

Press Update – 22 December 2012

“Apocalypse Here”/“GE Salmon Approval”/“Sea Lice Levels Up”/“Greens Slam New Farms” – [online here](#)

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

“[Engineered Fish Moves a Step Closer to Approval](#)” (New York Times, 22 December)

“[Feds can't convince Murkowski that so-called Frankenfish are just dandy](#)” (Alaska Dispatch, 21 December)

“[The apocalypse is here: FDA clears way for fast-growing GM monster salmon](#)” (Grist, 21 December)



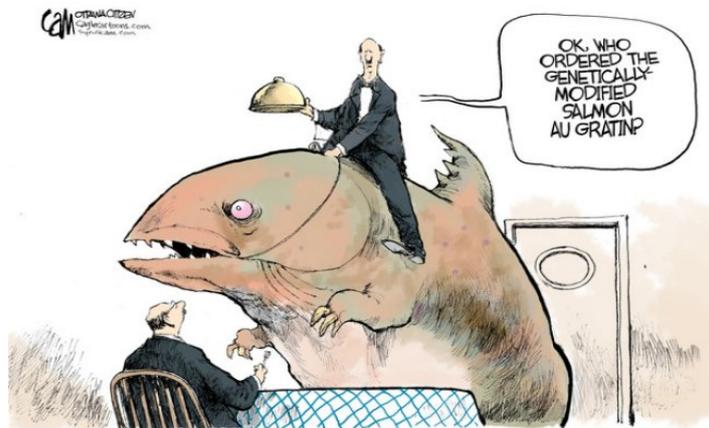
“[Obama Administration Snubs Risks, Moves Forward With GE Salmon Approval](#)” (Center for Food Safety, 21 December)

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[“Sea lice levels in Norwegian wild stocks appear to be up, say researchers”](#) (Undercurrent News, 21 December)

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[“‘Yes’ to salmon farms : Decision prompts regret and anger”](#) (Nelson Mail, 21 December)

[“Cheap salmon popular”](#) (Timaru Herald, 21 December)

[“Guest Editorial by Alexandra Morton: The only thing we have is each other”](#) (South Coast Today, 20 December)

[“Galway TD adds to concerns over proposed salmon farm off Inis Oirr”](#) (Galway Bay FM, 20 December)



[“Mesh pens don't overcrowd salmon: MUN researcher”](#) (CBC News, 20 December)

[“Victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge/Salmon farm critic gets costly rebuke”](#) (CBC News/Times Colonist, 20 December)

[“Salmon-farming critic censured for conduct: Wins case but suffers financial rebuke”](#) (The Province, 20 December)



[“Don Staniford fined over conduct in court”](#) (Undercurrent News, 20 December)

[“Greens slam new King Salmon farms”](#) (MSN New Zealand, 20 December)

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[“Fish farm site changes would help fishermen”](#) (The Oban Times, 20 December)

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[“Seafood entrepreneur: Farming salmon differently”](#) (Undercurrent News, 20 December)

[“Salmon stocks vital to B.C.”](#) (The Whistler Question, 20 December)

[“Most people prefer conventionally farmed salmon”](#) (Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 20 December)

[“FFAW weighs in on second ISA case on South Coast”](#) (VOCM, 19 December)

[“Here we go again”](#) (Atlantic Salmon Federation) (Atlantic Salmon Federation, 19 December)

[“Approval of fish farms in Nova Scotia triggers excitement”](#) (Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 19 December)

[“Industry fighting back”](#) (Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 19 December)

[“Can helper species combat sea lice at salmon farms?”](#) (Seafood Business, December)

[“MSPs tour Marine Harvest operations”](#) (The Oban Times, 22 November)

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Best fishes and a Merry Fishmas!

Don

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New York Times, 22 December 2012

Engineered Fish Moves a Step Closer to Approval

By [ANDREW POLLACK](#)

Government regulators moved a big step closer on Friday to allowing the first genetically engineered animal — a fast-growing [salmon](#) — to enter the nation’s food supply.



