

Scottish Salmon Watch, 13 June 2019

[Frankenfish Video: The Ugly Face of Lousy Scottish Salmon](#)

- Secret filming reveals horrific lice & disease damage at Loch Shildaig salmon farm
- Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit urged to investigate welfare abuse
- Campaigners demand immediate slaughter, closure & prosecution



Campaigners are calling for the immediate closure and prosecution of a salmon farm following secret filming on Saturday (8 June). [Video footage](#) obtained by Scottish Salmon Watch exposes horrific welfare abuse and disease damage at the Aird Ardherslaig salmon farm in Loch Shildaig (an offshoot of Loch Torridon) on the West coast of Scotland.



[Scottish Salmon Watch](#) has written to Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate calling for urgent action to end welfare abuse at the [The Scottish Salmon Company](#) (a [member of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation](#)).

"Scottish Salmon Watch believes that the farmed salmon should be immediately slaughtered in order to put an end to their misery," wrote Don Staniford in a [letter of complaint dated 11 June](#). "We also believe there is sufficient evidence to launch a prosecution against The Scottish Salmon Company for negligence and neglect. Scottish Salmon Watch believes that video footage captured via a Go Pro camera inserted directly inside three of the cages

provides graphic evidence of breaches of the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) - in particular in relation to [Unnecessary Suffering](#) (Section 19), [Cruel Operations](#) (Section 21) and [Ensuring Welfare of Animals](#) (Section 24). Scottish Salmon Watch calls on Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate to conduct an unannounced site inspection this week to gauge the level of suffering and judge for yourselves the scale of welfare abuse" (an addendum dated 13 June is available [online here](#))

High resolution photos are now [available online via Google Drive](#).

