

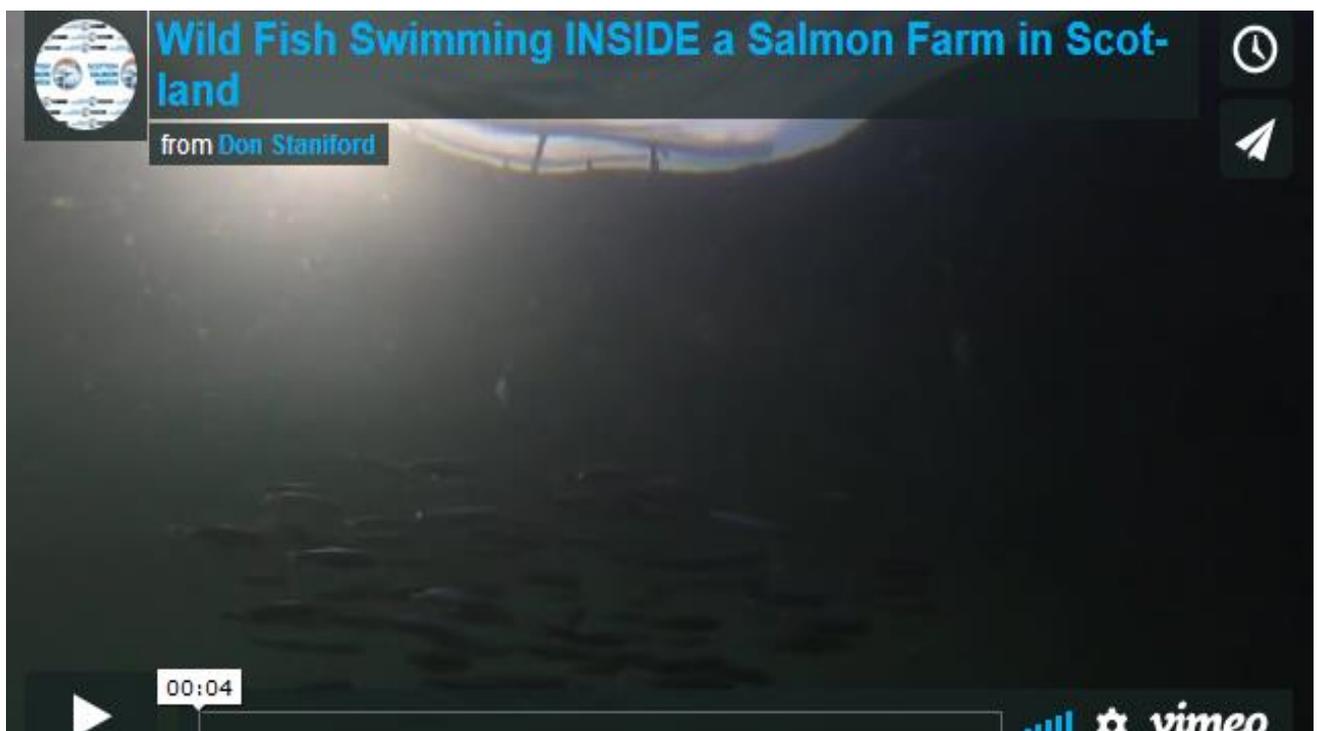
Scottish Salmon Watch, 17 June 2019

[Gotcha: Wild Fish Caught on Camera Inside Scottish Salmon Farm](#)

- Campaigners call for video surveillance & publication of 'incidental catch' data



Video footage captured earlier this month (9 June) [reveals a shoal of wild fish trapped inside The Scottish Salmon Company's Isle of Arran salmon farm in Lamlash Bay](#) (located within a [Marine Protected Area](#)). Campaigners are now calling on Scottish Ministers (including [Fergus Ewing who is visiting Arran today](#)) to set up video surveillance on salmon farms to monitor for the presence of wild fish in addition to [infectious diseases](#) and [welfare problems](#).



