

Scottish Salmon Watch, 4 September 2018

**Secret Filming Reveals Shocking Images of Unhealthy Scottish Salmon  
- Diseases & Deformities Captured on Camera  
- 'Cleaner Fish' Infested with Lice Parasites**





Watch video footage from salmon farms in Loch Fyne and the Isle of Mull [online here](#)

Download high resolution photos [online here](#)

**Contact:**

Don Staniford (Director of Scottish Salmon Watch): 07771 541826 ([dstaniford@gaaia.org](mailto:dstaniford@gaaia.org))

Scottish Salmon Watch has [obtained video footage shot inside three salmon farms](#) operated by The Scottish Salmon Company and Scottish Sea Farms on the West coast of Scotland (Quarry Point in Loch Fyne; Dalnaha in Loch Spelve and Scallastle Bay in the Sound of Mull - all believed to be [certified as welfare-friendly via RSPCA Assured](#)) during July and August 2018 (further footage shot inside another three salmon farms on 1 & 2 September is coming soon [online here](#)). The footage reveals disease and welfare problems including deformities, lice infestation of both farmed salmon and 'cleaner fish' and shoals of wild fish swimming inside salmon cages [1].



Read more via [Scientific Backgrounder: "Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms: Diseases, Deformities & Wild Fish Interactions"](#) (September 2018)

The lice-infested farmed salmon from Scottish Sea Farms' Loch Spelve site on the Isle of Mull in August was sold exclusively via Marks & Spencer's [fake Lochmuir brand](#).



Stomach-churning video footage shot on 1 September 2018 [shows maggot-infested farmed salmon in a mort bin](#) at Scottish Sea Farms' site at Tanera in the Summer Isles [2] and [reveals mort stinking out](#) The Scottish Salmon Company's site at Strondoir Bay in Loch Fyne [3].



Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#), said: "These gruesome images blow out of the water the industry's marketing claims that Scottish salmon is healthy and welfare-friendly. Scottish Salmon Watch calls on the Scottish Government to increase monitoring of salmon farms including video surveillance inside the cages. Scotland's factory fish farms are clearly guilty of systematic and ongoing welfare abuse. If consumers care anything at all about welfare, the environment or their own health they should boycott Scottish salmon."

Dr Krzysztof Wojtas, Head of Fish Policy at [Compassion in World Farming](#), said: "This distressing footage of sick, injured and deformed salmon shows just how urgent it is that the salmon industry addresses these serious health and welfare issues which are leading to very high death rates. Fish are sentient beings that feel pain and other emotions – these salmon are suffering. Plans for the expansion of the industry should be put on hold."

