

Scottish Salmon Watch, 13 May 2021

[Secret Filming Exposes RSPCA 'Abused' Scottish Salmon](#)
- Welfare Complaint Filed Against M&S Supplier Scottish Sea Farms



Secret filming at a salmon farm on the Isle of Mull operated by Norwegian giant Scottish Sea Farms has prompted a welfare complaint to the Animal & Plant Health Agency, the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate and Police Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit [1].



The [underwater filming](#) took place on Friday evening (7 May 2021) at the Loch Spelve salmon farm accredited as 'welfare friendly' by RSPCA Assured and understood to supply Marks & Spencer ([M&S source salmon exclusively from Scottish Sea Farms](#)). The head veterinarian at Scottish Sea Farms – with responsibility for the welfare of farmed salmon subject to the complaint – is [chairman of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) [2].

“Rest assured that RSPCA accreditation of Scottish salmon as ‘welfare-friendly’ is a sham, scam and consumer con,” said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). “Video evidence shot last week and last year at RSPCA Assured salmon farms across Scotland exposes endemic welfare abuse, disease problems and mass mortalities. The Chairman of the SSPCA – and head veterinarian at Scottish Sea Farms – should hang his head in shame at the shocking welfare abuse of farmed salmon. M&S should stop sourcing all their ‘Lochmuir’ salmon from Scottish Sea Farms and remove the RSPCA Assured logo from their products. Shoppers should boycott all Scottish salmon. Please don’t be duped by ‘responsibly sourced’, ‘organic’, ASC-certified and RSPCA Assured marketing of factory farmed salmon.”



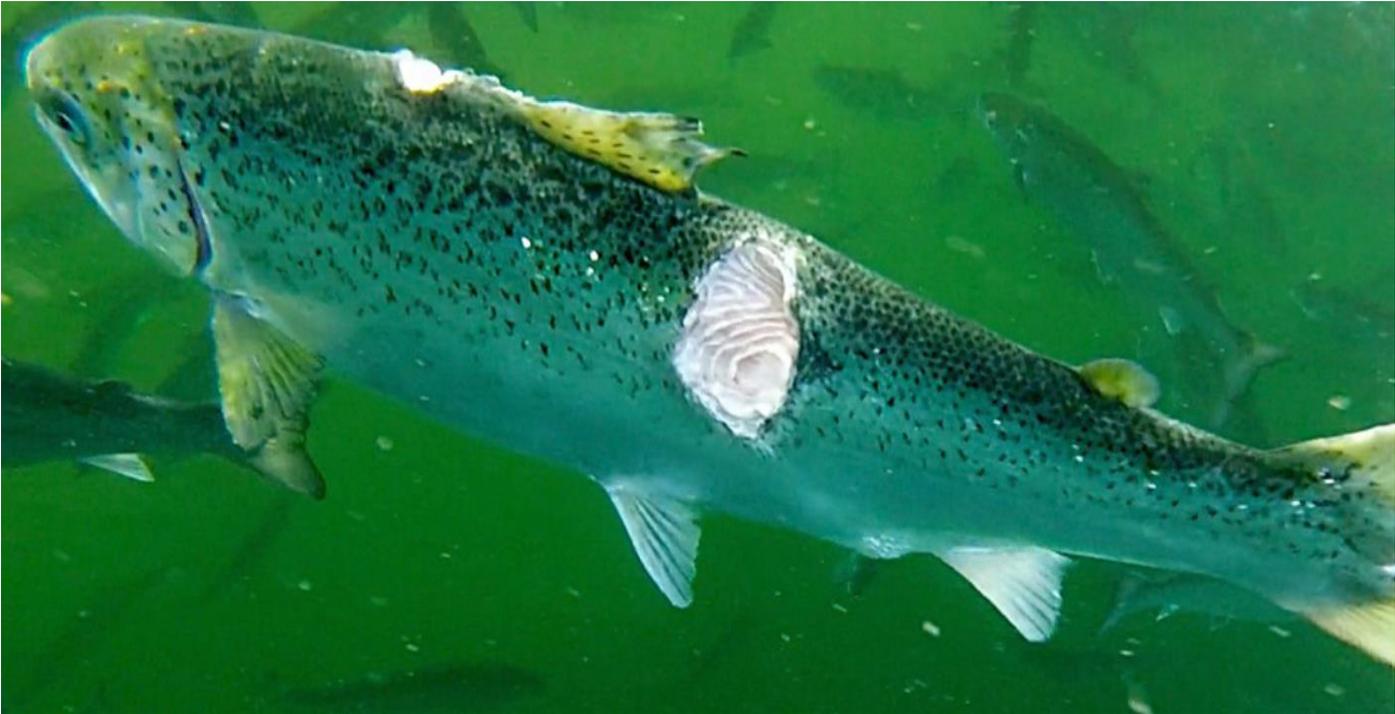
“Watching the video footage is deeply distressing - I cannot see how anyone would want to eat Scottish farmed salmon ever again” said Maggie Brotherston of [Friends of Loch Creran](#). “Similar shocking images were filmed last year in Loch Creran at another RSPCA Assured salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms. When will the regulatory authorities stop compromising fish welfare and start taking action against factory fish farmers? It’s painfully clear from all the recent video evidence that welfare abuse on RSPCA Assured salmon farms is rife across Scotland.”

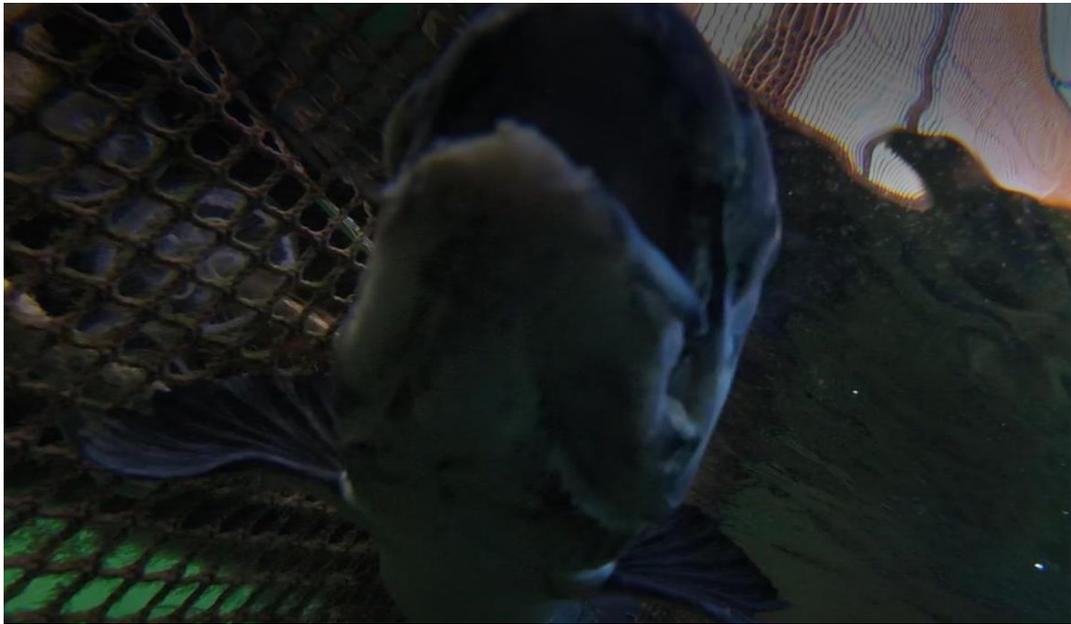


“Surveillance of farms is vital in ground-truthing the wild claims of factory salmon farming,” said Andrew Holder of [Dip in the Blue](#). “If the government departments Marine Scotland and SEPA, the SSPCA and RSPCA won’t inspect salmon farms properly, then it is up to the public to do so. Scottish Sea Farms and M&S are clearly misleading their customers with false claims of ‘responsibly sourced’ salmon. The RSPCA should be ashamed of themselves for allowing their good name to be tarnished for the sake of being paid half a million pounds a year by the salmon farming industry. If you buy Scottish salmon you are condoning welfare abuse.”



Download high resolution photos taken at the RSPCA Assured salmon farm operated by Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) in Loch Spelve on 7 May 2021 [online here](#)





Recent mortality data [posted by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate](#) on 7 May 2021 detailed a 'Mortality Event Report' of 5,155 farmed salmon at Spelve B salmon farm (Dalnaha) operated by Scottish Sea Farms due to "Gill health, post bath treatment (Azamethiphos)" in March 2021. The [Fish Health Inspectorate cited](#) an "intervention review" and that "FHI will monitor".

The Loch Spelve salmon farm [reported the highest monthly mortality \(3%\) of all Scottish Sea Farms sites in March 2021](#).

Monthly Mortality Rate: March 2021



Company	Farm	Monthly mortality (%)	Notes	Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%)
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	Loch Spelve (B)	3.0		In production

In February 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [reported on mass mortalities at the RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Loch Spelve](#). An inspection on 15 November 2019 by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate ([published online on 7 February 2020](#)) revealed that out of 382,344 salmon stocked on the site only 24,000 were harvested with 199,124 culled and 177,588 morts. The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation – of which Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms is a member – [reported 40.6% cumulative mortality at the Loch Spelve salmon farm](#).



Shocking mortalities revealed in Loch Spelve (Isle of Mull) @scotseafarms due to Complex Gill Disease. The site was stocked with 382,344 farmed salmon - 199,124 culled; 177,588 morts & 24,000 harvested tinyurl.com/vfh78s4 40% mortality reported by @SSPOsays in October 2019

Date of visit: 15/11/2019

Main Inspector: [Redacted]

Loch Spelve (B)
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd

Notes: No plankton samples available. Inverluss Mussels week were not responding to feed. Recorded rapid dips in oxygen with 382344 - 199124 culled, 177588 morts and 24000 harvested.