Scottish Salmon Watch is challenging the Scottish Government to follow the lead of the Canadian Government which [publishes data on 'incidental catch' of wild fish by salmon farms](#) [1].

"Disease-ridden salmon cages are a death sentence for wild fish," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Millions of wild herring, saithe, pollock, cod and other commercially important fish species could be swimming into open net cages across Scotland, lured in by lights and free food. The risks of transfer of parasites, pathogens, viruses and infectious diseases from open net cages is totally unnecessary. Closed containment technology, for example, would establish a safe barrier between farmed and wild fish. The

salmon farming industry must stop playing ecological roulette with our wild fish populations."

A report - "[Wild Fish Trapped - Incidental Catch in the Salmon Farming Industry](#)" - published last week by Watershed watch Society described wild fish as "collateral damage". The report estimated that [13.2 million wild fish may be held in salmon farms in British Columbia every day with nine times as many wild fish killed by salmon farms in 2017 as in 2011.](#)



Read more via [Conservationists raise alarm over wild fish killed inside B.C. salmon farms](#)

How many wild fish are caught and killed inside salmon farms in Scotland?

Scottish Salmon Watch filed a FOI request last week (14 June) for information on wild fish caught and harvested inside salmon farms. Scottish Salmon Watch filed a FOI request in May 2018 for data on herring inside salmon farms with the Scottish Government replying that they do not routinely collect and hold this information [2].



Scottish Salmon Watch captured [video footage](#) of wild fish (probably saithe, pollock or cod) inside a salmon farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms at Scallastle Bay in the Sound of Mull in August 2018 (relevant footage starts at 7 minutes 15 seconds):



Here's a photo showing juvenile wild fish mingling with farmed salmon inside the Scallastle Bay salmon farm - raising the risk of disease transfer and fisheries impacts.



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

A [scientific paper published in 2018](#) reported that in Norwegian salmon farms eight different species of wild fish were identified; European eel, sea trout, cod, haddock, saithe, pollack, hake and whiting.

Documentation of multiple species of marine fish trapped in Atlantic salmon sea-cages in Norway

Per Gunnar Fjellidal^{1,*}, Monica F. Solberg², Kevin A. Glover^{2,3}, Ole Folkedal², Jonatan Nilsson², Roderick Nigel Finn³ and Tom Johnny Hansen¹

¹ Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Matre Aquaculture Research Station, 5984 Matredal, Norway

² Institute of Marine Research (IMR), PO Box 1870, Nordnes, 5817 Bergen, Norway

³ Institute of Biology, Bergen High Technology Centre, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Received 4 April 2018 / Accepted 5 June 2018

Handling Editor: Costas Tsigenopoulos

Abstract – The production of salmonids in sea-cages has been developed for monoculture of the target species. However, we show here for the first time, that wild fish may enter sea-cages used for farming of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) in Norway, out-grow the mesh size, and thereafter become permanently trapped. Within seven different sea-cages located in western Norway, eight different species of wild fish were identified; European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta* L.), cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), saithe (*Pollachius virens*), pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*), hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*). In the two most extreme cases, a 5 × 5 × 7 m cage with 311 farmed salmon (903 g) also contained 542 whiting (79 g), 77 haddock (43 g), and 5 cod (26 g), and a 12 × 12 × 15 m cage with 1695 farmed salmon (559 g) also contained 1196 haddock (35 g), 1115 whiting (31 g), 46 cod (23 g), 23 saithe (48 g), 15 pollock (22 g), 5 sea trout (54 g), and 2 hake (29 g). The present study thus demonstrates that aquaculture cages designed for monoculture may attract and effectively ‘trap’ wild fish. We did not investigate the frequency of this occurrence, and the ecological significance of these observations remains unclear. However, with the ever-increasing number of sea-cages used for global aquaculture, this is clearly a topic for further research.

Keywords: Ecology / life cycle / gadoids / fjord / coast / finfish mariculture / polyculture / environment / bycatch

A scientific paper - "[Impacts of wild fishes attracted to open-cages salmonid farms in Norway](#)" - published in 2014 stated:

"For fish farmers, the attraction of wild fish to the cages is advantageous because attracted fish eat a substantial amount of the waste feed before it can impact the benthos, and because large attracted fish prey on escaped farmed fish. However, movements of wild fish may play a role in the transfer of diseases."