My Drive > Loch Shildaig filming 8 June 2019 ▾

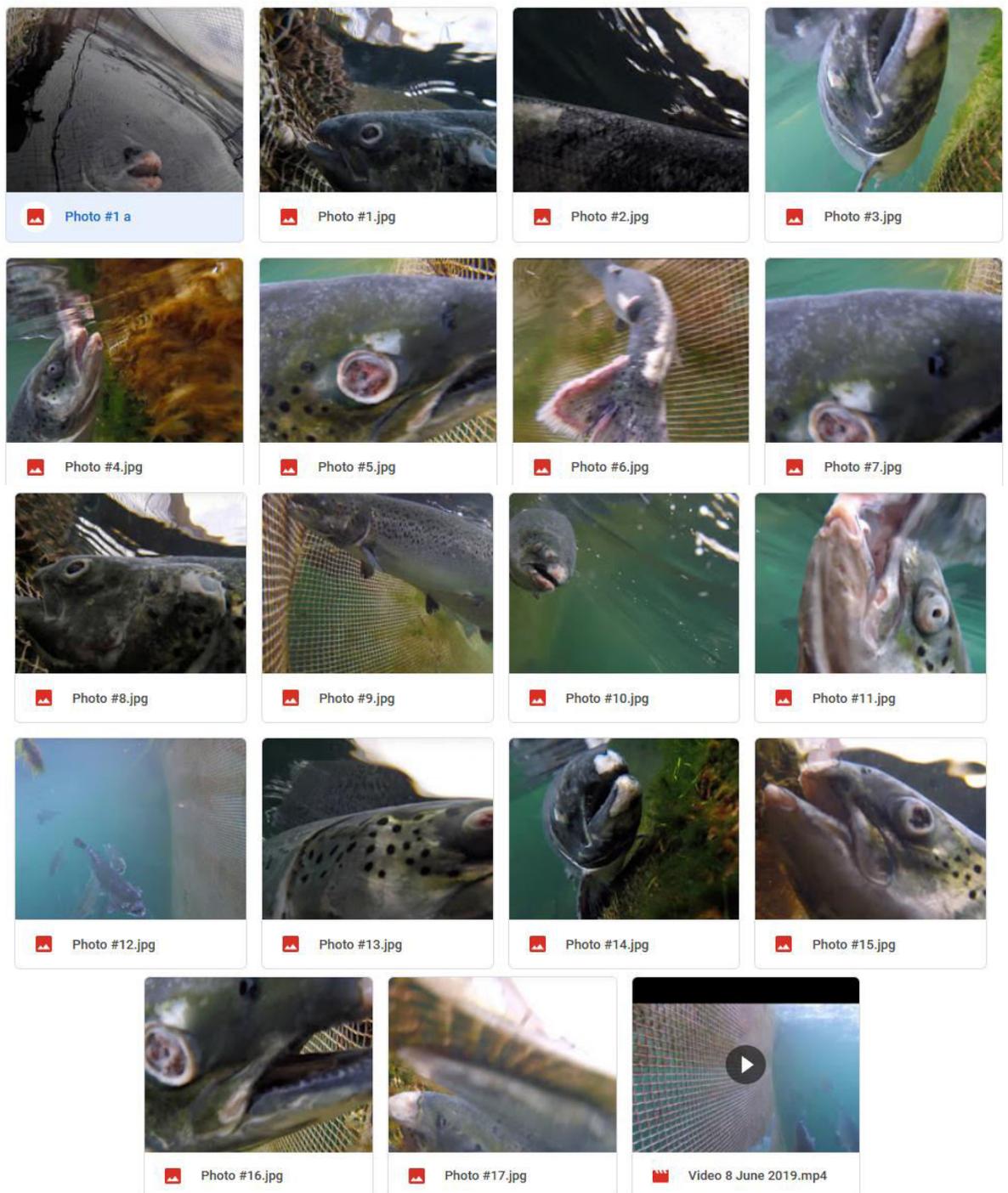


Photo #1 a

Photo #1.jpg

Photo #2.jpg

Photo #3.jpg

Photo #4.jpg

Photo #5.jpg

Photo #6.jpg

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Photo #9.jpg

Photo #10.jpg

Photo #11.jpg

Photo #12.jpg

Photo #13.jpg

Photo #14.jpg

Photo #15.jpg

Photo #16.jpg

Photo #17.jpg

Video 8 June 2019.mp4

A shorter video clip is [available online via The Ferret](#):



Brian Wilson, environmentalist and kayaker (Author of [Blazing Paddles: a Scottish Coastal Odyssey](#)), said:

"In over 30 years of visiting salmon farms by kayak I've never seen anything so disheartening: listless, distressed and dying fish, without even the energy to leap. This is not aquaculture, this is Auschwitz for Scottish salmon!"



John Robins, Secretary of [Animal Concern](#), said:

"The shocking suffering of these salmon is totally unacceptable. The Scottish Government must take a great deal of the blame. For decades Government has pandered to the industry instead of policing it. Officials have gone to extraordinary lengths to help salmon farmers hide the sick reality of their filthy floating factory farms. I want these fish humanely killed within 24 hours and the owners prosecuted for cruelty and neglect under the [2006 Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act](#)."



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. Over 33,000 consumers have [signed our petition](#) calling for urgent action to improve fish welfare on Scotland's salmon farms – it's time for the Scottish government to stop ignoring those calls and act now."



Philip Lymbery, CEO of [Compassion in World Farming](#) and author of [Farmageddon: The True Cost of Cheap Meat](#), said:

"I've been working on fish welfare issues for thirty years now and, looking at these photos, I am shocked anew. It reinforces my view that industrial salmon rearing is little more than factory farming at sea. Confined in vast numbers, these natural ocean wanderers have little choice but to swirl in inane circles liked caged tigers, all too often becoming diseased, riddled with parasites and wearing themselves sore in the process. It is beyond time for urgent action to stop this animal welfare tragedy unfolding along Scotland's otherwise quiet and picturesque coastline."