The [Food and Drug Administration](#) said it had concluded that the salmon would have “no significant impact” on the environment. The agency also said the salmon was “as safe as food from conventional Atlantic salmon.” While the agency’s [draft environmental assessment](#) will be open to public comment for 60 days, it seems likely that the salmon will be approved, though that could still be months away.

The environmental assessment is dated May 4. It is unclear why it took until now for it to be released, but supporters of the salmon say they believe it is because the Obama administration was afraid of an unfavorable consumer reaction before the election in November.

Environmental and consumer groups quickly criticized the federal agency's conclusions.

"The G.E. salmon has no socially redeeming value," Andrew Kimbrell, executive director of the Center for [Food Safety](#), a Washington advocacy group opposed to farm biotechnology, said in a statement. "It's bad for the consumer, bad for the salmon industry and bad for the environment. F.D.A.'s decision is premature and misguided."

But the decision was long in coming. AquaBounty Technologies, the company that developed the salmon, has been trying to win approval for more than a decade.

"We're encouraged by this," Ronald Stotish, the chief executive of AquaBounty, said on Friday. However, he added, "We're not so foolish as to be wildly enthusiastic" that Friday's action will definitely lead to approval. Among other things, some members of Congress have tried to block the agency from approving the fish.

The AquAdvantage salmon, as it is called, is an Atlantic salmon that contains a [growth hormone](#) gene from the Chinook salmon and a genetic switch from the ocean pout, an eel-like creature. The switch keeps the gene on so that the salmon produces growth hormone year round, rather than only during warm weather. The fish reach market weight in about 18 months instead of three years.

The F.D.A. tentatively concluded in September 2010 that the salmon would be safe to eat and for the environment. A committee of outside advisers, while finding some shortcomings in the analysis, did not contradict those conclusions in general.

The agency then embarked on a more detailed environmental analysis that has now come to the same conclusions.

The main concern addressed was whether the genetically engineered salmon could escape and establish themselves in the wild, with detrimental environmental consequences. The larger salmon, for instance, could conceivably outcompete wild Atlantic salmon for food or mates.

The agency said the chance this would happen was "extremely remote." It said the salmon would be raised in inland tanks with multiple barriers to escape. Even if some fish did escape, the nearby bodies of water would be too hot or salty for their survival. And reproduction would be unlikely because the fish would be sterilized, though the sterilization technique is not foolproof.

The agency also said that approval of the salmon would have no effect on endangered species, including wild Atlantic salmon. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service did not disagree.

AquaBounty produces its eggs at a facility in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The eggs are shipped to the highlands of Panama, where the fish are grown to market weight.

The federal agency said that other facilities for growing the salmon would require separate approvals. It also noted that it did not assess how the salmon would affect the environment in Panama and Canada, only in the United States.

Opponents said that the agency should do a more complete environmental impact statement. They also said that not enough samples were studied to conclude that the fish would be safe to eat.

Scientists and companies working on animal biotechnology had complained that the failure to approve the salmon was discouraging investment in the industry.

An [article in Slate](#) earlier this week said the White House had been delaying release of the environmental assessment for political reasons, violating the Obama administration's pledge to make decisions based on science. The environmental assessment was released soon afterward.

An agency spokesman declined to comment on the delay. He said it was not possible to predict when a final decision on the salmon would be made.

The F.D.A. is likely to take weeks or months to analyze the comments it receives. Even if it then affirms the conclusions released Friday, that would be a decision that a bigger environmental impact statement is not needed. The agency would still have to take a separate step to approve the salmon for introduction into the food supply, although it is thought there are no other important issues outstanding.

Mr. Stotish of AquaBounty said that if the approval came early next year, some salmon could reach American dinner plates late next year. But quantities would be limited by the small capacity in Panama. AquaBounty hopes to sell eggs to other fish farms that would grow larger quantities of salmon, but that is likely to take a few more years.

AquaBounty has argued that the faster growth of its fish makes it feasible to rear them in inland tanks rather than ocean pens, reducing the environmental impact. "That allows us not to disturb the oceans whatsoever," said Elliot Entis, the founder of AquaBounty.