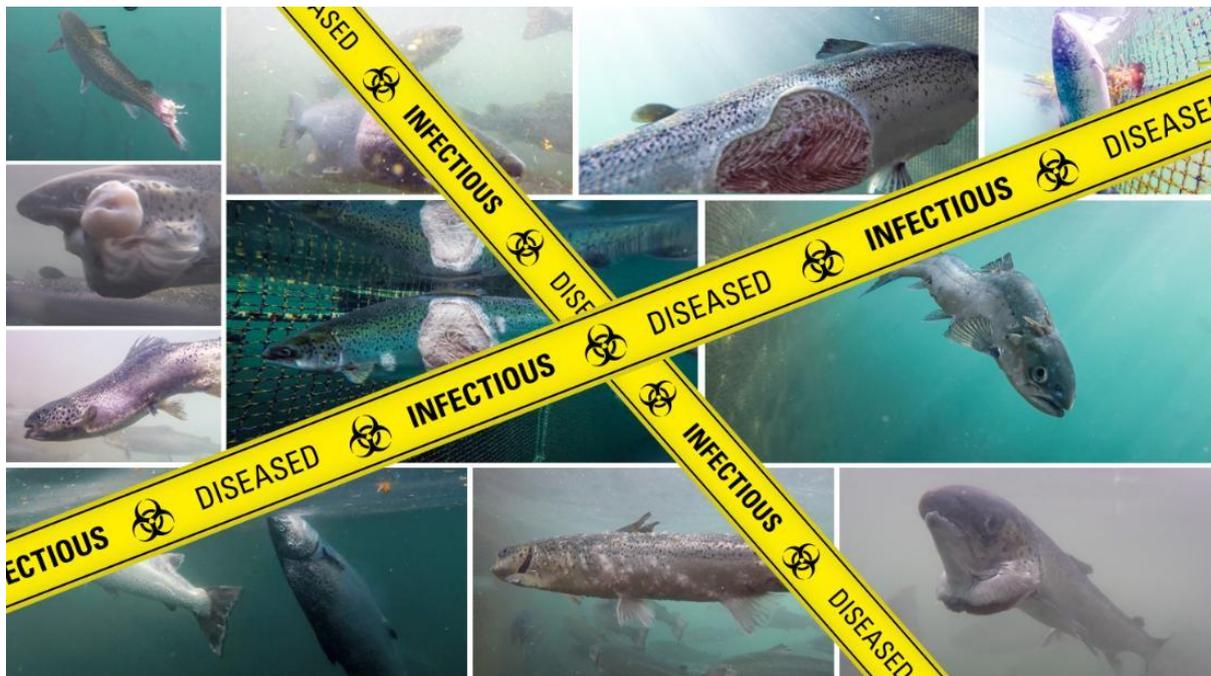
John Robins, Secretary of [Animal Concern](#), said: "These horrific images clearly show that the welfare of both the salmon and the cleaner fish has been severely compromised. If a chicken farm was infested with fleas or a pig farm overrun with rats, action would be taken. Because these are fish and their suffering and deaths are taking place underwater in remote places no-one seems to give a damn. The Animal and Plant Health Authority, local council animal welfare officers and Police Scotland should all be investigating these farms with a view to prosecuting them under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act of 2006. Instead of promoting a massive expansion of intensive salmon farming the Scottish Government should ban any increase in the number or size of these farms. I urge consumers to view the evidence and decide for themselves if they want to buy fish from filthy floating factory farms."

Anna Liberadzki, [Campaigner at SumOfUs](#), said: "This shocking footage provides yet more evidence that Scotland's commercial salmon farming operations aren't fit for purpose. What's more, the appalling conditions in these farms and processing plants are also putting wild fish at risk of disease and infestations like sea lice. Over 43,000 people have [signed our petition](#) calling for routine wastewater testing on Scotland's salmon farms – it's time for the Scottish government to stop ignoring those calls and take urgent action."

Lynn Schweisfurth of [The Scottish Salmon Think Tank](#) said: "These images are deeply disturbing and confirm the concerns campaigners have been raising for years. This industry is living a lie and consumers will be appalled and angry to discover how Scottish salmon is being produced with so little care for the wellbeing of the fish themselves. The Scottish government should be very worried about mainly Norwegian corporations hijacking and debasing [Brand Scotland](#) and our precious environment."

Mimi Bekhechi, Director of International Programmes at [PETA UK](#) said: "Whether on land or in water, animals raised for their flesh suffer horribly – and needlessly. Fish farming is devastating to fish and the environment, and the best way for individuals to help these animals is simply to stop eating them. Salmon and other fish [are smart](#) and [most certainly feel pain](#). Scientists who study pain are in agreement that fish's pain-response systems are basically identical to those of mammals and birds."

Together with [shocking video footage shot inside a salmon farm in Loch Roag](#) (published by [The Ferret yesterday](#)), this is the first time hard evidence inside salmon farms in Scotland has been captured and follows video footage broadcast in Canada by [Alexandra Morton](#) and [Sea Shepherd Society](#) (watch a summary via "[Farm salmon health clips](#)").



### Scottish Salmon's Diary of Disaster:

**September 2018** - The Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee is [expected to publish a report](#) as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

**September 2018** - The Ferret [publishes scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon caught on film](#) at a salmon farm in Loch Roag prompting animal cruelty investigations.

**September 2018** - Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [show graphic video evidence](#) of wild salmon "smothered with many hundreds of sea lice" near salmon farms on the Isle of Lewis.

