

Press Update – 20 December 2012

“Farm Cesspit”/“Sea Lice Levels High”/“ISA Confirmed”/“Urgent Review on West Coast”/“Protest March” – [online here](#)

Please find enclosed a press update (articles in full as PDF [online via here](#))

Please support the global campaign against salmon farming – donate [online here](#)

“[Salmon critic must pay for ‘cruelly and publicly’ mocking court, witnesses](#)” (Intrafish, 20 December)

“[Fears salmon farm could create 'cesspit'](#)” (TV New Zealand, 20 December)



“[Salmon farm decision 'opens coastline for marine farm development'](#)” (Voxy, 20 December)

“[King Salmon draft decision concerns EDS](#)” (Environmental Defense Society, 20 December)

“[Marlborough Sounds fish farms approved](#)” (Marlborough Express, 20 December)

“[Consent declined for five salmon farms](#)” (3 News New Zealand, 20 December)

“[New case of ISA at aquaculture site confirmed](#)” (FIS, 20 December)

“[Judge penalizes fish-farm foe who won defamation case](#)” (The Province/The Canadian Press, 19 December)

“[No legal-fee reprieve for victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge/Victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge will get no legal-fee reprieve](#)” (Global News/The Canadian Press, 19 December)

“[The cost of defending freedom of speech](#)” (Green Around the Gills, 19 December)



[“New case of infectious salmon anemia confirmed to be at Pot Harbour site”](#) (The Telegram, 19 December)

[“Aquaculture raises job hopes but spawns environmental outcry in N.S.”](#) (CTV News/The Canadian Press, 19 December)

[“Another outbreak of infectious salmon anemia confirmed”](#) (CBC News, 19 December)



[“Salmon Anaemia Cases Not Related”](#) (VOCM, 19 December)

[“Call for urgent review of fish farming on west coast”](#) (The Press & Journal, 19 December)

[“Stock exchange looks into Marine Harvest insider trade”](#) (Undercurrent News, 19 December)

[“Is the White House Interfering With a Scientific Review? Leaks suggest politics is blocking genetically modified salmon”](#) (Slate, 19 December)

[“Adboard Supports Leona Plaisier’s Petition Stop Further Salmon Farming In The Marlborough Sounds”](#) (Scoop, 19 December)

[“King Salmon to offer farm tours”](#) (Marlborough Express, 19 December)

[“Russian blasts salmon promotion”](#) (Views & News From Norway, 19 December)

[“Protest march in Carrigaline”](#) (No Salmon Farms At Sea, 19 December)

[“44 sea lice per salmon at Marine Harvest Ireland farm”](#) (Undercurrent News, 18 December)

[“Boycott Irish Organic Farmed Salmon”](#) (Salmon Farms Ireland, 18 December)



[“Lice-Infested Irish Salmon \(Continued\)!”](#) (FishyLeaks, 18 December)

[“Financial institutions restrict loans to salmon firms”](#) (FIS, 18 December)

[“New case of infectious salmon anemia at south coast aquaculture site confirmed”](#) (Gulf News/The Telegram, 18 December)

[“Outbreak of salmon virus confirmed at fish farm in southern Newfoundland”](#) (The Canadian Press, 18 December)

[“Two Cooke salmon farms approved in Jordan Bay”](#) (South Coast Today, 18 December)

[“Fish farm sites worry lobster fishermen”](#) (The Chronicle Herald, 18 December)



[“Belliveau's salmon farm approval draws criticism”](#) (South Coast Today, 18 December)

[“Jordan Bay fish farms approved by province”](#) (The Coastguard, 18 December)

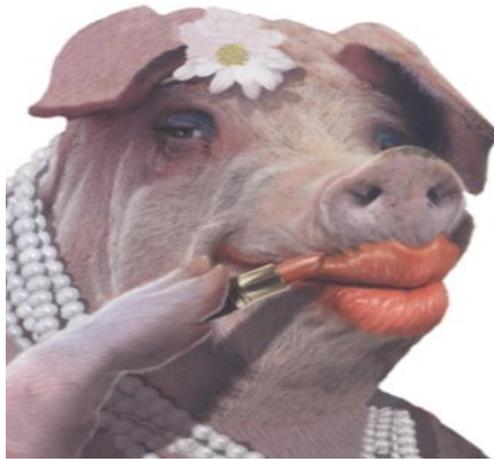
[“Nova Scotia approves two open-net fish farming pens for Shelburne County”](#) (The Canadian Press/Times Colonist, 18 December)

[“King Salmon decision due later this week”](#) (Marlborough Express, 18 December)

[“Farm worried by expansion”](#) (Timaru Herald, 18 December)

[“Save Seil Sound campaigners respond to evidence given to Holyrood Committee”](#) (For Argyll, 18 December)

[“Third Aquachile ‘Verlasso’ salmon farm certified”](#) (Undercurrent News, 18 December)



[“Protests over Irish fish farm proposals”](#) (World Fishing & Aquaculture, 18 December)

[“Sea lice levels high in local fish farms – reports show breaches of sea lice levels in Donegal”](#) (Donegal Democrat, 17 December)

[“Fish farm proposals - Coveney has to listen to objections”](#) (The Irish Examiner, 17 December)



[“Could Scottish salmon farming be transformed by moving to dry land?”](#) (The Guardian, 17 December)

[“Marine Harvest, Mørpol: UK likely to be competition focus on ‘deal made in heaven’”](#) (Undercurrent News, 17 December)

[“Smoked salmon from Chile recalled over listeria”](#) (The Oregonian, 17 December)

[“Dr. Roderick O’Sullivan: Speaker at the Carrigaline Protest at the Irish Fisheries Minister’s office”](#) (You Tube, 16 December)

[“NGO calls for Christmas boycott on Irish farmed salmon”](#) (Undercurrent News, 13 December)



[“Salmonella Salmon by the firm Foppen fooling around with the health of their customers”](#) (Flickr, 2 November)

Including from [Views & News in Norway](#) (19 December):

“What is the difference between a squirrel and a rat?” asks Saveljev in a provocative article for Russian website *Prodmagazin.ru*, where he lashes out at the popularity of Norwegian fish in Russia. He goes on to answer: “Rats are not as good at PR. Now you can think about the difference between wild Russian fish and artificial Norwegian fish.”



From [Voxy](#) (20 December) on the approval of four new salmon farms in New Zealand:

““This decision shows that plan development and Environment Court case law mean nothing to Government or the Board of Inquiry,” said Green Party fisheries spokesperson Steffan Browning. "The Board of Inquiry and Government have ignored decades of community consultation that formed Marlborough District Council’s plan, the wishes of two thirds of submitters on King Salmon’s proposal, the local community and a petition of over 11,000 people who opposed this proposal.”

Watch TV New Zealand via “[Fears salmon farm could create 'cesspit'](#)”



"The pollution from these farms will turn this place into a cesspit," Beech told ONE News.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously declined resource consent for five sites King Salmon applied for, but allowed four other sites, including two in the Waitata Reach area.

Related

• [13:28](#) Green light for Marlborough Sounds fish farms

From an Editorial in [The Irish Examiner](#) (17 December):

“With questions hanging over the future of the wild Atlantic salmon, a big money-spinner for Irish tourism, few issues provoke more heated controversy than the operation of fish farms off Ireland’s coasts. The impassioned nature of debate around this contentious topic was seen at the weekend when 200 people from all parts of the country gathered in the rain outside Marine Minister Simon Coveney’s constituency office in Carrigaline, Co Cork. Their protest was against a Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) proposal to locate giant salmon farms off the west coast.”

Watch a video report on the protest march [online here](#)



Protest March in Carrigaline

From Ewan Kennedy of [Save Seil Sound](#) in Scotland in [For Argyll](#) (18 December):

“An interesting case study can be found at Ardmaddy, which was a pilot relocation study sponsored by the Scottish Government, involving shifting 500 tonnes of production away from near the mouth of the River Ruel in Loch Riddon, where it had done enormous damage to stocks of wild salmon and salmonid fish. Seven years after the removal it seems that the latter are returning to the area, suggesting a clear link between the activities of fish farmers and the decline of populations of native fish. We suggest that the effects of sea-lice on wild fish populations are close to having been proven beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Attempts by industry apologists to blame the admitted collapse on other factors should be subjected to the most critical analysis.”

From [South Coast Today](#) (18 December) on two new farms in Eastern Canada:

“While the government may claim that the Jordan Bay sites were put through a rigorous review process, what was not put through the same rigorous process was the province’s record on monitoring and enforcing their own environmental guidelines for open net pen salmon farms”, said Inka Milewski, science advisor for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.”

From [The Canadian Press](#) (18 December) on ISA in Eastern Canada:

“The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed a viral outbreak in salmon at a fish farm in southern Newfoundland. The provincial government says the unnamed site has been in quarantine since late last month, when the presence of infectious salmon anemia was first suspected..... The Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development in St. Alban's, N.L., says the case marks the second time infectious salmon anemia has been detected in recent months.”

From [CTV News/The Canadian Press](#) (19 December):

"I'm worried about my livelihood, I'm worried about the ecology of the harbour and I'm worried about the future of lobster reproduction," said lobster fisherman Rickie Hallett. "Do you ever see a maternity ward in a cesspool?"

Opposition Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil agrees, saying the NDP has failed to put adequate regulations in place before allowing further aquaculture expansion. "We're trying to close the barn door here while the horse has gotten out," he said. "This government has jumped into the open-net pen aquaculture industry without fully understanding it and fully putting in rules and regulations that are going to be there to govern it.

Watch CBC News on the ISA outbreak – [online here](#)



From [Gulf News/The Telegram](#) (18 December):

“While ISA is not harmful to humans, if not managed properly it could cause further risk to other fish farms in the region,” Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Derrick Dalley said in the news release. “Thus far, there is no sign of the virus spreading. However, in all cases where aquatic diseases are suspected or confirmed, the goal is to minimize exposure to infection and disruption to producers, while respecting obligations to take appropriate and prudent precautionary control measures. For that reason, CFIA had previously quarantined the infected site and our government will continue to provide any and all necessary support as the situation evolves and a depopulation order for the infected fish is issued.”

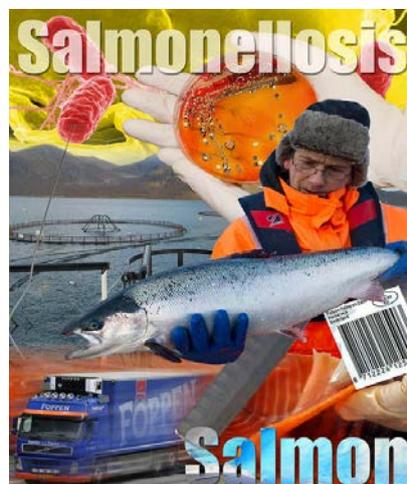


From [The Telegram](#) (19 December):

“Bill Taylor, the president of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF), said in a news release Wednesday the news of the outbreak is “unacceptable” and reveals poor management in the industry. “The transfer of ISA, other diseases, and sea lice to wild and farmed salmon could all be eliminated with the use of land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems,” Taylor said. “This disease, other diseases, and sea lice will continue to plague the aquaculture industry, wild Atlantic salmon, and other marine species, as long as our governments continue to promote and allow the expansion of open net cage aquaculture in our bays.”

From Tjebbe Van Tijen in [Flickr](#) (2 November):

“The salmonella outbreak from the products of the Dutch firm Foppen is treated as an exceptional incident, but it is only 'the nose' of the modern salmon saga. It is time to get oneself informed on the whole body of information and get a voice in the debate of how this industry can be scaled down, and altered in such a way that animal wild life, human environment and health are better served.”



Support the boycott of farmed salmon [online here](#)



Watch video reports from Scotland and Ireland [online here!](#)

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Please support the global campaign against salmon farming – donate online via <http://www.gofundme.com/donstaniford>



Best fishes and a Merry Fishmas!

Don

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Intrafish, 20 December 2012

Thursday 20 December 2012

 **IntraFish**

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Don Staniford er klar til innsats for Norges Miljøvernforbund og Kurt Oddekalv. (Foto: Joar Grindheim)

Salmon critic must pay for 'cruelly and publicly' mocking court, witnesses

Don Staniford won defamation case against Mainstream Canada, but now he must pay a portion of the company's legal fees.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 20 December 2012 03:36 AM

Updated: 20 December 2012 04:40 AM

Salmon-farming critic Don Staniford may have won a recent defamation case in British Columbia Supreme Court, but he's now has to pay the loser, Mainstream Canada, after being rebuked financially for his conduct during the same trial.

Justice Elaine Adair awarded Staniford only 25 percent of his costs Wednesday and ordered him to pay Mainstream Canada, the salmon-farming company and plaintiff in the case, CAD\$8,300 (\$8,390/€6,344) for court fees, even though the court usually awards costs to the winning party, reported Canadian media outlets.

"I have concluded that Mr. Staniford's open disrespect for the witnesses and disdain for the court and the judicial process are deserving of rebuke," said Adair, who noted court rules allowed her to censure Staniford for his actions.

Adair said that during the trial, Staniford mocked the physical appearances of witnesses, accused a First Nations band of taking "blood money," compared the trial to a "kangaroo court," and relaunched his website campaign using a service provider outside of Canada.

The judge said that while Staniford "claims to be a champion of free speech," he "cruelly and publicly mocks" people who have different opinions.

The case is under appeal.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1361160.ece>

Read more via "[The cost of defending freedom of speech](#)"

TV New Zealand, 20 December 2012

Fears salmon farm could create 'cesspit'

Locals are up in arms following a decision to allow a salmon farming company to develop four new sites in the Marlborough Sounds.

King Salmon says it will inject cash into the community, but some locals say the proposal could permanently damage pristine waters.

Boat-builder Peter Beech's family has lived in the Sounds for six generations and he says today's decision is bad news for generations to come.

Associated Articles

- Judge rejects Staniford plea to broaden scope of Cermaq case
 - Judge dismisses Mainstream's case against Staniford
 - Mainstream Canada appeals defamation decision
 - Staniford files cross appeal against Mainstream case ruling
-



Watch [online here](#)

- [13:29 Green light for Marlborough Sounds fish farms](#)

"The pollution from these farms will turn this place into a cesspit," Beech told ONE News.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously declined resource consent for five sites King Salmon applied for, but allowed four other sites, including two in the Waitata Reach area.

King Salmon already operates six farms in the area and it says the extra 12 surface hectares are less than the size of a lifestyle block.

"We could have created 370 new jobs from that space. We could have created \$300 million of annual value," chief executive Grant Hawthorne said.

In September, locals staged a protest flotilla at the sites to draw attention to their claims that the farms will create toxic algae blooms and pollution.

"Just like a sheep farmer, there is an impact on the environment where we farm, but in 25 years of operation there has never been a remote negative environment effect," said Hawthorne.

But opponents say the proposal has done damage far beyond that.

"It has put brother against brother, it has put lifelong friends against each other, it has caused divisions that will probably never heal," said Beech.

The EPA's report runs to 356 pages and the authority accepts there will be some damage to the water quality and landscape from the sites. However it says that damage can be effectively managed.

Submitters have two months to respond, but the EPA says the decisions will stand.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/business-news/fears-salmon-farm-could-create-cesspit-5300017>

Voxy, 20 December 2012

Salmon farm decision 'opens coastline for marine farm development'

The decision by the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) Board of Inquiry to allow new salmon farms in recreational areas of the Marlborough Sounds sets a worrying precedent and is extremely disappointing, the Green Party said today.

New Zealand King Salmon applied for nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds, eight of which were proposed for public water space of high natural character where aquaculture is a prohibited activity. Four new farms have been approved by the EPA, all in prohibited zones.

"This decision shows that plan development and Environment Court case law mean nothing to Government or the Board of Inquiry," said Green Party fisheries spokesperson Steffan Browning.

"The Board of Inquiry and Government have ignored decades of community consultation that formed Marlborough District Council's plan, the wishes of two thirds of submitters on King Salmon's proposal, the local community and a petition of over 11,000 people who opposed this proposal.

"New Zealanders don't want companies overruling their community plans and polluting their pristine, recreational water space. For Kiwis who live by the coast or look forward to visiting their favourite coastal places over summer, this outcome is a nightmare.

"Aquaculture has significance for New Zealand's economy and enjoys a clean, green reputation but that is now at risk.

"With the four approved salmon farms all in pristine recreational areas where aquaculture is prohibited rather than in aquaculture zones, it is obvious that the Marlborough Sounds has reached capacity when it comes to farmed salmon.

"Instead of choosing to increase the efficiency of their operation, such as through renewed efforts to solve the mystery death of thousands of tons of salmon at one of their farms earlier this year, King Salmon has chosen to throw \$8million at the EPA process and bulldoze their way into public water space.

"This outcome is at odds with the responsible business practice that New Zealanders want and expect in their backyard.

"This decision will set a precedent allowing companies to apply to build marine farms anywhere on New Zealand's coastline," said Steffan Browning.

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/politics/salmon-farm-decision-opens-coastline-marine-farm-development/5/144119>

Environmental Defense Society, 20 December 2012

King Salmon draft decision concerns EDS

The Environmental Defence Society has noted with concern that the EPA's Board of Inquiry has issued its draft decision on the King Salmon applications today, approving four out of nine salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

"Our technical advice was that all but one of the nine applications for these large industrial salmon farms should be declined on landscape and natural character grounds," said Mr Taylor.

"We acknowledge that the Board has declined consent for 5 sites but it has not gone far enough.

"The areas the consented farms are to be located in are highly natural and in prominent locations in the iconic and internationally renowned Marlborough Sounds.

"The Council Plan for the Marlborough Sounds already sets a clear framework for aquaculture, where it was provided for and where it was prohibited. This community-sanctioned plan is now being over-ridden by private interests.

"Parts of the Marlborough Sounds are already set aside for aquaculture with other areas protected for their outstanding landscapes and tourism values. We are losing the balance between conservation and development interests.

"There are important national issues at stake relating to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. The NZCPS is clear that adverse effects on areas of outstanding natural character and outstanding natural landscapes should be avoided.