Health Cause: Post physical delousing, CGD
 Environmental - planktonic gill insult, CGD
 Environmental - planktonic gill insult, CGD
 Environmental - planktonic gill insult, CGD

Scottish Salmon PRODUCERS ORGANISATION

survival and mortality data

October 2019

Farm	Monthly mortality (%)	Notes	Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%)
Loch Spelve (B)	3.0 (Farm followed in Oct)	Environmental/Gill health	40.6

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Does the RSPCA still certify Loch Spelve?
[@rspcaassured](#) [@scotseafarms](#) A 6% survival rate is truly shocking - out of 382,344 salmon stocked in the farm only 24,000 were harvested! How can the RSPCA condone such cruelty & suffering? [@RSPCA_Frontline](#) [@RSPCA_official](#) [@RSPCAChris](#)

 **Don Staniford** @TheGAAIA · Feb 10

Shocking mortalities revealed in Loch Spelve (Isle of Mull) [@scotseafarms](#) due to Complex Gill Disease. The site was stocked with 382,344 farmed salmon - 199,124 culled; 177,588 moribund & 24,000 harvested tinyurl.com/vfh78s4 40% mortality reported by [@SSPOsays](#) in October 2019

Date of visit: 15/11/2019

Main Inspector: [REDACTED]

1 Spelve (B)
Sea Farms Ltd

No plankton samples available. Invertebrate Mussels weak were not responding to feed. Recorded rapid dips in locked with 382344 - 199124 culled, 177588 moribund and

Issue Cause: Post physical delousing, CGD
Environmental - planktonic gill insult, CGD

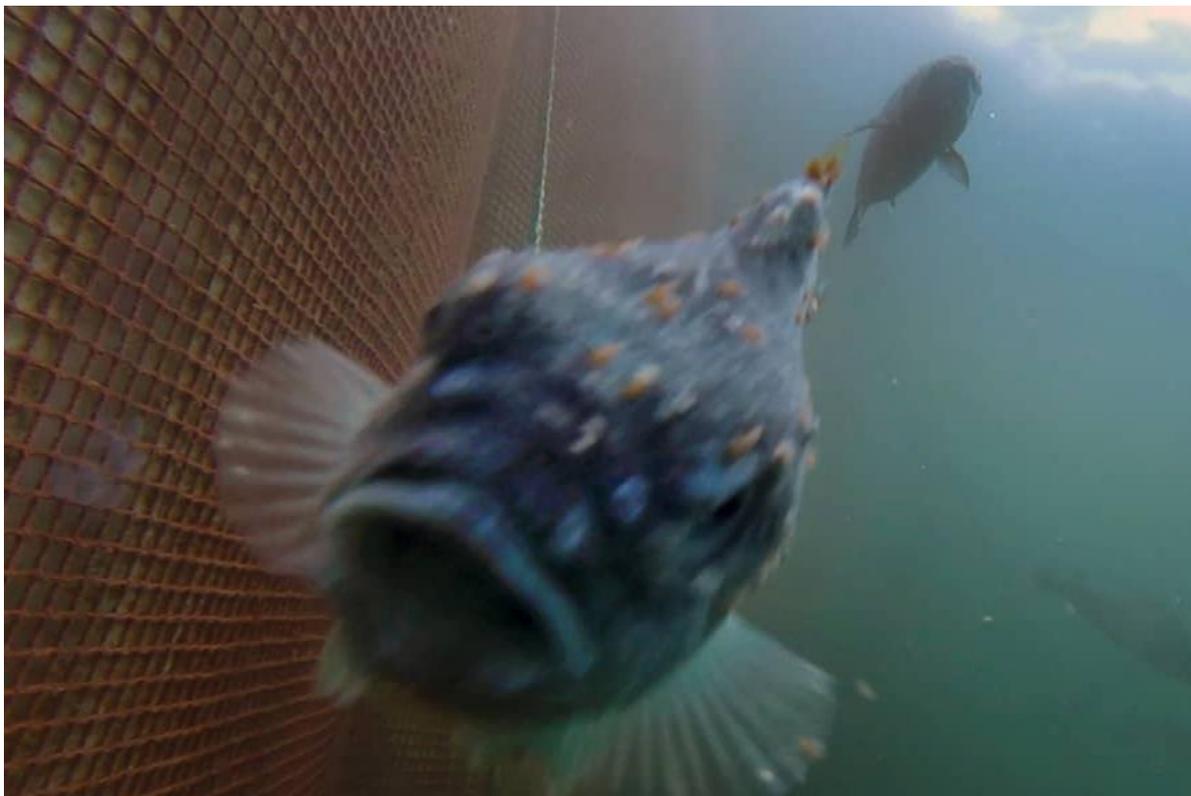
Scottish Salmon 
survival and mortality data

October 2019

Site	Months mortality (%)	Notes	Compliance on overall profile (0-100%)
Loch Spelve (B)	87.2 (post physical delousing)	Environmental/Gill insult	45

6:40 PM · Feb 12, 2020 · Twitter Web App

In August 2018, Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a welfare complaint following video evidence of lice-infested of cleaner fish and farmed salmon at the Loch Spelve salmon farm at Dalnaha.](#)



Scottish Salmon Watch filed a welfare complaint in June 2019 following secret filming at The Scottish Salmon Company's Aird salmon farm in Loch Sheildaig.



Another welfare complaint filed by Scottish Salmon Watch in July 2019 [showed welfare abuse inside Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' salmon farm leading to a letter from APHA reprimanding Mowi for "failure to comply with welfare legislation"](#).



Last year, [The Sunday Times revealed](#) that the RSPCA earns over half a million pounds a year from the salmon farming industry via the certification of [RSPCA Assured farmed salmon](#). Earlier this year, [George Monbiot lambasted the RSPCA as the “worst of all”](#).

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

As RSPCA 'VIPs' you have the power to stop suffering on salmon farms in Scotland - please tell the RSPCA executive to end certification of Scottish salmon!
[@rspcaassured](#) tinyurl.com/wn5g3p6 [@ChrisGPackham](#)
[@brianblessed](#) [@BillOddie](#) [@DrBrianMay](#) [@PeterEgan6](#)
[@CarolineLucas](#) #RSPCA



 RSPCA (England & Wales) and 8 others

7:22 AM · Feb 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Surely the RSPCA should send inspectors into salmon farms to stop suffering & cruelty rather than receive £££££s via certification? [@rspcaassured](#)
[@RSPCA_Amy](#) [@RSPCA_official](#) [@RachRSPCA](#)
[@RSPCA_LabAnimal](#) [@RSPCAChris](#) [@WainwrightChris](#)
[@CarolineLDNvet](#) tinyurl.com/wn5g3p6 #RSPCA



9:28 AM · Feb 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App

‘Operation Scottish Scamon’ will spearhead further surveillance at salmon farms across Scotland during 2021. Last month, Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) raising serious concerns about the quality and quantity of salmon farm ‘inspections’ including evidence of prior knowledge of welfare inspections by the Animal & Plant Health Agency.

Prior to filming at salmon farms, Scottish Salmon Watch [followed a rigorous safety and bio-security protocol advised by the Scottish Government](#).



Scottish Salmon Watch also conducted a safety assessment of the site area ensuring that any Scottish Sea Farms staff had left for the evening before filming safely commenced.



The day before filming (6 May 2021), Scottish Salmon Watch met with Police Scotland to discuss [ongoing security and safety concerns relating to filming at salmon farms](#). Police Scotland in Oban agreed to raise Scottish Salmon Watch's concerns with salmon farming companies at the next rural crime prevention meeting.

In October 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to Police Scotland suggesting a protocol for filming at salmon farms and a roundtable meeting with salmon farming companies](#). Earlier in October 2020, Police Scotland [wrote to Scottish Salmon Watch issuing an apology for acting as private security for Scottish Sea Farms](#).

Read more via:

[The Ferret: "Police apologise to anti-fish farm campaigner over access"](#)

[Oban Times: "Police apologise to fish farm welfare campaigner"](#)

[Policing Scottish Salmon: Landmark Victory for Surveillance of Fish Farms](#)

[Letter to Police Scotland re. violence & hostility by salmon farmers blocking filming](#)

On the day of filming in Loch Spelve (7 May 2021), [Scottish Sea Farms warned the public to stay away from their farms](#).

 **Scottish Sea Farms**
@scotseafarms

KEEP SAFE | Planning to dust down the kayak or don your wetsuit this weekend to enjoy Scotland by water? If passing one of our salmon farms, remember to [#keepsafe](#) [#keepoutsidethebuoys](#) and enjoy!



83 views 0:23 / 0:52

11:42 AM · May 7, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Replying to [@scotseafarms](#)

What's the legal basis for keeping out of public waters?
If passing one of your farms and one suspects welfare problems surely it is a citizen's duty to monitor compliance with the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act?
Especially if [@APHAgovuk](#) are failing to inspect farms!

9:42 PM · May 7, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Last year, [Compassion in World Farming investigated 22 salmon farms](#) operated by Scottish Sea Farms, Mowi, The Scottish Salmon Company, Grieg Seafood and Cooke Aquaculture who together control over [96% of 'Scottish' salmon farming production](#). Damning video evidence of endemic suffering on salmon farms and a report – [“Underwater Cages, Parasites and Dead Fish”](#) - was [published by Compassion in World Farming and OneKind in March 2021](#).



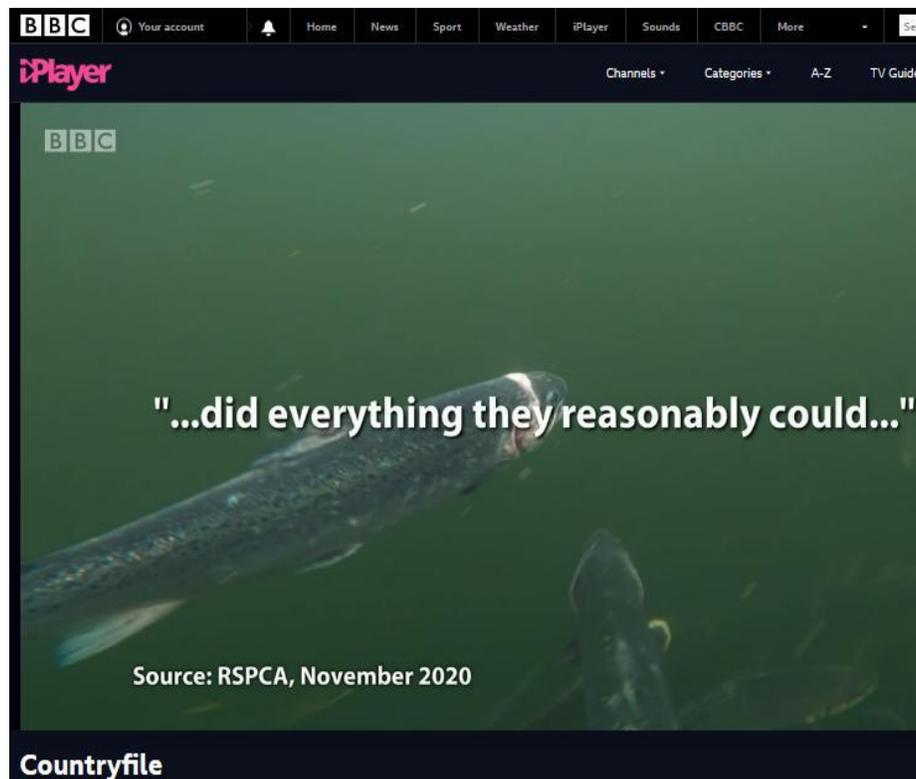
“Following the publication of the CIWF report, RSPCA Assured suspended its certification for the farms concerned and instituted a programme of additional inspections,” [reported Fish Farmer in April 2021](#). “The organisation has now reinstated certification for all the farms concerned.”