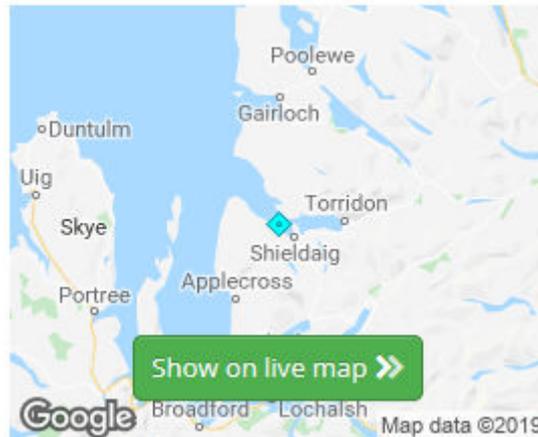


Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#) said:

"These [photos and video footage](#) show the ugly face of Scottish salmon. Cramming the 'King of Fish' in lice infested and disease-ridden cages is a welfare nightmare straight out of a Frankenfish horror story. Disease-ridden Scottish salmon belong in the bin not the shopping basket. Consumers should avoid 'healthy' Scottish salmon like the plague."



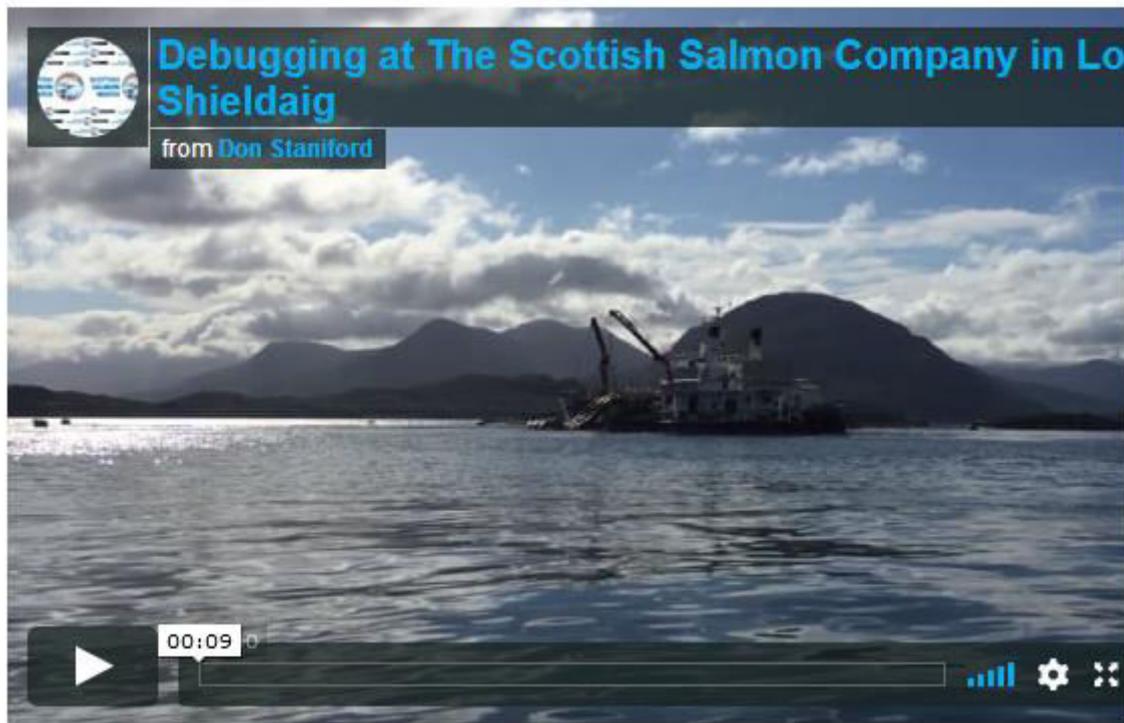
A [de-lousing boat \(the Artic Sea Service\)](#) arrived at the salmon farm in Loch Shieldaig on Monday (10 June).



According to [Salmon Business in May 2019](#) the boat's "upgraded flushing system provides very good fish welfare and efficient removal of salmon lice".



