. On Thursday (10 December), a [petition](#) calling for a cease-fire on salmon farms certified by the RSPCA will be delivered to the RSPCA's head office in Horsham, West Sussex.

Campaigners are calling for a boycott of all Scottish farmed salmon - over 70% of which is certified via the [RSPCA Assured](#) scheme which condones the killing of seals [1]. Supermarkets selling 'seal-unfriendly' salmon will be targeted by [protestors dressed as seals](#) - including a demo outside M&S and Selfridges on Oxford/Orchard Street in Central London tomorrow (9 December). A [letter addressed to Her Majesty the Queen](#), as royal patron of the RSPCA, will also be delivered to Buckingham Palace (read more details [online here](#)).

"Over 2,700 people have already signed my petition calling for an end to the killing of seals on RSPCA-certified salmon farms," said Katie Nethercoat who launched an online petition - [RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish Seals](#) - in October after an expose on [ITV News](#). "Shame on the RSPCA for sanctioning the slaughter of seals in Scotland.

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Petitioning RSPCA and 1 other

RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish Seals.

Katie Nethercoat Beverley, United Kingdom



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2,723 supporters
2,277 needed to reach 5,000

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Add a personal message (optional)

RSPCA, SPCA: RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish Seals.

An [opinion poll by Metro in October 2015](#) reported that 87 per cent of people are opposed to the killing of seals on salmon farms."



"Seals are one of the most charismatic creatures that we have in the UK and it is great shame to see our British wildlife suffer at the hands of consumerism," continued [Nethercoat](#). "Rather than change the way in which salmon are farmed or work around issues such as wild animals, they are jumping straight to shooting them. This can't be allowed and it is clear to see that members of the public don't plan on letting it continue."

Another [opinion poll conducted in 2009](#) revealed that the majority of people in the UK believed that supermarkets should refuse to buy farmed salmon from companies which kill seals [2].

"When you buy Scottish salmon, including salmon carrying the RSPCA logo, you pay for bullets to shoot seals," said [John Robins](#) of [Animal Concern](#). "My message to the RSPCA is 'Just say no - stop your farmers killing seals'. The RSPCA could give seals the perfect Christmas present – they could give them the gift of life by banning seal shooting at RSPCA assured salmon farms. RSPCA chiefs have to decide who they represent; seal-shooting multinationals or the animals they persecute."

RSPCA attacked for its policy on seal shooting

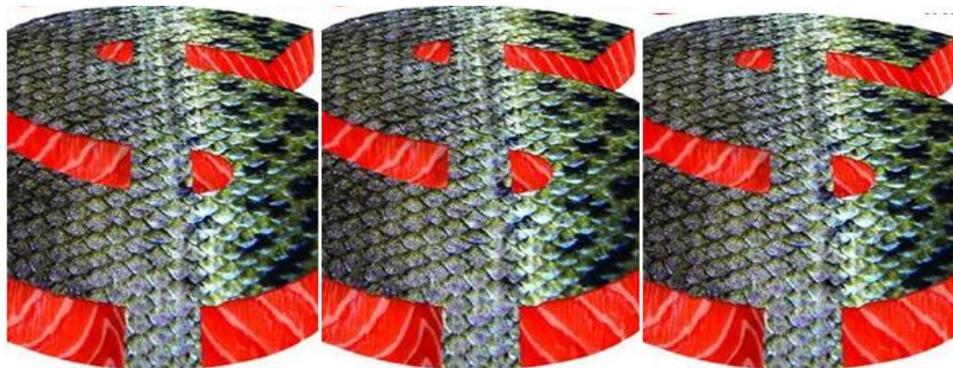
CHRIS CHOI | CONSUMER EDITOR



"Supermarkets have the power to stop seals being shot simply by telling their suppliers to install predator exclusion nets," continued Robins. "The RSPCA could do the same with RSPCA Assured salmon farms. Until they do so our main weapon is for people to stop buying Scottish salmon. This is especially important at this time of year when salmon sales rise over Christmas and New Year. If you don't want to pay for bullets to shoot seals don't buy Scottish salmon. It's as simple as that."

Animal Concern wrote to the CEO's of supermarkets in the UK yesterday (7 December) - including: "Another myth perpetuated by the Scottish Government, the salmon farming industry, most retailers and even the RSPCA Assured scheme is that seals are only shot as a last resort after all non-lethal alternatives have been exhausted. If only circa 15% of salmon farms are using predator exclusion nets 85% of salmon farms are not shooting seals as a last resort." (Read the letter in full via Notes to Editors [3]).

GAAIA [believes](#) that the RSPCA sacrificed protection for profit a long time ago. It is understood that each salmon farm certified under the RSPCA Assured scheme pays several thousand pounds therefore raking in hundreds of thousands of pounds for the RSPCA!



Ker-ching - that's the sounds of the RSPCA's cash register as dozens of Scottish salmon farms have rushed to be certified as 'welfare-friendly' since 2002. In fact, over 70% of Scottish farmed salmon is now certified as "welfare-friendly" via the RSPCA Assured scheme ([formerly Freedom Food](#)). Since there were 260 salmon farms in 2014 (the latest [government survey available](#)) that could mean over 180 RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland.