**August 2018** - A report - "[Fish Welfare on Scotland's Salmon Farms](#)" - published by OneKind exposed a number of [welfare breaches](#) including mass mortality, sea lice infestations, disease and escapes.

**August 2018** - Mortality data [published by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation](#) revealed shocking levels of mortalities [due to gill health, diseases and anaemia](#) with a jaw-dropping [58% mortality rate reported at the Scottish Salmon Company's site at Inch Kenneth](#).

**July 2018** - Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a legal complaint](#) with Police Scotland for breaches of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Cooke Aquaculture, Grieg Seafood and Loch Duart.

**June 2018** - Gruesome photos of deformed, disfigured, damaged and diseased farmed salmon were [published by The Ferret](#) following a [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government](#).

**May 2018** - Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed](#) that salmon farms in Scotland were fast-tracking the harvesting of fish due to infectious diseases, lice infestation and mortalities.

**May 2018** - A [43,000-strong petition by SumOfUs](#) calling for the testing of salmon farming operations for infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses was [delivered to the Scottish Government](#).

**March 2018** - A [dossier of data on lice, diseases and mortalities](#) was submitted to the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

**March 2018** - A [damning report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#) was published by the Scottish Parliament's [Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee](#) who warned of "[irrecoverable damage](#)".

**February 2018** - Data disclosed via FOI [revealed](#) mortality and disease problems at salmon farms operated by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms and The Scottish Salmon Company.

**January 2018** - A [Parliamentary Reply from Fergus Ewing revealed](#) that the mortality rate on Scottish salmon farms was a staggering 26.7% with nearly 13 million dead farmed salmon.

**January 2018** - The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture [filed a complaint with the European Commission](#) regarding a breach of the Animal By-Products Regulations and the failure to properly police the transport of dead farmed salmon.

**December 2017** - The BBC's 'One Show' [broadcast damning footage](#) of leaking haulage trucks disposing of diseased farmed salmon on '[The Dead Salmon Run](#)'.

**November 2017** - The Sunday Herald [revealed](#) that the tonnages of dead farmed salmon that had to be disposed of has more than doubled from 10,599 tonnes in 2013 to a record high of 22,479 in 2016 (the Herald [revealed](#) in March 2018 that over 25,000 tonnes died in 2017).

**July 2017** - [Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland estimated](#) that 20 million farmed salmon die each year on salmon farms despite ca. 70% of the salmon farming industry being certified as RSPCA Assured.

### **Media Backgrounder:**

Yesterday (3 September), The Ferret [published shocking video evidence](#) of scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon from a farm operated by the Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Roag on the Isle of Lewis. Watch the video footage via "[Unhealthy salmon on a Scottish fish farm](#)".



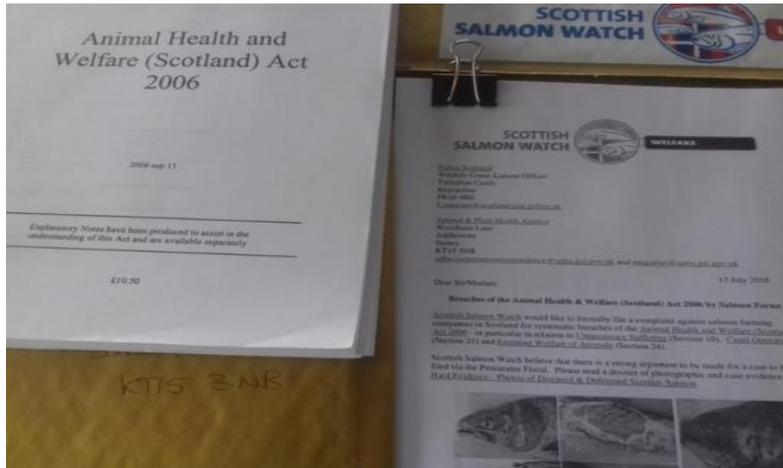
Read more via "[Sick salmon at Scottish fish farm revealed on film](#)"

Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland (3 September) [published underwater video and photos](#) showing graphic evidence of wild salmon covered in parasites. Watch online via "[Wild salmon infested with lice in Scottish river](#)".