"The decision fails to give effect to this clear national direction. The Board of Inquiry found that the Papatua site is outstanding but then approved it, thus failing to give effect to these key policies.

"We also have concerns at the Ministerial pressure that was put on the Board whilst the hearing was underway. That was entirely inappropriate and warrants further consideration.

"Based on an initial read, we consider there are potential errors of law relating to landscape issues. We have asked our legal team to substantively review the decision to see if an appeal to the High Court is warranted, Mr Taylor concluded.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1212/S00313/king-salmon-draft-decision-concerns-eds.htm>

Marlborough Express, 20 December 2012

Marlborough Sounds fish farms approved

The Environmental Protection Authority has approved four new salmon farms for the Marlborough Sounds in a draft decision announced today.

The authority's board of inquiry sat for nine weeks in Blenheim, hearing about 1200 submissions on NZ King Salmon's proposal to set up nine new salmon farms in areas of the Marlborough Sounds where marine farming is banned under the Marlborough District Council's resource management plans.

The board's draft report ruled that farms at Papatua, Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond were allowed, and farms at five other places were declined.

The draft decision and report can be found [here](#).

The resource consents for the four sites cover a 35-year term.

The draft report and decision is now open for comment by New Zealand King Salmon, all submitters, the Minister of Conservation, the Minister for the Environment and Marlborough District Council.

They can comment on minor and technical aspects of the report only, not on the Board of Inquiry's decision or its reasons for that decision, until February 8.

The Board will consider the comments and provide its final report and decision by February 22.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/8103738/Four-fish-farms-approved>

3 News New Zealand, 20 December 2012

Consent declined for five salmon farms



The Green Party joined locals to protest the nine proposed farms (file pic)

By Lloyd Burr

Marlborough Sounds salmon farm operator King Salmon has had more than half of its expansion plans declined by the Environmental Protection Authority today.

The company planned to build nine new salmon farms in the Sounds, on top of its existing five farms, to meet international demand for its omega-3 rich fish.

King Salmon's plans prompted protests by local residents and boaties about seabed pollution and recreational access to water space.

Their battle was partly won today with the EPA only granting resource consent for four farms and declining consent for five.

The report is only a draft and stakeholders can now make submissions to the EPA based on the ruling.

The accepted sites include Papatua, Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond farms.

Sites that were declined are Kaitapeha, Ruaomoko, Kaitira, Tapiipi and White Horse Rock farms.

The four sites given approval have a term of 35 years.

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Consent-declined-for-five-salmon-farms/tabid/1160/articleID/281025/Default.aspx>

Fisheries Information Service, 20 December 2012



Dead salmon by ISA virus (Photo: edequellon)

New case of ISA at aquaculture site confirmed



CANADA

Thursday, December 20, 2012, 00:50 (GMT + 9)

The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) has confirmed the presence of the Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) virus at an aquaculture site on the south coast of Newfoundland and Labrador.

According to the CFIA the site is being monitored closely by the Provincial Government.

Federal and provincial protocols and procedures have been activated aiming to limit the spread of the virus.

"While ISA is not harmful to humans, if not managed properly it could cause further risk to other fish farms in the region. Thus far, there is no sign of the virus spreading," said Derrick Dalley, Minister of [Fisheries and Aquaculture](#). "However, in all cases where aquatic diseases are suspected or confirmed, the goal is to minimize exposure to infection and disruption to producers, while respecting obligations to take appropriate and prudent precautionary control measures. For that reason, CFIA had previously quarantined the infected site and our government will continue to provide any and all necessary support as the situation evolves and a depopulation order for the infected fish is issued."

Initial laboratory results tested positive for ISA virus on Monday, November 26.

The following day CFIA placed the site under quarantine as a precautionary measure to restrict movement of people, fish, vessels, equipment and other potentially infectious material, to prevent the spread of the suspected virus.

The Provincial Government was notified of confirmed test results by CFIA on Monday, December 17. Strict biosecurity protocols remain in place at the infected site.

As a proactive measure, the company which owns the infected farm had submitted quarantine Standard Operating Procedures to CFIA.

The Provincial Government has provided various operating procedures and assisted with revisions related to disinfection, harvest, destruction and movement of the fish in the event a destruction order was issued.

A decision on next steps is anticipated to come from the CFIA in short order. Further updates will be provided by the Provincial Government at that time.

Related articles:

- [CFIA quarantines fish farm in Newfoundland due to suspected ISA](#)
- [CFIA quarantines another salmon farm in BC](#)

editorial@fis.com

www.fis.com

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=57706&ndb=1&df=0>

The Province/The Canadian Press, 19 December 2012

Judge penalizes fish-farm foe who won defamation case



Don Staniford has been ordered to pay \$8,300 in court fees.

Photograph by: Arlen Redekop , PROVINCE

An outspoken salmon-farming critic who recently won a defamation case in B.C. Supreme Court has been penalized financially for his conduct during the same trial.

Don Staniford was taken to court earlier this year by the salmon farming firm Mainstream Canada over a 2011 campaign that included images of cigarette packages with statements that read, “Salmon Farming Kills Like Smoking.”

In September, Justice Elaine Adair ruled in favour of Staniford’s defence of fair comment, saying that while his statements were defamatory and he was motivated by malice, the activist honestly believed in what he was saying.

While Mainstream is appealing that decision, Adair now has ruled on costs and has censured Staniford for his “open disrespect for witnesses and disdain for the court and the judicial process.”

She said Staniford mocked the physical appearances of witnesses, accused a First Nations band of taking “blood money,” compared the trial to a “kangaroo court,” and relaunched his website campaign using a service provider outside Canada.

The court usually awards costs to the party considered the winner in a case, but Adair has awarded Staniford only 25 per cent of his costs and ordered him to pay Mainstream \$8,300 for court fees.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/bc/Judge+penalizes+fish+farm+defamation+case/7723341/story.html>

Global News, 19 December 2012

No legal-fee reprieve for victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge

Keven Drews, **THE CANADIAN PRESS** 

VANCOUVER - A salmon-farming critic may have won a recent defamation case in B.C. Supreme Court, but he's now facing a hefty bill after being rebuked financially for his conduct during the same trial.

Justice Elaine Adair awarded British-born Don Staniford only 25 per cent of his costs Wednesday and ordered him to pay Mainstream Canada, the salmon-farming company and plaintiff in the case, \$8,300 for court fees,

That's even though the court usually awards costs to the winning party.

The case went to trial earlier this year over a 2011 campaign that included images of cigarette packages with statements that read "Salmon Farming Kills Like Smoking."

"I have concluded that Mr. Staniford's open disrespect for the witnesses and disdain for the court and the judicial process are deserving of rebuke," said Adair, who noted court rules allowed her to censure Staniford for his actions.

Adair said that during the 20-day trial, Staniford mocked the physical appearances of witnesses, accused a First Nations band of taking "blood money," compared the trial to a "kangaroo court," and relaunched his website campaign using a service provider outside of Canada.

The judge said that while Staniford "claims to be a champion of free speech," he "cruelly and publicly mocks" people who have different opinions.

She also pointed out examples of his "passive aggression."

What the ruling means financially remains unknown because the activist's lawyer, David Sutherland, declined comment, saying he was reviewing the decision and the case is under appeal.

In September, though, Staniford said the court case cost him about \$100,000 even with his lawyer, David Sutherland, working at a reduced rate.

"The defence of free speech is sadly not free but it is a price worth paying," Staniford said in an email to The Canadian Press.

"Win, lose or draw the defence of truth and fair comment is a fight worth fighting."

Laurie Jensen, a spokeswoman for Mainstream Canada, said no court dates have yet been set for the appeal.

<http://www.globalnews.ca/entertainment/canada/no+legal-fee+reprieve+for+victorious+salmon-farming+critic+censured+by+judge/6442775692/story.html> and <http://www.canada.com/news/Victorious+salmon+farming+critic+censured+judge+will+legal+reprieve/7723278/story.html>

Green Around the Gills, 19 December 2012

The Cost of Defending Freedom of Speech



Justice Adair today (19 December) ruled on the issue of costs in the ongoing legal battle between Don Staniford and the Norwegian-owned multinational giant Cermaq - read the Judgment in full [online here](#)

Disposition

[44] In summary, Mr. Staniford's misconduct – his disrespect for witnesses and his disdain for the court and the judicial process – justifies a departure from the general rule that costs follow the event. Mr. Staniford's misconduct deserves a clear rebuke, however I have concluded that depriving him of all costs of a 20-day trial would be too great a punishment. I therefore order that the defendants have 25% of the costs and disbursements to which they would otherwise be entitled on assessment thereof. Costs are at Scale B, and there will be a single set of costs for both defendants.

[45] I award Mainstream lump sum costs of \$7,500 (including taxes and disbursements) in respect of costs relating to the defendants' unsuccessful applications to compel answers to questions on Mr. Isaksen's examination for discovery and to amend their pleadings, and the unnecessarily prolonged continuation by video of Dr. Gallo's cross-examination.

[46] In addition, I award Mainstream costs of this hearing, which I fix at \$800 (inclusive of disbursements and taxes).

The Canadian Press/Vancouver Sun (19 December) [reported](#):

THE VANCOUVER SUN

No legal-fee reprieve for victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS DECEMBER 19, 2012 4:03 PM

VANCOUVER - A notorious salmon-farming critic who recently won a defamation case in B.C. Supreme Court has been rebuked financially for his conduct during the same trial.

Don Staniford was taken to court earlier this year by the salmon farming firm Mainstream Canada over a 2011 campaign that included images of cigarette packages with statements that read "Salmon Farming Kills Like Smoking."

In September, Justice Elaine Adair ruled in favour of Staniford's defence of fair comment, saying that while his statements were defamatory and he was motivated by malice, the activist honestly believed in what he was saying.

While Mainstream is appealing that decision, Adair has now ruled on costs and has censured Staniford for his "open disrespect for witnesses and disdain for the court and the judicial process."

She says Staniford mocked the physical appearances of witnesses, accused a First Nation band of taking "blood money," compared the trial to a "kangaroo court," and relaunched his website campaign using a service provider outside of Canada.

The court usually awards costs to the party considered the winner in the case, but Adair has awarded Staniford only 25 per cent of his costs and ordered him to pay Mainstream \$8,300 for court fees.

Global News/The Canadian Press (19 December) [reported](#):

What the ruling means financially remains unknown because the activist's lawyer, David Sutherland, declined comment, saying he was reviewing the decision and the case is under appeal.

In September, though, Staniford said the court case cost him about \$100,000 even with his lawyer, David Sutherland, working at a reduced rate.

"The defence of free speech is sadly not free but it is a price worth paying," Staniford said in an email to The Canadian Press.

"Win, lose or draw the defence of truth and fair comment is a fight worth fighting."

Laurie Jensen, a spokeswoman for Mainstream Canada, said no court dates have yet been set for the appeal.

"The defence of free speech is sadly not free but it is a price worth paying," said Don Staniford in a statement. "The costs of this SLAPP suit are a drop in the ocean to a multi-million dollar multinational giant. Mainstream's parent company Cermaq made over \$240 million profit and had an operating revenue of over \$2 billion in [2011](#). [Mainstream](#), meanwhile, has almost 3 000 employees and a total operating revenue of NOK 3.6 billion (\$634 million) in 2011."

Key Figures 2011

| Income statement, amounts in NOK 1 000 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Operating revenues | 11 634 344 | 9 990 528 | 8 971 715 |
| EBITDA 1) | 1 685 520 | 1 778 299 | 857 910 |
| EBITDA margin | 14.50 % | 17.80 % | 9.60 % |
| EBIT pre fair value adjustments 2) | 1 368 526 | 1 439 344 | 523 562 |
| EBIT margin pre fair value adjustments | 11.80 % | 14.40 % | 5.80 % |
| EBIT 3) | 1 006 570 | 1 951 516 | 545 755 |
| Net result continuing operations | 792 834 | 1 514 669 | 340 994 |
| Net result discontinued operations | - | - | -45 035 |
| Net result | 792 834 | 1 514 669 | 295 959 |

"Thanks to my lawyer David Sutherland in fighting the good fight and taking on the evil Corporation in the shadowy guise of Cermaq," continued Staniford. "It's been an honour to stand together alongside David in the fight against Goliath. Win, lose or draw – the defence of truth and fair comment is a fight worth fighting (and we all know that David wins in the end)!"



"A big thanks to all my supporters including West Coast Environmental Law, the general public who raised \$50,000 via [Go Fund Me](#), and [Norwegian fishermen](#) who donated \$10,000

to fight this [Norwegian Government-owned](#) giant. Whatever the costs involved, the battle against Norwegian-owned salmon farming companies spreading infectious diseases and killing wild fish continues all over the world. How can you put a price on healthy wild salmon?"

The screenshot shows a GoFundMe page for 'Funding Opposition to Fish Farms from No...'. At the top, the GoFundMe logo and tagline 'The easy way to raise money online.' are visible, along with a search bar and links for 'Help', 'Sign Up', and 'Donate'. The main title is 'Funding Opposition to Fish Farms from No...'. Below the title is a photo of a man with long hair speaking into a microphone. To the right of the photo, it says 'Created by Don Staniford' with '1338 Friends' and buttons for 'Contact' and 'Embed'. A text box contains the message: 'Please fund Don Staniford's work campaigning against Norwegian-owned salmon farming all around the world! [more](#)'. Below this, there are social media sharing options for 'gofundme.com/donstaniforc', 'Like' (739), 'Pin it', 'Tweet' (73), and 'Email' (10). At the bottom right is a large blue 'DONATE!' button with a checkmark icon. On the left side of the photo, it says 'Raised: \$49,980.00' and on the right side, 'Goal: \$100,000.00'.

"I look forward to coming back to Canada in March and first stop will be the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve where Cermaq is recklessly expanding their disease-ridden operations at Plover Point in the Fortune Channel. That a Norwegian-owned company is being permitted by the Canadian Government to spread infectious diseases, toxic chemicals and waste pollution in one of the world's crown jewels is a costly mistake. People need to make a choice between disease-ridden farmed salmon or healthy wild fish – and that means removing salmon feedlots from our global oceans."



Read more background on the lawsuit [online here](#)

Including:

Staniford files cross-appeal (31 October) - read [online here](#)

Mainstream Canada appeals (15 October) - read [online here](#)

Don Staniford Wins Lawsuit Vs. Cermaq (28 September) - read judgment [online here](#)

<http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/12/the-cost-of-defending-free-speech-.html>

The Telegram, 19 December 2012

New case of infectious salmon anemia confirmed to be at Pot Harbour site

Clayton Hunt

Nell Halse, the vice-president of communications with Cooke Aquaculture, confirmed Tuesday that the reported outbreak of infectious salmon anemia is at a Cooke aquaculture site located at Pot Harbour in the northern arm of Hermitage Bay.

Halse said that while the site contains less than five percent of Cooke's total amount of fish in Newfoundland, the company is talking the matter very seriously and will deal with it quickly and in full co-operation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Halse said that the site is a medium-sized farm with four cages that contain about 300,000 fish. The salmon are about halfway through their growth cycle and would have been harvested and marketed out in August of 2013.

Hales said, "Our company's approach in a situation when there's been a positive confirmation of ISA is to move out the affected cages as quickly as possible to protect other farms. We have to wait for directives from the CFIA, but we would like to empty that farm, disinfect everything to minimize the risk to other farms and move on from there. "Ultimately we would still like to see Bay Management Areas in place in Newfoundland so that all the farms in a particular area are on the same stocking and harvesting schedule which helps reduce the possibility of viruses like this."

A spokesperson for the CFIA said on Tuesday that the agency will order salmon from the affected cage to be humanely destroyed and disposed of. Pens, cages and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected. Once cleaning and disinfecting is complete, the Agency will evaluate the facility to determine when the quarantine may be removed.

Officials from the CFIA placed the site under quarantine on Tuesday, November 27 as a precautionary measure to restrict movement of people, fish, vessels, equipment and other potentially infectious material, to prevent the spread of the suspected virus. Strict biosecurity protocols remain in place at the infected site.

Bill Taylor, the president of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF), said in a news release Wednesday the news of the outbreak is “unacceptable” and reveals poor management in the industry.

“The transfer of ISA, other diseases, and sea lice to wild and farmed salmon could all be eliminated with the use of land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems,” Taylor said.

“This disease, other diseases, and sea lice will continue to plague the aquaculture industry, wild Atlantic salmon, and other marine species, as long as our governments continue to promote and allow the expansion of open net cage aquaculture in our bays.”

In the news release, the ASF stated it would like to meet with the government to discuss its concerns about aquaculture.

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2012-12-19/article-3143738/New-case-of-infectious-salmon-anemia-confirmed-to-be-at-Pot-Harbour-site/1>

CTV News/The Canadian Press, 19 December 2012

Aquaculture raises job hopes but spawns environmental outcry in N.S.



In this October 2008 file photo, Atlantic salmon swim in a pen.(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty and Jason Leighton, File)

Alison Auld, THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX -- For more than 30 years, Ricky Hallett has fished the rich waters of Jordan Bay on Nova Scotia's seafaring south coast.

From his doorstep on a perch above the bay, he can look out to the harbour that has spawned the lobsters that have provided for his family for generations.

But the 52-year-old fisherman says he fears that could change in the coming years after a New Brunswick company was granted approval this week to set up open-net fish farming pens in the bay -- an estuary that is a breeding ground for lobsters.

"I'm worried about my livelihood, I'm worried about the ecology of the harbour and I'm worried about the future of lobster reproduction," he said from his home in West Green Harbour.

"Do you ever see a maternity ward in a cesspool?"

The language may be dramatic, but it fits with an increasingly polarized debate in the province between people in traditional fisheries, the NDP government and aquaculture companies interested in expansion.

At the heart of the dispute are so-called open-net pens used primarily to raise salmon and trout in waters along the Nova Scotia coast, with sites stretching from Cape Breton to Digby.

There are 31 finfish sites in the province that are in current or planned production along with two in the application process.

The province recently released its aquaculture strategy that emphasized expanding the industry to boost jobs in parts of rural Nova Scotia hit hard by unemployment and outmigration.