The trigger-happy stance of the RSPCA is unsurprising given the make-up of their [technical advisory group](#) which includes a who's who of salmon farming's serial seal killers - including Marine Harvest, Scottish Seafarms and the Scottish Salmon Company (the [biggest killers in 2015](#)):

RSPCA farmed salmon standards technical advisory groups

Members of the RSPCA Salmon (Freshwater) Standards Technical Advisory Group (FW) and RSPCA Salmon (Seawater) Standards Technical Advisory Group (SW) are selected on the basis of the specific expertise they bring to the groups in different areas of farmed salmon care. Members include:

- John Avizienius (RSPCA farmed salmon specialist) FW and SW
- Alasdair MacDonald (Scottish Salmon) FW
- Andy Young (Cooke Aquaculture) FW and SW
- Chris Findlay (Fish Vet Group) FW and SW
- Dave Danson (Landcatch) FW
- David Cockerill (Marine Harvest) SW
- David Roadknight (Lochduart) FW
- George Whyte (Kintail Hatchery) FW
- Gilpin Bradley (Wester Ross Salmon) FW and SW
- Grant Cumming (Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd) SW
- Hugh Murray (Migdale Smolt Ltd) FW
- Hugh Richards (Wester Ross Salmon) FW and SW
- Ian Armstrong (Partners in Welfare) FW and SW
- John Barrington (Scottish Sea Farms) FW and SW
- John Richmond (Marine Harvest Scotland) FW
- Jon Walden (Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd) FW
- Kim Thomas (Scottish Salmon) FW and SW
- Michelle Johnson (Cooke Aquaculture) FW and SW
- Nick Joy (Lochduart) FW and SW
- Paul Armstrong/Wilson (Solway Transport) FW
- Paul Inving (Meridian Salmon) FW
- Rob Murray (Howietoun) FW
- A technical/field operations representative of Freedom Food Ltd FW and SW
- A representative of RSPCA field staff (Farm Livestock Officers) who monitor Freedom Food scheme members FW and SW

"The RSPCA have blood on their hands for certifying seal-killing salmon farms as 'welfare friendly'," said Don Staniford, Director of the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#). "The next time you're in a supermarket and see the 'RSPCA Assured' logo on a packet of salmon please give it the seal of disapproval. Until the RSPCA pledges to stop the slaughter the only sure-fire way of protecting seals is to boycott all Scottish salmon. Consumers have the power this Xmas to force a change in policy at the RSPCA - if nobody buys RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon then the killing of seals would be stopped dead in its tracks. The [RSPCA Council](#) should listen to public opinion and introduce a seal cease-fire."



[Photo by [Colin McPherson](#) - download high res image [online here](#)]

"The public may be shocked to learn that over 70% of Scottish farmed salmon is already certified by RSPCA Assured who earn hundreds of thousands of pounds from certification," continued Staniford. "Help save seals by hitting the RSPCA where it hurts - in the pockets. The message is simple - stop shooting seals for salmon meals!"



GAAIA [wrote](#) to the RSPCA on 23 November 2015 re-iterating the question:

Will the RSPCA finally pledge to stop certifying seal-killing salmon farms?



Download the letter in full as a PDF [online here](#)

The RSPCA's acting Chief Executive David Canavan initially [agreed to meet with GAAIA](#) at the RSPCA head office in Horsham on 10 December but now appears to have backed out [4].

Yesterday (7 December), GAAIA [wrote](#) to Her Majesty the Queen (as [Patron of the RSPCA](#)) asking her to personally intervene to stop the slaughter of seals in Scotland. GAAIA also copied the letter to [Vice-presidents of the RSPCA](#) - including Brian Blessed, Chris Packham, Brian May, Bill Oddie and Dr. Caroline Lucas MP - asking them to support a seal cease-fire on salmon farms (read the letter in full [online here](#)). The letter was also copied to RSPCA supporter and Coronation Street actress Helen Worth ([who recently showed her support for seals](#)). GAAIA will be hand-delivering the letter to Her Majesty the Queen tomorrow (9 December) at Buckingham Palace in London ([read letter online here](#)).

GAAIA [wrote to supermarkets](#) on 30 November 2015 asking for a public pledge to stop sourcing from seal-killing salmon farms. "Will you give seals are early Christmas present by pledging to introduce a cease-fire?" asked the letter (read in full [online here](#)).

Here's replies from M&S, Co-op, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Aldi:

"According to the Scottish Government, the number of seals shot by salmon farms had decreased 66 per cent between 2011 and 2014 and is to be used only as a last resort. Our supplier has worked closely with a number of seal protection bodies to develop non-lethal ways of reducing seal attraction to our sites, including investment in acoustic deterrent devices and the addition of extra weights at the bottom of the nets to ensure the side walls are kept rigid." (M&S, 4 December 2015)

"In line with the industry's code of practice, we expect all of our RSPCA Freedom Food approved salmon farms to use suitable and humane means to deter predators and protect the welfare of our salmon. Farmers have a duty (under the provisions of The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006) to protect fish from harm and unnecessary suffering. Only in extreme circumstances, and as a last resort, should any other measure be considered to protect fish from predators." (Co-op, 1 December 2015)

"Our salmon farmers work to exclude and deter seals from their farms. This is managed under the Code of Practice on Predator Control and their Environmental Management Systems. If, after adhering to these guidelines they are still failing to keep a seal at bay, shooting a seal may be undertaken only as a last resort, in keeping with the legislative requirement of the Conservation of Seals Act 1970. One rogue seal damaging the pen can cause the loss of several thousand fish in one go. Seals often take a single bite from each fish and attacks can affect many thousands of fish. Even those not directly attacked can become stressed and succumb in the days after." (Tesco, 1 December 2015)

"All of our Atlantic salmon is responsibly sourced and is grown on Freedom Food approved sites located on the west coast and islands of Scotland. Our farms use both well tensioned nets and acoustic deterrent devices to deter predatory seals. We don't use external predator nets on our farms due to issues with reduction of water exchange which could potentially compromise the welfare of the fish. The nets also have the possibility to cause unintentional harm to some animals such as birds and seals which can become entangled in the mesh. Here at Sainsbury's we're always striving to tackle the issue of seal interaction on salmon farms and we're confident that there are no other retailers who have more commitment to continually improve exclusion and deterrent methods than us. Working with various animal

welfare groups including the Seal Protection Action Group, the RSPCA (with their Freedom Food label) and the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrews University we've established the Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group (SASWG). With our supplier also being a member of this group we aim to drive through continuous improvements regarding this issue through both innovation and understanding. We've a long-standing commitment to animal welfare and we share the same concerns as our customers. We'll continue to work hard to protect seals and other animals which come into contact with our farms as well as working with these welfare groups to make sure the farms maintain our high standards." (Sainsbury's, 1 December 2015)

"We source our supplies in line with our animal welfare policy. I have attached a [link](#) to our corporate responsibility website for your consideration." (Aldi, 30 November 2015)

As of 7 December 2015, no replies were received from ASDA, Iceland, Lidl, Morrisons, Selfridges or Waitrose. For copies of correspondence with supermarkets please see Note to Editors [5].