Mr. Entis, who no longer works for the company, has formed a new company to rear the salmon in the United States.

AquaBounty, which is based in Maynard, Mass., nearly ran out of money waiting for the salmon to be approved.

Kakha Bendukidze, an investor from the nation of Georgia who owned nearly half the company's stock, sold his holdings in October to Intrexon, an American company. Intrexon, which is offering to buy the rest of AquaBounty, is providing it with a \$500,000 loan.

Intrexon is working on synthetic biology, which is sort of a souped-up form of genetic engineering. It is not clear yet how it plans to apply that technology to AquaBounty's fish.

A version of this article appeared in print on December 22, 2012, on page B1 of the New York edition with the headline: Engineered Fish Moves Step Closer To Approval.

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/22/business/gene-altered-fish-moves-closer-to-federal-approval.html?_r=0

Alaska Dispatch, 21 December 2012

Feds can't convince Murkowski that so-called Frankenfish are just dandy

Craig Medred



RELATED

- 'Safe to eat' or 'Frankenfish'?
- [Alaska Congressional delegation unites in opposition to 'frankenfish'](#)

Kenai River angler [Sen. Lisa Murkowski](#), R-Alaska, was railing against "Frankenfish" again on Friday after the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) gave a green flag to long-running efforts to produce bigger, faster-growing, genetically modified salmon. Murkowski, backed by Alaska fishing organizations, has repeatedly tried to stop such approval by tying the agency up in red tape.

She previously tried, but failed, to get the Senate to require the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) be intimately involved in the process. She said again and again she thought a more thorough scientific review of the biotechnology was in order. But she sort of let slip on Friday that the demand for better science was really more of a smokescreen for efforts to simply kill the idea.

In a [video released by her office](#) outlining her renewed opposition, she stated flatly, "I just don't believe that these fish should be approved."

That view is shared by many Alaska fishermen, especially commercial fishermen who fear genetically modified salmon could provide yet more competition for Alaska wild salmon in markets already dominated by farmed fish. As technology has improved, fish farmers in Norway, Canada and Chile, in particular, have begun to dominate the markets.

No Alaskan fish farmers

Alaska produces no farmed fish. The 49th state's politically powerful commercial fishing industry convinced lawmakers to ban salmon farming in Alaska in 1989. "They didn't want economic competition from farmed fish," University of Alaska Anchorage economics professor Gunnar Knapp noted a decade ago in [a study on "Implications of Aquaculture for Wild Fisheries: The Case of Alaska Wild Salmon."](#)

Competition came anyway. Over the course of the 1990s, farmed-fish swarmed markets, and Alaska salmon prices fell more than 50 percent, Knapp reported. Farmed salmon took the blame, but Knapp noted there were other economic factors in play as well. Salmon prices eventually bottomed out in 2000, however, and began to climb again.

But they never reached the heights of the good, old days.

Losing control of salmon market

Knapp in a [study this year](#) noted that while wild salmon values are up, they are "still well below the inflation-adjusted levels of much of the 1980s." He noted, too, that Alaska has lost control of the market, which is what commercial fishermen in the state most hoped to dominate when they convinced the legislature to ban salmon farming.

"Alaska," Knapp said, "has become a relatively small part of total world salmon supply," and in the marketplace farmed and wild salmon now compete on price with many consumers indifferent as to whether they are eating a pen-raised or net-caught fish.

"If your competitors product gets cheaper," he warned Alaska commercial fishermen, "you have to lower your prices or some of your some of your customers will switch."

And now comes the dreaded Frankenfish.

Ocean pout gene

"The AquaAdvantage salmon, as it is called, is an Atlantic salmon that contains an extra growth hormone gene from the Chinook salmon and a genetic switch from the ocean pout, an eel-like creature. The switch keeps the growth-hormone gene constantly on, allowing the salmon to reach market weight in about 18 months instead of three years," the [New York Times reported](#).