In a statement, [RSPCA Assured told Fish Farmer](#): “We were really shocked and upset by some of this footage taken last year, especially as some of the farms were reported to be RSPCA Assured certified. We immediately launched an investigation, as soon as we received details of the farms on 23 March 2021, and suspended those sites in the video that were members of RSPCA Assured, pending investigation.”

In October 2020, [video footage of welfare abuse at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran 'Special Area of Conservation'](#) was published.



In December 2020, [BBC Countryfile featured video footage of the RSPCA Assured salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran.](#)



Earlier this month (5 May 2021), [Fish Farmer reported](#): “RSPCA Assured will be returning to in-person assessments as standard from 17 May, in line with easing Covid-19 restrictions in the UK.” Last year (27 May 2020), [Fish Farming Expert reported](#) that the RSPCA suspended in-person assessments of salmon farms on 23 March with contactless assessments available by mutual agreement on 1 June 2020.

Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed last month \(via information disclosed by Freedom of Information\) that the Animal & Plant Health Agency had ‘inspected’ 22 salmon farms in six years](#) whereas CIWF inspected 22 salmon farms in four months in 2020.



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Compassion in World Farming investigated 22 salmon farms in four months between September & December 2020 using cameras, drones & divers. APHA 'inspected' 22 salmon farms in six years (2014 to 2019)! How many did @rspcaassured inspect?

tinyurl.com/ufm6jbbf @media_ciwf



Compassion in World Farming and 9 others

2:18 PM - Apr 20, 2021 - Twitter Web App

Secret underwater filming inside salmon farms was pioneered in Canada by [Alexandra Morton in 2016](#) and then [continued in 2017 and 2018 by First Nations leaders](#) and [Sea Shepherd Conservation Society](#) (including [Pamela Anderson in 2019](#)).



In 2017, Swedish film-maker Mikael Frödin swam out to a [Grieg owned salmon farm in Altafjord](#) in Norway armed with a Go Pro on an extendable pole. The [video evidence of welfare abuse was broadcast on Swedish TV in 2018](#).



Kategorier ▾

Program A-Ö

Nyheter

Kanaler

Prova utan

foto Mikael Frödin



Earlier this month, [Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots published video evidence of welfare abuse inside salmon farms in Scotland.](#)



Video footage gathered by photographer Corin Smith inside Scottish salmon farms was broadcast by the [BBC 'One Show'](#) in 2018 and [BBC Panorama](#) in 2019.



Netflix's global hit '[Seaspiracy](#)' features video footage shot by Corin Smith inside a salmon farm in Scotland and Scottish Salmon Watch's [gruesome video footage of disease-ridden farmed salmon at Mowi's Gorsten salmon farm in Loch Linnhe](#) (a site certified via the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council and RSPCA Assured](#)).



 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

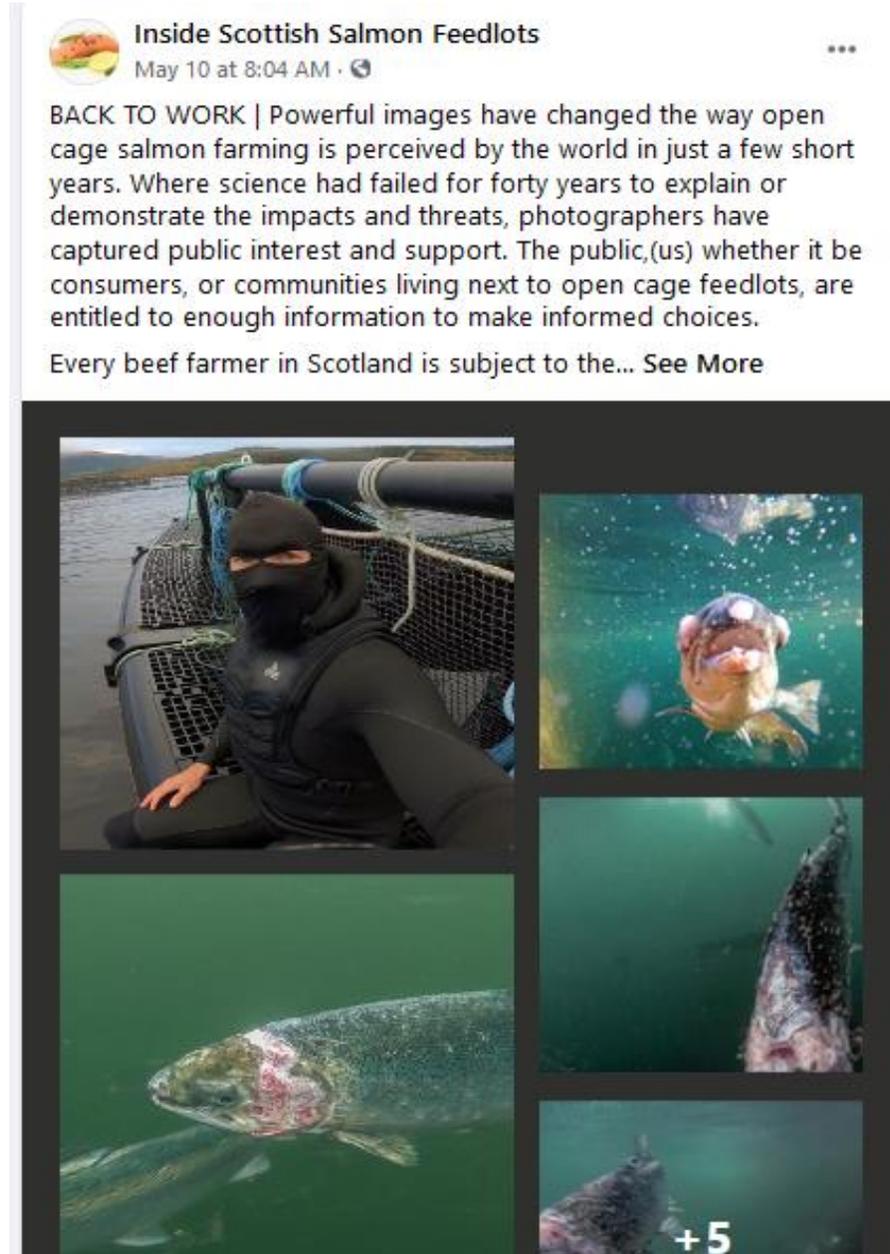
Netflix's 'Seaspiracy' Exposes Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon – As Sponsored by the RSPCA & Aquaculture Stewardship Council! tinyurl.com/372je8wu
[@seaspiracy](#) [@rspcaassured](#) [@ScotlandMowi](#) [@ASC_aqua](#)
[@vivacampaigns](#) [@EcoHustler](#) [@SSPOsays](#) [@iamalitabrizi](#)
[@media_ciwf](#) [@philip_ciwf](#)



9:21 AM · Mar 31, 2021



Corin Smith [posted on Facebook via Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots](#) this week (10 May 2021):



Read more via:

[Policing 'Scottish' Salmon - when is 'extreme activism' judged trespass?](#)

[Media Backgrounder: The Welfare Nightmare of Scottish Salmon \(Updated\)](#)

[Photo Dossier of Diseased, Deformed & Abused Scottish Salmon](#)

[Ongoing welfare abuse & unnecessary suffering on salmon farms - why no prosecutions?](#)

[Secret Filming Exposes Welfare Abuse at RSPCA Assured Kames](#)

[The Go Pro Camera Never Lies \(Unlike Salmon Farmers\)](#)

[Photos of Secret Filming at Scottish & Irish Salmon Farms](#)

[Shocking Video Footage from Mowi's 'Bay of the Dead Heads' \(Bagh Dail nan Ceann\)](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch is [calling on consumers to boycott all farmed salmon](#) – including RSPCA Assured “responsibly sourced” Scottish salmon sold via M&S and other supermarkets.



The real name of [Scottish Sea Farms](#) is [Norskott Havbruk](#) (which translates as ‘Norwegian Aquaculture’) – owned by the [Norwegian companies SalMar and Leroy](#).



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

"High mortality costs" report Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) in the Q4 2019 financials tinyurl.com/rdcw97a "Harvest of fish with lower average weights", class action lawsuit & price fixing investigation in US & EU @scotseafarms @LeroySeafood #ScottishScamon @SSPOsays

Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms)

Reported	Q4 2019	Q4 2018	Q4 2017
Harvest volume (tonnes)	5,300	10,000	10,000
Harvested fish (million)	30	300	400
Harvested SFT %	22.2%	31.1%	22.1%
New salmonids (million)	300	300	300
Production cost	300	300	300
Weight (kg after sex)	18	18	18
Harvest volume (1,000 tons)	5.3	10.0	10.0
Harvest volume (1,000 tons)	5.3	10.0	10.0

FOURTH QUARTER / 2019

In addition, Norskott Havbruk (Scottish Sea Farms) harvested a total of 5,300 tonnes, compared with 10,000 tonnes the quarter before and 6,700 tonnes in the fourth quarter 2018. SalMar owns 50 per cent of Norskott Havbruk.

Allegations of price fixing

1 November 2019, SalMar announced that the company had been notified by the US Department of Justice's Antitrust Division that it was launching an investigation into allegations of price fixing between Norwegian producers of farmed Atlantic salmon.

SalMar has previously disclosed that the European Commission has started investigations and that these are...

12:05 PM · Feb 26, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Read more details via:

[Scottish Scamon](#)

[Salmonopoly: How Norway's Salmafia Control 'Scottish' Salmon - Follow the Salmoney!](#)

[Norwegian Government Asked to Divest from 'Unethical' & 'Irresponsible' Scottish Salmon!](#)

It is appropriate that [Norskott Havbruk](#) (Scottish Sea Farms) pioneered the [fake brand 'Lochmuir'](#) salmon sold via Marks & Spencer in Loch Spelve – with a [nomination for Loch Spelve's manager at the BBC Food & Farming Awards in 2010](#) [3].



Salmon farming in Loch Spelve – where Scottish Sea Farms operate two salmon farms at Balure (Spelve A) and Dalnaha (Spelve B) – has an appalling history in terms of toxic chemical pollution, use of lobster-killing chemicals, lice infestation and mass mortalities [4].

M&S appear now to have moved away from branding their Scottish salmon via the fake 'Lochmuir' although it is still [sold online via the Lochmuir brand](#) and [marketed prominently by M&S](#) [5].