But the push by the NDP to increase the number of open-pen sites has generated opposition from both citizens' groups, who insist they foul the environment, and fishermen like Hallett, who fear they will harm the lobsters and imperil their livelihoods.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau says he appreciates the concerns, having been a lobster fisherman for 38 years in the riding of Shelburne -- one of the province's aquaculture hotbeds.

But he insists that any expansion of the industry won't be done at the expense of the environment or the centuries-old traditional fisheries that are worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year and support dozens of coastal communities.

"I'm confident that we are showing a blueprint of a path forward in a bright future for rural Nova Scotia," Belliveau said in an interview.

"I am confident that nobody's going to have harm or do harm to the environment and we are committed to a monitoring process and that this industry is done right."

The province's aquaculture industry is worth about \$50 million a year, with the marine-based pens making up more than half of that. In its strategy, the government says it wants to triple that business, through new processing operations and increased employment.

However, some scientists and ecologists say the province should tread carefully and look to other jurisdictions that are grappling with problems linked to the ocean farms and consider curtailing expansion.

The Cohen Commission that looked into the decline of sockeye salmon in British Columbia recently recommended a freeze on net-pen salmon farm production in the Discovery Islands until 2020.

It said the federal Fisheries Department should prohibit all such salmon farms in the area if it "cannot confidently say the risk of serious harm to wild stocks is minimal."

Jeff Hutchings, a marine biologist at Dalhousie University in Halifax, says high-density pens pose multiple threats to the environment because they can deposit so much waste in a small, concentrated area.

Hutchings, who chaired an expert panel on climate change and marine biodiversity, said the waste includes fecal matter, feed and chemicals that treat sea lice infestations associated with salmon.

"One needs to weigh the purported benefits against the costs -- a few jobs might be at the cost of the marine environment," he said. "These are problems that have been demonstrated elsewhere."

Escaped fish from salmon farms have been found in rivers in Atlantic Canada, raising the risk they will breed with wild salmon and alter the genetic makeup of the fish, he said.

Disease can also spread quickly in the pens, he said, citing the outbreak of infectious salmon anemia in New Brunswick, which led to mass culls in the 1990s, millions in losses and federal compensation worth tens of millions.

Last April, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ordered Cooke Aquaculture to destroy salmon in their ocean pens outside Shelburne Harbour due to the presence of the virus.

In an email, the agency said it confirmed anemia at four commercial, but unnamed aquaculture facilities in Nova Scotia, with two still under quarantine.

Nell Halse, a spokeswoman for Cooke Aquaculture, said the company has been operating in Nova Scotia for 15 years and is well aware of the opposition. But Halse says there is no proof the farms have harmed lobster populations in New Brunswick, which has had aquaculture operations for 30 years.

"The concerns that they raise are not new to us. They're serious concerns that we take very seriously," she said. "But there is not any evidence that our industry has had a negative impact on the lobster fishery in New Brunswick."

Despite that, Hutchings said the province should be investing in more research before granting approval for more open-net pens.

"The province needs to beef up its science and undertake independent risk assessments and provide incentives for closed containment, on-land facilities," he said.

"Canada's a bit behind the times in terms of evaluating the risk."

Opposition Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil agrees, saying the NDP has failed to put adequate regulations in place before allowing further aquaculture expansion.

McNeil says he is not against the practice, but argues that the government needs to determine how many fish and pens can be in a certain area, the number of jobs they will create and if there are areas that are not suitable for the pens.

"We're trying to close the barn door here while the horse has gotten out," he said. "This government has jumped into the open-net pen aquaculture industry without fully understanding it and fully putting in rules and regulations that are going to be there to govern it."

"We've bought in."

Belliveau, who is also the environment minister, dismisses the criticism, saying regulations are in place and the government has proceeded slowly, only approving three new sites since taking power in 2009.

"We have over 13,000 kilometres of coastline and to me ... it's a very minor footprint," he says about the pens, adding that lobster landings are at historic levels in areas with open-pen fish farms.

"I know that there can be harmony."

Still, there could be a steep political price for the government, which both angered and pleased people when it announced in June that it would lend Cooke Aquaculture \$25 million to expand its operations in Shelburne, Digby and Truro in an effort to create more than 400 jobs.

For Hallett, the debate has created a rift in his hometown between people eager for promised employment and some fishermen. And he insists it will be felt at the polls.

"It sort of polarizes communities -- you divide a small community and pit neighbour against neighbour or brother against brother," he said.

"I voted for change last time around and I voted for change that was bad and I will not make that same mistake again. They've lost me and they've lost a lot more people provincially."

<http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/aquaculture-raises-job-hopes-but-spawns-environmental-outcry-in-n-s-1.1085118>

CBC News, 19 December 2012

Another outbreak of infectious salmon anemia confirmed



[Fish farm infections 1:56](#)

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed the province's second outbreak of infectious salmon anemia this year.

This latest outbreak of ISA, which can kill fish but is not harmful to humans, has occurred at a Cooke Aquaculture facility in Hermitage Bay, the CFIA confirmed on Tuesday.

Preliminary lab results tested positive for the virus at the facility on Nov. 26, and it was placed under quarantine the following day.

About 350,000 salmon are affected by the outbreak, and may be ordered destroyed.

The provincial government said strict biosecurity protocols remain in place at the site.

In July, 450,000 salmon were destroyed following an ISA outbreak at a Gray Aqua facility on Newfoundland's south coast, causing a loss of \$10- to \$13-million in sales.

'No cause for concern'

Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley said the situation is under control.



Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley said the recent ISA outbreak is under control. (CBC)

"[There's] no great cause for concern," he said.

"This is an expected process in aquaculture that occurs in sites around the world."

Liberal fisheries critic Jim Bennett said this outbreak shows the need to change the province's aquaculture practices.

He said instead of keeping the fish in cages in the ocean, they should be raised in land-based tanks to help contain infections.

"If you were to take all of the money that's being spent by the federal government through CFIA and add it to all the money that the province is spending in development, clearly we should be able to have closed containment," he said.

Five years ago, more than two-thirds of Chile's farmed salmon had to be destroyed because of ISA.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2012/12/19/nl-second-salmon-anemia-outbreak-1219.html>

VOCM, 19 December 2012

Salmon Anaemia
Cases Not Related



Government says the latest incident of infectious salmon anaemia in a fish farm on the south coast is not related to an earlier outbreak. It says the virus is a normal risk associated with fish farming. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed a case of Infectious Salmon Anemia at Cooke Aquaculture. The facility was placed under a precautionary quarantine late last month while officials conducted testing, and a depopulation order is expected in short-order. Cooke is looking at a loss of approximately 350-thousand fish. Earlier this year, Infectious

Salmon Anemia was confirmed at a Grey Aquaculture facility near St. Alban's. Thousands of fish had to be destroyed as a result.

Government aquaculture veterinarian Dr. Daryl Whelan says the two outbreaks are not connected. The two sites are more than 12 kilometres apart, and Whelan has ruled out a virus mutation. He says in these cases the cause is likely external factors, like a warm summer, that could affect a pathogen.

Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley says the province has full confidence in the industry. He says it should be reassuring to the public that it's business as usual on the south coast and that the protocols in place are effective in dealing with what has become common in the aquaculture industry around the world.

Opposition fisheries critic Jim Bennett is calling on government to consider inland aquaculture operations instead of open pen farming, to prevent the spread of disease. Bennett says closed containment can be in the ocean or on land, both of which he says are viable. He says they use recycled water that is not treated by chemicals.

However, the Newfoundland and Labrador Salmonid Association says it's very concerned with the latest outbreak. Don Hutchens says similar incidents have wiped out the entire industry in Chile, and they have expressed their concerns to officials. They weren't satisfied with how long it took to fix the problem the first time around. He says they're also concerned with an increased incidence of sea lice due to warm water conditions.

Hutchens says they're very concerned about the impact of aquaculture on wild salmon stocks. He says if disease spreads to wild stocks, it could wipe out the entire wild salmon industry, which is worth about 155 thousand dollars a year.

<http://www.vocm.com/newsarticle.asp?mn=2&id=29293&latest=1>

The Press & Journal, 19 December 2012

Call for urgent review of fish farming on west coast

By Catriona MacPhee

A Skye environmental group has called for Highland Council to undertake an urgent strategic review of fish farming in west coast waters.



ACTION CALL: There is no strategic overview for the scope and sustainability of fish farming in and around Skye. Rob Ware

The call comes at the same time as a spike in the number of applications for new farms, which has prompted an anti-fish farm backlash in some parts of the Western Isles.

The Skye and Lochalsh Environmental Forum (SLEF) has also called for a “precautionary principle” to be applied to fish farm planning applications until a strategic overview is produced.

For the full story, pick up a copy of today’s Press and Journal or read our digital edition now

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/3054836>

Undercurrent News, 19 December 2012

Stock exchange looks into Marine Harvest insider trade



- [Morpol chairman: Marine Harvest deal inquest could take up to 12 months](#)
- [Marine Harvest, Morpol: UK likely to be competition focus on ‘deal made in heaven’](#)

- [Marine Harvest to buy Morpol, Malek steps down](#)
- [Marine Harvest CEO: Morpol came to us](#)

The Oslo stock exchange is in talk with Marine Harvest about recent transactions carried out by a company insider and former director in Morpol shares, report Norwegian media.

Celina Midelfart, which was on Marine Harvest's board until the summer, traded 95,000 Morpol shares on Nov. 30, [reports the news website Kyst.no](#), quoting the Norwegian financial daily *Finansavisen*.

At that time negotiations about a potential acquisition between the two companies were already well under way, the news website pointed out. Marine Harvest on Monday [announced it was acquiring 48.5% of Morpol](#), with an offer to buy the remaining shares to be made in the next few weeks.

Celina was replaced by her husband, Tor Olav Troim, on the Marine Harvest board after she stepped down. Since Oct. 18 Midelfart Invest has traded shares worth NOK 3.8 million (\$684,000) in Morpol, *Kyst* said.

A spokesperson for the Oslo stock exchange told *Finansavisen* that it is in talk with Marine Harvest about what appears to be a mistake with the primary insider list. The list has to be updated according to the Securities Trading Act, so the stock market will probably report the matter to the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway, she said.

[Full story here \(in Norwegian\)](#)

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/19/stock-exchange-looks-into-marine-harvest-insider-trade/>

Slate, 19 December 2012

Is the White House Interfering With a Scientific Review?

Leaks suggest politics is blocking genetically modified salmon.

By Jon Entine



An AquAdvantage® salmon

Barrett & MacKay Photo/Courtesy AquaBounty Technologies.

As president, Barack Obama promised to [change](#) "the posture of our federal government from being one of the most anti-science administrations in American history to one that embraces science and technology." To publicly guarantee that, the White House issued a science integrity [memorandum](#) in 2009 pledging, "Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions."

Except, it appears, when it comes to the fate of the first transgenic animal to be considered for federal approval—a genetically modified (GM) salmon developed by [AquaBounty Technologies](#) of Massachusetts. The so-called AquaAdvantage salmon is a fish that has been modified to grow to market size in about half the usual time. It's raised in contained structures that eliminate many of the environmental effects that make farmed salmon unpopular with some environmentalists, including the generation of excess waste and the potential to spread disease or escape and compete with wild salmon.

The bioengineered salmon has been winding its way through a labyrinthine approval process for 17 years. And it's been in regulatory purgatory for more than two years since the Food and Drug Administration held public hearings—and promised a final determination within weeks. As recently as last week, a spokeswoman for the Food and Drug Administration told me, "The application is still under review." But that's not the whole story.

The [Genetic Literacy Project](#) (GLP), which I direct, has learned that in April, the FDA completed its draft environmental assessment (EA), the final step in its scientific evaluation. The agency confirmed that the salmon is safe to eat and poses no serious environmental hazards. The approval document had made its way through every appropriate agency in an interagency review process coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which oversees the president's science policies and is [empowered to enforce](#) integrity guidelines.

But within days of the expected public release of the EA this spring, the application was frozen. The delay, sources within the government say, came after meetings with the White House, which was debating the political implications of approving the GM salmon, a move likely to infuriate a portion of its base.

The GLP has been leaked a confidential copy of the 159-page assessment, dated April 19, 2012, which had been circulated and approved—a [summary of which we have been given permission to publish](#). It states that the Center for Veterinary Medicine, which has regulatory responsibility within the FDA, reached a "no effect" determination under the Endangered Species Act. That should have led to the publication of the EA in the *Federal Register*, paving the way for a public review period, which would have lasted 30 to 90 days. If the process had been followed, genetically modified salmon could have been on dinner tables by next year.

When asked about the holdup, FDA spokeswoman Siobhan DeLancey said, "I recommend you talk to the OMB or the White House. That's all I'm willing to say."

If, as FDA sources confirm, the scientific review is complete, the refusal to publish the draft EA in the *Federal Register* directly contradicts not only the president's directives, but also regulatory mandates ensuring the integrity of science at the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the FDA, and OSTP, which is under the executive branch.

"This shouldn't be happening," said Gregory Jaffe, director of biotechnology at the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Although cautious about biotechnology, Jaffe participated in a scientific review panel that unanimously endorsed the FDA's findings that the salmon was safe.

“AquaBounty deserves regulatory due process,” he added. “We need science-based decisions made in a timely fashion. The public deserves this, and there are questions whether that is what’s going on in this case.”

AquaBounty’s fish is an Atlantic salmon with two added genetic elements: a Chinook salmon growth hormone gene and an on-off switch from the ocean pout, another edible fish. The modifications make the salmon [grow through the winter](#), unlike conventional salmon. Only females are produced for consumption, and they are rendered sterile.

Americans [consume](#) 650 million pounds of salmon each year, with more than 530 million pounds of that imported. If allowed into the marketplace, the AquaAdvantage salmon, as it is called, [could lead](#) to lower salmon prices and an increase in consumption of salmon, a [heart-healthy food](#). GM crops and animals are regulated under the 1986 [Coordinated Framework](#). But while plants have a clear path to approval under [guidance](#) in place by 1992, animals must travel through regulatory no-man’s land. The FDA has approved only one product, an anticoagulant derived from the milk of transgenic goats.

AquaBounty initiated its application to commercialize in 1995. By 2004, it had assembled its “data package,” but its path to approval was never entirely clear. Finally in 2008, the Bush administration decided that transgenic animals intended for the dinner table would be regulated as animal drugs by the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Anticipating environmental concerns, AquaBounty developed the salmon at a secure indoor facility in Prince Edward Island, Canada. A second facility was established in the mountains of Panama to evaluate whether the fish perform well under standard commercial conditions.

As part of its evaluation, the FDA inspected both facilities, determining the fish would be securely contained with multiple redundant systems that would prevent the salmon from escaping into the wild—one of the main concerns for people opposed to GMOs. The FDA concluded that even a catastrophic event at the Panamanian facility would not pose a threat. Lengthy expanses of warm, muddy water outside the facility would serve as a graveyard to any escaped cold-water fish. If some somehow made it to the ocean, they would die in the warm currents thousands of miles from their spawning grounds in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic.

There is no chance, independent scientists say, that released salmon would win a Darwinian war in open waters with wild salmon—the [so-called Trojan gene effect](#). GMO opponents cite a [1999 study concluding](#) that modified fish that grow extra large would have a competitive advantage, threatening extinction of conventional varieties. But AquaBounty engineered the salmon so it grows no larger than conventional fish. A co-author of that study, Bill Muir of Purdue University, who developed the risk assessment model for transgenic fish for the Department of Agriculture, [studied the AquaBounty salmon](#) and determined it has no fitness advantage—and [now endorses it](#).

After years of reviews, in September 2010, the FDA released a long-awaited comprehensive guidance [analysis](#) that found the salmon environmentally [benign and safe](#) for human consumption. The agency concluded the AquaAdvantage salmon is comparable to the traditional variety in every measurable way.

To underscore its commitment to transparency, the FDA’s CVM convened a science advisory panel, which held [public hearings](#) a few weeks later. The scientists, including representatives from organizations skeptical of GMOs, unanimously reaffirmed the food safety report: AquaBounty

salmon was materially identical to conventional salmon and posed no apparent environmental hazards.

The final step in the process—a “no effect” finding required under the Endangered Species Act—[was expected within weeks](#), which would lead to its publication in the *Federal Register* and public hearings. Echoing [one headline](#)—“[FDA to Approve GM Salmon Despite Strong Opposition](#)”—everyone from [the New York Times](#) to [anti-GMO activist groups](#) was reporting that AquaBounty appeared to be on its way to producing the fish eggs that other companies could purchase to raise the quick-growing salmon.

Nothing has been released by the FDA since.

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Union of Concerned Scientists, and other anti-GMO groups sent a letter to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg demanding further review of whether wild salmon could face a competitive survival risk. [AquaBounty's](#) response noted the FDA's expert panel had already rejected those speculations.

Congressional politics then flared up. Forty members of Congress, most from the Pacific Northwest—whose salmon competes with Atlantic salmon—sent a letter to the FDA citing a supposed lack of transparency in the process. Whether because of the suddenly hostile political climate or renewed lobbying by opponents, the formal environmental assessment, which reporters had been told might be released any day, was never made public.

When rumors that approval was near surfaced again, in June 2011, a dozen members of the House, in a voice vote, approved a budget amendment [prohibiting the FDA](#) from approving the AquaBounty salmon. “Frankenfish is uncertain and unnecessary,” said the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska. “Should it receive approval as an animal drug, it clears the path to introduce it into the food supply; my amendment cuts them off before they can get that far.” The Senate did not immediately take up the bill.

Critics cited the snail-like pace of approval as evidence that the AquaBounty application was in trouble. “If the FDA was so assured of the scientific merits of this application, they would have approved it by now,” [said Colin O’Neil](#) of the [Center for Food Safety](#). “The mere fact that it has taken this long tells me that jury is still out.”

In fact, by summer 2011, by all reports, the FDA had yet again reaffirmed its finding that the salmon was ready for approval. The draft environmental assessment was prepared and circulated under an interagency review process coordinated by the president’s Office of Science and Technology Policy. The two other agencies responsible for assessing the application under the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, signed off on the “no effect” determination.