Another scientific paper - "[Coastal salmon farms attract large and persistent aggregations of wild fish: an ecosystem effect](#)" - published in 2009 stated:

"Applied across the geographical range of Norway's 1200 salmon farms, our estimates indicate that salmon farms attract and aggregate over 12 000 t of wild fish into a total of just 750 ha of coastal waters on any given day in summer. Possible consequences of these persistent, substantial aggregations of wild fishes at farms include a heightened potential for the transfer of pathogens from salmon farms to wild fish and among adjacent salmon farms, and altered availability of wild fish to fisheries."



Wild fish such as saithe *Pollachius virens* aggregate in large numbers around Norwegian salmon farms.

Video footage of herring swimming inside salmon farms in British Columbia is available [online here](#)



Wild Herring school pass in from of farmed salmon in Wicklow fish farm pen

Watch [video footage from Alexandra Morton in British Columbia](#):



Read more via [Sea Shepherd Discovers Wild Fish Trapped in British Columbia's Salmon Farm Pens](#)



Wild Herring inside farmed Atlantic salmon pen. Photo: Simon Ager

Salmon farmers already use [video surveillance cameras to monitor inside the cages](#) so live streaming 24-hours a day would be technically feasible.

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"How many wild fish, welfare nightmares and dirty secrets are factory salmon farms hiding?" continued Staniford. "Salmon farms surely warrant the same level of surveillance and scrutiny as terrestrial farming systems. Sadly, it's a case of 'out of sight, out of mind' with consumers completely ignorant to what goes on underwater inside a [disease-ridden Scottish salmon farm](#). The Scottish Government must start collecting data on wild fish trapped inside salmon farms and stop protecting the salmon farming sector from public scrutiny. The BBC brought us Springwatch so why not Salmonwatch?"



Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy, faces a "hostile reception" on this visit to Arran today [according to the Arran Banner](#) (15 June) who report that the proposed 5,000 tonne salmon farm by the [Swiss-owned Scottish Salmon Company](#) "has already stirred up a lot of controversy" (including [a petition signed by nearly 4,000 people](#)).



Don Stanford

@TheGAAIA



Ewing faces fish farm questions on Arran
tinyurl.com/y2xy9cgy @arranbanner
@FergusEwingMSP @ArranCoast
@salmon_scottish "hostile reception....likely to face opponents of the proposed fish farm which has already stirred up a lot of controversy" @SalmonFeedlots @markruskell



10:02 AM - 14 Jun 2019

Read more via:

- [Ewing faces fish farm questions on Arran](#)
- [Proposed salmon farm off Arran met with fury by locals and environmentalists as industry comes under increasing criticism](#)
- [Salmon bosses told: you're not listening](#)
- [Fish farm consultation descends into chaos](#)
- [Scottish Salmon Company proposals for the NE of Arran](#)
- [Why Arran COAST objects to salmon farms](#)
- [Halt salmon industry expansion around Arran!](#)

Corin Smith [posted on Facebook last week](#) (12 June):



Corin Smith - Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots



Yesterday at 6:16 AM · 🌐

MEGA Salmon farm proposed for Isle of ARRAN

The Scottish Salmon Company wants public consent to site a mega open cage farm close to the Isle of Arran. Make sure you have your say.

Resident of Arran, visitor, constituent or interested party; it does not matter. Everyone should have their say.

www.arrancoast.com/north-arran-salmon-farm-campaign/

Ask questions, make points, raise concerns..... Get informed, get active, make a difference.

TSSC Development Officer: marc.browne@scottishsalmon.com
(required to report all your feedback to Ayrshire Council)

Local MSP: Kenneth.Gibson.msp@parliament.scot

Minister for Salmon Farming: Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot

To learn more about the great work of COAST and the North Arran Salmon Farm Campaign follow this link:

<https://www.arrancoast.com/north-arran-salmon-farm-campaign/>

Sign and share the petition here: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/.../halt-salmon-industry-expansi...>

Make no mistake, if consented now, the biomass will be increased in the future.