In 2017, BBC Countryfile [broadcast shocking video footage of mass mortalities being transported away from Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Kishorn – on the ‘Dead Salmon Run’](#) – with wastes leaking from Billy Bowie tankers full of dead salmon.



BBC One Show on Scottish salmon farming: "The Dead Salmon Run" (11 December 2017)

4,431 views • Dec 12, 2017

13 3 SHARE

Earlier this week (11 May 2021), [prime time Italian TV broadcast video footage of welfare abuse shot by investigators for Compassion in World Farming](#) inside salmon farms in Scotland (including [video evidence of welfare abuse at RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms](#)).



Earlier this week (11 May 2021), Ecohustler [published a spoof video ad lambasting M&S for their RSPCA Assured “responsibly sourced” Scottish salmon.](#)

Sexy food ad tells shocking truth!

 [Team: Ecohustler](#) • 11th May 2021 • 2 min read

Ocean activists tackles M&S on ‘dodgy salmon’



Petition targets Marks and Spencer

Farmed salmon is Marks & Spencer’s ‘most important seafood raw material by both volume and value,’ using 10,000 tonnes of Scottish farmed salmon per year.

The supermarket specifically emphasizes the quality and sustainability of their products and all its salmon is labelled “responsibly sourced” despite the increasingly well documented impacts of open-cage factory-farming in Scotland.

Here’s the [petition signed by over 4,000 people:](#)

38 DEGREES
people. power. change.

To: Marks and Spencer

M&S - come clean about the damage caused by your farmed salmon

 Campaign created by Matt Mellen



Stop labelling unsustainable, factory farmed salmon as “responsibly sourced”. Be honest about the impacts that these products have so that your customers are empowered to make good choices.

Contact:

Don Staniford: 07763 541876 (salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com)

Notes to Editors:

[1] Scottish Salmon Watch's welfare complaint was filed on 10 May 2021 – download in full [online here](#)

From: **Don Staniford** <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, May 10, 2021 at 1:02 PM
Subject: Welfare Complaint vs Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve (Dalnaha)
To: SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <enquiries@apha.gov.uk>, <APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk>, APHA Corporate Correspondence <apha.corporatecorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk>, SCD Wildlife Crime <SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk>, MS.fishhealth@gov.scot

Please consider this an official welfare complaint against Scottish Sea Farms (Norskott Havbruk) for breaches of the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) in relation to their RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Loch Spelve (Dalnaha) on the Isle of Mull.

The salmon farm in question was first stocked with fish in July 2020 and is listed as Spelve B (Dalnaha) - located at NM68772683.

Here's a map via

http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/data/fish_farms_monthly_biomass_and_treatment_reports_record.aspx?monthly_data_id=4647138

Receiving Water : Loch Spelve



Scottish Salmon Watch filmed at the site – which supplies Marks & Spencer with ‘Lochmuir’ “responsibly sourced” salmon and is accredited via RSPCA Assured (formerly Freedom Food) – on Friday evening ca. 7pm (7 May 2021). Video footage gathered from one of the cages – we only filmed at 2 out of the 12 cages – detailed what we believe constitutes a breach of [Section 19 \(“Unnecessav suffering”\)](#) and [Section 24 \(“Ensuring welfare of animals”\)](#).

Video footage clearly shows fin damage, skin lesions, open wounds (which may be Winter Ulcer), mouth rot, lice infestation and indicates welfare and disease problems.

Watch the video footage [online here](#)

Photos are included in the attached letter.

Please acknowledge receipt of this welfare complaint.

Thanks,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch



To:
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit
Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate

Date: Monday 10 May 2021

Subject: Welfare Complaint re. RSPCA Assured Loch Spelve Salmon Farm (Dalnaha) operated by M&S supplier Scottish Sea Farms

Please consider this an official welfare complaint against Scottish Sea Farms (Norskott Havbruk) for breaches of the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) in relation to their RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Loch Spelve (Dalnaha).

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Video footage clearly shows fin damage, skin lesions, open wounds (which may be Winter Ulcer), mouth rot, lice infestation and indicates welfare and disease problems.



[2] Ronnie Soutar, head veterinarian at Scottish Sea Farms, is the [Chairman of the SSPCA](#) (as well as [sitting on a DEFRA advisory board](#)). Fish Farming Expert [reported in June 2018](#):

Home > News > Fish vet appointed chair of Scottish SPCA

Fish vet appointed chair of Scottish SPCA



Ronnie Soutar becomes the first fish vet to be appointed chair of the Scottish SPCA. Photo: SSF

Scottish Sea Farms' head of veterinary services, Ronnie Soutar, has become the first fish vet to be appointed chairperson of animal welfare charity the Scottish SPCA.

Soutar, who also becomes the first in-house company veterinarian to take up the role, gained a degree in Veterinary Medicine & Surgery gained at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and worked at a variety of veterinary practices for several years before returning to study for an MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies at the University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture.

He has gone on to become one of the country's most respected fish vets, working with salmon farmers at home and abroad to advance health and welfare. This includes two terms as president of the Fish Veterinary Society and a key advisory role on the recently announced Farmed Fish Health Framework.

'Huge honour'

He said: "To be elected chairperson of the Scottish SPCA is a huge honour. The charity provides a lifeline service to vulnerable animals the length and breadth of Scotland – domestic, farm and wildlife – all of which is only made possible through charitable donations. I look forward to playing my part in ensuring those donations are put to the very best use, helping the Society achieve its core purpose of improving animal welfare in Scotland."

Soutar previously served as a Scottish SPCA board member from 2013 then vice-chairperson from 2015.

Scottish SPCA chief executive Kirsteen Campbell said: "Everyone at the Scottish SPCA is delighted to welcome Ronnie as our new chairperson. While serving as a board member for the past five years, Ronnie's expert animal welfare knowledge, business acumen and strategic thinking has been of real benefit to our team. We look forward to continuing to work together to help animals and people across Scotland."

The unpaid role is expected to be for four years, during which time Soutar will continue both his role at Scottish Sea Farms and in small animal practice management.



Kirsteen Campbell: "Delighted".

Companies House [reports](#):

 **Companies House**

Companies House does not verify the accuracy of the information filed

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SCOTTISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Company number **SC201401**

Follow this company File for this company

Overview Filing history People More

[Officers](#) [Persons with significant control](#)

SOUTAR, Ronald Henry

Correspondence address

Kingseat Road, Halbeath, Dunfermline, Fife, KY11 8RY

Role **ACTIVE**

Director

Date of birth

May 1957

Appointed on

19 June 2013

Nationality

British

Country of residence

Scotland

Occupation

Veterinary Consultant

The SSPCA's [latest accounts for 2019 \(filed in September 2020\)](#) identify Ronnie Soutar as the Chairman:

SCOTTISH SPCA

Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity

Company number: SC201401 Charity number: SC006467

Principal & Registered office: Kingseat Road, Halbeath, Dunfermline KY11 8RY

Chief Executive: K Campbell

Directors & Trustees: The directors serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Mr W D Macdonald

Ms B Tricker

Mr I Turnbull

Mr R H Soutar (Chairman)

Ms S Johnstone

Ms V Simpson

Ms K E Peebles

Mr A Biggar

Ms F L Davis

Mr A Lawrie

Ms M Donald (appointed 12.12.19)

Ms C McLeod (appointed 12.12.19)

Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots [reported in January 2021](#):



Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots

January 29 · 🌐



Not corruption, but corrupted. Salmon farming and the Scottish SPCA

NOT CORRUPTION, JUST CORRUPTED | This is a salmon feedlot under the management of the Chairman of the Scottish SPCA.

In June 2018 Ronnie Soutar became the first fish vet to be appointed chairperson of animal welfare charity the Scottish SPCA. He is also the senior fish vet at Scottish Sea Farms Ltd.

The footage on the left shows state of salmon inside the cages of the Loch Creran feedlot, just a day after being subjected to the treatment to remove sea lice, shown on the right.

The appalling conditions on this Scottish Sea Farms Ltd feedlot were exposed recently and featured in a substantial feature on BBC Countryfile.

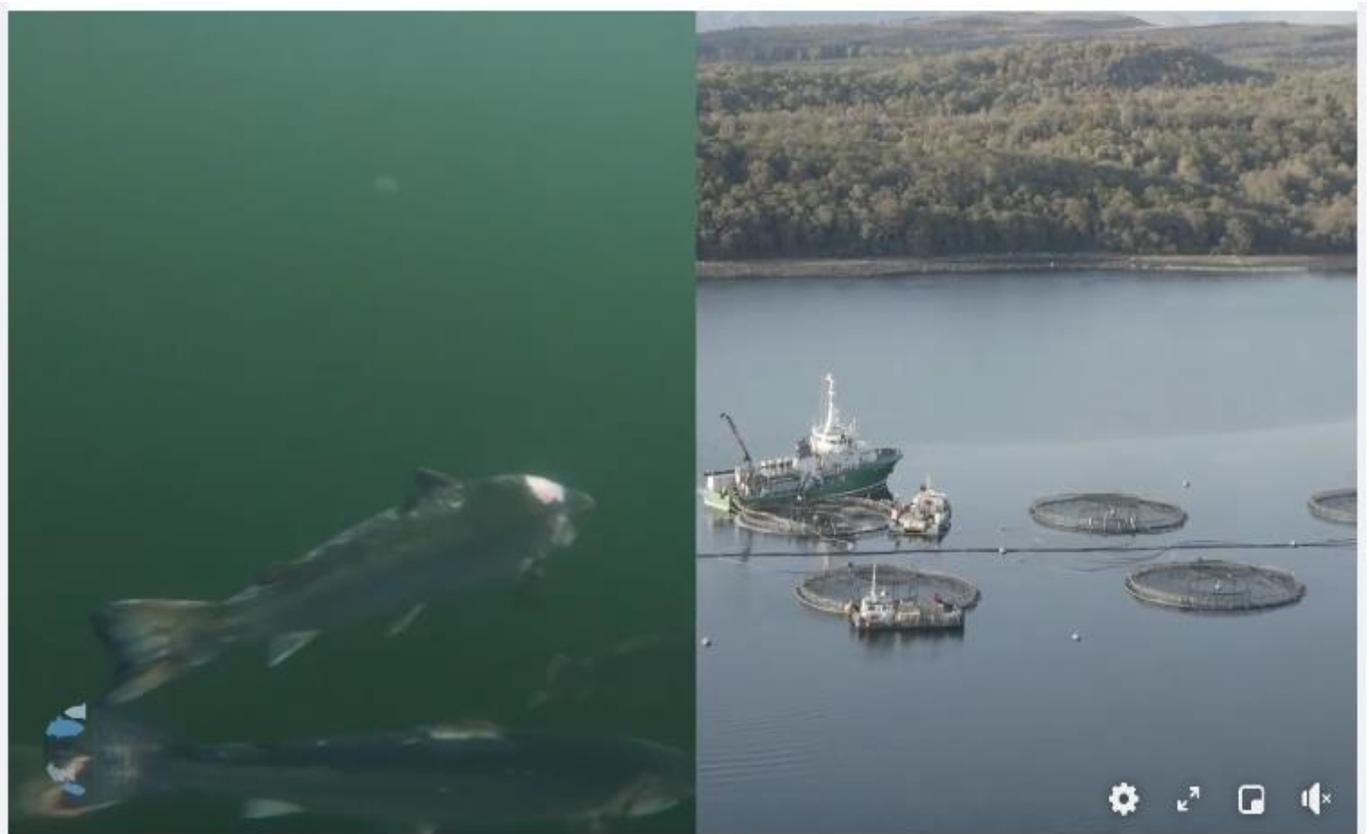
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/.../m00.../countryfile-black-mountains>

If this is what good welfare looks like on a salmon farm, as it has been claimed, what level of suffering would the fish have to endure for the Scottish SPCA to consider it cruelty?