The review even went to the OMB at the Executive Office, which under normal circumstances would have no input on individual applications. Its authority is usually [limited to reviewing new regulations](#). However I’ve been told that, because of the politicized nature of this case, the White House wanted to be involved. According to [Talking Points Memo](#) and my sources, OMB signed off on release of the EA that summer.

The approval was derailed when anti-GMO organizations [circulated a report](#) that the salmon at AquaBounty’s Canadian facility had tested positive for a salmon virus two years previously. The company had reported the incident to Canadian authorities but not to the FDA—which reportedly

did not make officials happy. The FDA immediately put a hold on the release of the draft EA. It took months before the agency determined the incident had been isolated and had nothing to do with AquaBounty's technology.

While that controversy was being addressed, [Food and Water Watch](#), [Consumers Union](#), and the [Center for Food Safety submitted a formal petition](#) in February 2012, demanding the FDA reclassify AquaBounty's AquAdvantage salmon and its components as a food additive, setting up the possibility of a different regulatory regime that would have resulted in the process starting over at square one. The FDA stood firm, reaffirming its commitment to the evaluation by the CVM.

Finally, on April 19, 2012, the FDA circulated a draft EA that was an almost exact copy of what had been approved months before. The "approval of the AquAdvantage Salmon," the document states, "... will not jeopardize the continued existence of the United States populations of threatened or endangered Atlantic salmon, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat."

For AquaBounty, the end again seemed in sight.

"It's a lengthy process, especially when you are dealing with a first-in-kind product that cuts across many dimensions," the FDA's Hamburg [told](#) the *New York Times*. A revised environmental assessment, she said, would be issued "very soon"—in a matter of days, weeks at most. Then the gears of government and communication between the federal officials and AquaBounty shut down completely.

Late spring was a challenging time at the White House. The GOP primaries had just wrapped up, and Republicans were coalescing around Mitt Romney, who appeared to be a formidable candidate. The president's popularity remained lackluster. A late June [Newsweek/Daily Beast](#) poll showed that 54 percent of Americans thought Obama was doing a poor job—one of the lowest approval ratings of his presidency.

The main concern, politicians mused at the time, was a lack of enthusiasm by his political base, whose turnout would be critical if Obama hoped to squeeze out a victory during distressed economic times. Environmental activists were particularly ambivalent. They were upset about the president's unwillingness to block the Keystone pipeline and shale gas exploration using hydraulic fracturing.

And some of them were incensed about what they considered weak-kneed regulatory oversight by the FDA on chemicals and GMOs, which they believed had gotten a pass during the Bush administration. In late March, the FDA, citing "sound science," [rejected a petition](#) by the Natural Resources Defense Council to introduce tough restrictions on bisphenol A (BPA), a controversial plastic additive. "The FDA is out-of-step with scientific and medical research," the [NRDC wrote](#) in a blistering rebuke. "The agency has failed to protect our health and safety."

The last thing the Obama re-election effort needed was a messy dustup over the first genetically modified animal. But that was brewing. Union of Concerned Scientists' Margaret Mellon, a [foe](#) of bioengineering, had already [publicly warned](#) of "a firestorm of negative response" if the FDA approved the salmon.

With political opposition bubbling in Congress and anti-GMO activists mobilizing in cyberspace, AquaBounty's president and CEO, Ronald Stotish, encountered FDA Secretary Hamburg at an industry event in Boston.

“You’ve been great,” he quoted her as saying. “You’ve been patient and taken the high road.” She pointedly did not repeat her statement of a month before that the publication of the EA would be coming any day now.

Her comment set off alarm bells within the industry. Was there a new holdup? Stotish and Jim Greenwood, president of the biotech industry trade group BIO, met on July 11 with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sibelius’ senior adviser Andrea Palm. Palm is known as a “fixer”—she coordinates policy with politics, often working directly with Valerie Jarrett, the president’s most trusted adviser. Sources say the White House had been hearing regularly from anti-GMO organizations.

Palm professed to have no knowledge of the salmon controversy, according to people in the meeting. Palm promised to get back to them within a week. Five months later, dozens of calls and emails have gone unreturned. I’ve fared no better; Palm did not respond to my request for a statement.

Sources within the FDA have repeatedly asserted that the scientific review process is complete and the agency is not the source of the holdup. The media office says the application itself has not been formally approved. DeLancey referred me to the executive branch, to the White House and OMB.

The OMB referred me back to the FDA. The White House declined to respond to requests for comment.

The regulatory foot-dragging sparked a [letter sent to the White House](#) in late September from more than [50 scientists and interested parties](#) concerned about the delay.

“There is much more at stake here than just a fish,” the letter asserted. “The inexplicable regulatory bottleneck that has been encountered by the AquaAdvantage salmon suggests that the FDA’s science-based regulatory review process for the products of animal biotechnology has no predictable timeline and is holding up the development of an industry that promotes economic growth, innovation, competitiveness, and job creation in the United States.”

China has launched an \$800 million public-private investment into transgenic animals, and genetically modified animals are being developed in India, New Zealand, and across Latin America, including in Cuba. But North America has become a dead zone.

James Murray, an animal scientist at the University of California–Davis has developed goats that make milk with diarrhea-preventing lysozyme, a bacteria-fighting protein that could save children’s lives. With no government or private money on the horizon, he’s set up his lab in [Brazil](#), a more biotech-friendly locale. “When you don’t have a regulatory pathway forward and the government doesn’t support research in this area, what company will invest in this field?” he asked. “None. The AquaBounty situation is just confirmation of a hopelessly politicized process.”

The future of animal genetics is so dire, universities are killing off courses. “My program started off doing genetic engineering,” said Alison Van Eenennaam, a University of California–Davis animal scientist who co-authored a scathing article for [Nature Biotechnology](#) on the broken approval process. “I couldn’t get any government funding for my work in this area, so I shut the program down. Why would I train graduate students for jobs that won’t exist?”

A question remains whether the White House or FDA could face legal challenges for intervening in a scientific evaluation process that is supposed to be insulated from politics. The [Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act](#) requires that the Health and Human Services secretary approve the AquaBounty

application within six months after compliance with Section 512. The company holds letters from earlier this year from the FDA advising that every major component of its application has been successfully addressed.

The FDA, apparently caught in the political crossfire, appears to be in violation of its own [scientific integrity guidelines](#), adopted last February. Scientists and staffers involved in the process say they have been instructed not to discuss the application. Key provisions of the guidelines require the agency to shield its staff from “political influence” and to allow the “FDA staff to communicate their personal scientific or policy views to the public, even when those views differ from official Agency opinions.”

The FDA has referred any questions about the logjam to the White House. The chief spokesperson for the OSTP, which is empowered by the executive branch to ensure that scientists are insulated from political concerns, has not responded to requests for comment.

“I think the credibility of our regulatory process is destroyed if someone at the White House or even at the FDA can essentially, arbitrarily pocket veto an application,” said Stotish.

But that’s what’s going on, say those monitoring science policy—even those critical of the AquaBounty salmon. The Union of Concerned Scientists, which has campaigned against bioengineering, expressed its concern that the science approval process is being compromised by politics.

“If the statutes say the decision is supposed to be made based on science, and promptly, the government should follow that,” Francesca Grifo, who helped craft UCS’s [scientific Integrity reports](#), told me. “Despite what the President might have said about scientific integrity, we’ve seen White House interference on what should be science regulatory decisions. They have a legal responsibility to follow their own guidelines.”

http://mobile.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2012/12/genetically_modified_salmon_aquadvantage_fda_assessment_is_delayed_possibly.html

Scoop, 19 December 2012

Adboard Supports Leona Plaisier’s Petition Stop Further Salmon Farming In The Marlborough Sounds

Adboard is the brand new website for Kiwis which brings ads and people together online. It’s a one-stop shop for classified and community advertisements!

No more searching through old-school newspapers - do it all online. Adboard is divided into nine distinct main categories with more than 200 posting topics and hundreds of subtopics. Posting and finding ads has never been easier.

Along with commercial advertising sections, Adboard developers have created Wanted, Notices & Announcements and I love New Zealand - these sections are strongly community oriented and can be searched right down to your local area. Local communities, organisations, groups and schools are very welcome. Advertising diapason is wide: open days, charity auctions, petitions, upcoming events, sporting events, school functions, social events or cultural fairs. Any type of notices can be posted.

Leona Plaisier was very welcome to announce her Petition Say No to 9 new Salmon Farms in the Marlborough Sounds on Adboard. Although Leona was running the ad just the last 2 weeks before the Petition's official closing date, it has caught the attention of many Adboard first users- both on the Adboard website and on Adboard's Facebook page!

Adboard uses the power of Facebook to grow its audience. New ads are posted on the Adboard fan page, which currently has approx. 500 likes - watch this grow as more people catch on. Leona's announcement SIGN AND STOP FURTHER SALMON FARMING was posted on 22 of November 2012 and has caught 125 views on the same day! Facebook is an unusual and new way for a classified website to deliver its new and exciting ads.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1212/S00483/adboard-supports-petition-stop-further-salmon-farming.htm>

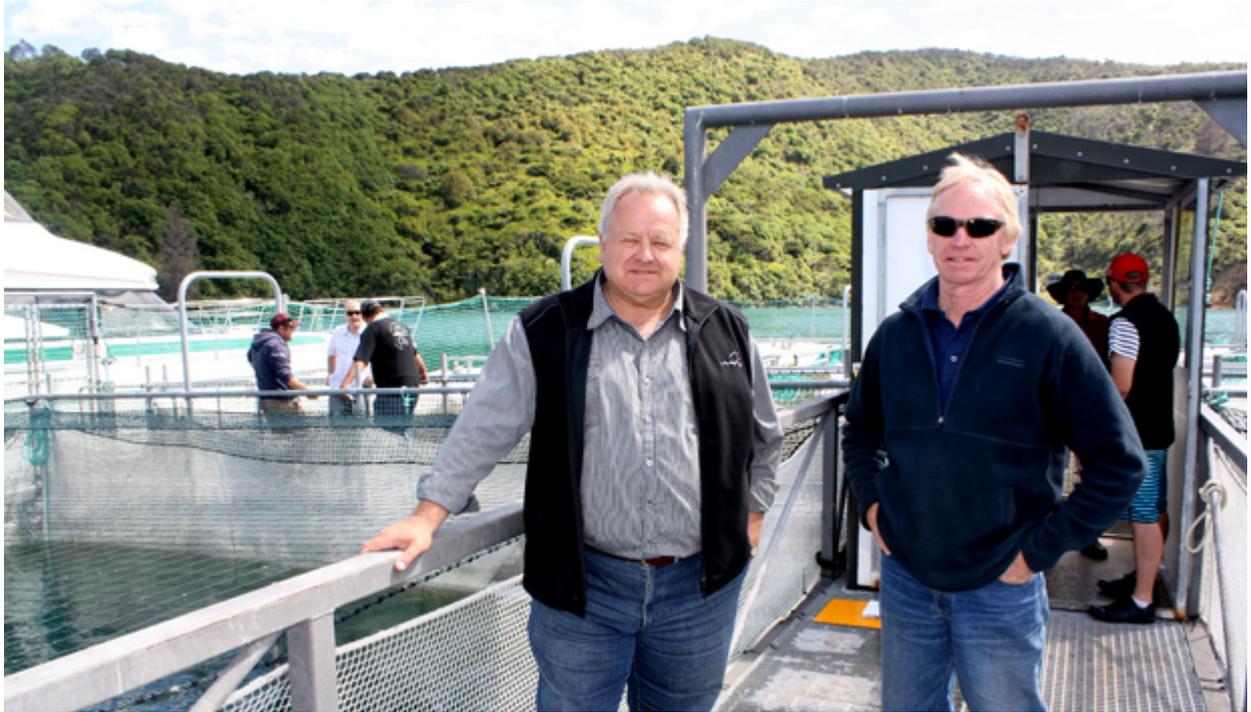


The screenshot shows the New Zealand Parliament website. At the top is the Parliament logo and name in both English and Māori. A search bar is on the right. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Parliamentary business > Papers and petitions presented > Petitions. A left-hand navigation menu lists various sections like 'About our Parliament', 'Parliamentary business', 'Legislation', 'Select committees', 'Hansard and Journals', 'Order Paper and questions', 'Papers and petitions presented', 'Rules of the House', and 'MPs, parties and electorates'. The main content area is titled 'Papers and petitions presented' and 'Petitions'. It features a specific petition: 'Petition of Leona Plaisier on behalf of Save our Sounds'. The petition text asks the House to stop new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds. A table below the text lists details: Petition number (2011/47), Presented by (Steffan Browning), Date presented (12 December 2012), and Referred to (Primary Production Committee). To the right of the petition details is a 'Content provider' section with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives logo and an 'Information' section with the date '12 December 2012'.

Marlborough Express, 19 December 2012

King Salmon to offer farm tours

Kat Pickford



Kat Pickford

Joint venture: Marlborough Travel director Chris Godsiff, left, has been working with New Zealand King Salmon, including aquaculture project manager Mitch Rowe for nearly 30 years and is thrilled to be working with the company to provide a new tourism venture from Picton.



New Zealand King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne

The Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry hearing has shown New Zealand King Salmon the need to allow the community and tourists to see their operations, says chief executive Grant Rosewarne.

After 30 years in business in Marlborough, the company is joining forces with Marlborough Travel to provide salmon farm tours at its Ruakaka salmon farm in the Queen Charlotte Sound.

"The board of inquiry has made us realise we have to do a much better job of engaging with the local community," said Mr Rosewarne.

"A lot of people don't know what is going on and we are really keen to demystify what we do."

By educating the community, he hopes people will be more understanding and supportive of salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

The company, which provides 55 per cent of the world's supply of king salmon, faced rigorous opposition when it applied to expand its salmon farming production in the Marlborough Sounds.

Tensions were raised in Marlborough during the eight-week inquiry, when 1293 submissions were presented to the board.

The board of inquiry is expected to release a draft decision before Christmas, but its final report date has been extended and is not due until February 22.

Marlborough Travel director Chris Godsiff said he has been eager to provide salmon farm tours for about 15 years, after the success of his Greenshell Mussel cruises from Havelock.

However, New Zealand King Salmon had previously been reluctant to pursue a tourism venture, preferring to stick to farming salmon, Mr Rosewarne said.

It was not a money-making venture for the company, but would be an educational experience for people with an interest in the region's industries and King Salmon products.

SALMON FARM ON TOURISTS MENU

A Marlborough tourism company is teaming up with New Zealand King Salmon to provide an interactive salmon farm experience for tourists.

Marlborough Travel owner Chris Godsiff has had an association with the salmon company for 30 years, providing staff transport and boats for harvesting.

The tour provided the opportunity to showcase Marlborough's fine wine, salmon and oyster products, he said.

"This tour is going to be focused on our high-quality wine and food, that's what people come to Marlborough looking for."

Blenheim-based Marlborough Travel has a fleet of buses, luxury vehicles and boats providing transport, luxury wine tours, private lunch and dinner cruises and a daily Greenshell Mussel cruise from Havelock.

The new three-hour trip is named Seafood Odyssey and will depart from the Picton Marina daily at 1.30pm with a minimum of two guests, after the New Year.

The tour begins with a 50-minute boat cruise to the Ruakaka Salmon Farm in the Queen Charlotte sound, with commentary from the skipper.

The boat will tie up at a purpose-built platform at the farm and passengers will have the opportunity to go aboard and observe life on the farm, take photos and hand-feed the fish.

Salmon and Tio Point Oysters which are also grown in the Marlborough Sounds, will be available to try, matched with Marlborough sauvignon blanc.

Depending on the weather they will check out the Tio Point oyster farm in the Tory Channel.

New Zealand King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne said the new venture enabled them to give people a first-hand experience about how their food was bred and harvested.

"We believe food tourism is an untapped resource for Marlborough," he said.

For the first time in their 20 years of being tourist operators, Marlborough Travel are opening a shop and booking office in Marine Parade, Picton. It is a joint venture with New Zealand King Salmon, providing information about the region, salmon farming and Marlborough Travel trips.

Last night, the company launched the new tour with a group of Marlborough business people and tour operators.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/8098102/King-Salmon-to-offer-farm-tours>

Views & News From Norway, 19 December 2012

Russian blasts salmon promotion

Norwegian farmed salmon has been so heavily marketed in Russia, that Russians are no longer buying their own wild fish, claims the chairman of the Russian Fishing Council, Aleksandr Saveljev. Russia is now one of the world's biggest importers of Norwegian seafood.



Marketing material for billboards in Moscow promoting “Weeks with Norwegian Salmon.”
PHOTO: Norwegian Seafood Council

“What is the difference between a squirrel and a rat?” asks Saveljev in a provocative article for Russian website *Prodmagazin.ru*, where he lashes out at the popularity of Norwegian fish in Russia. He goes on to answer: “Rats are not as good at PR. Now you can think about the difference between wild Russian fish and artificial Norwegian fish.”

Saveljev points to how the 2012 marketing budget for Norwegian fish in Russia was NOK 25.2 million, an increase from the 2011 budget of NOK 23.75 million. He claims the heavy marketing has skewed peoples’ tastes and perspectives.