Background:

In August 2015, GAAIA wrote to [supermarkets](#), [RSPCA Assured/Freedom Food](#), the [Soil Association](#) and the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council/WWF](#) demanding an end to 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon - for more details read [online here](#).

In October 2015, GAAIA submitted [formal comments](#) to the US Government calling for a ban on all imports of 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon. In November 2015, GAAIA [wrote](#) to the RSPCA re-iterating the question: "Will the RSPCA finally pledge to stop certifying seal-killing salmon farms?".

The Sunday Times [reported](#) (29 November 2015) that 80% of salmon farms were not using anti-predator nets and 67% did not use seal blinds. A previous [Scottish Government survey in 2011/2012](#) revealed that 87% of salmon farms in Scotland did not use anti-predator nets.

In November 2015, GAAIA [wrote](#) to the Scottish Government including the question: "If 80% of the salmon farming industry do NOT use anti-predator nets and 67% do NOT use seal blinds then how can the industry and the Scottish Government claim that seals are shot as a "last resort"?" On 30 November 2015, GAAIA [wrote again to supermarkets](#) demanding a public pledge to end the killing of seals on salmon farms.



Video & Photo Resources:

Watch [videos with Don Staniford reporting](#) from the West coast of Scotland:



Download High Res images via:

- ["Did a seal die for your salmon meal?"](#)
- ["Farmed salmon: sealed with a kiss of death"](#)
- ["Stop shooting seals for salmon meals"](#)
- ["M&S: Seal Killers"](#)
- ["Scottish Seal Killers"](#)
- ["The Scottish Seal Killers"](#)
- ["RSPCA Assured Seal Killers"](#)
- ["RSPCA as the Royal \\$eal Culling Association"](#)
- ["Salmon farming kills seals"](#)
- ["Salmon farming: licensed to kill"](#)
- ["Salmon farming is the smoking gun"](#)



News & Media:

- ["Supermarkets: Stop Killing Seals at Salmon Farms!"](#) (1 December 2015)
- ["Scottish Salmon Blinded by Seal Killing"](#) (29 November 2015)
- ["Salmon farmers are shooting seals instead of installing non-lethal deterrents, campaigners say"](#) (29 November 2015)
- ["Seal killing slips through the net"](#) (29 November 2015)
- ["RSPCA Assured Seal Killers!"](#) (23 November 2015)
- ["M&S Caught in Cross-Fire Over Seal-Killing on Scottish Salmon Farms"](#) (2 November 2015)
- ["Stop shooting seals for salmon meals - protest outside M&S in Edinburgh"](#) (30 October 2015)
- ["Shetland Times: "Steps taken to reduce number of seals killed""](#) (25 October)
- ["Stop shooting seals for salmon meals!"](#) (22 October 2015)
- ["RSPCA upsets people by saying seal shooting is OK"](#) (11 October 2015)
- ["Did a seal die for your salmon meal?"](#) (9 October 2015)
- ["RSPCA attacked for its policy on seal shooting"](#) (9 October 2015)
- ["RSPCA: Seals should be shot as an 'absolute last resort' to protect salmon"](#) (9 October 2015)
- ["Seal Protection Action Group: Dependent seal pups are left to starve if their mothers are shot"](#) (9 October 2015)
- ["Salmon farmers under fire for shooting seals"](#) (8 October 2015)
- ["Seals in Shetland are getting into deep water with the salmon industry"](#) (8 October 2015)
- ["Fury over seals shot dead at M&S salmon farms: Humane 'predator-proof' nets can be installed but are expensive"](#) (5 September 2015)
- ["Shetland fish farms top seal shooting list"](#) (3 September 2015)
- ["Mapped: every Scottish salmon farm that shot seals"](#) (2 September 2015)
- ["UK retailers may face 'zombie seal' protests over farmed salmon"](#) (2 September 2015)
- ["Marks & Spencer faces threat of 'zombie seal' protests over links to salmon farm with worst culling record"](#) (1 September 2015)
- ["Anti-fish farm campaigners propose boycott to defend seals"](#) (1 September 2015)
- ["M&S salmon supplier comes off worst as Scottish gov't names seal shooting farmers"](#) (31 August 2015)
- ["Seal shooting figures released after campaign by animal rights activists"](#) (30 August 2015)
- ["Figures reveal salmon farms that shoot seals"](#) (30 August 2015)
- ["Named and shamed: the Scottish salmon farms shooting seals"](#) (30 August 2015)
- ["Data reveals third of Scots fish farms have shot seals"](#) (30 August 2015)
- ["Cecil the Seal Killers Named & Shamed in Scotland - Call for Boycott of "Seal Unfriendly" Scottish Salmon"](#) (30 August 2015)
- ["Media Splash for Seal-Killing Salmon Farms!"](#) (8 July 2015)
- ["VICTORY: Disclosure of Seal-Killing Salmon Farm Data Ordered by 21 August"](#) (7 July 2015)
- ["Landmark Rulings on Seal-Killing Salmon Farms - Scottish Information Commissioner to publish decisions this afternoon"](#) (7 July 2015)
- ["D Day for Seal-Killing Salmon Farms"](#) (6 July 2015)
- ["Mass seal slaughter as RSPCA opts to protect fish farms"](#) (13 April 2015)
- ["Scottish Salmon's Secret Seal Killers! - FOI refusal prompts call for boycott of farmed salmon"](#) (24 August 2014)

For more information please see GAAIA's "[The Killing Farms](#)"

Contact:

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



Notes to Editors:

[1] Here's the section of the [RSPCA's welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon](#) (September 2015) sanctioning the killing of seals:

HP 7.14 The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer that all of the procedures leading up to the point of last resort have been mobilised.

i The repeated shooting of seals without having deployed all of the measures leading to a last resort scenario, will result in the site being suspended from the scheme pending further investigation.