Faster-growing fish are cheaper to raise. That could push salmon prices down again. Murkowski and commercial fishermen don't like it. Neither do a lot of environmental organizations, which have apocalyptic visions of Frankenfish escaping into the wild and destroying nature, despite the fact humankind has been domesticating and then genetically tampering with both plants and animals for thousand of years.

The name Frankenfish itself is, of course, a play on the mythical Frankenstein, a monster created by scientific tinkering with nature. Author Mary Shelley penned the novel in the early 1800s as the Industrial Revolution was radically altering the way people lived and worked. The book became a warning against the dangers of science. It was later made into a series of movies.

Domestic animals in wild

The FDA clearly isn't buying the Frankenfish idea. The agency concluded genetically modified fish can be safely raised in a manner that would prevent them from escaping into the wild, but added that even if they do get away it is unlikely they can survive and reproduce in the wild.

Most domestic animals can't. FDA said two government agencies responsible for managing wild fish, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, signed off on the latter conclusion.

But [AquaBounty](#), a Massachusetts biotech company that has been fighting for more than a decade to gain approval for its genetically modified fish into production, still doesn't have permission to start growing salmon. A 60-day, public review of the FDA assessment is required before the federal agency can render a final decision on Frankenfish.

The report appears certain to come under attack from a variety of interests in that time, and there is always the possibility some group could file a lawsuit to further slow the process.

Contact Craig Medred at craig@alaskadispatch.com

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/feds-cant-convince-murkowski-so-called-frankenfish-are-just-dandy>

Grist, 21 December 2012

The apocalypse is here: FDA clears way for fast-growing GM monster salmon

By [Susie Cagle](#)

The Food and Drug Administration has a special present for you this holiday season: genetically modified salmon that have been developed to grow at twice the usual salmon speed. What, you didn't put that on your list? Well, surprise!



Run, little salmon, the monsters are coming!

[USA Today reports:](#)

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday released its environmental assessment of the AquaAdvantage salmon, a faster-growing fish which has been subject to a contentious, yearslong debate at the agency. The document concludes that the fish “will not have any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment of the United States.” Regulators

also said that the fish is unlikely to harm populations of natural salmon, a key concern for environmental activists.

The FDA will take comments from the public on its report for 60 days before making it final ...

Experts view the release of the environmental report as the final step before approval.

The fish was first invented (*invented!*) in the '90s but has been [swimming around in regulatory limbo for the last two years](#), with some skeptical it would ever see a dinner plate. [From Slate:](#)

[W]ithin days of the expected public release of the [environmental assessment] 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 ...

When asked about the holdup, FDA spokeswoman Siobhan DeLancey said, "I recommend you talk to the [Office of Management and Budget] or the White House. That's all I'm willing to say."

AquaBounty, the company that developed and essentially owns the monster salmon, says there's little to no risk of fish escaping their growth pens and mating with wild salmon. [Food Consumer did its own math:](#)

Ninety-five to 99 percent of AAS [AquaAdvantage salmon] are sterile, said AquaBounty at FDA hearings in 2010, so they are unlikely to breed and threaten wild salmon stocks if they escape. (If they did breed, though, it could be Jurassic Park-like since AAS eat five times more food than wild salmon and have less fear of predators, according to background materials.) Nor is 1 to 5 percent a small amount considering the 15 million eggs AquaBounty plans to grow: that could amount to 750,000 fertile fish.

Besides their massive food consumption and lack of fear (!), the FDA's report found that the AquaAdvantage salmon had a high level of infection and "jaw erosion." There's also a disturbingly detailed protocol for how to dispose of a whole lot of dead fish in deep "burial pits" that would be covered with plastic. Hungry yet?

With frankenfish now set to be mingling with wild and farmed varieties at the market, the next question is: How will we know? Not that they'd be required to label the stuff, but I hope AquaBounty is so pleased with [its frankenfish market dominance](#) that it'll plaster its name all over these monster salmon meats ...

Susie Cagle writes and draws news for Grist. She also writes and draws tweets for [Twitter](#).