Read more via "[Wild Adult Salmon Run Decimated By Sea Lice](#)"

In July, Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a legal complaint with Police Scotland and the Animal & Plant Health Agency](#) against salmon farming companies for systematic breaches of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.



In August 2018, Scottish Salmon Watch submitted further evidence to Police Scotland, Marine Scotland's Fish Health Inspectorate and the Animal & Plant Health Agency in relation to lice-infestation and disease issues at two salmon farms operated by Scottish Sea Farms on the Isle of Mull (Loch Spelve and Scallastle Bay). In a letter dated 16 August 2018, APHA's Deputy Head of Executive Support and Correspondence Management stated:

It is APHA policy not to publically disclose details of individual investigations as they progress or to confirm/deny that any particular investigation is ongoing. However I can confirm that the relevant parts of APHA and Marine Scotland are now aware of the new specific allegations about the sites you have identified. Thank you for providing this evidence. We take all reports received seriously and consider these to be an important part of our efforts to monitor and improve the welfare of farmed animals including farmed fish.

In June, Scottish Salmon Watch [obtained damning photographic evidence](#) from the Scottish Government via Freedom of Information (FOI) detailing deformities, lice damage, disease problems and welfare abuse at salmon farms across Scotland ([published exclusively via The Ferret](#)).

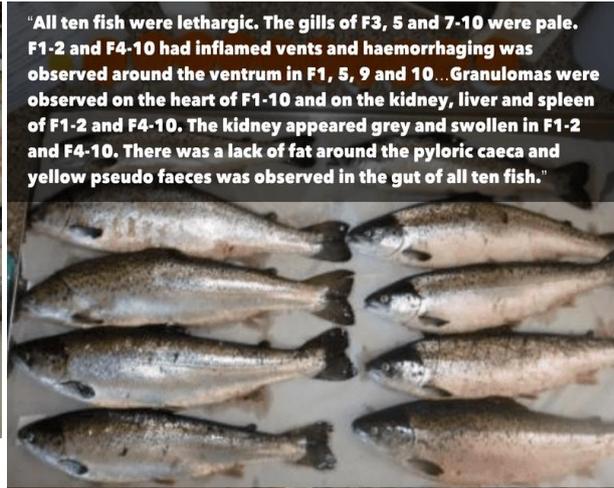
The horrific images reveal severe lice infestation eating into the heads of farmed salmon, deformed spines, lesions, adhesions, deformed hearts, anorexia, petechial haemorrhages, enlarged spleens, diseased gills, cataracts and even salmon with no eyes.





**Fish Farm: Groatay, Sound of Harris**

Company: Marine Harvest  
 Problems: unknown  
 Fish health inspection: unknown (report due July 2018)  
 Case number: 2018-0111



**Fish Farm: Torridon, Loch Torridon**

Company: Marine Harvest  
 Problems: bacterial kidney disease  
 Fish health inspection: 10 fish sampled on 24 May 2016  
 Case number: 2016-0202