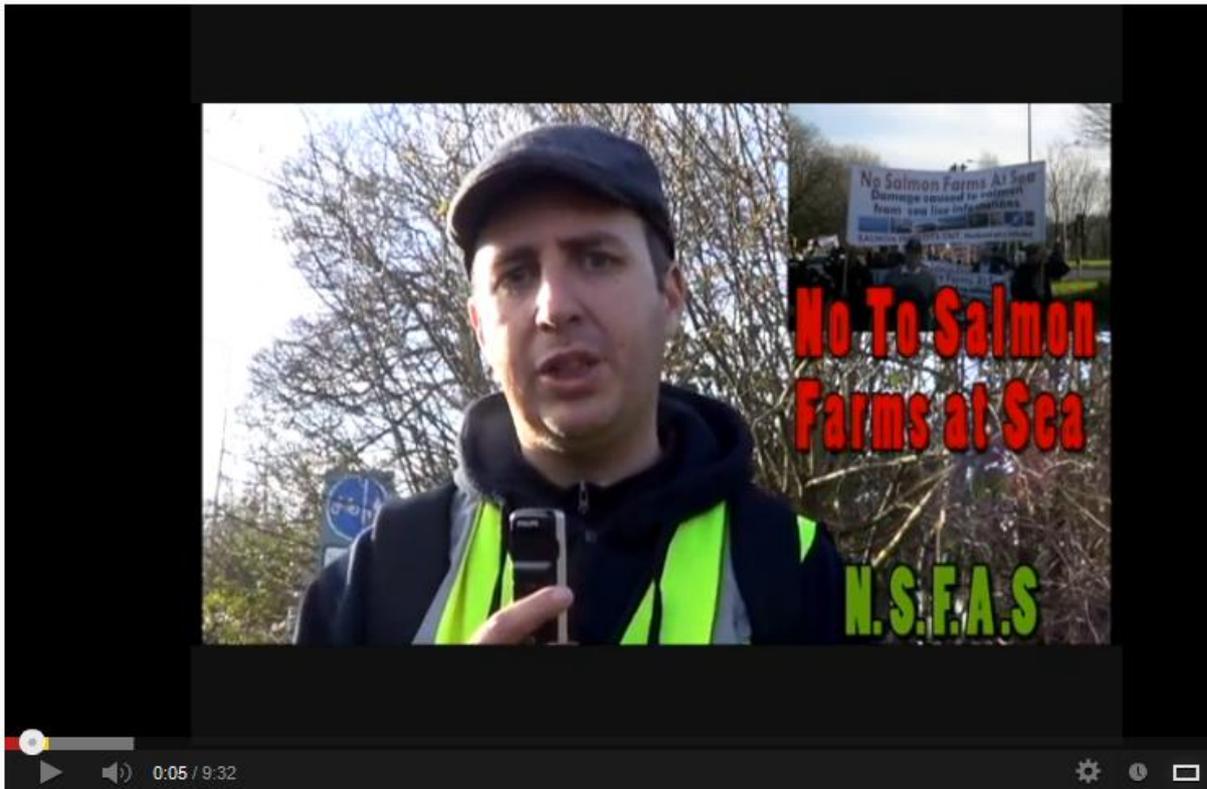
“Work out for yourself how much they (the Norwegian seafood exporters, with backing from the government) have spent on it over the last 20 years, and it will become clear to you why this fish which is bred without freedom, is so popular in Russia, why it looks so attractive, is so in demand, and so expensive,” he continues.

Farmed fish is a relatively new phenomenon in Russia, and Russians have imported around 120,000 tons of salmon this year, an increase of 34 percent from the year before. This, according to Saveljev, has led to deep freeze units in some areas being full of Russian fish, while fresh food counters across the land are stocked with colourful and attractive farmed Norwegian salmon.

Jan Eirik Johnsen, director of the Norwegian Seafood Council in Russia, believes the success of Norwegian seafood in Russia is linked to more than just good marketing. “Taste, quality and confidence in Norway as the source country are important factors that we can build on,” he newspaper told *Aftenposten*.

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/2012/12/19/russian-blasts-salmon-promotion/>

No Salmon Farms At Sea, 19 December 2012



Protest March in Carrigaline

Watch online via <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0kkiTOjBoU&feature=youtu.be>

Undercurrent News, 18 December 2012

44 sea lice per salmon at Marine Harvest Ireland farm



- [NGO calls for Christmas boycott on Irish farmed salmon](#)
- [Sealice levels up in Faroe Islands](#)
- [Scottish Salmon Company experiments with ballan wrasse](#)
- [Mainstream Canada appeals defamation ruling](#)

A salmon farm belonging to Marine Harvest Ireland was one of two Irish farms found to have consistently high levels of sea lice over the past six months, according to Marine Institute findings.

Marine Harvest's farm at Lough Swilly, as well as the Mannin Bay Salmon Company's site in Corhoumagh, were found to have levels of sea lice which exceed the Marine Institute's protocol level of two pregnant female lice per fish.

In November 2012, levels of 6.23 pregnant female lice per fish were found at Lough Swilly, while 5.56 per fish was the level at Mannin Bay.

Counts also revealed a mean figure of 44.88 normal lice per salmon at the Marine Harvest site, and 15.23 at Mannin Bay.

The figures, which have actually fallen to those recorded in November, have prompted campaigning groups such as the global alliance against industrial aquaculture (GAAIA) to call for a boycott of farmed salmon.

"Lice-infested Irish farmed salmon – including 'organic' salmon – should be avoided like the plague," said Don Staniford of the GAAIA in a press release.

"The Irish Government should be controlling sea lice infestation on salmon farms not promoting even bigger feedlots such as the proposed 15,000-metric-ton farm in Galway Bay."

Since May 2012, levels of sea lice at Marine Harvest Ireland's Lough Swilly site have climbed from 4.35 per fish to as high as 71.72 in September, before falling to 54 in October and to 44.88 in November.

In terms of pregnant female lice, numbers have fallen from 11.05 in September to 9.35 per fish in October.

At Mannin Bay the numbers of lice have tended to be lower, though still over the protocol levels, peaking in October at 9.36 pregnant female lice per fish and 26.59 normal lice.

In a statement sent to *Undercurrent News*, Marine Harvest noted that the control protocols in respect of sea lice operated by the Marine Institute, a specifically Irish regulatory agency, are more advanced than those operated in other jurisdictions, as the inspection regime is independent of the industry.

"Data obtained as a result of inspections is published, and treatment trigger levels are set at a low level," it said.

"These controls are widely accepted as representing best practice internationally. Marine Harvest Ireland conforms fully with this leading pest control strategy."

The Marine Institute's protocol levels are levels at which it recommends taking action against sea lice numbers, and Marine Harvest said that it employs tried and tested procedures for dealing with sea lice, and that it implemented them when needed, in full compliance with regulations.

The salmon farmer also said that given certain climatic conditions, lice can be more prevalent, and that this has occurred during the second part of this year, as the reports show.

“Best practice in fish farming is to optimize stock rotation and separation by having a greater number of sites. This is currently a lengthy process and currently subject to long delays due to the absence of conservation objectives for many candidate Special Areas of Conservation as designated under the Natura 2000 directive,” said Marine Harvest.

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/18/44-sea-lice-per-salmon-at-marine-harvest-ireland-farm/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=44-sea-lice-per-salmon-at-marine-harvest-ireland-farm

Salmon Farms Ireland, 18 December 2012

QUALITY SEAFOOD
Eco Assured
Origin Ireland

DIM

Something smells with farmed salmon

Boycott Irish Organic Salmon Today!

What they don't tell you....

- This is a typical Farmed Irish Salmon infested with blood sucking sea lice.
- Farmed Salmon are fed Chemicals to give them color and unnatural growth.
- Salmon Farms at sea destroy Wildlife
- Salmon Farms at sea kill our native Irish Salmon & Sea Trout

"The further development of Salmon Farms on the Irish Coast will seriously effect our tourism sector and destroy our river salmon and sea trout populations"

DON'T LET THEM!

www.salmonfarmsireland.com

<http://www.salmonfarmsireland.com/2012/12/buoycott-irish-organic-farmed-salmon.html>

FishyLeaks, 18 December 2012

Lice-Infested Irish Salmon Continued
- Ireland's Parasite Problems Exposed by 'FishyLeaks'

Another [leaked Government report](#) reveals that Irish farmed salmon - including so-called 'organic' salmon farms - are breaching sea lice levels by over three times. Marine Harvest's salmon farm in Lough Swilly is so infested with parasitic sea lice that there are over 44 sea lice per farmed salmon whilst Mannin Bay's 'organic' salmon are infested with over 15 sea lice per farmed salmon!

The latest data ([November 2012](#)) compiled by the Marine Institute reveals that Marine Harvest is breaching the sea lice protocol level (set at 2 ovigerous - pregnant female - lice per farmed salmon) for the FIFTH month running.

Aquaculture, MEFS, Marine Institute



| Sea Lice Report November 2012 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Bay | Company | Site | Stock | Date | Mean no.s of Ovigerous Lepeophtheirus salmonis per fish | Mean no.s of Lepeophtheirus salmonis per fish |
| Mannin Bay | Mannin Bay Salmon Co. Ltd | Corhounagh | Atlantic salmon, 2011 | 16/11/12 | 5.56 | 15.23 |
| Killary Harbour | Rosroe Salmon Ltd | Inishdeighil | Atlantic salmon, 2012 | 28/11/12 | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| Clew Bay | Clare Island Seafarms Ltd | Portlea | Atlantic salmon, 2011 | 04/11/12 | 1.20 | 5.28 |
| | Clare Island Seafarms Ltd | Seastream Inner | Atlantic salmon, 2012 | 30/11/12 | 0.30 | 4.46 |
| | Curraun Blue Ltd | Curraun | Rainbow Trout, 2012 (1) | 22/11/12 | 0.24 | 6.80 |
| Mulroy Bay | Marine Harvest Irl. | Cranford A | Atlantic salmon, 2012 S½ | 13/11/12 | 0.33 | 19.67 |
| | Marine Harvest Irl. | Glinsk | Atlantic salmon, 2012 | 13/11/12 | 0.19 | 2.22 |
| Lough Swilly | Marine Harvest Irl. | Lough Swilly | Atlantic salmon, 2011 | 13/11/12 | 6.23 | 44.88 |

Elevated Lice Levels

Elevated sea lice levels are levels which are in excess of treatment trigger levels set out in "Monitoring Protocol No. 3 for Offshore Finfish Farms-Sea Lice Monitoring and Control" (DMNR 2000) & "A strategy for improved pest control on Irish salmon farm" (DAFF 2008). A notice to carry out a sea lice treatment (NTT) is issued on the basis of elevated sea lice levels. Treatment triggers during the spring period (March, April, May,) are from 0.3 to 0.5 egg bearing female (ovigerous) sea lice per fish. Outside of the critical spring period, a level of 2.0 egg bearing female sea lice per fish acts as a trigger for a NTT.

Elevated sea lice levels were recorded at:

- Corhounagh, Mannin Bay, Mannin Bay Salmon Company Ltd.
- Lough Swilly, Marine Harvest Ireland

Read November 2012 sea lice data in full [online here](#)

In [October 2012](#) Marine Harvest's feedlot in Lough Swilly was infested with 54 sea lice per fish – breaching the Irish Government's protocol levels by almost five times along with Mannin Bay's 'organic' salmon feedlot at Corhounagh. In [September 2012](#), Marine Harvest's feedlot in Mulroy Bay was infested with 58 sea lice per farmed salmon with Lough Swilly infested with a staggering 71 sea lice per farmed salmon (both over five times the Government's sea lice protocol level)!

"Lice-infested Irish farmed salmon - including 'organic' salmon - should be avoided like the plague," said Don Staniford of the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#) (GAAIA) in a [press release](#) (18 December). "The Irish Government should be controlling sea lice infestation on salmon farms not promoting even bigger feedlots such as the proposed 15,000 tonne farm in [Galway Bay](#). Join the [boycott](#) of farmed salmon and send a festive message to Marine Harvest that disease-ridden salmon does not belong on the Christmas menu."



GAAIA is now writing to the Irish Government, Marine Harvest and Mannin Bay Salmon asking why sea lice protocol levels are being flagrantly breached month after month - read GAAIA's letter (18 December) addressed to the Ireland's Fisheries Minister Simon Coveney [online here](#)



The Sunday Times Ireland [reported](#) (16 December):

"Gerry O'Donohue, of Mannin Bay Salmon, said sea lice were a problem for all fish farms. "We are very careful to ensure that we do everything possible to reduce the prevalence of sea lice in our salmon stocks. "We have learnt how to deal with sea lice. When high levels of sea lice are detected, we harvest the fish, as we are an organic farm and do not use chemicals," he said.

Marine Harvest Ireland said its Irish operations were audited 14 times a year by officials from the Marine Institute. "We note that the control protocols in respect of sea lice operated by the Marine Institute on behalf of the state are more advanced than those operated in other jurisdictions, as the inspection regime is independent of the industry," the company said.

"Data obtained as a result of inspections is published and treatment trigger levels are set at a low level. These controls are widely accepted as representing best practice internationally. Marine Harvest Ireland conforms fully with this leading pest control strategy. "We implement tried-and- tested operational procedures to control sea lice. On occasion, given certain climatic conditions, lice can be more prevalent and this has occurred this year as the reports clearly illustrate."

The Marine Institute declined to comment."



The Irish Examiner [reported](#) (15 December):

"Marine Harvest last night defended the figures, saying sea lice control protocols in Ireland are "more advanced than those operated in other jurisdictions as the inspection regime is totally independent of the industry". "These controls are widely accepted as representing best practice internationally. Marine Harvest Ireland conforms fully with this leading pest-control strategy. Given certain climatic conditions, lice can be more prevalent and this has occurred this year".

"Best practice in fish farming is to optimise stock rotation and separation by having a greater number of sites. This is why we have applied for a licence application for Shot Head, to complement our existing facilities by enabling improved rotation of our fish stocks therefore implementing best practice with regard to lice control."



Read a year's data on sea lice infestation on Irish salmon farms via:

- November 2012: [online here](#)

- October 2012: [online here](#)

- September 2012: [online here](#)
- August 2012: [online here](#)
- July 2012: [online here](#)
- June 2012: [online here](#)
- May 2012: [online here](#)
- April 2012: [online here](#)
- March 2012: [online here](#)
- February 2012: [online here](#)
- December 2011 to January 2012: [online here](#)

More details via <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/fishyleaks>

Fisheries Information Service, 18 December 2012



Salmon farm. (Photo: Mainstream)

Financial institutions restrict loans to salmon firms



Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 23:30 (GMT + 9)

Given the serious financial situation faced by the salmon industry, banks in Chile are assessing a possible limitation on loans for companies in the sector, which would be only for working capital. In addition, they would demand more guarantees than usual.

Several sources of the financial system and of the aquaculture industry itself have explained that these measures reflect the current risk level of the sector, considering its low payment capacity.

As a result, banks have to provision up to 40 per cent of the borrowed money, with charges to the month's profits, reported *Economía y Negocios*.

In this context, banks have decided to demand more payment guarantees, including property and others associated to money orders that do not belong to the salmon sector.

A senior financial executive recognized that following the restructuring of the sector and the support provided for stocking, "the producers' aggressive level affected prices and today the industry is having negative margins."

But banks now take precautions before providing funding: they control the debt structures and the capital and limit loans to no more than one year to ensure the payments.

Meanwhile, the sector is facing problems related to salmon prices, supply and demand.

According to the data provided by the international consulting firm Urner Barry, the national salmon fillet changed from a price of USD 3.6 per pound in early 2012 to USD 2.8 in mid-September. That same fillet in 2011 was worth slightly less than USD 6 a pound.

In addition, a report issued by Kontail Analyse indicates that in 2011 the country exported 221,000 tonnes of Atlantic salmon, and this year, the exports have reached 376,000 tonnes.

Anyway, Valeria Mutis, from [Rabobank](#), anticipated that for 2013 "the rate of supply growth is expected to decrease, therefore prices should tend to recover a bit."

The lack of loans is leading to mergers and restructuring of some companies.

"This industry should aim at concentration to keep growing," a businessperson in the financial sector told *Economía y Negocios*.

For example, the Norwegian company [Cermaq](#) acquired [Cultivos Marinos Chiloé](#) for USD 110 million; and the salmon firm [Friosur SA](#) agreed to pay USD 36 million to acquire the aquaculture division [Pesquera Landes SA](#) (Landes Fish Farming), last September.

The general manager of [Banco de Chile](#), Arturo Tagle, argues that the industry must realize "that it has to be strictly managed."

And Manuel Olivares, [BBVA](#) general manager, thinks that it is still necessary to achieve "an adequate capitalization of this industry."

Meanwhile, general manager of BCI, Lionel Olavarria, believes that the current biggest concern is the exchange rate.

Related articles:

- [A difficult 2013 forecast for salmon firms](#)
- [Cermaq to acquire all shares in Chilean farming firm](#)
- [Friosur bought Pesquera Landes aquaculture division](#)

By *Analia Murias*
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Photo Courtesy of FIS Member  [Mainstream Chile S.A.](#)

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=57659&ndb=1&df=0>

Gulf News/The Telegram, 18 December 2012

New case of infectious salmon anemia at south coast aquaculture site confirmed

Louis Power

A new case of ISA (infectious salmon anemia) has been reported by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) at south coast aquaculture site.

The provincial government is monitoring the situation, according to a news release from the department of fisheries and aquaculture, and protocols are in place to limit the spread of the virus, which was discovered Monday.

The CFIA, which is receiving support from the Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development in St. Albans, put the site under quarantine today as a precaution.

“While ISA is not harmful to humans, if not managed properly it could cause further risk to other fish farms in the region,” Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Derrick Dalley said in the news release.

“Thus far, there is no sign of the virus spreading. However, in all cases where aquatic diseases are suspected or confirmed, the goal is to minimize exposure to infection and disruption to producers, while respecting obligations to take appropriate and prudent precautionary control measures. For that reason, CFIA had previously quarantined the infected site and our government will continue to provide any and all necessary support as the situation evolves and a depopulation order for the infected fish is issued.”

Dalley, along with Dr. Daryl Whelan, director of aquatic health and development, will speak with the media about the case at 4 p.m. today in front of the House of Assembly. The Telegram will provide more information as it becomes available.

<http://www.gulfnews.ca/News/2012-12-18/article-3142779/New-case-of-infectious-salmon-anemia-at-south-coast-aquaculture-site-confirmed/1>

The Canadian Press, 18 December 2012

Outbreak of salmon virus confirmed at fish farm in southern Newfoundland

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed a viral outbreak in salmon at a fish farm in southern Newfoundland.

The provincial government says the unnamed site has been in quarantine since late last month, when the presence of infectious salmon anemia was first suspected.

The virus is not considered harmful to humans but is a risk to other fish farms in the region.

The Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development in St. Alban's, N.L., says the case marks the second time infectious salmon anemia has been detected in recent months.

In July, a salmon farming operation in St. Alban's owned by Grey Aquaculture was quarantined and the fish destroyed after an outbreak of the disease.

Officials say they don't believe the two outbreaks are related.