<http://grist.org/news/the-apocalypse-is-here-fda-clears-way-for-fast-growing-gm-monster-salmon/>

Center for Food Safety, 21 December 2012

Obama Administration Snubs Risks, Moves Forward With GE Salmon Approval

400,000 public comments, 40 Members of Congress ignored; CFS calls proposed approval of first ever GE animal “premature and misguided”



Center for Food Safety sharply criticized today’s U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) announcement releasing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the controversial AquaBounty AquaAdvantage® transgenic salmon. The FDA action is widely viewed as confirmation that the Obama Administration is prepared to approve shortly the first genetically engineered (GE) animal intended for human consumption in the face of widespread opposition.

“It is extremely disappointing that the Obama Administration continues to push approval of this dangerous and unnecessary product,” said Andrew Kimbrell, executive director for Center for Food Safety. “The GE salmon has no socially redeeming value; it’s bad for the consumer, bad for the salmon industry and bad for the environment. FDA’s decision is premature and misguided.”

The FDA decision ignores calls from more than forty members of the U.S. Congress who have repeatedly urged FDA to conduct more rigorous review of environmental and health safety, and halt any approval process until concerns over risks, transparency and oversight have been fully satisfied.

The public filed nearly 400,000 comments demanding FDA reject this application. Additionally, more than 300 environmental, consumer, health and animal welfare organizations, salmon and fishing groups and associations, food companies, chefs and restaurants filed joint statements with FDA opposing approval.

AquaBounty claims that the company’s process for raising GE fish is safer than traditional aquaculture, yet documents released by the Canadian government show that a new strain of Infectious Salmon Anaemia, the deadly fish flu which has been devastating fish stocks around the world, contaminated their Canadian production site. This information was not included in the FDA’s review and hidden from the public. Many additional long standing concerns regarding impacts to wild species and the environment raised during a Senate hearing last year remain unanswered in the latest FDA review documents.

“We need a robust regulatory system that puts environmental, human health, economic and animal welfare risks first,” said Kimbrell. “Putting a GE animal on the path to consumer use without proper safeguards and with no mandatory labeling requirement proves that the system FDA has in place gives us none of that.”

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About Center for Food Safety

Center for Food Safety is a national, non-profit, membership organization founded in 1997 to protect human health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production technologies and by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture. CFS maintains offices in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, California and Portland, Oregon. More information can be found at www.centerforfoodsafety.org.

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/2012/12/21/obama-administration-snubs-risks-moves-forward-with-ge-salmon-approval/>

Consumers Union, 21 December 2012

CU Says FDA Assessment of GE Salmon Is Flawed and Inadequate

Yonkers, NY — Consumers Union, the advocacy and policy arm of Consumer Reports, criticized the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Aquabounty genetically engineered salmon released today by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as flawed and inadequate.

“The EA states that the FDA has found that the salmon is safe to eat. However, we are deeply concerned that the potential of these fish to cause allergic reactions has not been adequately researched. FDA has allowed this fish to move forward based on tests of allergenicity of only six engineered fish—tests that actually did show an increase in allergy-causing potential,” stated Michael Hansen PhD, Senior Scientist with Consumers Union. “Further, there have been no safety testing of fish grown in Panama, where Aquabounty intends to raise the salmon. The health and safety of fish can be affected by growing conditions.”

“We are also concerned that FDA puts great weight, in their finding of ‘no significant impact’ on the fact that the engineered salmon would be sterile females. However FDA indicates that only 95 percent of the salmon may be sterile, and the rest fertile. When you are talking about millions of fish, even one percent comes to thousands of fish. Moreover, perhaps even more important, the fish at the egg production facility in Prince Edward Island, Canada would obviously not be sterile—otherwise they could not produce eggs,” Hansen states.

“We are further concerned that consumers will in many cases not have any way to avoid this fish if they want to. While salmon is required by law to be labeled as to country of origin in supermarkets, this does not apply to fish markets or restaurants. While in supermarkets consumers could avoid fish from Panama, where this salmon will be grown, they will not have this ability when eating out or buying at a fish store,” Hansen said.