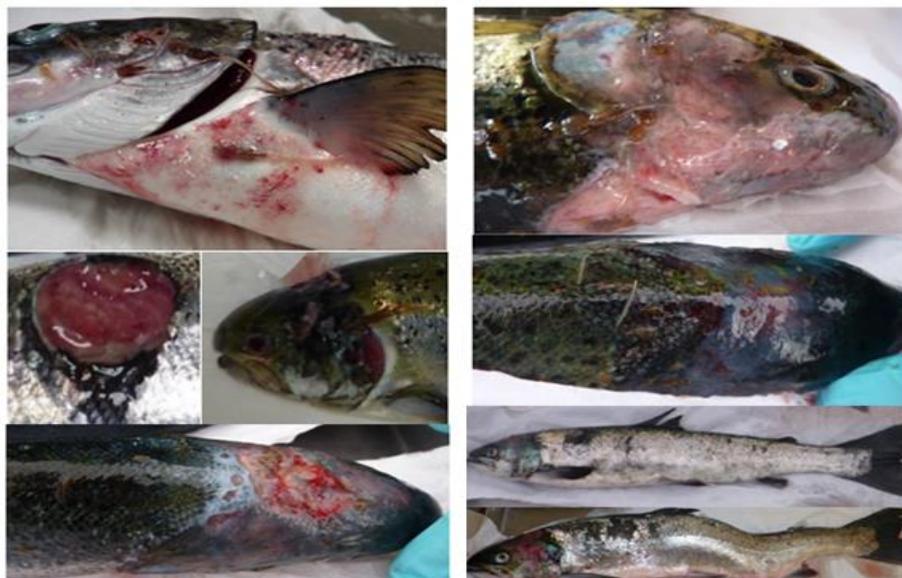


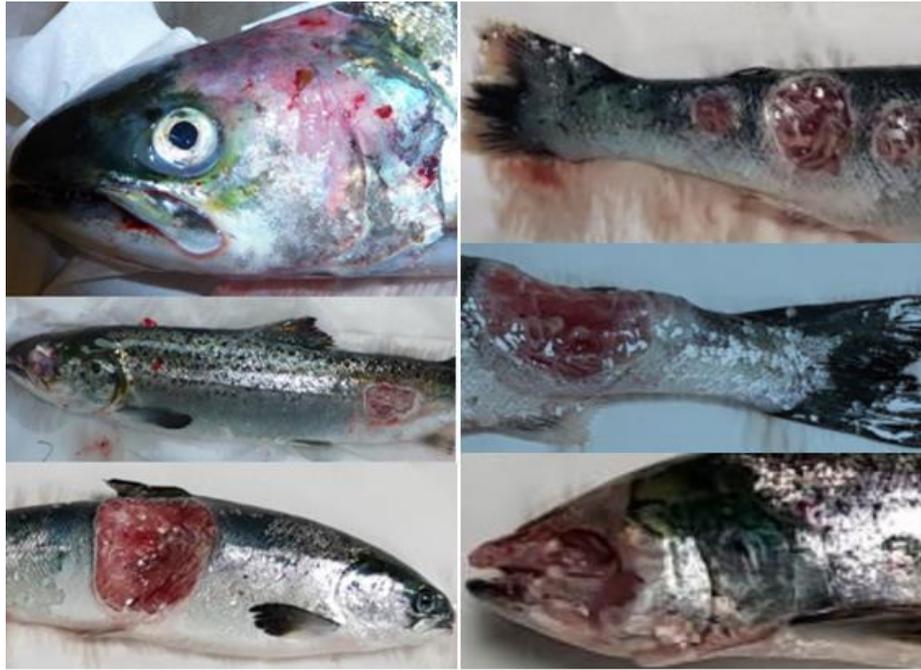
Diseases, viruses, bacteria and pathogens reported alongside the photos include Salmonid Alpha Virus, Bacterial Kidney Disease, Pancreas Disease, Cardiomyopathy Syndrome, Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation, Salmon pox virus, Vibrio, Flavobacterium, Moritella viscosa (Winter ulcer), Amoebic Gill Disease, Neoparamoeba perurans, Paranucleospora theridon (syn. Desmozoon lepeophtherii), Parvicapsula pseudobranchicola, Ichthobodo species, Branchiomonas, Costia, Candidatus Synnamydia salmonis and Pasteurella skyensis.

Read more via:

- [Horror photos of farmed salmon spark legal threat](#)
- [EXPOSED: Gruesome Photos of Deformed & Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)
- [Hard Evidence - Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(June 2018\)](#)

Further damning photographic evidence was supplied by the Scottish Government in August 2018 via FOI - view the photos [online here](#).





Read more via:

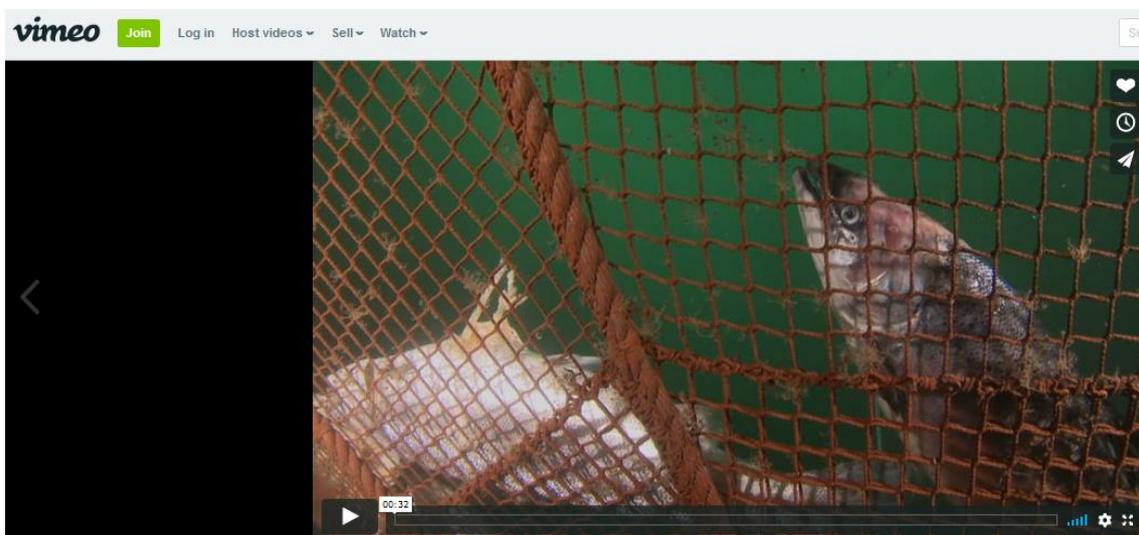
[Hard Evidence: Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(August 2018\)](#)

In August, The Ferret [revealed](#) that the [Scottish Salmon Company](#) and [Scottish Sea Farms](#) deployed lawyers in a bid to prevent Scottish ministers from releasing the photos of diseased and lice-infested farmed salmon under Freedom of Information law. Read more via:

[The Ferret: "Salmon firms bid to block diseased fish photos"](#)

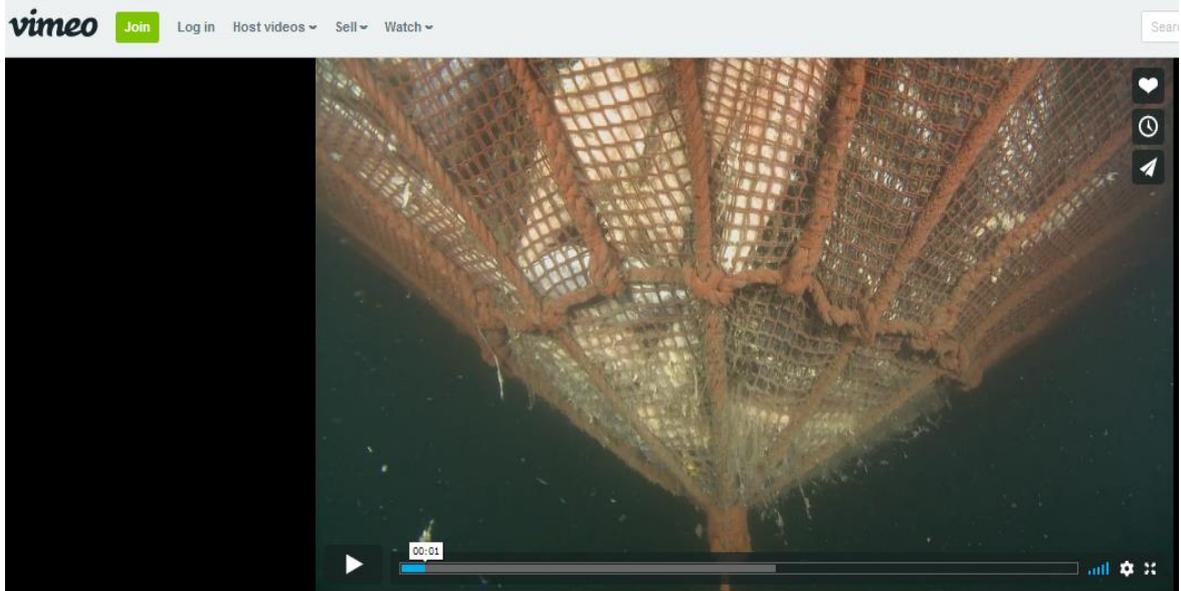
[REVEALED: Legal Threats to Prevent Publication of Damning Photographs](#)

Video footage of dead farmed salmon shot under a salmon farm in Scotland was [published via Vimeo in 2017](#) by diver David Ainsley.