The Scottish SPCA do some excellent work, but their reputation is badly tarnished when they condone this industry and its culture by appointing an architect of this misery.

Other organisations such as the RSPCA and the Atlantic Salmon Trust have suffered severe reputational damage owing to their willingness to take hundreds of thousands of pounds in cash donations and payments from the open cage salmon feedlot industry, while at the same time claiming to be independent of them. Buying silence.

Not corruption, but corrupted.





Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Nov 1, 2020



How is the SSPCA benefiting from the "expert animal welfare knowledge" of @scotseafarms head vet Ronnie Soutar? tinyurl.com/y35djctn

As Chairperson of the SSPCA surely he should be preventing not promoting animal cruelty?

@SSPCA_Kirsteen @SSPCA_Mike @Gilly_SSPCA @ScottishSPCA



Treran, footage taken Oct 2020 | Image credit Corin Smith

Oct 2020 | Image credit Corin Smith

M&S and 8 others



5



18



36



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Oct 31, 2020



"The images & footage passed to us are truly shocking" tinyurl.com/y3kqubug

"The Scottish Government has failed to introduce a proper regime of regulation and enforcement on salmon farms & consequently parasite and disease issues are being allowed to run riot" @heraldscotland



Scot Gov Greener and 9 others



5



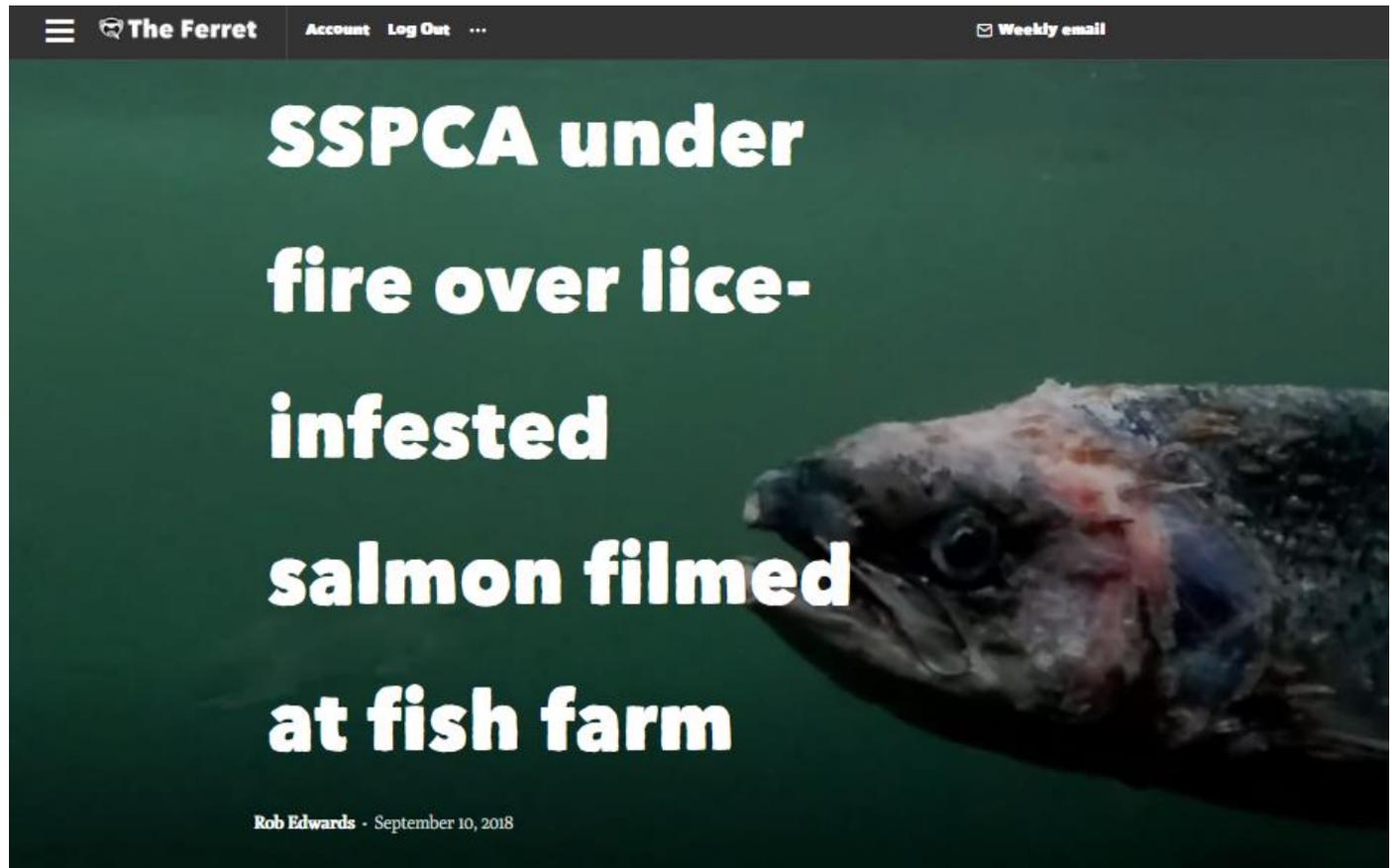
44



40



The Ferret [reported in September 2018](#):



Account Log Out ... Weekly email

SSPCA under fire over lice-infested salmon filmed at fish farm

Rob Edwards · September 10, 2018

1.4k SHARES [Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Subscribe](#)

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is facing criticism after it decided not to punish a fish farming company caught on film with lice-infested salmon.

Don Staniford, from [Scottish Salmon Watch](#), accused SSPCA of having a “clear conflict of interest”. [Ronnie Soutar](#), the head of veterinary services for another fish farm company, [Scottish Sea Farms](#), has [recently been appointed](#) as chairperson of SSPCA.

“It’s like a fox being placed in charge of the investigation of who killed all the chickens. It makes you wonder what level of welfare abuse has to be recorded to trigger a prosecution in Scotland,” Staniford said.

“If The Scottish Salmon Company is not found guilty of a breach of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) in the case of Loch Roag then the law clearly needs to be changed. To restore any kind of consumer confidence in Scottish salmon, an independent review of welfare on Scottish salmon farms must be carried out as a matter of urgency.”

[3] Salmon farming in Loch Spelve is award-winning. Fish Farming Expert [reported in June 2019](#):

Career progression

The award was one of the M&S Select Farm Awards 2019 presented at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh on Thursday.

Alan Tangny, recently appointed manager at Scottish Sea Farms' Loch Spelve farm on the Isle of Mull, was also named runner-up in the Young Producer category for his outstanding career progression.

In the four short years since joining Scottish Sea Farms, the 32-year old former chef has progressed from a trainee role to senior husbandry, been crowned LANTRA Aquaculture Learner of the Year 2018, then most recently taken up his first farm manager role.



Alan Tangny. Runner-up in Young Producer category. Photo: SSF.

World Fish [reported in June 2018](#):

40TH YEAR FOR SCOTTISH SEA FARMS MANAGER

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22 Jun 2018

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Scottish Sea Farms' longest serving employee Geoff Kidd has celebrated 40 years of service including more than three decades as farm manager of Loch Spelve on Mull.

During his career, the newly retired Mr Kidd pioneered the first full crop of M&S Lochmuir salmon; led his team at Loch Spelve to win 'Best Finfish Farm' at the prestigious Crown Estate Awards 2010, while also being shortlisted for 'Aquaculture Ambassador' in 2011; and came a close second in the 'Farmer of the Year' category of the BBC Food & Farming Awards 2010.

He stated: "Changes in operational scale have led to tremendous advances in production. The biggest advances, without doubt, have been in fish welfare and staff health and safety.

"The arrival of vaccines simultaneously improved fish health and reduced use of medicinal treatments, while the arrival of innovative new technologies such as work boats, well-boats and net cleaning systems has made the farmer's role much more about brain than brawn."

Closer scrutiny

Increased regulation by Marine Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the industry itself has also had a significant impact on operations. Mr Kidd said: "Nowadays, everything is so carefully calculated and closely regulated: from where you can locate farms to how many fish you can safely put in pens in order to maximise their health and welfare and minimise any impact on the environment."

Joining the company as a zoology graduate in 1978, when commercial salmon farming was still very much in its infancy, Mr Kidd progressed from farm assistant at Loch Striven, then Loch Creran, to farm manager of Loch Spelve.



Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms (left), pictured with Geoff Kidd and his wife Jane

Farming Monthly [reported in 2010](#):

Scottish Sea Farms Finalist in BBCs Food & Farming Awards 2010

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, sole supplier of Lochmuir Salmon to Marks & Spencer, is pleased to announce that Geoff Kidd, the Marine Farm Manager at Loch Spelve is a finalist in this year's BBC Farming Today Farmer of the Year Category for the Food Awards.

Added by FM Web Editor on Nov 9, 2010.

Saved under News



Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, sole supplier of Lochmuir Salmon to Marks & Spencer, is pleased to announce that Geoff Kidd, the Marine Farm Manager at Loch Spelve is a finalist in this year's BBC Farming Today Farmer of the Year Category for the Food Awards.

Managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, Jim Gallagher said: We are delighted that Geoff's passion for and commitment to responsible, sustainable farming has been recognised by being selected as one of three finalists for such a prestigious Award.

Geoff's experience and expertise were pivotal in Scottish Sea Farms' decision to dedicate farms to the M&S vision for salmon. Through Lochmuir salmon, Scottish Sea Farms has been instrumental in providing M&S with a financially sustainable long-term partnership where its farming values resonate with the ethical, food safety and good eating aspirations of M&S customers. Geoff's farming concept is for a healthy, high-quality eating experience underpinned by extensive farming with least environmental impact.