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http://notinmyfood.org/press_release/cu-says-fda-assessment-of-ge-salmon-is-flawed-and-inadequate

Friends of the Earth, 21 December 2012

“Fatally flawed” FDA assessment to unleash genetically engineered salmon
Obama administration’s final assessment last step before final approval of ‘frankenfish’

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, the Food and Drug Administration released its final environmental assessment on the so-called “frankenfish,” a salmon that has been genetically engineered by Massachusetts-based AquaBounty Technologies Inc. (ABTX:LSE). This would be the first-ever genetically engineered animal intended for human consumption to enter the marketplace despite widespread public outcry and a faulty assessment based on incomplete company data.

“It’s clear that the public doesn’t want to eat genetically engineered fish, and the FDA’s assessment is fatally flawed and fails to take into account the very real risk that these fish pose to the environment, public health and fishing communities on both coasts,” said Eric Hoffman, food and technology policy campaigner for Friends of the Earth.

“The decision to move towards final approval of the first-ever genetically engineered animal for human consumption without a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement under federal law is irresponsible and inexcusable,” continued Hoffman. “This approval is a holiday gift to AquaBounty and its shareholders, who have been lobbying for over twelve years for this decision and will open the floodgates for other genetically engineered animals, including pigs and cows, to enter the food supply.”

The assessment, which relies heavily on data provided by AquaBounty, ignores the fact that up to five percent of the fish may be fertile at a commercial scale. This opens the possibility that fertile, genetically engineered fish could escape into local waterways and wreak havoc on the ecosystem and already threatened wild salmon populations. The FDA also ignores risks posed to the public, since genetically engineered salmon have higher levels of IGF-1, a growth hormone that, [according to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health](#), may increase the risk of several types of cancer. Additionally, some tests on allergenicity had a shockingly small sample size of six to twelve fish.

Despite the receiving nearly 400,000 public comments, letters signed by more than 300 environmental, public interest, fishing, and animal welfare organizations and restaurants, a letter signed by forty members of Congress, and letters from state legislatures demanding that the FDA deny approval of this fish, the Obama administration has taken the final step towards approval of this genetically engineered salmon. [Numerous polls show](#) that the vast majority of Americans feel the FDA should not allow genetically engineered fish and meat into the marketplace and support labeling of genetically engineered food. A 30-day comment period on this assessment will be opened in the Federal Register before the fish is officially approved for human consumption.

“Today the Obama administration stated loud and clear that it is more interested in protecting the profits of the biotechnology industry than public health, wild fisheries or our environment. We call on President Obama and FDA Commissioner Hamburg to complete their due diligence and conduct proper environmental and public health studies before making a final decision about the fate of this genetically engineered salmon,” continued Hoffman. “Once independent and comprehensive reviews have occurred, we are confident the FDA will reject this application since the genetically engineered salmon pose serious threats to the environment and the public.”

Here are links to the relevant documents:

AquaAdvantage Salmon Draft Environmental Assessment:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/GeneticEngineering/GeneticallyEngineeredAnimals/UCM333102.pdf>

AquaAdvantage Salmon Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/GeneticEngineering/GeneticallyEngineeredAnimals/UCM333105.pdf>

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Friends of the Earth (www.foe.org) fights to create a more healthy and just world. Our current campaigns focus on promoting clean energy and solutions to climate change, keeping toxic and risky technologies out of the food we eat and products we use, and protecting marine ecosystems and the people who live and work near them.

<http://www.foe.org/news/news-releases/2012-12-fatally-flawed-fda-assessment-to-unleash-genetically-engineered-salmon>

Associated Press/KOMO News, 21 December 2012

FDA says fast-growing salmon would not harm nature



A photo provided by AquaBounty Technologies shows two same-age salmon, a genetically modified salmon, rear, and a non-genetically modified salmon, foreground.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health regulators say a genetically engineered salmon that grows twice as fast as normal is unlikely to harm the environment, clearing the way for the

first approval of a genetically engineered animal for human consumption.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday released its environmental assessment of the AquaAdvantage salmon, a faster-growing fish which has been subject to a contentious, yearslong debate at the agency. The document concludes that the fish "will not have any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment of the United States." Regulators also said that the fish is unlikely to harm populations of natural salmon, a key concern for environmental activists.