-
- HP 7.15** There must be positive identification that a seal is causing the problem of fish mortality, or is the cause of compromised fish welfare.
- HP 7.16 *** The humane dispatch of any seal must only be undertaken as a last resort in order to protect the welfare of the fish and where all non-lethal methods have failed to do so.
- HP 7.17 *** Before the humane culling of seals as a last resort can be considered, the following must have been implemented:
- a) nets are adequately tensioned
 - b) top nets secured to deny ingress by predators into the enclosure
 - c) dead fish have been regularly removed
 - d) where appropriate, ADDs/ASDs have been mobilised and are working properly
 - e) predator nets/curtains/screens have been deployed where it is appropriate to do so.
- HP 7.18 *** The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer, that all of the steps leading up to a last resort scenario have been implemented.
- HP 7.19 *** Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal as a last resort, the following records must be kept:
- a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task
 - b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register
 - c) details of any animal that has been shot, including:
 - i) the species
 - ii) the time and date of dispatch
 - iii) the location
 - iv) the reason for the shooting
 - v) the number of fish killed before resorting to a lethal method
 - vi) the number of fish on site.
- HP 7.19.1*** In the case of members of the Freedom Food scheme, all the details in HP 7.19 relating to seal shootings must be reported to the Freedom Food office, within 72 hours.
- HP 7.20** All attempts must be made to recover the body of the animal that has been shot and it must be recorded as to whether or not the body was recovered.
- HP 7.21** Any carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with the law.
- HP 7.22** Seals must not be shot outside the Crown Estate lease area.
- HP 7.23** After every shooting incident, a review of all predator exclusion procedures must be undertaken and records kept of such reviews.

In June 2015, the RSPCA made "[key changes](#)" but maintained their shoot-to-kill policy on seals:

June 2015

Key¹ changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon

As part of the on-going process of reviewing the welfare standards, they have now been amended and updated, and include the addition of new standards and guidance. All the amendments to the current version of the [RSPCA welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon](#), dated October 2012, were sent to Freedom Food members on 9th June 2015 and these changes will come into force on 9th September 2015, unless otherwise stated by a standard. This document provides further information on the rationale underpinning the decision/s for making key amendments to the standards.

| Husbandry Practices | | |
|--|---|--|
| Current standard | New/Amended standard | Reason for change and further information |
| | New standard HP 7.16 The humane dispatch of any seal must only be undertaken as a last resort in order to protect the welfare of the fish and where all non-lethal methods have failed to do so. | It was felt to be necessary to make the previous information box into a standard, so that the last resort scenario is explicit within the main body of the document. |
| | New standard HP 7.17 Before the humane culling of seals as a last resort can be considered, the following must have been implemented: a) nets are adequately tensioned b) top nets secured to deny ingress by predators into the enclosure c) dead fish have been regularly removed d) where appropriate, ADDs/ASDs have been mobilised and are working properly e) predator nets/curtains/screens have been deployed where it is appropriate to do so. | This has now been elevated into a standard, from its previous status as an information box. This defines the last resort scenario, so that there can be no doubt as to what it means. |
| | New standard HP 7.18 The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer, that all of the steps leading up to a last resort scenario have been implemented. | This will provide verification that all of the steps have been taken. |
| Current standard HP 6.16 Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal, the following records must be kept: a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register c) details of any animal that has been shot, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the species • the time and date of dispatch • the location • the reason for the shooting. | Amended standard HP 7.19 Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal as a last resort, the following records must be kept: a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register c) details of any animal that has been shot, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the species ii) the time and date of dispatch iii) the location iv) the reason for the shooting v) the number of fish killed before resorting to a lethal method vi) the number of fish on site. | The fish are never mentioned in many of the reports which appear about seal shooting. The addition of including the number of fish involved in seal attacks helps to provide important information regarding the facts surrounding this issue. |
| | New Standard HP 7.19.1 In the case of members of the Freedom Food scheme, all the details in HP 7.19 relating to seal shootings must be reported to the Freedom Food office, within 72 hours. | This used to be a voluntary requirement. It is now mandatory and will help to ensure that information relating to this important issue is provided to the scheme in a consistent and timely manner. |

Download as a PDF [online here](#)

Read more via:

["RSPCA Assured Seal Killers!"](#)

["RSPCA upsets people by saying seal shooting is OK"](#)

["RSPCA attacked for its policy on seal shooting"](#)

["RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish seals"](#)

["Letter to the RSPCA: Public Pledge to Stop Certifying Seal-Killing Salmon Farms"](#)

["Mass seal slaughter as RSPCA opts to protect fish farms"](#)

["RSPCA Freedom Food fish farmers killing seals"](#)

[2] An [opinion poll conducted in 2009](#) reported that:

- 58% believe that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from any suppliers that kill UK seals' with only 15% disagreeing.

- 52% of people buying salmon products said they would be prepared to pay more for them to stop UK seals being killed, with only 17% disagreeing. 61% of women polled said they would be prepared to pay more.

“With the majority of people supporting a change in the law to protect seals and believing that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from producers that shoot seals, the tide is turning against the routine killing of our seals” said Andy Ottaway of the Seal Protection Action Group, “Even in these harsh economic times over half of the salmon buying public said they would be prepared to pay more for salmon products to stop seals being killed”.

Read more via ["New poll shows the UK public wants salmon without seal killings"](#)

[3]

From: JFRobins [<mailto:john@jfrobbins.force9.co.uk>]

Sent: 07 December 2015 03:40

To: CEOs of Aldi, Asda, Co-op Group, Co-op Food, Farm Foods, Iceland, M&S, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Selfridges, Tesco and Waitrose

Subject: Scottish salmon

E-MAIL FROM: John F. Robins, Campaigns Consultant,
Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ.
Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.