After interviewing Geoff at the Loch Spelve farm, Food Awards judge Alex James was overwhelmed when he finally got to taste some salmon. Alex said the smell is absolutely beautiful, perfectly mouth-wateringly, deliciously juicy, pink, oily & close textured. Then as you break into it, it gives you a delectable delicate aroma. Fellow judge, Michael Jack, describes the salmon as Absolutely delicious, outstandingly good.

Geoff really is an ambassador for husbandry best practice in salmon farming. His farm is an outstanding example of a mature farming operation managed with skill & sensitivity. It thoroughly deserves to be the prevailing Crown Estate Farm of the Year and we all wish Geoff good luck in the BBC Food Awards said Jim Gallagher.

Always looking to the future, Geoff believes aquaculture can enhance biodiversity. This is illustrated by his latest project – pioneering the introduction of Wrasse cleaner fish to live alongside the salmon on his farm.

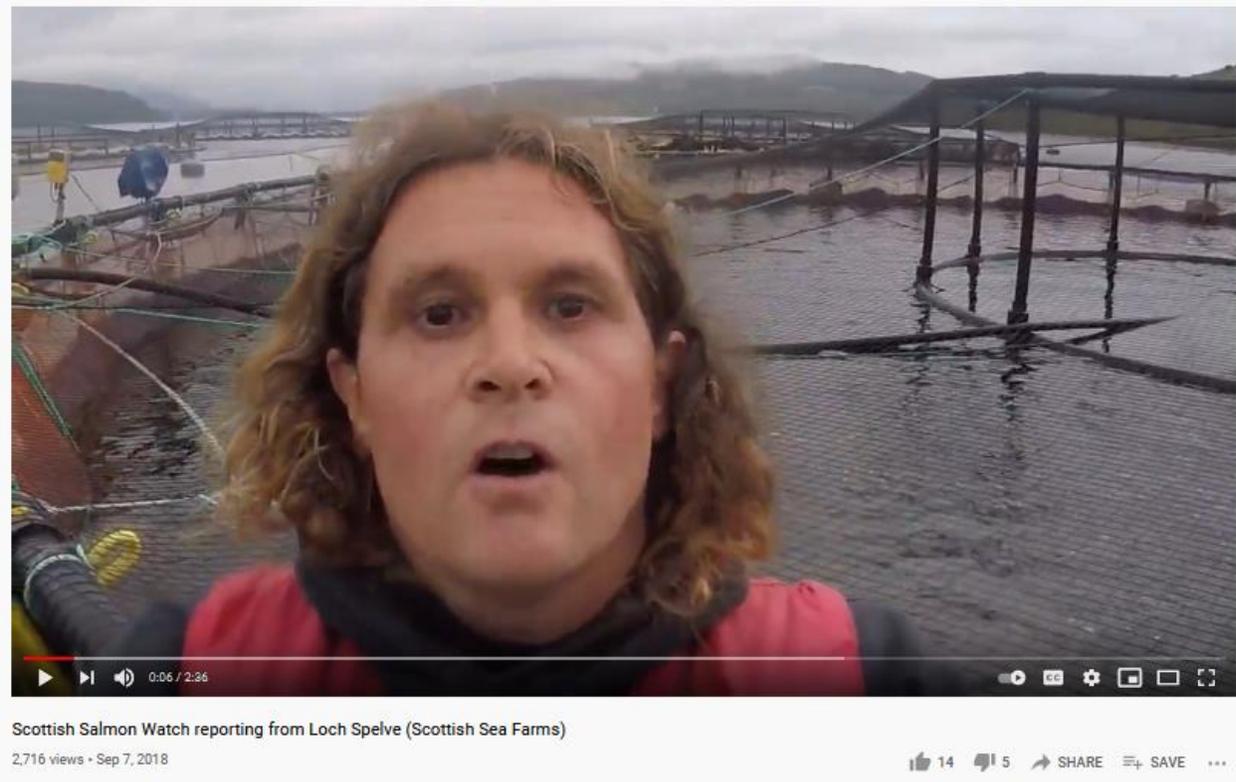
All three finalists in this year's BBC Farming Today Farmer of the Year category have been interviewed on the BBC Radio 4 programme On Your Farm. You can listen to Geoff's interview by clicking on the link below to the BBC iPlayer: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/i/vh9bw/>

Results of the Food & Farming Awards 2010 will be announced on November 24th at the BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham. The Awards programme will be on Radio 4 at 9am on November 26th.

[4] Salmon farming in Loch Spelve has a history of lice problems and mass mortalities.



Scottish Salmon Watch [visited the Dalnaha salmon farm \(Spelve B\) in August 2018.](#)



In August 2018, Scottish Salmon Watch also [visited the land-base in Loch Spelve operated by Scottish Sea Farms and certified via RSPCA Assured \(formerly Freedom Foods\).](#)



Scottish Salmon Watch reports from the RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve

121 views · Sep 7, 2018

👍 1 🗨️ 1 ➔ SHARE 📌 SAVE ...

Private Eye [reported on mass mortalities at the RSPCA Assured Loch Spelve salmon farm in February 2020:](#)

PRIVATE EYE

No. 1516
21 February – 5 March 2020
£2.00

SALMON FARMING

Killing fields

THE not-so-great escape of 74,000 farmed salmon into the open sea from Mowi's fish farm off the Isle of Colonsay last month turns out to be just one of a number of unfortunate incidents that have blighted the Atlantic's biggest salmon producer (see last *Eye*).

Recent Scottish government papers now reveal another incident at a Mowi Scottish farm, this one in Loch Duich, in December. The event was described as a "malfunction with mechanical lice treatment boat resulting in treatment mortality". These lice treatment boats strip the fish of sea lice by washing them in water which, at 34°C, is too warm for sea lice to tolerate. The practice is questioned by animal welfare experts, who liken the experience to the fish being put through a washing machine. Mowi's malfunctioning treatment boat killed 25,966 fish.

With mass escapes, disease, mortalities caused by sea lice and malfunctioning boats, it's no surprise Mowi announced a fall in earnings last week. Its pre-tax earnings per kilogram of Scottish fish were down more than 40 percent on the previous year.

The Norwegian-based company's 2019 figures did, however, show a record worldwide harvest. Scottish production in the last quarter of the year was higher than expected at 14,000 tonnes. But the large Scottish harvest masked a problem, as sea lice infestations had forced the fish farmer to slaughter stocks at a younger age.

Mowi's quarterly report noted in the driest business-speak: "The biological situation in our Scottish farming operations was challenging in the fourth quarter." It went on to acknowledge an increased medicinal treatment of sea lice at its Scottish farms, which were also blighted by disease and infections requiring antibiotic treatment, including *pasteurella skyensis*, pancreas disease and cardiomyopathy syndrome.

Meanwhile, the *Sunday Times* reported that the RSPCA received £500,000 in the past year from the Scottish salmon producers who take part in its RSPCA Assured scheme. The scheme provides valuable PR for the fish farmers and reassurance for consumers but, as *Eye* 1480 noted, it also has close links to the industry, with 15 of the 22 members of the RSPCA's salmon standards technical advisory group coming from the fish industry itself.

The RSPCA says the money it earns from fish farms is ploughed back into the charity and its inspections ensure that welfare standards are met. Those inspections didn't help much at Loch Spelve fish farm on the Isle of Mull. The farm is part of Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, which proudly trumpets its association with the RSPCA Assured scheme. Newly released data reveals that a mass mortality event occurred at the farm in October after the salmon were affected by complex gill disease: 177,000 fish died, 199,000 more were culled, and only 24,000 were harvested.

It seems that any welfare 'inspection' of the Loch Spelve salmon farm [slipped through the net](#).

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Replying to @scotseafarms @rspcaassured and 3 others

If the mortalities started on 16 September (due to "post physical delousing" & Complex Gill Disease) & the site was fallow on 29 October why did it take you until 14 November to officially report to @marinescotland with a telephone 'inspection' on the phone on 15 November?

Reporting Business Name	Reporting Business No	Site Name	Date reported
1 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	26/09/2019
2 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	14/11/2019
7 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	14/11/2019
2 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	14/11/2019
4 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	14/11/2019
6 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	FB0125	Loch Spelve (B)	14/11/2019

Reasons	Total mortality during event	Additional information
IO2 tarp treatment	Not provided	Intervention review, environ
delousing CGD	Not provided	Intervention review, mortal reporting threshold the fall
- planktonic gill insult	Not provided	Vet diagnostic visit. Harv
- planktonic gill insult CGD	Not provided	Harvest to fallow
- plankton gill insult CGD	Not provided	Harvesting to fallow
plankton gill insult CGD	Not provided	Harvesting - site fallow in

8:00 PM · Feb 12, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

Telephone inspection of @scotseafarms by @marinescotland in Loch Spelve - 366,000+ fish die (199,124 culled & 177,588 morts). Fish start dying on 16 Sept & site is followed on 29 Oct yet 'Mortality Event Reports' are dated 14 Nov with zero 'inspection' until phone call on 15 Nov



2019-0701

Site Name: **FS0253**
Business Name: **FB0125**

1 **PSI** 2 3

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

Business No: **FB0125** Date of Call: **15/11/2019**
Site No: **FS0253** Site Name: **Loch Spelve (B)**
Inspector: **[REDACTED]** Case No: **20190701**

Regulation 2008

The above site was contacted in accordance with the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2008.

8:17 PM · Feb 12, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Here's the Loch Spelve salmon farm when Scottish Salmon Watch [visited the shore base in August 2018](#).



Here's other photos from Scottish Salmon Watch's visit to Loch Spelve RSPCA Assured salmon farm on 7 May 2021:







Scottish Salmon Watch [reported in July 2018](#):

“Scottish salmon's worst operator is [Norwegian-owned](#) Scottish Sea Farms with 10 fish farms failing SEPA's compliance assessment in 2016 (with 9 farms assessed as "Poor" and one as "Very Poor")..... Two of Scottish Sea Farms' 10 salmon farms rated as "Very Poor" or "Poor" were located at Fishnish in the Sound of Mull - the site of the [killing a humpback whale in 2014](#) and [exceedance of lice limits in January 2018](#). Fishnish A salmon farm "failed repeatedly" according to SEPA with "6 consecutive unsatisfactory surveys since 2006" and Fishnish B had "3 consecutive unsatisfactory surveys since 2010" leading to SEPA imposing a conditional reduction in biomass on both sites. Another Scottish Sea Farm site in Loch Spelve at Balure on the Isle of Mull was rated "Very Poor" due to exceedance of the Environmental Quality Standard for residues of Emamectin benzoate ([a toxic chemical known to kill lobsters](#)) and evidence of drug over-dosing.”