There are 133 aquaculture sites in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The provincial government says aquaculture production was worth \$120 million last year.

<http://thetyee.ca/CanadianPress/2012/12/18/NL-Salmon-Virus-21264593/>

South Coast Today, 18 December 2012

Two Cooke salmon farms approved in Jordan Bay

Timothy Gillespie

Two new aquaculture sites by Cooke Aquaculture have been approved by Fisheries and Aquaculture minister Sterling Belliveau for Jordan Bay, near Shelburne, according to a news release from the department.

According to materials filed previously filed by Kelly Cove Salmon, a Cooke subsidiary, the sites are likely to contain between 1 million and 1.5 million fish.

The release said that decisions to issue licenses for sites to Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., followed a rigorous application review process, something disputed by local fishermen and citizen groups.

Kelly Cove / Cooke will be required to establish a community liaison committee to communicate with the community.

Local citizens groups have complained for more than two years that their concerns about

placement of the industrial-sized open-pen aquaculture sites near valuable lobster nursery and fishing grounds have been ignored by Belliveau and his staff.

Two previous approvals by Belliveau have resulted in law suits in Nova Scotia Supreme Court, one of which has a hearing scheduled for Thursday.

In the news release, Shelburne municipal warden Roger Taylor expressed his full support of the fish farm approvals.

Earlier this year, Cooke received \$25 million in support from the government for their expansion efforts, which included the promise of building a salmon processing plant in the area, which would provide 350-450 full-time, year-round jobs.

[See government news release here.](#)

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[Jordan Bay rejects fish farm proposal](#)

[Belliveau ignoring requests on Jordan Bay salmon farms, says Mayday group](#)

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[Salmon Wars documentary premieres in Jordan Bay and throughout Nova Scotia](#)

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[Citizens speak out on salmon aquaculture](#)

[LETTERS: Empty words in aquaculture strategy](#)

<http://www.southcoasttoday.ca/content/breaking-two-cooke-salmon-farms-approved-jordan-bay>

The Chronicle Herald, 18 December 2012

Fish farm sites worry lobster fishermen

[By BRUCE ERSKINE Business Reporter](#)

Ricky Hallett says he has no doubt what the impact from two new aquaculture sites off Shelburne County will be.

“Jordan Bay will be the next problem in the aquaculture industry,” the lobster fisherman, who lives near and fishes in the bay, predicted Tuesday.

His comments came after provincial Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau announced that the two sites, each containing 500,000 fish, will be operated by Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of New Brunswick's Cooke Aquaculture Inc.

Belliveau, a former Shelburne fisherman who knows Hallett, said he understands the concerns raised about aquaculture's potential impact on the bay. However, he maintained the conditions attached to the Jordan Bay leases will protect the marine environment.

"I have confidence in this industry," he said. "I'm confident this can be done."

The minister said aquaculture has a small footprint and can create good jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

Lease conditions include design and inspection measures to prevent fish escapes, enhanced third-party environmental monitoring and reduced stock densities.

In response to any environmental concerns, the fisheries department can also restrict production, require mitigation measures and prevent restocking until the site meets acceptable standards.

Hallett said the government has approved a failed business model that resulted in massive kills of diseased, Cooke-farmed salmon in Shelburne this year.

"It's still a problem industry for Nova Scotia harbours," he said.

Hallett said Jordan Bay is a habitat for egg-bearing female lobsters that will be affected by feces from farmed fish and excess feed dumped in its shallow waters.

"It's an open dump site," he said. "Did you ever see a maternity ward in a cesspool?"

The province said the 26-month approval process, which concluded the sites pose minimal risk to fish, fish habitat and fisheries resources, involved Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

But Hallett said the government "sat back on its oars" and waited till the busy Christmas season, when the legislature wasn't sitting and lobster fishermen were out tending their traps, to make its announcement.

"It sounds good on paper, but where's the science?" he said. "It's not based on any facts."

District of Shelburne Warden Roger Taylor called the approvals "another step forward" in the area's economic development.

"We've always been supportive of sustainable aquaculture and have faith in the regulators and the regulatory process," he said.

Cooke Aquaculture CEO Glenn Cooke said the Jordan Bay farms will complement the company's other Shelburne aquaculture operations.

“We look forward to hiring 27 additional people as we prepare to stock the area’s farms in the spring of 2013,” he said in a news release.

Cooke spokeswoman Nell Halse said the company is eager to establish a required liaison committee to address community concerns regularly.

“We’re aware of the issues,” she said.

The province announced earlier this year that it was lending Cooke \$25 million to expand its operations in Nova Scotia, with \$9 million to be forgiven through the Nova Scotia Jobs Fund.

Cooke is a multinational aquaculture business with annual sales of more than \$570 million.

Halse suggested that 75 per cent of Nova Scotians support aquaculture and the important economic role it plays in coastal communities.

According to the Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, Nova Scotia’s salmon farm industry is worth about \$80 million annually and employs 670 people directly and indirectly.

There will be 14 salmon farms in Nova Scotia with the addition of the Jordan Bay farms, although not all are in production at the same time, the association said.

berskine@herald.ca

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/268011-fish-farm-sites-worry-lobster-fishermen>

South Coast Today, 18 December 2012

Belliveau's salmon farm approval draws criticism

Timothy Gillespie

Within minutes of the government news release announcing Fisheries and Aquaculture minister Sterling Belliveau's approval Tuesday of two large salmon farms in Jordan Bay, near Shelburne, community groups, scientists and others voiced their strong opposition to the decision.

"For this project to provide the benefits the government projects," says Mayday Shelburne County spokesperson Sindy Horncastle, "there would have to be a different business model."

She says that the Jordan Bay sites lies between Shelburne Harbour and Port Mouton Bay, two locations which have failed to support industrial open-net aquaculture without damaging the surrounding habitat. "Jordan Bay is simply too shallow to support these large farms."

“While the government may claim that the Jordan Bay sites were put through a rigorous review process, what was not put through the same rigorous process was the province’s record on monitoring and enforcing their own environmental guidelines for open net pen

salmon farms”, said Inka Milewski, science advisor for the Conservation Council of New Brunswick.

Milewski is the lead researcher on a study being done in Shelburne Harbour to document the recovery of the sea bottom after a fish farm has been abandoned. Her results, to be released in late January, show that the sea bottom at the former Sandy Point salmon farm in Shelburne Harbour remains grossly polluted one year after fish farming has ceased. Milewski said the terms grossly polluted and polluted are used in a DFO Expert Opinion report (2006/001) to classify the state of the sea bottom due to organic loading.

“My research and examination of the historic monitoring record of several other salmon farm site in the province indicates that the provincial government has been unable to prevent sites from becoming polluted or grossly polluted. The province’s solution for polluted sites is to simply to allow it to fallow for a year or two or to allow the farm to relocate, often just 100 metres away. There is nothing special about the oceanographic characteristics of the proposed Jordan Bay salmon sites that tells me these farms will not become polluted or grossly polluted in the fullness of time.”

"We believe that the science presented to minister was simply ignored," added Horncastle. She told SCT that the minister refused to meet community representatives and fishermen from the Jordan Bay area. At a meeting with a department official to discuss their concerns about the tons of fecal and food waste which one million or more fish would create, and where the waste would end up, the official told Horncastle that "it would just go away."

"We don't consider this a failure on our part," says Horncastle of the decision, "but we do think the department and Cooke are setting themselves up for failure with cages on those sites."

One member of Mayday Shelburne County, who asked not to be named, said, "There is a groundswell of opposition to this government around here and we are looking forward to the next election."

Social media channels are abuzz with comments about the decision. One SCT reader commented with praise, saying "Guess we can add this to the list of new jobs the NDP have created in Shelburne". Another said, "More pollution for Shelburne, yeahhhh. This is a real sin, a disgrace, an affront to Nova Scotia."

Other comments online include: "It's a disastrous decision which will come back to haunt this Government economically, environmentally, and with a devastating impact upon concerned local citizens."; "The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture - not even fully re-located - is in no position to provide the "enhanced environmental monitoring" as promised . Third party consultants cannot effectively monitor a fish farming operation."

<http://www.southcoasttoday.ca/content/belliveaus-salmon-farm-approval-draws-criticism>

The Coastguard, 18 December 2012

Jordan Bay fish farms approved by province

Greg Bennett



Two new fish farms have been approved in Jordan Bay, Shelburne County.

The province has approved two new aquaculture sites in Jordan Bay with strict licence agreements.

Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., will operate the new sites. The company went through an application process that took 26 months.

"The province is committed to ensuring aquaculture continues to be an economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable industry in Nova Scotia," said Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau. "These new sites will help to further grow the industry and the economy in southwest Nova Scotia, while creating good, year-round jobs in rural communities."

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture worked with Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency throughout the evaluation process. The extensive review concluded these sites would pose minimal risk of adverse effects to fish, fish habitat and fisheries resources.

The province held consultations with the public and First Nations in conjunction with Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will continue to consult and engage with people on ongoing issues.

Roger Taylor, Warden of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne, was pleased to hear the news.

"We see this as another step forward in the economic development of our area," said Taylor. "We've always been supportive of sustainable aquaculture and have faith in the regulators and the regulatory process."

Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd. will be required to establish a community liaison committee to provide a forum for communication with the community. Any concerns raised during the application process were sent to the minister for a final decision.

"Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd. must comply with all terms and conditions of the licence agreement to ensure the farms operate in a sustainable manner," said Belliveau.

Some conditions attached to the licences and leases include:

- following a code of containment for Atlantic salmon in marine net pens
- enhanced environmental monitoring by a third-party consultant, including more site visits and additional sampling locations
- reduced stocking densities.

As part of the licence to operate, the department has the right to restrict production, require mitigation measures and not permit restocking in response to any environmental concerns, until the site returns to acceptable standards.

<http://www.thecoastguard.ca/Business/2012-12-18/article-3142520/Jordan-Bay-fish-farms-approved-by-province/1>

Read more via Nova Scotia government press release “[Fish farm approved for Jordan Bay](#)”

The Canadian Press/Times Colonist, 18 December 2012

Nova Scotia approves two open-net fish farming pens for Shelburne County

SHELBURNE, N.S. - The Nova Scotia government has approved two aquaculture sites on the southwestern tip of the province.

Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of Cooke Aquaculture Inc., has been granted the right to operate two open-net fish farming pens in Shelburne County's Jordan Bay.

The government says one of the conditions of the agreement includes site monitoring by a third-party consultant.

Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau says the company went through a rigorous two-year application process that concluded the sites would pose minimal risk to the area's environment.

He says Kelly Cove Salmon will be required to establish a committee to provide a forum for communication with the community.

The government's plans to expand the province's aquaculture industry have prompted criticism from some who say they're concerned about the impact the sector could have on traditional fisheries.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/weather/nova-scotia-approves-two-open-net-fish-farming-pens-for-shelburne-county-1.30502>

Marlborough Express, 18 December 2012

King Salmon decision due later this week

Cathie Bell

The decision whether to approve New Zealand King Salmon's nine new farms in the Marlborough Sounds could be announced later this week, an authority spokeswoman said yesterday.

The board of inquiry which heard nine weeks of submissions on the NZKS application in Blenheim in August, September, and October is supposed to announce its draft decision tomorrow, but people from both sides said they had heard it could be later than that.

Environmental Protection Authority adviser Vanessa Hetherington said she had no word from the team when the decision would be released, but they were working to get it ready for release this week.

"People need to keep an eye on the authority's website."

Those who submitted on the original application, the council, NZKS, as well as the ministers of conservation and environment, could comment on the draft.

The final decision was due on February 22 next year.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/8093097/King-Salmon-decision-due-later-this-week>

Timaru Herald, 18 December 2012

Farm worried by expansion

A neighbouring salmon farm owner is concerned about the proximity of Mount Cook Alpine Salmon's expansion.

Mount Cook Alpine Salmon general manager Janine Tulloch said it would build at least two rafts for its new farm in Lake Ruataniwha, near Ohau C, in the coming weeks, with work expected to be completed in May.

The company already has two farms on the hydro canals, and produces about 1000 tonnes of salmon per year.

"We received resource consents for the activity more than a decade ago, but it's only recently we've had sufficient capital to go ahead with the operation," she said.

"It will be the smallest of three farms, but will produce up to 200 tonnes per year at full capacity."

However, High Country Salmon co-founder Margaret Logan, whose operation is based near the Wairepo arm, was worried Mount Cook Alpine Salmon's new rafts could be located only 100 metres upstream from them.

"The concern is about the downstream effects, which we won't be able to control ourselves. I understand Mount Cook Alpine Salmon have the consents for the activity, but aquaculture has changed a lot in the past decade," she said.

"In other countries, rival farms would not be allowed to be so close to one another."

High Country Salmon farms about 80 tonnes per year, but has capacity for nearly 200 tonnes per year.

However, Ms Tulloch said there should be plenty of room for all of the operations to work together.

"There are three salmon farms in the Mackenzie who farm at or near the hydro system, and all have different markets," she said.

"When you compare our operations to even King Salmon in Marlborough which farms up to 7000 tonnes per year, we're well below that."

Ms Tulloch said a major review of its practices resulted in it becoming the first Australasian salmon farm to receive the Best Aquaculture Practice certification for sustainable farming from the Global Aquaculture Alliance.

"This is the cleanest salmon you will find anywhere," she said.

Ms Tulloch said the new rafts would also help it shift stock, as it prepares for Genesis' shutdown of the Tekapo canals for repair work over the summer.

Meanwhile, it hoped to start building its new processing plant in Washdyke next month, which could employ about 75 people.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/8091956/Farm-worried-by-expansion>

For Argyll, 18 December 2012

Save Seil Sound campaigners respond to evidence given to Holyrood Committee

The saveseilsound Campaign Group is responding here to evidence taken by the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment [RACCE] Committee on 5th and 12th December 2012.

[The full records of these proceedings can be found online here.](#)

The response is substantive, detailed, well evidenced and thought provoking on the vexed issue of industrial fish farming and its regulation. We commend its full reading.

saveseilsound campaign's response to the committee

In some ways the issues arising at Seil Sound, Loch Shuna and Loch Melfort area could be a case study for what is going on elsewhere. You will find a progress report on where we are now, [here on our website](#).

We start with the general comment that any system of regulation, be it aimed at doctors, lawyers, the police or industry, must aim at bringing the weakest performers up to scratch.

In taking evidence from Steve Bracken you are listening to a respected industry professional of vast experience, explaining what is happening inside an acknowledged market leader with what appears to be a genuine wish to remain in Scotland in the longer term and a pride in proper management and training structures.

Regrettably, for the sake of the environment, not all operators achieve the same standards.

For this reason you should be very sceptical about the value of assurances from industry representatives that voluntary disclosures are preferable to legislation in relation to matters such as sea-lice infestation.

Questions for the Industry

You could usefully ask Steve Bracken the following:-

- To describe his company's training structure and management systems and how they compare with other companies.
- To describe his company's policy for scoping new sites, in particular whether or not they are scoping inshore sites and semi-enclosed sea-lochs and voes, or do they prefer open sea locations with good tidal flushing?
- To describe how much damage if any his company's installations sustained in the storms that affected the Scottish West coast in May and December 2011.
- To inform you about what inquiry if any the industry held internally following the loss of a complete farm, containing 300,000 salmon from Shetland in December 2011.

Double nets were only briefly discussed on December 5th. The assertion by Steve Bracken that double nets do not work seems to have been accepted without any question as to whether the large mesh nets which did not fully surround the cage which Marine Harvest had tried were an appropriate design. The fitting of properly designed double nets would ensure compliance with laws to protect porpoise from harassment by seal scarers and with duties under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 that seals should only be shot "as a last resort". Such nets would make the use of seal scarers and the shooting of seals unnecessary; the problem of escapes would also be reduced and the farms could market "seal friendly salmon".

It is clearly possible to design effective double net systems as they are already used at Marine Harvest farms in Canada to comply with American legislation which prohibits the selling of fish from farms which kill marine mammals. Will the Committee commission an independent engineer to look into designs for double nets which keep salmon and seals separated, without risk of entangling wildlife or reduction to water flow?

The use of seal scarers when there is an alternative appears to breach legislation, namely both the Habitats Directive and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act where it is an offence to “disturb deliberately or recklessly or to harass any cetaceans”. Will the committee seek and publish legal advice on this subject?

Some of the statements made to you by Professor Thomas should not be accepted without further questioning and clarification.

Firstly he told you that salmon cultivation was about creating protein to feed people. This is contrary to the figures put out by the industry he represents, which claims a conversion ratio of 1.5:1. Other estimates range between 3:1 and 10:1. The RACCE committee should be absolutely clear that finfish farming is not about solving the World’s food problems.

Secondly he claimed:

“The perception that the fish health inspectorate cannot take action in relation to wild fish is wrong.”

The latter statement is contrary to what saveiseilound and various other environmental bodies believe to be the case, as can be seen from the written comments submitted. For example it is known that SEPA do not regard sea-lice as pollution.

In a letter dated 28 August to Mike Russell MSP the Director of Planning for Argyll & Bute Council Angus Gilmour wrote:

“... there is one area of complication associated with SEPA’s role and that relates to the ability to treat sea lice in a manner sufficient to safeguard the interactions between farmed and wild salmonids. Whilst Marine Scotland are concerned with the health and welfare of farmed fish and will require sea lice treatment to secure their interests, and SEPA consent both biomass and the administration of treatments in the interests of pollution control, it is for planning authorities to have regard to the interests of wild fish as part of the planning process.”

We believe that this places a quite unacceptable burden on local authorities such as Argyll & Bute, who have limited resources and no dedicated scientific staff in-house, whereas a simple legislative provision passing responsibility to either Marine Scotland or SEPA would provide the necessary environmental protection.

We believe that only in the case of notifiable diseases do Marine Scotland have to take action. We think that they may do a small amount of monitoring for disease in wild salmonid fish. They should be asked to confirm this and how much time and money is spent. Various diseases that have been prevalent in farmed fish have been looked for in the wild. Do they do this on behalf of farmed fish interests only?

The RACCE Committee must not accept that this matter is already adequately covered by some legislation provision without clarification.