E-MAIL: animals@jfrobbins.force9.co.uk website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>
Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

My colleague Don Staniford of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture has provided me with copies of the letters and e-mails he has received from British retailers regarding the sale of Scottish salmon supplied by farms where the shooting of seals takes place.

I have been working on this issue since the 1980s and it makes me very sad to see how little many retailers of Scottish farmed salmon know about how the product is produced. Some retailers do not seem to know the difference between predator exclusion nets and tensioned secondary cage nets.

Secondary nets are fitted to the outside of the inner cage net frames and are kept tensioned to stop seals pushing the cage nets in and taking a bite out of a salmon. The big problem is that

this type of system allows seals to get up close and personal with the farm stock causing panic and stress in the salmon which swim to the other side of the cage net when they see a seal approaching. Secondary cage nets do not allow salmon farmers to meet their legal obligation to protect the welfare of their stock as required under the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

Predator exclusion nets are used by around 15% of farms. They surround the farm some distance away from the main cage nets and, as long as they are kept properly tensioned and cleaned, they should keep seals and other predators well away from the salmon without entanglement of wildlife and with no loss of water flow through the farm cages. If operated properly this system allows salmon farmers to meet their legal obligation to protect the welfare of their salmon under the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

Successive Scottish Governments, at the expense of the Scottish marine environment and the wildlife which inhabit it, have bent over backwards to accommodate and promote the largely Norwegian owned salmon farming industry in Scotland. Rather than insist that all Scottish salmon farms go to the expense of deploying properly tensioned and maintained predator exclusion nets the Scottish Government issues licenses under Part 6 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 allowing salmon farmers to shoot seals for the “Protection of Health and Welfare” of their stock. There’s a wee problem with this. Unless salmon farmers have found a sharpshooter who can shoot seals 24/7 no matter what the weather or sea conditions they simply cannot meet the requirements of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

Another myth perpetuated by the Scottish Government, the salmon farming industry, most retailers and even the RSPCA Assured scheme is that seals are only shot as a last resort after all non-lethal alternatives have been exhausted. If only circa 15% of salmon farms are using predator exclusion nets 85% of salmon farms are not shooting seals as a last resort.

In Shetland salmon farming company, Grieg Seafood, installed predator exclusion nets after a seal damaged cage nets allowing over £1m worth of stock to escape. From killing 50 seals four years ago they now hope to have a zero kill rate this year. This shows that predator exclusion nets work.

Most salmon farms use acoustic seal scarers and many retailers hold this up as a very good thing. While I agree it is much better than shooting seals I have grave reservations about using acoustic scarers as these can have severe adverse side effects on the dolphins, porpoises and whales on whose habitat salmon farms squat.

For over thirty years I have, without success, tried to persuade salmon producers, salmon retailers and the politicians who regulate the industry that salmon farming must become a “seal friendly” industry. I have failed to do that. Indeed the salmon farming industry in Scotland cannot even claim to be dolphin friendly. Tuna retailers know only too well that being wildlife friendly is very important to consumers.

If salmon producers, retailers and regulators continue to refuse to adopt all available wildlife friendly farming techniques then the only way forward for wildlife protection is to make consumers fully aware that Scottish farmed salmon is not wildlife friendly.

As major buyers of farmed salmon you are in a position to tell your suppliers that you will only continue to buy from them if they install and maintain seal exclusion nets to stop seals getting close to the cage nets containing the salmon.

Until that happens across the industry we have no choice but to tell the public that when they buy Scottish salmon, including RSPCA Assured Scottish salmon, they are very likely to be paying for bullets to shoot seals.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Secretary to Animal Concern and the Save Our Seals Fund

PS Some retailers seem to be more out of touch than others. Earlier this month one claimed that their salmon suppliers could only shoot seals "...as a last resort, in keeping with the legislative requirement of the Conservation of Seals Act 1970." I won't embarrass them by telling you who it is that doesn't realise the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 was replaced in Scotland by Part 6 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 but next time you are in Tesco look out for staff members wearing hot pants and flares, sporting mullet haircuts and playing disco musak over the Tannoy.

[4] Freedom Food's General Manager Clive Brazier told GAAIA in January 2015:

"Approximately 70 per cent of farmed Scottish Salmon is produced under Freedom Food. You will appreciate that due to data protection, we are unable to provide you with a list of Freedom Food approved salmon members. The number of seals shot on our farms, as a last resort, has significantly reduced over the last seven years and continues to do so year on year. We are unable to disclose the figures as they are submitted to us by our members, in confidence, for the benefit of developing the scheme."

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 29 January 2015 15:57
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: E Mail Contact

Dear Don,

Thank you for your emails of the 15 and 16 January that were passed onto me.

Approximately 70 per cent of farmed Scottish Salmon is produced under Freedom Food. You will appreciate that due to data protection, we are unable to provide you with a list of Freedom Food approved salmon members.

The number of seals shot on our farms, as a last resort, has significantly reduced over the last seven years and continues to do so year on year. We are unable to disclose the figures as they are submitted to us by our members, in confidence, for the benefit of developing the scheme.

Of course the killing of one seal is still one too many and we are working towards getting this figure down to zero.

Kind regards

Clive Brazier

General Manager www.freedomfood.co.uk

Freedom Food is the RSPCA's farm assurance and food labelling scheme dedicated to farm animal welfare.
www.freedomfood.co.uk

Freedom Food told GAAIA in February 2015 that "the issue of culling seals.....is a welfare dilemma and we share your concerns":

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 04 February 2015 12:47
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Re: # Seals Killed at RSPCA/Freedom Food certified salmon farms in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Dear Don,

Thank you for your email.

We are one hundred percent committed to improving the welfare of both seals and salmon. The issue of culling seals - as a last resort to protect the welfare of farmed salmon - is a welfare dilemma and we share your concerns.

Whilst we do not yet have the answer, to what is a very complex issue, please be assured that we are working with the salmon farming industry and the Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group to find further ways to reduce the number of seals that are shot.