Data [published by SEPA via 'Scotland's Aquaculture'](#) shows that Loch Spelve salmon farm was stocked in July 2020 but unfortunately SEPA has failed to publish data beyond September 2020.

Scotland's aquaculture

part of Scotland's environment

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Home > Data Search > Fish Farms Monthly Biomass and Treatment Reports

Search Results

Monthly Biomass & Treatment Reports > Report Month > From date: 01/01/1900 To date: 11/05/2021

Water Type: --All-- Local Authority: --All-- Sealice Treatment Used: --All--

Apply Current Filters [Show All Results](#) [Clear All Filters](#) [CSV Export](#)

NB This dataset does not include treatments carried out on wellboats. The full annual SPRI data returns inclusive of wellboat information can be found [here](#)

Show/Hide Advanced Filters							
Month	Year	Licence Site ID	Licence Site Name	Licence Number	Licence Holder	Actual Biomass on Site (Tonnes)	Actions
		<input type="text"/>	spelve	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
September	2020	FFMC22	Spelve B (Dalnaha)	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	154	More
August	2020	FFMC22	Spelve B (Dalnaha)	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	108	More
July	2020	FFMC22	Spelve B (Dalnaha)	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	75	More
June	2020	FFMC22	Spelve B (Dalnaha)	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	0	More

In [August and September 2020](#), Scottish Sea Farms used the lobster-killing chemical Deltamethrin at Spelve B (Dalnaha) salmon farm.

Fish Farms Monthly Biomass and Treatment Reports

Fish Farm Monthly Biomass and Treatments Details		Location Details	
Year	2020	Receiving Water	Loch Spelve
Month	August	National Grid Reference	NM68772683
Submitted By	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	View on Map	View on map
Licence Number	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020	
Licence active at time of report	CAR/L/1008861		
Report for Site	FFMC22 Spelve B (Dalnaha)		
Max licensed biomass on site (tonnes)	1578		
Actual biomass on site (tonnes)	108		
Biomass Exceedance (tonnes)	0		
Feed (kg)	34778		
Mortalities (kg)	303.20		
Seallice Treatments Used			
Seallice Treatment Product	Quantity Used (grams)		
Azamethiphos	0		
Cypermethrin	0		
Deltamethrin	15		
Emamectin Benzoate	0		
Teflubenzuron	0		
Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020			

Fish Farms Monthly Biomass and Treatment Reports

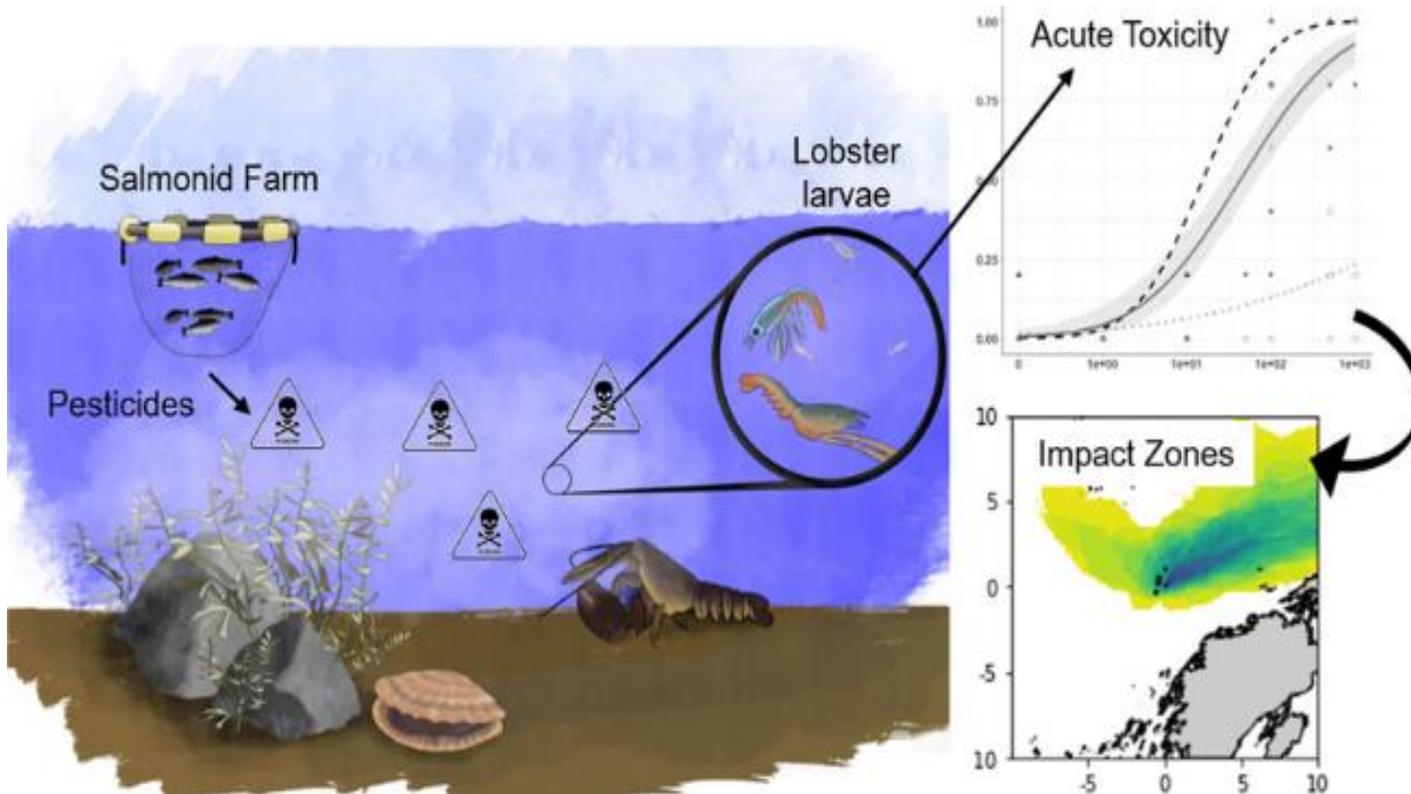
Fish Farm Monthly Biomass and Treatments Details		Location Details	
Year	2020	Receiving Water	Loch Spelve
Month	September	National Grid Reference	NM68772683
Submitted By	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd	View on Map	View on map
Licence Number	CAR/L/1008861/V8	Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020	
Licence active at time of report	CAR/L/1008861		
Report for Site	FFMC22 Spelve B (Dalnaha)		
Max licensed biomass on site (tonnes)	1578		
Actual biomass on site (tonnes)	154		
Biomass Exceedance (tonnes)	0		
Feed (kg)	65619		
Mortalities (kg)	895.80		
Seallice Treatments Used			
Seallice Treatment Product	Quantity Used (grams)		
Azamethiphos	0		
Cypermethrin	0		
Deltamethrin	15		
Emamectin Benzoate	0		
Teflubenzuron	0		
Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020			

In September 2020, a [peer-reviewed scientific paper reported that Deltamethrin was lethal to lobsters](#).



The impact of anti-sea lice pesticides, azamethiphos and deltamethrin, on European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) larvae in the Norwegian marine environment ☆

Aoife E. Parsons ^a, Rosa H. Escobar-Lux ^{a, b}, Pål Næverlid Sævik ^a, Ole B. Samuelson ^a, , Ann-Lisbeth Agnalt ^a



The Institute of Marine Research in Bergen [reported \(30 September 2020\)](#):



New lab experiments show anti-sea lice agent deltamethrin is highly toxic to lobster larvae



Grown lobster lives on the sea bottom, but their larvae are pelagic - they drift freely in the water column.
Photo: Erlend A. Lorentzen / Institute of Marine Research



When researchers simulated anti-sea lice treatments, the plume of chemicals that can be dangerous to the larvae typically spread out 5 to 15 kilometres as it diluted.

Contact



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Aoife er biolog og har hovudansvar for studien av kor giftige lusemidla er.

Pål er matematikar og har modellert utsleppa.

Use of azamethiphos and deltamethrin has declined

Both chemicals were acutely toxic in low doses

“The delousing agents azamethiphos and deltamethrin are acutely toxic to lobster larvae even in small concentrations”, says marine scientist Aoife Parsons.

The results for deltamethrin were particularly striking, with the deadly dose after an hour’s exposure being 800 times weaker than the concentration that salmon are bathed in.

The researchers consider one hour to be a short period of exposure.



“Deltamethrin is worse. Dangerous doses typically drifted between 5 and 15 kilometres. In rare cases, the anti-sea lice agent could travel 20-30 kilometres before it was sufficiently diluted to pose no risk to lobster larvae”, says Sævik.

Chemical pollution by salmon farming in Loch Spelve is nothing new. New Scientist [reported in 1998](#):

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A catch too far - Scottish lochs are paying the price for farmed salmon



14 March 1998

By [Rob Edwards](#)

METAL pollution from salmon farms is threatening wildlife in some of Scotland's sea lochs. An investigation by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has discovered levels of copper and zinc in sediments beneath fish farms up to 24 times as high as the agency's proposed safety limits.

Most of Scotland's 350 fish farmers use copper-based paints as antifouling agents to prevent the fish cages from becoming clogged by mussels, algae and seaweed. Zinc is used to galvanise the cages and is also a component of salmon feed. While the environmental risks of pesticides used on fish farms have been well documented ([This Week, 7 February, p 23](#)), SEPA's study is the first to present evidence that contamination by metals is also a problem.

The agency first found high levels of metals in 1996 while researching techniques for monitoring sediments. In an internal report, researchers noted that in one area near a fish farm off the island of Mull, concentrations of zinc in sediment had reached levels of 475 milligrams per kilogram—similar to those in parts of the Clyde estuary polluted by heavy industry.

SEPA then analysed sediments taken from within 500 metres of 10 fish farms around the southwest coast of Scotland in 1996 and 1997. At eight of the farms, levels of copper and zinc breached the "sediment quality criteria", proposed by scientists in SEPA's western region, of 30 mg/kg for copper and 150 mg/kg for zinc.

In a report due to be published in the next two weeks, SEPA says that sediments within 30 metres of seven of the farms were "severely contaminated", resulting in "probable" harm to seabed invertebrates like lugworms and crustaceans by damaging their reproductive abilities or killing them. The highest concentrations were 725 mg/kg of copper and 1150 mg/kg of zinc beneath cages on Loch Spelve in Mull.

David Mackay, director of SEPA's northern region, expects that the problem will turn out to be localised. "It is something we would like to see phased out but we are not panicking about it," he says. But Ali Ross, an environmental consultant on fish farming, points out that metal contamination is being taken more seriously by regulatory authorities in Norway. "SEPA cannot afford to be complacent about it," she warns.