If you don't take action now, then when????

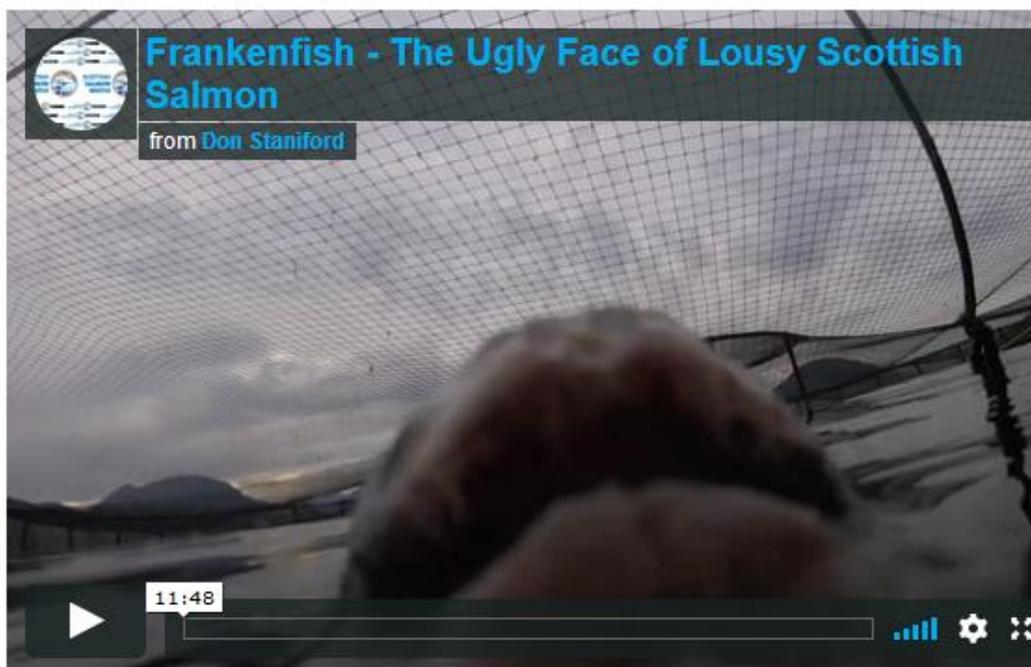
Watch video report [online here](#)



Last week, [The Ferret published shocking video footage of disease and welfare problems](#) at The Scottish Salmon Company's salmon farm in Loch Shiel. The Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate investigated [following a complaint filed by Scottish Salmon Watch](#).



Watch more video footage shot inside The Scottish Salmon Company on 8 June 2019 [online here](#)



Contact:

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

Notes to Editors:

[1] Data is available [online here](#)



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[Home](#) → [Open Government](#) → Incidental catch at BC ...

Incidental catch at BC marine finfish aquaculture sites

Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO's) Conditions of Licence for finfish aquaculture include requirements to minimize harm to wild fish that swim into facilities. Facility operators must also maintain an incidental catch log, which is a record of wild fish caught at the facility during harvest and transfer events. This information is submitted to DFO and public reports are posted quarterly. The tables provided list the reported incidental catch of dead wild finfish and the year and month in which they were captured from B.C. marine finfish facilities during harvest and transfer events. Data are reported in the quarter in which the harvest activities ended and will not exist for farms that do not have fish on site or where no incidentally caught fish were recorded.