Here's [video footage](#) shot yesterday (12 June):



Last night (12 June), two more boats (the [Volt Processor](#) and the [Naomi Jennifer](#)) arrived on the site.

The [Volt Processor](#) is a "boat designed specifically to accommodate delousing machinery" and is "equipped with two Optilice 4 XL delousers".

**MarineTraffic** Live Map Explore Community Pricing Vessel, Port, etc.

### VOLT PROCESSOR

Utility Vessel

Create notifications for this Vessel Fleet controls: Add to Fleet Suggest updated values

IMO: <b>9826940</b>	Gross Tonnage: <b>494</b>
MMSI: <b>257039730</b>	Deadweight: <b>460 t</b>
Call Sign: <b>LFAD</b>	Length Overall x Breadth Extreme: <b>43m x 12m</b>
Flag: <b>Norway [NO]</b>	Year Built: <b>2018</b>
AIS Vessel Type: <b>Cargo</b>	Status: <b>Active</b>

#### Voyage Info

For full access Try Voyage Data

GB ULL LOCH TORRIDON  
ATD: 2019-06-11 23:57 LT (UTC +1) ETA: 2019-06-12 06:00 LT (UTC) ⓘ

Past Track Route Forecast

© RIA MAAT MarineTraffic.com

The Volt Processor may also be equipped with a 'vacuum cleaner' for lice. Fish Farming Expert [reported in April 2019](#):

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Sea lice 'vacuum cleaner' going on sale in Scotland

## Sea lice 'vacuum cleaner' going on sale in Scotland



This morning (13 June) seven boats - including two delousers - were photographed at the salmon farm cleaning the lice-ridden fish and presumably clearing out dead farmed salmon (known in the industry as 'morts').



In spite of increasing disease and welfare problems, The Scottish Salmon Company is controversially seeking to expand production at their salmon farm at [Aird Ardheslaig in Loch Shieldaig \(NG78945605\)](#). Highland Council has [received objections](#) from National Trust for Scotland, Keltic Seafare, Shieldaig Community Council and Torridon Sailing Tours [1].

Dr Richard Luxmore (Senior Nature Conservation Adviser for National Trust for Scotland) [wrote in objection in May 2019](#):

The farm has been operating at this site for over 20 years. The application will result in an increase in biomass of approximately 43% and an extension to the immediate footprint of the cages. The farm already has an extremely bad environmental record<sup>1</sup> and the increase in biomass will inevitably make this worse. It has failed 5 out of the most recent 10 benthic environmental monitoring reports with a sixth recorded as “borderline”. Mortalities have been very high, reaching nearly 400 tonnes in 2017. Mortalities were lower in 2018, but this represents the lower part of the two-year production cycle and can be expected to rise in 2019.

<sup>1</sup> Data from Scotland’s Aquaculture [www.aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk)

**Contact:**

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



Watch Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#), explain the vital importance of bio-security and disinfection before and after filming at salmon farms:



For more videos see [online here](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch has more details online via [Diseases](#), [Chemicals](#) & [Welfare](#)

Watch videos of disease-ridden mortalities at The Scottish Salmon Company's salmon farm at [Quarry Point in Loch Fyne](#):



And at The Scottish Salmon Company's salmon farm at [Strondoir Bay in Loch Fyne](#):



Read more on diseases and mortalities at The Scottish Salmon Company via "[Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon](#)"

Read more on murky ownership of The Scottish Salmon Company via '[Scottish Scamon](#)' (full report [online here](#))

More details via "[Media Backgrounder: The Scottish Scamon Company](#)" (13 June 2019)

## Notes to Editors:

[1] In spite of increasing disease and welfare problems, The Scottish Salmon Company is controversially seeking to expand production at their salmon farm at [Aird Ardheslaig in Loch Shieldaig \(NG78945605\)](#). Highland Council has [received objections](#) from National Trust for Scotland, Keltic Seafare, Shieldaig Community Council and Torridon Sailing Tours:

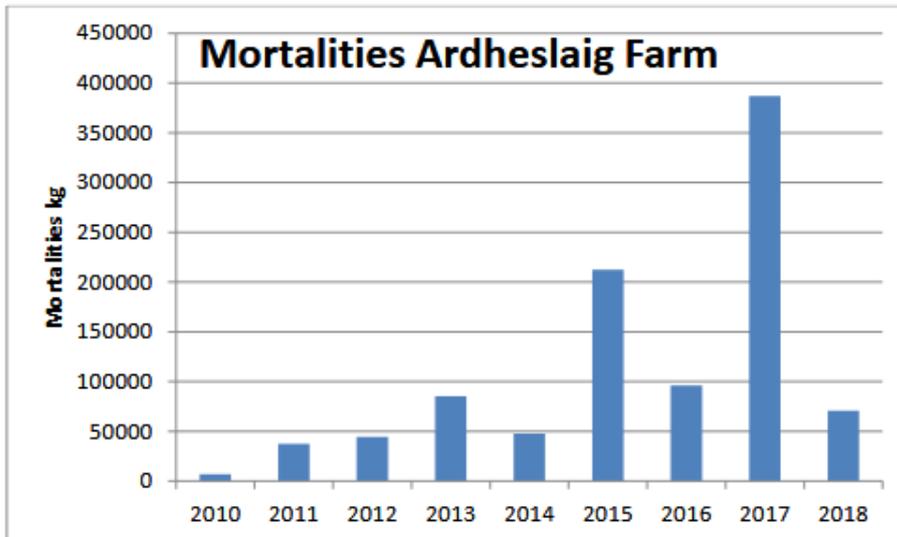
<input type="checkbox"/>	09 May 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Dr Richard Luxmoore	
<input type="checkbox"/>	08 May 2019	CORRESPONDENCE		Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Keltic Seafare	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Dr Robin Drysdale	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Shieldaig Community Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Torridon Sailing Tours	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Heather Drysdale	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Gordon Drysdale	
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Apr 2019	Consultee Comment		MARINE SCOTLAND	
<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Shieldaig Community Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Apr 2019	Consultee Comment		TRANSPORT SCOTLAND	
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Apr 2019	OBJECTION COMMENT		Celtman! c/o Paul McGreal	

Dr Richard Luxmore (Senior Nature Conservation Adviser for National Trust for Scotland) [wrote in objection in May 2019](#):

The farm has been operating at this site for over 20 years. The application will result in an increase in biomass of approximately 43% and an extension to the immediate footprint of the cages. The farm already has an extremely bad environmental record<sup>1</sup> and the increase in biomass will inevitably make this worse. It has failed 5 out of the most recent 10 benthic environmental monitoring reports with a sixth recorded as “borderline”. Mortalities have been very high, reaching nearly 400 tonnes in 2017. Mortalities were lower in 2018, but this represents the lower part of the two-year production cycle and can be expected to rise in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Data from Scotland’s Aquaculture [www.aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk)



The high level of mortalities indicates a failure to manage disease effectively and is of great concern in the context of the proposal to increase biomass. In common with most animal husbandry, disease management is more difficult at higher stocking levels and an increase in farm size will exacerbate this problem.

Monitoring of chemical pollutants in the sediment around the existing farm has shown that the neurotoxin Emamectin Benzoate exceeded the level now considered by SEPA to be safe<sup>2</sup> by a very wide margin in May 2017. The chemical has recently been shown to be damaging to wild crustaceans over wide areas<sup>3</sup>, including Nephrops, which is the basis of an economically important fishing industry in Loch Torridon.

The farm has also experienced heavy losses in the form of escapes, amounting to 50,000 fish in one year. Escaped salmon pose a risk to wild salmon populations as they can enter rivers and interbreed with wild fish. Farmed salmon are of different genetic origin (mostly Norwegian) to local salmon in the West Highlands which have been shown to be genetically adapted to local conditions. The resulting interbreeding results in genetic introgression, producing fish that are less able to survive in the wild.