As stated previously, numbers have already been reducing but the killing of one seal is still one too many and we want to get this figure to zero.

We fully respect your cause but are unable to help any further with your enquiries at this time.

Kind regards

Clive Brazier

In reply to a [letter sent by GAAIA in August 2015](#), Freedom Food stated in September 2015:

"In your letter you call for a 'ceasefire' which suggests that seals are being routinely shot. However, as you know, this is not the case. The RSPCA's welfare standards only allow seals to be shot as a last resort when all available preventative measures to protect the salmon have been exhausted. If you are suggesting that farms should not be allowed to shoot a seal as a last resort, unfortunately the RSPCA is not currently in a position to make this requirement in its standards."

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 11 September 2015 10:17
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Letter to RSPCA Assured/Freedom Food

Dear Mr Staniford,

Thank you for your email.

I have made the chairman of the Freedom Food board aware of your letter. The board is fully aware of all the implications surrounding the shooting of seals and it is regularly discussed at meetings.

In your letter you call for a 'ceasefire' which suggests that seals are being routinely shot. However, as you know, this is not the case. The RSPCA's welfare standards only allow seals to be shot as a last resort when all available preventative measures to protect the salmon have been exhausted.

If you are suggesting that farms should not be allowed to shoot a seal as a last resort, unfortunately the RSPCA is not currently in a position to make this requirement in its standards. Based on experience of working on this issue, it would be detrimental to the welfare of farmed salmon - many thousands of which suffer and die following seal attacks.

However, as stated in all previous correspondence with you on this issue, the RSPCA and Freedom Food are fully committed to improving the welfare of both seals and salmon. The issue of culling seals - as a last resort to protect the welfare of farmed salmon - is a difficult welfare dilemma that we are working to resolve and we share your view that securing a further reduction in the numbers of seals killed should be vigorously pursued.

As such - and once again as explained previously - whilst we don't yet have all of the answers to what is a very complex issue, we are working with the salmon farming industry and the stakeholders of the *Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group* to find ways which continue to reduce the number of seals being shot.

The number that are shot as a last resort has already significantly reduced following our engagement with the industry. However the killing of one seal is still one too many and we - together with members of the *Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group* and the salmon farming industry - are working towards the position where it will not be necessary to shoot any seals.

In our experience, and based on the objective evidence to date, continuing to engage and work together to build on the very significant progress we have already helped to achieve is the best way of reaching this goal.

An email from the RSPCA's acting Chief Executive David Canavan in November 2015 stated:

From: Melissa Moremon [mailto:melissa.moremon@rspca.org.uk]
Sent: 05 November 2015 15:36
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: Demonstration at the RSPCA

Dear Mr Staniford

I understand that you intend to demonstrate at the RSPCA on Thursday 10th December on the issue of seals and salmon farming. As an alternative, you may wish to consider meeting with me in my office to discuss the issues.

However if you do decide to proceed with the demonstration, whilst I accept your right to demonstrate on this issue and put across your views, I am letting you know that this must be done on the public pavement adjacent to the RSPCA property as you will not be allowed on to demonstrate on our property.

Yours sincerely

David Canavan
Acting Chief Executive

Melissa Moremon
Executive Assistant to David Canavan
Chief Executive

Tel: 0300 123 0102

As of 23 November 2015, the RSPCA has still refused to issue a public statement supporting a cease-fire and a meeting with the acting Chief Executive may not take place:

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 18 November 2015 15:12
To: 'Melissa Moremon'
Subject: RE: Demonstration at the RSPCA

Thanks.

It's extremely disappointing that the RSPCA policy still sanctions the killing of seals. Will you re-consider the RSPCA's shoot-to-kill position?

We've already booked travel down to Horsham on 11 December so will be coming then. Since we live in Scotland and will be heading back North on 12 December we will not be available to meet on 14 December.

Would it be possible to meet someone else from the board?

Don

From: Melissa Moremon [mailto:melissa.moremon@rspca.org.uk]
Sent: 18 November 2015 14:20
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Re: Demonstration at the RSPCA

EMAIL FROM DAVID CANAVAN

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your reply to my email of 5 November.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss your concerns. The position of the RSPCA was set out in a letter from my colleague Clive Brazier which was sent out to you on 11 September and this would of course form the basis of our discussion.

Unfortunately I am out of the office on 10 December but would be delighted to meet with you on 14 December if this is convenient for you.

Kind regards

David Canavan

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 09 November 2015 14:08
To: 'Melissa Moremon'
Subject: RE: Demonstration at the RSPCA

David,

Thanks for your reply.

Would you be available to meet at 11am on 10 December?

Would you be willing to issue a joint public statement re. a cease-fire ending the killing of seals at RSPCA Assured salmon farms?

Don

GAAIA [wrote](#) to the RSPCA on 23 November 2015 re-iterating the question:

Will the RSPCA finally pledge to stop certifying seal-killing salmon farms?



Download the letter in full as a PDF [online here](#)

Read more via "[RSPCA Assured Seal Killers!](#)"

[5] Replies from supermarkets to GAAIA's [letter](#) of 30 November:

M&S:

From: chairman@Customersupport.marksandspencer.com
[mailto:chairman@Customersupport.marksandspencer.com]
Sent: 04 December 2015 17:18
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: M&S Ref: 251014/PB

Dear Don

Thank you for contacting us about the welfare of seals.

According to the Scottish Government, the number of seals shot by salmon farms had decreased 66 per cent between 2011 and 2014 and is to be used only as a last resort.

Our supplier has worked closely with a number of seal protection bodies to develop non-lethal ways of reducing seal attraction to our sites, including investment in acoustic deterrent devices and the addition of extra weights at the bottom of the nets to ensure the side walls are kept rigid.

Thank you again for contacting us with your concerns.

Kind regards

Emma Newbould
Executive Office
Your M&S Customer Service

www.marksandspencer.com

Registered office: Waterside House, 35 North Wharf Road, London, W2 1NW
Registered Number: 214436 (England and Wales)

On 03/12/2015 06:08, Don Staniford wrote:
Paul,

Thanks for the swift reply.