The Loch Spelve salmon farm at Dalnaha (Spelve B) [breached the Environmental Quality Standard for the shellfish-killing chemical Emamectin benzoate by over 20 times in 2009.](#)

Sealice In-Feed Treatment Residues

Sealice In-Feed Treatment Residues Details					
Site Name	Spelve B (Dalnaha)				
Submitted By	Scottish Sea Farms Ltd				
Licence active at time of report	WPC/W/30550				
Treatment Name	Slice				
Active Ingredient	Emamectin Benzoate				
End of Treatment Date	12/09/2008				
Sample Date	24/02/2009				
Days between End of Treatment and Sample Date	165				
	Residues Results Micrograms per Kilogram			Environmental Quality Standard Micrograms per Kilogram	
Replicate	1	2	3	Emamectin Benzoate	Teflubenzuron
Cages	1.5	63.8	66.5	7.63	10000
25m				7.63	10000
100m	16	1.13	1.5	0.763	2
150m				0.763	2

Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020

Location Details	
Receiving Water	Loch Spelve
National Grid Reference	NM68772683
View on Map	View on map

Data supplied by SEPA on 04/12/2020

[5] Marks & Spencer developed the fake label 'Lochmuir' in 2006. The Sunday Times [reported in 2006:](#)

M&S fakes loch to launch salmon

Jason Allardyce

Sunday August 20 2006, 1.00am,
The Sunday Times

MARKS & SPENCER created a fictional loch to brand its new salmon line, it emerged yesterday. Although the Lochmuir brand sounds Scottish, the name was invented by the firm's marketing experts.

"It's a name chosen by a panel of consumers because it had the most Scottish resonance. It emphasises that the fish is Scottish," said Andrew Mallinson, an M&S fish expert.

It is understood that the salmon is being farmed at five sites north of the border by Scottish Sea Farms.

Edward Garner, a communications director of analysts TNS-Worldpanel, believed that Lochmuir salmon would be popular.

"Salmon has become commoditised and this move by M&S is a good way of making a product stand out from their others on the shelves," he said.

The Scotsman [reported in 2006](#):

M&S Lochmuir salmon... only Lochmuir doesn't exist

THE adverts for Marks & Spencer's luxury food have been hailed as some of the most successful in recent times.

By [The Newsroom](#)

Saturday, 19th August 2006, 1:00 am



In glorious slow motion, mouth-watering food is depicted while the sound-track delivers a sensual narrative underlining the food's impeccable and exclusive origins, beginning: "This is not just ... this is ..."

The adverts are so popular they have even sparked a large number of copycat campaigns.

But the next luxury food to have its wholesome origins emphasised by the high street retailer is its "Lochmuir salmon" - despite the fact that "Lochmuir" doesn't exist.

The store admits it has created the fictional location to brand its new quality salmon.

Natural Products [reported in 2012](#):

Anyone know the way to Lochmuir?

By [Jim Manson](#) - March 20, 2012



A new report by the consumer group Which? reveals just how far the creative writers in the marketing departments of big retailers will go to tell a good story.

There's the wonderfully evocative Lochmuir, whose tranquil waters are home to the exclusive Marks & Spencer salmon of the same name. Just don't try finding it on a map, let alone planning a picnic on its bonny banks. It doesn't exist.

Scottish Salmon Watch has long searched for Lochmuir but has always come up short.



Read more via:

[The Daily Mail: "Lochmuir salmon? It doesn't exist: How supermarkets invent places and farms to trick shoppers into buying premium food"](#)

[The Guardian: "Tesco faces legal threat over marketing its food with 'fake farm' names"](#)

The Week [reported in 2017](#):

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IN DEPTH

Supermarket 'fake farms' to look out for

Morrisons pledges to use real placenames only for produce and meat

10 AUG 2017

Marks and Spencer: The upmarket retailer sells "Lochmuir" Scottish smoked salmon and "Oakham" chicken - neither of them real places. In 2006, an M&S spokesman told [The Scotsman](#) that the Lochmuir label was "chosen by a panel of consumers because it had the most Scottish resonance".

M&S [reported in 2016](#):

M&S EST. 1884 HOME ABOUT US SUSTAINABILITY INVESTORS MEDIA **STORIES** CARI



LOCHMUIR SALMON – 10 YEARS OF BEING RICH IN OMEGA 3



I was interested, but not surprised, to read a BBC report today about falling levels of Omega 3 in farmed salmon.

The industry has been under increasing pressure in recent years. Cost squeezes as a result of a fiercely competitive supermarket sector, scarcer supplies of aqua feed raw materials, supply issues from South American fisheries and dealing with a changing climate have all impacted on the industry and made it more difficult to produce a product that lives up to customer expectations and at an affordable price.

Difficult yes, but there is a way. Here at M&S, with our long standing partners Scottish Sea Farms, we're proud of our exclusive Lochmuir Salmon which is rich in Omega 3, is farmed to leading welfare standards and produced in M&S Select Farms on the West Coast of Scotland and around the Orkney and Shetland Isles. We haven't allowed our Omega 3 levels to drop and one portion of Lochmuir salmon still provides an adult's entire weekly intake Omega 3 fats, the same as it did when we first launched our exclusive product back in 2006.

STEVE MCLEAN
Head of Agriculture and Fisheries Sourcing

Fri 7 Oct 2016



Despite what [appears to be a rebranding away from Lochmuir salmon in stores](#) (Lochmuir is missing from the M&S Scottish salmon products bought by Scottish Salmon Watch in May 2021), M&S still market Lochmuir salmon online but it seems that it is “out of stock” (as of 11 May 2021).

The best Scottish salmon

Sourced from the crystal clear waters surrounding Scotland's stunning west and northern coasts, M&S salmon is high in omega 3 and perfectly flaky and succulent. That's because the salmon are reared in salt-water lochs with faster-flowing waters, which allows them to swim harder, ensuring the fish are fitter and stronger. All our Scottish salmon is RSPCA Assured, meaning they're raised to higher welfare standards, the way nature intended, with plenty of space to swim.

[Click for salmon recipes →](#)



M&S's recent advertising campaign for RSPCA Assured salmon dropped reference to Lochmuir.



100% Scottish Salmon | Episode 1 | Fresh Market Update | M&S FOOD

2,780 views · Apr 12, 2021

32 4 SHARE SAVE ...

Here's [online sales for Lochmuir salmon](#) which were listed as “out of stock” on 11 May 2021.



4 Scottish Lochmuir Salmon Fillets

★★★★★

Out of stock

Ready to collect in 5 days. Order by 8pm today to collect as early as 16 May.

Serves: 4 Portions



Scottish Lochmuir™ Salmon En croute

★★★★★ [5 reviews](#)

Out of stock

Ready to collect in 5 days. Order by 8pm today to collect as early as 16 May.

Serves: 4 Portions



Scottish Lochmuir™ Salmon with Thai Marinade

★★★★★

Out of stock

Ready to collect in 5 days. Order by 8pm today to collect as early as 16 May.

Serves: 4 Portions

MARKS & SPENCER

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SCOTTISH LOCHMUIR SALMON FILLETS 600G

600g (£16.67 per kg)

Product ID: 00370554

Product Description:

Minimum of five fillets.

£10.00

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If M&S have dropped the Lochmuir brand then it would be significant. Just three years ago, M&S made a [written submission to the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#) citing "iconic" Lochmuir.

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M&S tells Parliament: We're proud of our Scottish salmon



M&S says its Lochmuir salmon is its most important seafood raw material by value and volume.

Marks and Spencer has launched a strong defence of the way its "iconic" Scottish salmon is produced to the Scottish Parliament's salmon inquiry.

By [Gareth Moore](#)

In a written submission to the inquiry, M&S said farmed salmon was its most important seafood raw material by both volume and value.

MARKS & SPENCER

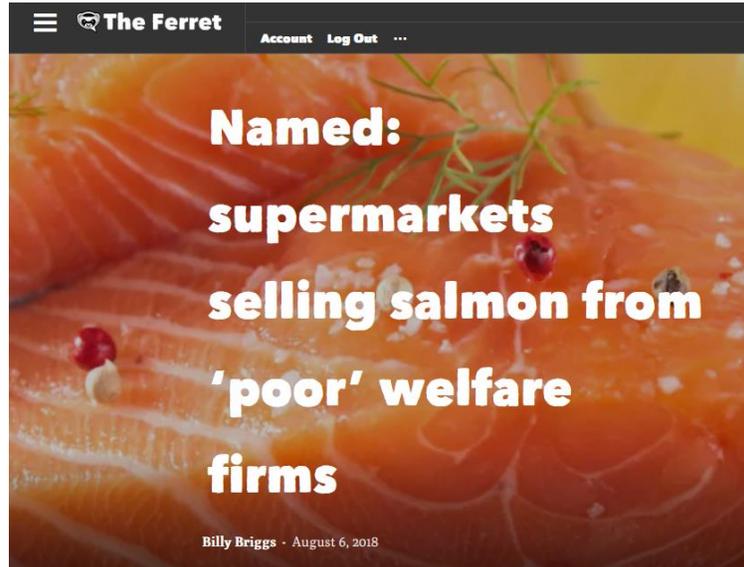
"We use approx. 10,000 tonnes per annum of whole, conventionally farmed salmon, 100% of which is produced in Scotland, which makes us a significant procurer of Scottish farmed salmon," said the retail giant, which employs around 85,000 people worldwide.

M&S said its "Lochmuir" code of practice, developed with Scottish Sea Farms, its sole supplier of conventionally-farmed salmon, ensured feed ingredient traceability, high fish welfare standards and visibility of reduction in medicine and antibiotic use, among other things.

"We are proud of Lochmuir salmon because it has become an iconic product and a great success story for M&S," said the retailer. "Our customers tell us it's a great eating experience, gaining their trust through its high quality, sustainability credentials, Scottish provenance and UK sourcing.

"The high specification and unique-to-the-market salmon product that Lochmuir is also brings tangible health benefits to customers."

The Ferret [reported in August 2018](#):



M&S sources salmon from Scottish Sea Farms Ltd which was ranked third best overall for welfare. However, the company was second worst for monthly mortality rates and joint second highest for escapes. Three of its sites were in the top seven for shooting seals. The company was also responsible for heavy sea lice burdens. Scottish Seafarms Ltd declined to comment.

M&S also declined to comment but its website says: "Our exclusively farmed Lochmuir™ Salmon is specially grown for M&S using a unique feed and award winning farms. The farms are all audited to Marks & Spencer specifications enabling us to give our customers assurances on animal welfare, food safety, and quality. The husbandry of fish is also approved by RSPCA Freedom Food, representing the best possible standards of care."

It was revealed in 2006 that Lochmuir was was not a real place, but a brand invented by M&S marketing experts