The National Trust for Scotland is major riparian landowner on the Torridon River and other rivers in the vicinity (Amhainn Alligin, Amhainn Coire Mhic Nobuil) and is concerned about the loss of both salmon and sea trout from these rivers in recent years.

<sup>2</sup> SEPA Position Statement to support the implementation of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Fish farm survey report evaluation of a new seabed monitoring approach to investigate the impacts of marine cage fish farms, SEPA 2018

Shieldaig Community Council [wrote in objection in April 2019](#):

ePlanning Centre  
Highland Council Headquarters  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

30th April 2019

Dear Planning Team

**IV54 Loch Shieldaig Ardheslaig North Aird - PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 19/01413/FUL PROPOSAL: Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic salmon: new site consisting of 4 x 100m circumference circular cages**

**Please see the attached document and its appendices which sets out our objections to the above planning application.**

We are **strongly** objecting to the application because: (A) many aspects of the case advanced by Scottish Salmon Company in support of its application are either disingenuous or incorrect (as detailed in the attached document) and (B) no further expansion of fish farms should take place inside Loch Torridon until proper environmental controls are in place **and** enforced by the regulatory bodies.

We trust that proper weight will be attached to this Community's views, and we intend to share our views with local politicians and interested third parties to ensure that this is the case.

Yours faithfully



**Shieldaig Community Council**

Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board's [comments in May 2019](#) included:

Our concerns focus on the impact to wild salmon and sea trout populations within the surrounding area. Our response is based upon current and historic information available describing sea lice infestation on wild fish, including published Marine Scotland Science ('MSS') data.

We disagree with the Environment Impact Assessment Report ('EIA') presented with the application that states, '*Overall, the effects on wild salmonids in Loch Torridon due to the Proposed Development is considered minor and in the context of the EIA Regulations, not significant*'. The Board considers that there will be significant adverse effects on wild fish populations as a result of the Proposed Development.

**The WRASFB objects to this application for the following reasons:**

- 1. Adverse Effects of Sea Lice / Loch Torridon is over capacity for farmed salmon**

Figure 1a (right) shows the reported average adult female lice count for salmon farms in Loch Torridon for the second year of the 2016-2017 production cycle. Note that the reported average number of adult female lice exceeded the CoGP treatment threshold in 7 of the 9 months of 2017.

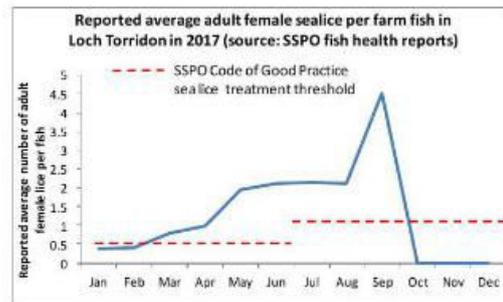
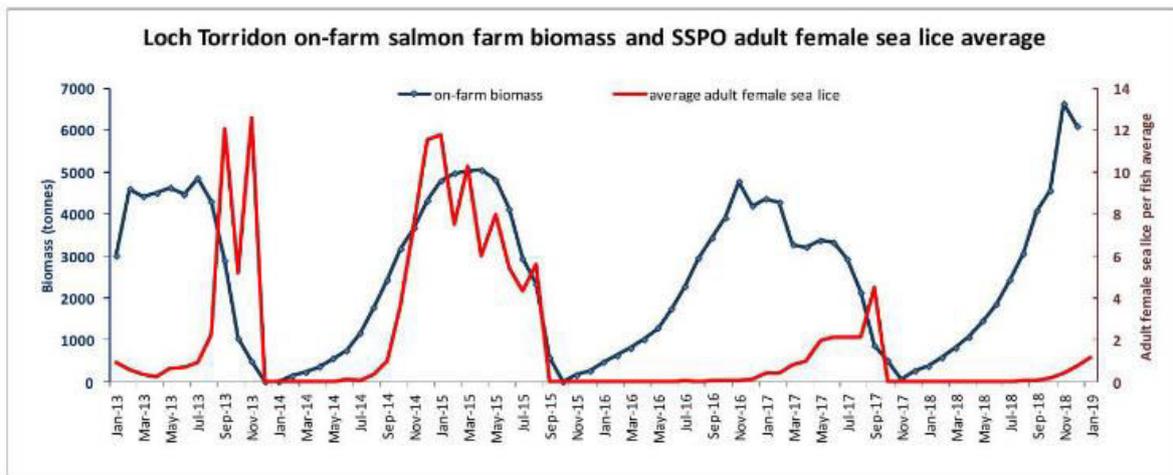