When you say that M&S "have led the industry on this issue" what measures have you implemented?

How many seals have been killed at M&S-sourced salmon farms annually since 2011?

Finally, if the RSPCA is "equally concerned about the welfare of farmed salmon as well as animals such as seals" then why do the RSPCA and M&S sanction the killing of seals?

Don

From: chairman@Customersupport.marksandspencer.com
[<mailto:chairman@Customersupport.marksandspencer.com>]
Sent: 02 December 2015 15:57
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: M&S Ref: 251014/PB

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your email and attached letter to the Chairman's Office, as a member of his personal team I'm replying on his behalf.

Neither we nor our salmon farmers have any wish to see seals or any other sea life harmed. We have led the industry on this issue and invested time and money to avoid this happening.

The RSPCA supports our approach, and is equally concerned about the welfare of farmed salmon as well as animals such as seals.

I hope this clarifies our position on this matter.

On behalf of the Chairman's Office, thank you for taking the time to contact us.

Kind regards

Paul Bromley

Executive Office

Your M&S Customer Service

www.marksandspencer.com

Registered office: Waterside House, 35 North Wharf Road, London, W2 1NW

Registered Number: 214436 (England and Wales)

On 30/11/2015 15:54, Don Staniford wrote:

Apologies - here's the letter now attached.

From: Don Staniford [<mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>]

Sent: 30 November 2015 15:31

To: 'Retail Customer Services'

Subject: RE: Public Pledge to Stop Sourcing from Seal-Killing Salmon Farms?

Please find attached a letter asking you to support a seal cease-fire on salmon farms (the letter is also available [online here](#)).

Will you pledge publicly to stop sourcing farmed salmon from seal-killing salmon farms?

GAAIA will be in London next week (9 December) protesting outside various retailers - details via <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/did-seal-die-your-salmon-meal>

If you are interested in issuing a joint statement publicising your commitment to ending the slaughter of seals at salmon farms please let me know.

Thanks,

Don

Don Staniford

Director, Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA):

<http://salmonfarmingkills.com/killing-farms>

Co-op:

-----Original Message-----

From: John Robinson [<mailto:customer.careline@co-operative.coop>]

Sent: 02 December 2015 09:15

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Subject: Your enquiry reference 00389399 [ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref]

Dear Mr. Staniford,

I am writing further to your enquiry regarding the Co-operative Group's policy as to the protection of predators such as seals in areas around salmon farms. Your complaint has now been forwarded to a Mr. Stewart Smith in our policy division and I am sure you will hear from him very soon.

Yours sincerely,

John Robinson
Customer Careline
ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref

-----Original Message-----

From: John Robinson [mailto:customer.careline@co-operative.coop]
Sent: 01 December 2015 20:17
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: Your complaint reference 00389399 [ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref]

Dear Mr. Staniford,

Many thanks for your further enquiry as to what is meant by 'As a last resort ...' in the press release I sent you and how many seals were killed in 2015. I have now forwarded your questions to our Policy division who I hope will be able to provide me with answers. I hope to hear from our policy division and as soon as I do, I will contact you again.

Yours sincerely,

John Robinson
Customer Careline
ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 01 December 2015 15:45
To: 'John Robinson'
Subject: RE: Your complaint reference 00389399 [ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref]

John,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

When you say "as a last resort" what do you mean exactly?

Are you saying that all the farmed salmon sold by the Co-operative Group is sourced from farms which use seal blinds and anti-predator nets (and other predator control methods) before shooting?

How many seals were killed at salmon farms sourced by the Co-operative Group during 2015?

Thanks,

Don

-----Original Message-----

From: John Robinson [<mailto:customer.careline@co-operative.coop>]

Sent: 01 December 2015 15:37

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Subject: Your complaint reference 00389399 [ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref]

Dear Mr. Staniford,

Many thanks for your email as to the Co-operative Group's policy on the protection of predators in areas in which salmon are farmed. Please find below a press release issued by the Co-operative Group on this subject. I hope you find it allays your concerns satisfactorily:

A spokesperson from The Co-operative Food said: "In line with the industry's code of practice, we expect all of our RSPCA Freedom Food approved salmon farms to use suitable and humane means to deter predators and protect the welfare of our salmon. Farmers have a duty (under the provisions of The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006) to protect fish from harm and unnecessary suffering. Only in extreme circumstances, and as a last resort, should any other measure be considered to protect fish from predators.

Yours sincerely,

John Robinson

Customer Careline

ref:_00D20CmM6._50020sBmcZ:ref

Tesco:

From: Don Staniford [<mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>]

Sent: 01 December 2015 14:41

To: 'customerservices@tesco.co.uk'

Subject: RE: RE: Tesco: Public Pledge to Stop Sourcing from Seal-Killing Salmon Farms?

<< Reference ID: 1473151 >>

Claire,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

Do you know how many seals were killed at salmon farms sourced by Tesco thus far in 2015?

When you say "last resort" who do you mean exactly?

As you will see from my previous letters, the vast majority of salmon farms in Scotland do NOT use anti-predator nets or seal blinds.

Does Tesco only source from farms which do use anti-predator nets and seal blinds?

Don

From: customerservices@tesco.co.uk [<mailto:customerservices@tesco.co.uk>]

Sent: 01 December 2015 13:19

To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Subject: Re: RE: Tesco: Public Pledge to Stop Sourcing from Seal-Killing Salmon Farms?
<< Reference ID: 1473151 >>

Dear Don

Thanks for getting in touch with us,

I understand from your email that you would like us to support a seal cease fire on salmon farms.

Our salmon farmers work to exclude and deter seals from their farms.

This is managed under the Code of Practice on Predator Control and their Environmental Management Systems.

If, after adhering to these guidelines they are still failing to keep a seal at bay, shooting a seal may be undertaken only as a last resort, in keeping with the legislative requirement of the Conservation of Seals Act 1970.

One rogue seal damaging the pen can cause the loss of several thousand fish in one go.