Thirdly while Professor Thomas was correct in stating that sea-lice did not originally come from the fish farms and that they have always been present in the marine environment this is not the issue. The problems come from keeping large populations of fish (typically 600,000 in a farm consented to 2,500 tonnes biomass), thereby providing a massive breeding ground

from which plumes of larvae will inevitably be released to infect passing wild salmon and sea-trout.

Strangely he also seemed to suggest that mature sea-lice can transfer from fish to fish, resulting in “strikes” of sea lice on cage fish by spring salmon. We suggest that this is fundamentally unsound. You should ask him to produce scientific evidence to back up his assertion, or to withdraw it.

In case members of the Committee are new to the science concerning sea-lice we commend the website of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust as a respected source of scientific information and in particular the paper by Dr Sally Campbell on sea-lice, [which can be accessed online here](#).

Regarding the current non-availability of infestation data Ms Beamish was absolutely correct to emphasise that there is a legitimate public interest here. And why should companies that manage to keep infestations down through best practice get tarnished by those who fail to do so?

The Committee should be pressing for measures requiring the accurate recording of data in real time to be included in primary legislation.

Questions for SEPA

Douglas Sinclair should be asked why SEPA does not adhere to its own published policies for the siting of fin fish farms and relative environmental assessments. The policies to which we refer were summarized by SARF thus:

- SEPA considers that there is an inherently higher environmental risk associated with fish farming development within narrow, semi enclosed sea lochs and voes, which have relatively poor dispersion characteristics. Many farms in such areas have reached, or are close to reaching, their maximum sustainable size and their scope for further expansion is very limited.
- Accordingly, SEPA will favour the establishment, or expansion, of fish farm sites in more dispersive open-water and off-shore areas rather than those sites in enclosed areas.

The increasing size of fish farm units justifies, and can support, more sophisticated pre-development environmental assessment, pollution control strategies and monitoring.

At Seil Sound SEPA have agreed to an increase in permitted biomass of almost 100% in direct contradiction to all three of the above. Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse saw no need to call in the application, so a licence has been granted.

Douglas Sinclair did not disclose the number of cases where biomass had been reduced and was not pressed to do so. The answer is contained in the Salmon and Trout Association’s written evidence that although 65% of reports in the two years to 2011 were unsatisfactory or borderline only in 8 cases was a reduction ordered, involving a reduction of just over 2000 tonnes across the entire industry.

No licences were revoked in the same period.

Further, save seil sound asked the Crown Office Wildlife and Environmental Crime Unit (WECU) to disclose the number of cases referred to it by SEPA in the period since its inception on 15 August 2011 to 31 October 2012. We now have the reply confirming that no cases were referred in relation to operators of fin fish farms in respect of their water-based or land-based facilities. In the same period two cases were referred in relation to operators of other water-based activities and 44 cases in respect of land-based activities.

As the period saw a number of major incidents including the loss of a complete farm containing about 300,000 fish this all suggests that SEPA regulates the industry with an extremely light touch.

Douglas Sinclair should be asked what investigations if any were done by SEPA after the loss of the Lakeland farm in Shetland a year ago and what the outcome was. In particular – What caused the farm to break free? Why did Lakeland not notice it had gone for several days? What action did SEPA take to ascertain/minimise the damage caused to the marine environment? What lessons have been learned?

Why did SEPA not refer the loss to the WECU?

Turning to our local waters as a case study, SEPA is currently in receipt of an application by Meridian (Lakeland) to permit the doubling of the permitted biomass at Pol na Gile, Loch Shuna from 750 tonnes to 1500 tonnes. Again the site is within a “narrow, semi enclosed sea loch”.

The existing salmon farm at Pol na Gile was “Borderline” on its seabed self-monitoring results for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2007, and “Unsatisfactory” for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2009. The self-monitoring survey carried out by Fish Vet Group on 22/04/2010 was “Satisfactory” however the Fish Farm Audit Survey carried out two weeks later on 06/05/2010 by SEPA found the site to be “Unsatisfactory” both for biology and chemistry.

Given that the seabed condition was “Unsatisfactory” or “Borderline” from 2001 until its most recent survey in 2010 (assuming that SEPA’s audit, rather than the self-monitoring, was correct in 2010), did SEPA require any reductions in biomass at the farm during that period? If they did not what was the reason for this?

Meridian have produced computer modelling predicting that the increase will not result in an “unsatisfactory” seabed, however, the site has consistently proved that it is incapable of assimilating the waste from 750 tonnes. The same computer model failed to correctly predict the deposition of pollution at Ardmaddy and the many other sites detailed in the S&TA report. Douglas Sinclair should be asked to confirm the policy adopted with regard to SEPA requiring an actual survey of seabed and tidal conditions rather than relying on computer modelling done by the applicant, with a note of the number of cases where this has happened.

Annex 1 of the SARF/Site Optimisation for Aquaculture Operations WP1 quotes a recommended separation distance between fin fish farms of 8 kilometres. Douglas Sinclair should be asked to confirm the policy whereby SEPA disregards the recommendation. For example if smaller farms can be closer together what is the maximum size of a small farm? (Pol na Gile is less than 2 kilometres from its nearest neighbour.)

Since 2005 the Allowable Zone of Effects (the area a farm is allowed to pollute) has been allowed to increase. The AZE boundary is now based on an Infaunal Trophic Index of 30 which means that the seabed within the AZE boundary is expected to be “degraded” but even outside the AZE the seabed will be “changed” by pollution and not, as one might expect, unaffected. As a result there is no indication of how far from a farm seabeds are expected to be unaffected by both organic and chemical pollution from that farm. Why have SEPA relaxed the environmental controls which apply to salmon farms?

Douglas Sinclair was correct to highlight the problem that a farm can be consented for a higher biomass on seabed modelling than it would be consented for if the biomass was based on sea-lice chemical modelling. This problem became apparent in August 2009 at Ardmaddy when SEPA had to allow a four-fold increase in the consented amount of Slice to try to control an infestation. The use of chemicals which are supposed to be restricted by EU legislation is expected to increase as sea-lice develop resistance. Will the committee consider recommending that the biomass consented to a farm is based on whichever model – organic pollution or sea-lice chemicals – gives the lower biomass?

Beggiatoa mats, the type of bacterial mat commonly occurring under fish farms, are an indicator species of highly polluted environments and flourish in conditions of low oxygen and high sulphur. SEPA have previously sought to minimise bacterial mats even under the cages.

However Douglas Sinclair is now on record (Sunday Times article by Jason Allardice on 9 December 2012) saying that the “formation of any [bacterial] mat can be best viewed as part of a post-impact recovery process”. He should be asked to supply the scientific basis for his statement. Does SEPA now intend to tolerate higher levels of bacterial mats around fin-fish farms?

East versus West

Finally turning to the evidence taken on 12 December we comment only on the East coast versus West coast issue. The reasons for the catastrophic collapse in wild salmonid populations along the Western aquaculture coast have long been the subject of contention between the industry and those who care for the environment.

It is a pity that the witnesses and the RACCE committee appeared to skate over the issue, which seems to us fundamental to the debate. We hope that you will return to it in more detail later. We commend an article by Roger Brook on the subject, [which can be accessed online here](#).

Again an interesting case study can be found at Ardmaddy, which was a pilot relocation study sponsored by the Scottish Government, involving shifting 500 tonnes of production away from near the mouth of the River Ruel in Loch Riddon, where it had done enormous damage to stocks of wild salmon and salmonid fish. Seven years after the removal it seems that the latter are returning to the area, suggesting a clear link between the activities of fish farmers and the decline of populations of native fish.

We suggest that the effects of sea-lice on wild fish populations are close to having been proven beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Attempts by industry apologists to blame the admitted collapse on other factors should be subjected to the most critical analysis.

Ewan Kennedy for saveiseilsound

<http://forargyll.com/2012/12/saveiseilsound-campaigners-respond-to-evidence-given-to-holyrood-committee/>

Undercurrent News, 18 December 2012

Third Aquachile 'Verlasso' salmon farm certified



- [Inland brings AquaChile Verlasso salmon to southeastern US](#)
- [Verlasso rolls-out smoked salmon across US](#)
- [Slade Gorton chair: Farmed salmon best value](#)
- [AquaChile posts loss on higher sales](#)

AquaChile's Verlasso salmon farm in Herradura, Patagonia, has received certification from Det Norske Veritas (DNV), which also certified the farm's 1:1 fish in, fish out ratio.

Herradura is the third Verlasso salmon farm to be certified by DNV, after Quilque Sur in November 2011 and La Lanca in July 2012, with all three now practicing the 1:1 ratio.

DNV confirmed the 'fish in, fish out' ratio for fish oil and fish meal at the farm is 1:1, meaning it uses one pound of feeder fish to produce one pound of salmon.

The average ratio across all salmon growers is 4:1, according to the company's press release.

DNV also confirmed the Herradura farm's average pen density as 12 kilos per metric ton.

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/18/third-aquachile-verlasso-salmon-farm-certified/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=europe_newsletter_dec_17

World Fishing & Aquaculture, 18 December 2012

Protests over Irish fish farm proposals

Environmental groups are insisting that the planned expansion of the fish farming industry along the west coast of Ireland will lead to diminishing wild stocks and be detrimental for the local community and businesses.

The Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) proposals aim to create 'mega' salmon farms off Inis Orr in the Aran Islands and anger over the planned proposals bubbled over into a 250 strong protest outside Marine Minister, Simon Coveney's, constituency office in Carrigaline, Co Cork over the weekend.

Environmental groups such as the Save Bantry Bay, Save Galway Bay, No Salmon Farms at Sea (NSFAS), Friends of the Irish Environment and the Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers (Fissta) all came together at the protest to present the minister with a petition.

One of the main beefs is that a WWF report on the dangers of salmon farming has been ignored and that the government should not ignore the very real risks of excessive farm chemicals and viruses and parasites that could affect wild stocks.

The groups are undertaking an aggressive social media campaign to help garner support for the opposition over the proposals.

<http://www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/protests-over-irish-fish-farm-proposals>

Donegal Democrat, 17 December 2012

Sea lice levels high in local fish farms

Reports show breaches of sea lice levels in Donegal

DECLAN MAGEE

News Reporter

High levels of sea lice have been detected at five different fish farming facilities in Donegal so far this year.

Monthly reports from the Marine Institute show facilities in the county breached recommended government levels 14 times from January to October this year.

The worst offender was the Marine Harvest farm on Lough Swilly which breached the recommended levels of sea lice on seven occasions, followed by the McSwynes Ocean Farm Ltd facility in Donegal Bay which had four breaches of the government limits.

The Eany Fish Products farm at Inver Bay and Marine Harvest facilities at Mulroy Bay and Cranford all breached the limits once.

The Swilly and Mulroy farms recorded levels of sea lice more than five times the recommended level in September.

When a farm breaches the limits the Marine Institute issues a notice to carry out a sea lice treat-

ment.

The reports have been released by Don Staniford, a leading campaigner against fish farms and their impact on wild salmon populations.

Mr. Staniford visited fish farms in Ireland last month including Marine Harvest farms in Donegal.

In recent weeks two international scientific reports have linked sea lice infestations at salmon farms to the decline in wild salmon numbers. A report by the Proceedings of the Royal Society B, found that 39 per cent of wild Atlantic salmon were victims of sea lice.

Mr. Staniford, a member of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, said the latest National Survey of Sea Lice on Fish Farms in Ireland revealed that 50 per cent of Irish salmon farms breached sea lice levels in 2011 compared to 40 per cent in 2010 and 24 per cent in 2009.

"The public has a right to know that the Irish salmon farming industry is already being plagued by severe sea lice infestation," he said.

"Cost wise, feed and sea lice miti-



gation costs have increased compared to 2011. High mortality in the 2012 harvest generation influenced the cost level in the period and will increasingly do so going forward."

Marine Harvest Ireland say they are audited 14 times a year by the Marine Institute and these reports are a matter of public record. In a statement issued to the Donegal Democrat/Donagel People's Press, the company said: "We note that the control protocols in respect of

sea lice operated by the Marine Institute on behalf of the State are more advanced than those operated in other jurisdictions as the inspection regime is totally independent of the industry; data obtained as a result of inspections is published; and treatment trigger levels are set at a low level. These controls are widely accepted as representing best practice internationally. Marine Harvest Ireland conforms fully with this leading pest control strategy."

The Marine Institute said its monitoring and control strategy works to reduce the development of infestations.

It said there has been a downward trend in sea lice levels detected on salmon farms since 2008. All notices to treat were complied with and corrective action was taken in all cases, it said.

"During the Spring period from March to May this year, out of 113 inspections 15 had levels above the treatment figure and the farms were issued a notice to treat. All notices to treat were complied with and corrective action was taken in all cases," the institute said.

Online as PDF via <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/donegal-democrat-17-dec-2012.pdf>

The Irish Examiner, 17 December 2012

Fish farm proposals - Coveney has to listen to objections

With questions hanging over the future of the wild Atlantic salmon, a big money-spinner for Irish tourism, few issues provoke more heated controversy than the operation of fish farms off Ireland's coasts.

The impassioned nature of debate around this contentious topic was seen at the weekend when 200 people from all parts of the country gathered in the rain outside Marine Minister Simon Coveney's constituency office in Carrigaline, Co Cork. Their protest was against a Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) proposal to locate giant salmon farms off the west coast.

Jobs, money, and environmental concerns already dominate debate on both sides of this argument. For BIM, the aim is to create 500 jobs at three super-sized deep-sea salmon farms, the first at Inis Oírr in the Aran Islands, each with an annual harvest capacity of 15,000 tonnes. Doubtless, the opening of the China market to salmon exports from Europe is an influential factor.

For the opponents of this development — anglers, fishing organisations, stakeholders,

hoteliers, restaurateurs, and islanders — the fear is that if such projects go ahead they will make thousands of existing workers redundant in tourism, angling, and the shellfish industry.

Meanwhile, amid the ongoing battle of words, the survival of wild salmon is in question. Recently thought to have been "saved" from virtual extinction by the removal of drift nets, the Irish salmon is now believed to be at risk from hazards that include climate change, river and lake pollution, as well as alleged poaching and illegal drift netting off the Donegal coast.

Scientific research suggests that valuable salmon stocks off the west of Ireland are in danger of being decimated by a predicted explosion of sea lice, lethal parasites which invariably multiply around fish farms and are claimed to kill large numbers of free-ranging salmon in European waters every year.

According to BIM, the State agency responsible for developing the seafood industry, its handling of this project marks a "new departure" in planning terms. It will act as the licence applicant for all three farms, with the licences being held in trust for the State and commercial developers operating the business under a franchise agreement.

To give Mr Coveney credit, he signalled in advance that he would not be present to receive a petition from the protesters picketing his constituency office. However, he risks compromising his ministerial position as he is widely perceived as supporting the BIM project. Arguably, he could be accused of conflicting with the public interest if his department grants BIM the licence. With such a controversial decision in the balance, the Government will be in the firing line if jobs are put at risk in a region so heavily reliant on tourism.

It would be a travesty if objections to the BIM proposal were dismissed out of hand by the administration because of ministerial support for the venture. To bring transparency and objectivity to this heated dispute, there should be no question of matters being decided behind closed doors. The conflicting interests make it imperative that BIM's plans for three giant salmon farms be scrutinised in the public gaze.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/editorial/fish-farm-proposals--coveney-has-to-listen-to-objections-217147.html>

The Guardian, 17 December 2012

Could Scottish salmon farming be transformed by moving to dry land?

Fishfrom plans to farm salmon untainted by chemicals and sea lice in a Kintyre facility run on renewable electricity

[Severin Carrell](#), [Scotland](#) correspondent



Fishfrom plans build a vast new warehouse on the west coast of Scotland where it hopes to farm salmon on dry land. Photograph: Murdo Macleod

Scottish salmon is facing a challenge to its reputation as one of Britain's best loved everyday luxuries, with scares over diseases and sea lice, [heavy use of pesticides](#) and [seal killing](#) raising fears about its environmental impact.

A new fish-[farming](#) company called [Fishfrom](#) believes it can help solve the industry's problem, and even partly solve future crises over [food](#) shortages. Its answer: take salmon farming entirely out of the sea.

It is planning to build a vast new warehouse on the west coast of [Scotland](#) where it hopes to farm salmon on dry land, cultivating thousands of tonnes of fresh salmon untainted by chemicals, sea lice and seal-control, in a self-contained facility run on renewable electricity.

That factory, at Tayinloan, just opposite the Hebridean island of Gigha, will be powered largely by solar panels and a small hydro scheme nearby, feed its salmon on its own supply of a specially farmed marine animal called ragworm, and will recycle nearly all the water it needs onsite.

"It does hit all the right parts of sustainable nutrition, grown by authenticated methods. We know that they work," said Andrew Robertson, the firm's director.

"Closed containment has got to the point where we can deliver a robust business model and it will be energy efficient. But most important, it'll deliver a fantastic product in a short period of time, with a minimal footprint compared to conventional aquaculture."

The firm argues that using farmed [ragworm](#), a burrowing creature which is abundant in estuaries and mudbanks, will save the wild sand eels, anchovies and other fish currently used to feed conventional salmon farms from damaging exploitation. Even the factory's waste could eventually be used to make power.

Fishform plans to ship out 800,000 salmon a year from that single site, supplying retailers such as Marks and Spencer, Waitrose, Youngs Seafood and in France, Carrefour and

Auchain. It already supplies Heston Blumenthal's Michelin-starred restaurant in Berkshire, the Fat Duck, with farmed trout fed on its inhouse fishfood.

Eventually, says Fishfrom, it hopes to open a vast farm four times that size nearby on the tip of Kintyre on the former RAF air base at Machrihanish and then a further plant at Port Talbot in Wales, next door to the fishfarm where it grows the ragworm. It claims its purpose-built "kits" can be built anywhere with the right supplies available, and is in talks with buyers in New Zealand, north America and Romania.

Fish are already being farmed in other "closed containment" facilities in Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland, north America and China. They produce sea bass, catfish, and Atlantic salmon. There is a 1,000-tonne salmon farm recently opened in Denmark, and two more of a similar size being built in China. But nothing, say Fishfrom, on this scale.