Publisher - Current Organization Name: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Publisher - Organization Section Name: Aquaculture, Communications
Licence: Open Government Licence - Canada

Resources

Resource Name	Resource Type	Format	Language	Links
Create a Google Map using latitude and longitude data	Guide	TXT	English	Access
Create a Google Map using latitude and longitude data	Guide	TXT	French	Access
Incidental catch at BC marine finfish aquaculture sites, 2011 and ongoing	Dataset	CSV	English	Access
Incidental catch at BC marine finfish aquaculture sites, 2011 and ongoing	Dataset	CSV	French	Access
Incidental catch at BC marine finfish aquaculture sites, 2011 and ongoing	Terminology	CSV	English	Access
Incidental catch at BC marine finfish aquaculture sites, 2011 and ongoing	Terminology	CSV	French	Access

Geographic Information

British Columbia

Geographic Region Name:

Comments

[Update in Nov 28 2018](#)

[2] Scottish Salmon Watch filed a FOI request on 14 June for information on wild fish caught and harvested inside salmon farms.

Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
to ceu, Neil.Purvis, Helen.McGregor

Jun 14, 2019, 2:29 PM (2 days ago) ☆ ↩

Please provide information on wild fish caught and harvested inside salmon farms.

Please note that in British Columbia this is called 'incidental by-catch' and data is reported by the salmon farming companies and published by the Government online here <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/0bf04c4e-d2b0-4188-9053-08dc4a7a2b03>

This was the subject of a report published this week by Watershed Watch with media coverage in Canada:



Watershed Watch
@WatershedWatch_

Following

New Report: 13.2 million wild fish may be held in BC salmon farms everyday. 9 times as many wild fish killed by salmon farms in 2017 compared to 2011. bit.ly/2MDL24a
[@cbcnewsbc](#) [@MelanieNagyCTV](#)
[@L_Aylesworth](#) [@ainscruickshank](#) #bycatch

6:04 PM - 11 Jun 2019

https://twitter.com/WatershedWatch_/status/1138492278903779328

Report online via: https://www.watershed-watch.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/WWSS_Wild_Fish_Trapped_Incidental_Catch-June2019.pdf



[Conservationists raise alarm over wild fish killed inside B.C. salmon farms](#)

Please include any photos and provide access to any video footage.

Please include any data, results of testing of wild fish for infectious diseases, emails, letters and any other correspondence, Cabinet Briefings and other information on wild fish caught/harvested by salmon farms.

Please note that filming by Scottish Salmon Watch has found wild fish swimming inside salmon farms - here's a photo from Scottish Sea Farms's Scallastle Bay salmon farm in August 2018:



Video footage is online via <https://vimeo.com/288054862> (from 7 minutes 15 seconds)



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

The status is only visible to you

See all video stats

My videos

Scottish Salmon Watch also obtained further footage of wild fish swimming inside a salmon farm over the weekend. We will make this available as soon as my video editor is able to.

Please deal with this FOI request via the appropriate FOI and/or Environmental Information regulations.

Please provide a receipt.

Please provide the information electronically.

Best fishes,

Don

Scottish Salmon Watch filed a FOI request in May 2018 for data on herring inside salmon farms with the Scottish Government replying that they do not routinely collect and hold this information:

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

Sent: 21 May 2018 17:46

To: 'Neil.Purvis@gov.scot'

Cc: 'Helen.McGregor@gov.scot'

Subject: RE: FOI - E - herring and salmon farms since 1 January 2016 - Don Staniford

Re.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. Marine Scotland does not routinely collect and hold the type of information listed in your request. That said, we may hold some information relating to 'herring and salmon farms including any reports of herring inside salmon farm cages'. Where such information is held, this would have been sourced through inspections conducted by Fish Health Inspectors and therefore, will be released through our active publication plan:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation>

Perhaps Marine Scotland should start to routinely collect data on herring numbers inside salmon farms?

Regards,
Neil

Neil Purvis

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101| 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

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Mob:+44 (0)777 5818 281

Fax: +44 (0)1224 295620

e: neil.purvis@gov.scot

w: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

marinescotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: +44 (0)131 244 2500 F: +44 (0)1224 295511
marinescotland@gov.scot

Don Staniford by email
Global Alliance Against Industrial
Aquaculture/Scottish Salmon Watch

Our ref: Fol/18/01271

21 May 2018

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your request dated 2 May 2018 under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs).