Seals often take a single bite from each fish and attacks can affect many thousands of fish. Even those not directly attacked can become stressed and succumb in the days after.

The loss of farmed fish as a result of escapes causes great concern for both the fish farmers and their wild fish colleagues because of the significant numbers of farmed fish involved.

I have logged your comments on our Customer Feedback System and please be assured they are duly noted and have been taken on board.

Kind regards,

Claire Jenkins

Tesco Customer Service

Tesco Customer Engagement Centre

Sainsbury's:

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 01 December 2015 08:37
To: 'customer.service@sainsburys.co.uk'
Subject: RE: Your Sainsbury's Case ID: ENQ-28744

Michael,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

You state that: "Here at Sainsbury's we're always striving to tackle the issue of seal interaction on salmon farms and we're confident that there are no other retailers who have more commitment to continually improve exclusion and deterrent methods than us".

But how many seals have actually been killed at salmon farms sourced by Sainsbury's?

M&S claimed in The Herald newspaper in October that no seals have been killed as M&S salmon farms during 2015:

"As is the case with all suppliers in the area, any negative impact on seals occurs only as a last resort. We have invested time and money to avoid this happening, which has led to no seals being harmed on sites that supply M&S, in the last six months." (online via http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13924288.Protests_planned_as_number_of_seals_killed_in_Scots_salmon_farms_rises_by_20_per_cent/)

What is the figure for Sainsbury's?

Thanks,

Don

From: Customer.Service [mailto:customer.service@sainsburys.co.uk]
Sent: 01 December 2015 07:53
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: Your Sainsbury's Case ID: ENQ-28744

Dear Mr Staniford

Thanks for getting in touch about our policies on salmon farming. We're really proud of our approach to this issue, particularly as two of our key corporate values are sourcing with integrity and respect for our environment.

All of our Atlantic salmon is responsibly sourced and is grown on Freedom Food approved sites located on the west coast and islands of Scotland. Our farms use both well tensioned nets and acoustic deterrent devices to deter predatory seals.

We don't use external predator nets on our farms due to issues with reduction of water

exchange which could potentially compromise the welfare of the fish. The nets also have the possibility to cause unintentional harm to some animals such as birds and seals which can become entangled in the mesh.

Here at Sainsbury's we're always striving to tackle the issue of seal interaction on salmon farms and we're confident that there are no other retailers who have more commitment to continually improve exclusion and deterrent methods than us.

Working with various animal welfare groups including the Seal Protection Action Group, the RSPCA (with their Freedom Food label) and the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St Andrews University we've established the Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group (SASWG). With our supplier also being a member of this group we aim to drive through continuous improvements regarding this issue through both innovation and understanding.

We've a long-standing commitment to animal welfare and we share the same concerns as our customers. We'll continue to work hard to protect seals and other animals which come into contact with our farms as well as working with these welfare groups to make sure the farms maintain our high standards.

We're grateful for your feedback.

Kind regards

Michael Bannon | Sainsbury's Careline
Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd | 33 Holborn, London | EC1N 2HT
customer.service@sainsburys.co.uk | 0800 636 262
twitter.com/sainsburys | facebook.com/sainsburys

Aldi:

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 30 November 2015 22:00
To: 'customer.service@aldi.co.uk'
Cc: 'csadmin@aldi.co.uk'
Subject: RE: [Aldi Corporate Responsibility Ref: #1169424#]

So you condone the killing of seals?

From: customer.service@aldi.co.uk [mailto:customer.service@aldi.co.uk]
Sent: 30 November 2015 16:40
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Cc: csadmin@aldi.co.uk
Subject: [Aldi Corporate Responsibility Ref: #1169424#]

Dear Mr Staniforth

We source our supplies in line with our animal welfare policy.

I have attached a link to our corporate responsibility website for your consideration.

<https://corporate.aldi.co.uk/en/responsibility/corporate-responsibility/>

Thank you again for contact Aldi Customer service.

Yours sincerely
Steve Lapham
Aldi Customer Services
UK 0800 042 0800
customer.service@aldi.co.uk
www.aldi.co.uk

Ireland 1800 991 828
customer.service@aldi.ie
www.aldi.ie
From: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Sent: 30/11/2015 15:58:16
To: customer.service@aldi.co.uk
Subject: RE: [Aldi Corporate Responsibility Ref: #1169424#]

Steve,

Thanks - does Aldi source from salmon farms which kill seals?

Don

From: customer.service@aldi.co.uk [<mailto:customer.service@aldi.co.uk>]
Sent: 30 November 2015 15:48
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Cc: Cadmin@aldi.co.uk
Subject: [Aldi Corporate Responsibility Ref: #1169424#]

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your email request regarding the seal cease fire at salmon farms. I have passed your request onto the relevant department.

Aldi is committed to animal welfare. We do not accept animal testing for any of our products other than where legally required. It is our policy never to commission animal testing or to knowingly allow it to be undertaken on our behalf. We introduced our ban on animal testing

of products and ingredients in 1992 for cosmetic products and in 2005 for detergents and cleaning products, ahead of legislation and before many of our competitors.

We also sell free range whole chicken and free range chicken breast fillets.

100% of our eggs carry the British Lion Stamp and are sourced exclusively in the UK.

We have introduced Freedom Food free range eggs to our range. The Freedom Food logo will appear on all certified free range packs of eggs, providing customers with a higher welfare option.

We are committed to ensuring that the animals used in our products are reared to relevant industry standards covering animal welfare. The majority of our meats are sourced in the UK and comply with Red Tractor Assurance Standards. The Red Tractor logo is an independent mark that guarantees the food comes from farms and food companies that meet animal welfare, food safety and environmental protection standards.

Yours sincerely

Steve Lapham

Aldi Customer Services
UK 0800 042 0800
customer.service@aldi.co.uk
www.aldi.co.uk

Ireland 1800 991 828
customer.service@aldi.ie
www.aldi.ie

For more information please see GAAIA's "[The Killing Farms](#)"