It has huge ambitions: if all those factories opened, it would end up producing up to a tenth of the UK's farmed salmon, which stands at about 158,000 tonnes a year.

Fishform will file its first planning application to Argyll and Bute council in January, and hopes to begin production in 2014. And it is optimistic of success. "The council loves the idea, for so many different reasons but fundamentally jobs," Robertson said.

To ensure its fish are disease free, the infant salmon, called smoults, will be raised and screened on site. The maturing and adult fish will swim in interconnected circular ponds where a form of whirlpool will form a current to swim against.

Its proposals are being treated warily by the conservationists who are harrying the conventional offshore salmon farming industry over its impact on the marine environment.

The [conservation](#) movement has seen such hopes raised before: attempts in Shetland to farm organic cod – its future in the North Sea endangered by over-[fishing](#) – collapsed. Efforts to create much hardier GM salmon have so far failed.

Piers Hart, an aquaculture specialist with WWF UK, said these plants, which rely on pumps, filters and monitoring equipment, were expensive to build and to run. The Tayinloan factory will pump 32m litres of water an hour round the tanks.

"This is not necessarily a silver bullet," Hart said. "It is not going to solve all our problems and it has its own problems. This is new technology and it's potentially exciting but we do need to be careful until it's actually put into practice."

Fishfrom's proposals for its first factory at Tayinloan will face close scrutiny.

It plans to build on the derelict site of a previous but failed attempt to farm fish on land in the 1970s, using a much cruder technique. But the new factory will be 12 metres high and 160m long – similar in scale to an Amazon or Tesco distribution centre.

It is also right on the boundary of one of Scotland's most important sites for migrating geese, a heavily protected site of special scientific interest for Greenland white-fronted geese, and it borders a popular coastal path, promoted to tourists and walkers.

There may be concerns too about the welfare of Fishfrom's salmon. There will be up to 200,000 fish being farmed each time. To ensure it is economic, the vast indoor tanks of water will see stocking densities up to double that of conventional fishfarms: it will be at least 50kg of fish per square metre compared to 22kg of fish per square metre at sea.

But Robertson believes his fish will be far less stressed than those in outdoor cages: their ponds are interconnected, allowing the salmon to swim longer distances, and they will be free from parasites, diseases and the stresses of seal attacks. So, he adds, far fewer will die during production.

"The agencies involved in food production wouldn't accuse us of battery fish-farming here," he said. "What we know more than anything else, working through all the research we've done, is that the mortality rates of the fish are extremely low. All our fish will be kept in stress-free environments."

His firm is in talks with the Freedom Foods animal welfare scheme run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to [Animals](#), to see if its strict definitions can be widened to include closed-containment cultivation. Robertson must now wait until May 2013, before he knows whether his scheme will get the green light.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/17/scottish-salmon-fishing>

Undercurrent News, 17 December 2012

Marine Harvest, Morpol: UK likely to be competition focus on 'deal made in heaven'



- [Malek: UK going to be easier for Morpol](#)
- [Morpol founder: Salmon farmers too removed from customers](#)
- [Morpol plans to 'take more money from the bin'](#)
- [Photo gallery: Tour the world's largest salmon factory](#)

[Tom Seaman](#)

A merged Marine Harvest and Morpol is a deal "made in heaven", said one analyst, as the news was met with positive comments all round by the financial sector.

If the remaining 51.5% of Morpol's shareholders go ahead and sell, as is expected, Marine Harvest will be in a strong position across Europe, but particularly in the UK.

The combined company would have UK farmed production of over 60,000 metric tons — around 37,000t from Marine Harvest and 27,000t from Morpol.

Total Scottish production is forecast to be around 155,000t, dropping to 145,000t in 2013, meaning the combined company would have over 40%.

In addition, Morpol is building a plant in Rosyth, Scotland, with the capacity to process 40,000t of raw material, when fully operational.

The UK is “certainly going to be the main focus” if the deal goes through and the European competition authority starts to look into it, said a source who knows both companies.

“When Marine Harvest bought Panfish in 2006, they had to spin off Lighthouse Caledonia, which then ultimately became The Scottish Salmon Company,” the source told *Undercurrent News*.

It remains to be seen if this will happen in this case, the source said. “It will go through, but it remains to be seen how long it takes, [and what conditions will be imposed].”

In any case, Marine Harvest is unlikely to have control of Morpol before CEO Jerzy Malek leaves in the first quarter of 2013. This will create another interesting issue, of who will run the company, the source said.

Analysts covering Morpol and Marine Harvest were positive on the deal, but Kolbjorn Giskeodegard, an analyst covering seafood with Nordea, did acknowledge the potential for competition authority issues.

The objection from France over the Marine Harvest and Panfish deal was based on dominance of the supply of Scottish salmon to the French market and that is “very relevant with this”, he told *Undercurrent*.

“When Marine Harvest was formed after the merger of three companies, it was required to spin off 20,000t. This might also be the case this time, although a conclusion is not expected until well into 2013,” he said.

“I guess they will do the same as before,” a source with a Norwegian salmon farming company told *Undercurrent*. “They will find their worst performing 20,000t, form a company from that and sell it.”

A 100,000-ton processor

However, Giskeodegard said the deal was “made in heaven”.

“It's close to a perfect match,” he said. “If this acquisition comes through, the world's largest fish farmer is merging with the largest processor. The new entity is expected to be processing around 100,000t of salmon in 2013,” he said.

“Compared to the current Marine Harvest set-up, we view Morpol as complementary also in processing as the first one is mainly located in France and Benelux, while the latter is in Poland and UK,” said the analyst.

By acquiring Morpol, Marine Harvest will also avoid setting up a new green field factory in Poland, estimated to NOK 300 million (\$53.64m).

Exit of a controversial leader

Anders Milde, head of research at Norne Securities welcomed the deal. The controversy surrounding Malek’s leadership style had devalued the company, he said.

“The acquisition is a good price. Jerzy Malek alone has put pressure on the values of Morpol and now this pressure disappears,” he said, referring to the string of CFO’s the company has been through and Malek’s reputation for not exactly ingratiating himself with investors and shareholders

“Before the downturn in the salmon market and before Malek struck with his outrageous statements the share price was NOK 24. The price of NOK 11.50 is below most analysts’ target price,” he said.

The deal is a good fit because “Marine Harvest has delivered poor results on its value-added processing department and has changed management,” he said.

“Now they bought someone who knows how to do processing and access to the large German market. They will also grow just under 10% in farming,” said Gjendemsjo.

He flagged up the strong performance of Morpol’s fish farms in Norway, Jokelfjord Laks, as being a good asset for Marine Harvest.

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/17/marine-harvest-morpol-uk-likely-to-be-competition-focus-on-deal-made-in-heaven/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=europe_newsletter_dec_17

The Oregonian, 17 December 2012

Smoked salmon from Chile recalled over listeria

By **Lynne Terry**

Smoked salmon sold to retail outlets in Oregon, Washington and elsewhere is being recalled over fears it's contaminated with listeria.

Ocean Beauty Seafoods said in a **recall notice on the Food and Drug Administration website** it is pulling 371 cases of two brands of ready-to-eat cold smoked salmon sold to retailers and distribution centers in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York from Nov. 20 and Dec. 12.

The salmon was sold as Nathan's Cold Smoked Atlantic Salmon in 3 oz. containers and LASCCO Cold Smoked Nova Atlantic Salmon in 4 oz. containers. Both products are clearly marked "Product of Chile."

The listeria was discovered in a test by the company.

http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2012/12/smoked_salmon_from_chile_recal.html

You Tube, 16 December 2012



Dr Roderick O'Sullivan Speaker at the Carrigaline Protest March on December ...

Listen online via <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEMw50FiAN4&feature=share>

Undercurrent News, 13 December 2012

NGO calls for Christmas boycott on Irish farmed salmon



- [Door opens up for consolidation in Norway salmon farms](#)
- [Scotland ordered to reveal seal shooting data](#)
- [Norwegian gov. confident over green aquaculture proposal](#)
- [Sealice levels up in Faroe Islands](#)

An Irish non-governmental organization has called for a national boycott of smoked Irish farmed salmon for Christmas.

The boycott was called on to protest the expansion of salmon farming in Ireland, the NGO, Friends of the Irish Environment, said.

A moratorium on salmon farming agreed in 2010 set out that salmon farming should not be expanded until the sea lice situation was addressed. However, expansion projects are happening, even though the sea lice issue has in fact worsened, the NGO said.

According to the NGO, the country's agriculture minister has funded the Irish state agency Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) to apply for a license that will double the country's farmed salmon output in a "super farm" in Galway Bay.

Marine Harvest is also planning to expand its activities in Ireland, it said.

Friends of the Irish Environment says these measures go against the moratorium on fish farms agreed under the National Development Plan's Irish Seafood National Program 2007 – 2013 published in July 2010.

"This ruled that no increase in production would take place until the sea lice issue had been addressed," it said.

Yet "a recent report from Inland Fisheries Ireland showed that in fact mortalities from wild salmon from farmed salmon sea lice have now reached 39% of the returning wild salmon."

The NGO says the boycott campaign was agreed at a meeting last month and is supported by 10 different organisations including angling and environmental groups.

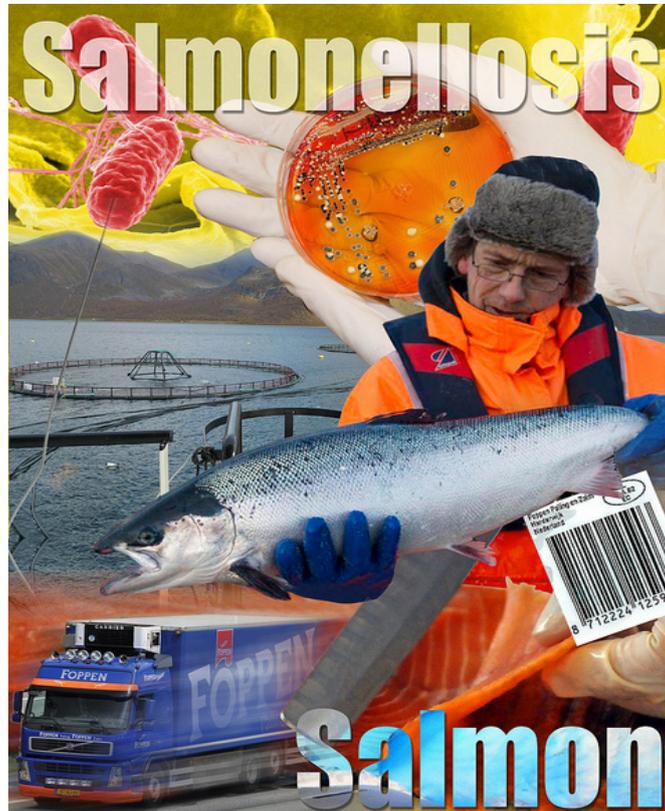
[Read the full statement here.](#)

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/13/ngo-calls-for-christmas-boycott-on-irish-farmed-salmon/>

Flickr, 2 November 2012

Salmonella Salmon by the firm Foppen fooling around with the health of their customers

Tjebbe Van Tijen



Number of death because of Foppen Salmon rises to four. The number of people known to be contaminated by the salmonella in the Foppen Salmon is according to the same source 1063. This information comes from the Dutch state health institute 'Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM)'. (*)

Hundreds of people ill, two death in the Netherlands caused by a salmonella bacteria causing the 'salmonellosis' illness. This is a result of grand scale salmon fishery and the multinational production and distribution methods. They are all over the world these salmon fish farms, from Scotland and Chile to the Canadian West Coast - the firm where it went wrong in the chain - from living fish to eating humans - this time is called Foppen.

This firm does smoking, packing and distribution and is based in the Dutch provincial town of Harderwijk. Foppen - by the way - is also a verb in Dutch meaning to fool, cheat, hoax. The infected salmon - this time - came from an industrial fish farm in Norway. Where the it went wrong in the production chain has not been communicated clearly enough yet. It is said that a new type of plate, made of porous material, used on the conveyer belt of a Foppen subfactory in Greece was the origin of the spreading of the infection. It seems that the salmon - caught in Norway - has been pushed around the European Union, from Greece to the Netherlands, most probably earning a few pennies on the differences in wages between these

two countries. From there the smoked salmon product went to the shops in the EU. Some batches contaminated with salmonella went to North America as well.

When one consults the information on web-sites of the Dutch firm, the public relation web-site 'Salmon From Norway' and so on, great communication efforts are made to convince us how safe and scientifically sound this fish farming and subsequent production is. What fails in this one sided propaganda is a honest reference to other opinions on the matter, from human health and environmental approach, to concern for the welfare of this fabulous animal, the salmon itself with it's yearly heroic journey stolen from it: down the river to the ocean and back all the way up the same river again.

Mass production in the now fast developing fish industry has lead to a constraint living environment in overcrowded floating salmon prisons, or the confines of land based basins with all kind of pumping and filtering devices. The open water net like floating basins have their dangers as parasites like sea lice will effect the health of the fish crowding in these cages, endangering not only the captured fish, but also the free ones outside in open water.

Feeding of salmons in these fish farms is mostly done with wild 'forage fish' and in weight more of these small fishes are needed than salmon is produced. Alternative salmon food is now used also, of vegetable origin, but this has several side effects, one being the lowering of the Omega-3 level of fat fish. For many people the main health reason to eat salmon regularly is it's high level of Omega-3.

The salmonella outbreak from the products of the Dutch firm Foppen is treated as an exceptional incident, but it is only 'the nose' of the modern salmon saga. It is time to get oneself informed on the whole body of information and get a voice in the debate of how this industry can be scaled down, and altered in such a way that animal wild life, human environment and health are better served

(*) RIVM 2/11/2012 press release

[www.rivm.nl/Bibliotheek/Algemeen Actueel/Nieuwsberichten/...](http://www.rivm.nl/Bibliotheek/Algemeen_Actueel/Nieuwsberichten/...)

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Salmon from Norway view is here: salmonfromnorway.com/

An opposing view in this video "Hazardous Norwegian Salon Diner" a student production
www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_55740&...

The scale of the Foppen business can be sensed from their web-site with a world map:
www.foppensalmon.com/#/visgebieden

Last the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aqua Culture web site:
www.gaaia.org/blog/norwegian-farmed-salmon-source-salmone...

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/7141213@N04/8119314548/>

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Global News Archive:

News updates are now archived and available in full – [online here!](#)

Global News Updates include the '[Salmon Wars](#)' raging against filthy feedlots in Canada, Chile, Norway, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, United States and Australia:

12 December - Global News Update: “Feck Off to Fish Farms”/“GM Salmon May Sink”/“ISA Allegations”/“Seal-Shooting Salmon Farmers”/“Opposition Mounts” – [online here](#)

21 November - “Showdown Looming”/“Fish Farm Fight”/“A Difficult 2013 Forecast”/“Devastating Impact” – [online here](#)

13 November - “Suffocating the Sounds”/“Skye Waters Against”/“Lice Death Claims”/“Battle Norwegian Fish Farms” – [online here](#)

7 November - “Flesh-Eating Lice”/“Chlamydia & Gill Disease”/“Strong Opposition”/“Risky Salmon Farms”/“Scotland’s Salmon Wars” - [online here](#)

2 November - “Flying the Flag”/“Cohen Report”/“Curb Fish Farm Impact”/“Loggerheads” - [online here](#)

1 November - “Justice Cohen Gets Tough”/“Freeze On Farms”/“Cross-Appeal Vs Cermaq” - [online here](#)

31 October - “Watch Live”/“Cohen Report Tracker”/“Flying the Flag”/“Report Released Today” - [online here](#)

30 October - “Here Comes Cohen!”/“Probe Shows Need for Reform”/“Uncalled-for Attack”/“Respected Scientist” - [online here](#)

28 October - “Deadline Looms”/“Mystery Illness”/“Mass Sickness”/“Not Defamatory Enough” - [online here](#)

23 October - “Halt Fish Farm Growth”/“Disease Hits Cermaq”/“Like Cancer”/“Is Truth a Tactic?”- [online here](#)

18 October - “Teen Fights Salmon Farms”/“Lawsuit Threat”/“Cermaq Appeal”/“Health Indicators Worsen” – [online here](#)

15 October - “Sicko Salmon”/“Farms & Disease”/“PR Disaster”/“Passionate Pleas” – [online here](#)

3 October - “Salmonella Outbreak”/Activist Wins”/“Boaties Protest”/“Lynch Mob” - [online here](#)

28 September - “Judgment Day”/“Salmon Sludge Fouls Hearing”/“Students Oppose Farms” - [online here](#)

24 September - "Flotilla Protest"/"Shooting Seals Row"/"Farm Not Welcome" - [online here](#)

11 September - "Dirty Secrets"/"FishyLeaks: Toxic Toilets"/"Disease Risk" - [online here](#)

29 August - "Virus Trackers"/"Compensation Culture"/"Say No to 9 New Salmon Farms" - [online here](#)

8 August - "Legal Strategy"/"Wave of Controversy"/"IHN Virus" - [online here](#)

3 August - "Fatal Virus Detected in BC"/"Fish Farm Quarantined" - [online here](#)

31 July - "IHN Virus Spreads"/"Norway's Olympic Mascot"/"Playing With Fire" - [online here](#)

20 July - "Norwegian Fish Farm Virus Found in BC"/"ISA Confirmed"/"A Fishy Tale" - [online here](#)

17 July - "FishyLeaks"/"ISA in BC"/"Scotland's Secrets" - [online here](#)

13 July - "Aquaculture PR Wars"/"Beware Mother Nature"/"Trouble Brewing" - [online here](#)

11 July - "Salmon Wars Are Here"/"Smoking Gun"/"Canada disease cleanup" - [online here](#)

9 July - "Killer Panda"/"Quarantined Salmon to be Destroyed"/"PR War Waged" - [online here!](#)

6 July - "CFIA quarantines fish farm"/"Parasite found in Norwegian-owned salmon" - [online here!](#)

4 July - "Parasite-ridden salmon sold in BC stores"/"95% of BC salmon is BAP certified" - [online here!](#)



Please support the global campaign against salmon farming – donate via <http://www.gofundme.com/donstaniford>

So long and thanks for all the fish!

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