Your request

You asked for information on herring and salmon farms since 1 January 2016, to include:

- data on catches of herring in and around salmon farms.
- data on testing of herring for infectious diseases in and around salmon farms.
- correspondence relating to herring and salmon farms including any reports of herring inside salmon farm cages.
- copies of any scientific reports, internal briefings, photos and any other information relating to herring and salmon farms.
- data and reports of herring as 'by-catch' - either transported or harvested by salmon farming companies or processing plants.

As the information you have requested is 'environmental information' for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your request under those Regulations. We are applying the exemption at section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption, because there is no

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,
Aberdeen AB11 9DB
www.gov.scot/marinescotland



public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on the outcome of your request.

Marine Scotland does hold and publishes a substantial amount of data and information on herring catches. This information relates to the commercial herring fishery and none of it is directly associated with or connected to fish farming activity around Scotland. I can provide further details to you regarding the publication of this information if desired, however my interpretation of your request suggests to me that this is not the type of information you are seeking on this occasion.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested. Marine Scotland does not routinely collect and hold the type of information listed in your request. That said, we may hold some information relating to 'herring and salmon farms including any reports of herring inside salmon farm cages'. Where such information is held, this would have been sourced through inspections conducted by Fish Health Inspectors and therefore, will be released through our active publication plan:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation>

You may also find the following publications useful:

Wallace IS, McKay P, Murray AG.

A historical review of the key bacterial and viral pathogens of Scottish wild fish. *J Fish Dis.* 2017;00:1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.12654>

Wallace, I. S., Munro, L. A., Kilburn, R., Hall, M., Black, J., Raynard, R. S., & Murray, A. G. (2011). A report on the effectiveness of cage and farm-level fallowing for the control of bacterial kidney disease and sleeping disease on large cage-based trout farms in Scotland. *Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science*, 2(10), (ISSN: 2043-7722)

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIRs request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to:

Graham Black
Director Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
Area 1B South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Email: directormarinescotland@gov.scot

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will

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www.gov.scot/marinescotland



complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Neil Purvis

From: Don Staniford <salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com>
Sent: 01 May 2018 18:26
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: FOI re. herring and salmon farms since 1 January 2016

Please provide information on herring and salmon farms since 1 January 2016.

Please include data on catches of herring in and around salmon farms.

Please include data on testing of herring for infectious diseases in and around salmon farms.

Please include correspondence relating to herring and salmon farms including any reports of herring inside salmon farm cages.

Please includes copies of any scientific reports, internal briefings, photos and any other information relating to herring and salmon farms.

Please include data and reports of herring as 'by-catch' - either transported or harvested by salmon farming companies or processing plants.

As context, Sea Shepherd reported in September 2017:

<https://www.seashepherd.org.uk/news-and-commentary/news/breaking-discovery-on-new-impact-salmon-farms-have-on-the-wild.html>



Wild Herring school pass in from of farmed salmon in Wicklow fish farm pen

Hundreds of wild herring were also seen pouring out of the boat, causing speculation that they are likely being taken as bycatch with the farmed Atlantic salmon by Marine Harvest's Glacier Falls farm. Additionally, the *Viktoria Viking* vessel is not displaying a license that would legally allow it to transport herring or wild salmon. Marine Harvest was sued by Alexandra Morton in 2012 for illegally transporting several tons of herring in their vessel the *Orca Warrior*.

In an area where herring are protected and their fisheries closed for 30 years, it appears that salmon farms are now becoming herring farms as well.



First Nations claim the salmon farms are also wild herring fisherie

In August 2017, Sea Shepherd published photos of herring swimming inside a salmon farm:
<https://www.seashepherd.org.uk/news-and-commentary/news/sea-shepherd-vessel-tailed-by-corporate-fish-farm-boats-in-western-canada.html>



Wild Fish Conservancy reported in 2016: <http://wildfishconservancy.org/about/press-room/press-clips/first-hard-evidence-video>

First Hard Evidence - Video

September 07, 2016



This is the first hard evidence—after decades of rumors—that net pen salmon are eating wild juvenile fish such as herring. Watch the video.