Dead salmon at the bottom of a cage in a salmon farm

More from David Ainsley  
 Autoplay next video



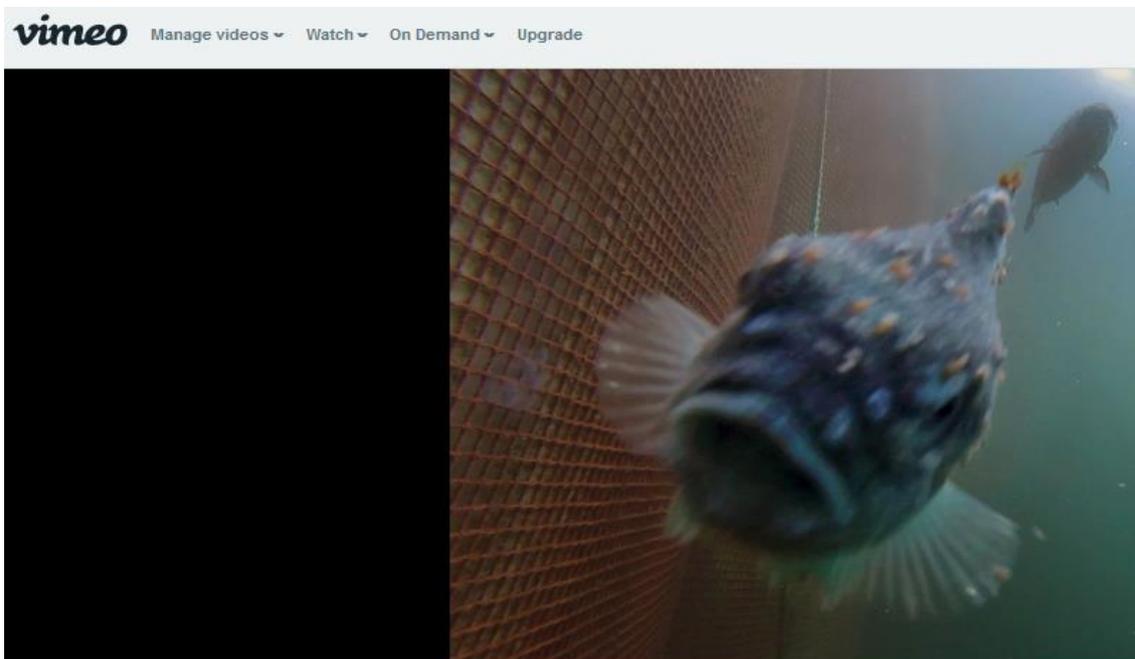
01376001.MOV The bottom of cages in a salmon farm - many dead salmon

More from David Ainsley

Autoplay next video

### Notes to Editors:

[1] Watch via "[Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms - Diseased & Deformed Farmed Salmon](#)"



Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms - Diseased & Deformed Farmed Salmon (& Lice-Infested 'Cleaner Fish')

[2] Watch via "[Mmmmm Maggot-Infested Scottish Salmon](#)"



**Mmmmm Maggot-Infested Scottish Salmon** NOT YET RATED

4 minutes ago | More

 Don Staniford Plus

See all video stats  
Only visible to you

My videos  
 Autoplay next video

[3] Watch via "[The Stench of Scottish Salmon](#)"



**The Stench of Scottish Salmon** NOT YET RATED

38 minutes ago | More

 Don Staniford Plus

See all video stats  
Only visible to you

My videos

Read more on mass mortalities and infectious diseases in Scottish salmon via:

[Hard Evidence: Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(August 2018\)](#)

[EXPOSED: Gruesome Photos of Deformed & Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

[Hard Evidence - Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(June 2018\)](#)

[Hard-Evidence: Fast-Tracking Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon](#)

[Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)