Figure 1b (below) shows that the average adult female lice count was rising faster in January 2019 than 2017; and that at the end of 2018 the actual on-farm salmon biomass (which relates to number of on-farm hosts for female sea lice) was much higher than at the end of 2016.



The latest sea lice and biomass figures indicate that the overall sea louse population in Loch Torridon in the early spring of 2019 was the highest for 4 years, since 2015. These figures are presented in Table 1.

	Salmon farm					Farm salmon biomass	Adult female louse average
	Camus an Eilean	Kenmore	Aird	Sgeir Dughall	Camus an Iain		
consented	250	450	1735	2091	2500	6985	
Jan-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	F
Feb-14	0	0	56	20	58	134	0
Mar-14	0	0	65	78	79	222	0
Apr-14	0	0	106	119	131	356	0
May-14	0	0	172	190	192	554	0.01
Jun-14	0	0	227	275	238	741	0.08
Jul-14	0	0	379	433	349	1161	0.04
Aug-14	0	0	549	655	568	1772	0.32
Sep-14	0	0	713	852	875	2423	0.97
Oct-14	0	0	911	1043	1215	3169	3.66
Nov-14	0	0	955	1184	1531	3672	7.57
Dec-14	0	288	864	1273	1856	4321	11.55
Jan-15	0	311	989	1287	2207	4794	11.75
Feb-15	0	325	1057	1234	2360	4976	7.53
Mar-15	0	343	1124	1293	2257	5017	10.3
Apr-15	0	315	1127	1321	2282	5045	6.02
May-15	0	251	934	1471	2179	4835	7.96
Jun-15	0	244	834	1147	1903	4138	5.43
Jul-15	0	187	864	178	1703	2932	4.32
Aug-15	0	187	864	178	1067	2326	5.62
Sep-15	0	0	0	0	568	568	F
Oct-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	F
Nov-15	0	0	0	0	154	154	F
Dec-15	0	0	0	0	254	254	0
Jan-16	0	17	71	0	381	469	0
Feb-16	0	23	121	0	471	617	0
Mar-16	0	33	180	0	582	795	0
Apr-16	0	45	251	0	708	1006	0
May-16	0	70	348	0	863	1281	0.01

Table 1 Monthly biomass figures and average adult sea louse figures for salmon farms in Loch Torridon since 2015.

Figures are from Scotland's Aquaculture website

<http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx> an SSPO fish health and monthly sea lice reports. <http://scottishsalmon.co.uk/monthly-sea-lice-reports/>

Note that the sea average adult female sea lice count in February 2019 was the highest since 2015. With higher than ever biomass of farmed salmon in the Loch Torridon at the end of 2018 (2019 biomass figures not yet published) it seems probably that the overall springtime sea louse infection pressure in Loch Torridon area in spring of 2019 was at its highest since 2015.

Read the planning documents in full via Highland Council [online here](#)

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## Planning – Application Summary

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19/01413/FUL | Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic salmon: new site consisting of 4 x 100m circumference circular cages | North Aird Ardheslaig Loch Shieldaig

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**Summary** [Further Information](#) [Contacts](#) [Important Dates](#)

Reference	19/01413/FUL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Mon 25 Mar 2019
Application Validated	Mon 25 Mar 2019
Address	North Aird Ardheslaig Loch Shieldaig
Proposal	Marine Fish Farm - Atlantic salmon: new site consisting of 4 x 100m circumference circular cages
Status	Under Consideration