The FDA will take comments from the public on its report for 60 days before making it final.

The FDA said more than two years ago that the fish appears to be safe to eat, but the agency had taken no public action since then. Executives for the company behind the fish, Maynard, Mass.-based Aquabounty, speculated that the government was delaying action on their application due to push-back from groups who oppose genetically modified food animals.

Experts view the release of the environmental report as the final step before approval.

If FDA regulators clear the salmon, as expected, it would be the first scientifically altered animal approved for food anywhere in the world.

Critics call the modified salmon a "frankenfish." They worry that it could cause human allergies and the eventual decimation of the natural salmon population if it escapes and breeds in the wild.

AquaBounty has maintained that the fish is safe and that there are several safeguards against environmental problems. The fish would be bred female and sterile, though a very small percentage might still be able to breed. The company said the potential for escape is low. The FDA backed these assertions in documents released in 2010.

Since its founding in 1991, Aquabounty has burned through more than \$67 million developing the fast-growing fish. According to its midyear financial report, the company had less than \$1.5 million in cash and stock left. It has no other products in development.

The AquaAdvantage salmon has an added growth hormone from the Pacific Chinook salmon that allows the fish to produce growth hormone all year long. The engineers were able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an "on" switch for the hormone. Typical Atlantic salmon produce the growth hormone for only part of the year.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/consumer/FDA-says-fast-growing-salmon-would-not-harm-nature-184446781.html>

Undercurrent News, 21 December 2012

Sea lice levels in Norwegian wild stocks appear to be up, say researchers

Preliminary data from a 2012 study of sea lice indicates that the situation could have worsened, rather than improved, across Norway, said the Institute of Marine Research.

Norwegian researchers monitoring sea lice in wild stocks in 2012 also found that the lice could have had a negative effect on wild trout stocks across Norway, and on wild salmon stocks in some areas, the institute said.

Meanwhile, there is little indication that the situation is improving.

- [44 sea lice per salmon at Marine Harvest Ireland farm](#)
- [Landcatch geneticists move to Stirling site](#)
- [NGO calls for Christmas boycott on Irish farmed salmon](#)
- [Door opens up for consolidation in Norway salmon farms](#)

“There is little in our data collection that suggests that the sea lice infection on wild salmon has improved from 2010 to 2012,” said Pal Arne Bjorn, project leader for monitoring of salmon lice at IMR.

“On the contrary, it appears that the infection pressure on wild salmon has increased across the whole coast from Hordaland to Troms in the past years.”

The researchers found that infection levels on sea trout were “high, sometimes extremely high”, at several of the monitoring sites in intensive aquaculture areas from Hordaland to Troms.

Salmon smolt was also affected in some areas. Smolt monitored in Hardangerfjord and Sognefjord were found to have relatively high levels of lice in certain weeks of 2012, probably higher than they were in most years since 2000, Bjorn said.

That said, it appears that smolt that started their migration to sea in May had less lice than smolt that started off later in the year.

In the Trondheim fjord’s national salmon fjord, lice levels on salmon smolt were found to be low this year, but the smolt could have been exposed to high infection pressure because high levels of larval mark was found on the sea trout just outside of the national salmon fjord during the smolt migration.

“This can indicate that the synchronized spring de-lousing efforts of farmed fish have not succeeded to keep the infection pressure low enough during the migration of the salmon smolt at the end of May and early June in these areas,” Bjorn said.

In terms of areas, the northern areas of Troms and Finnmark were found to have low to moderate lice pressure on sea trout, with the lice also appearing later during the year. The same was observed for the inner fjords and the large national salmon fjords.

Sea lice grow to 12 millimeters in size for females, and 6 millimeters for male. They feed off salmon and trout’s skin and blood and reproduce throughout the year, but faster when the temperatures increase in the spring.

The IMR’s preliminary conclusions are laid out in its report, ['The salmon situation in wild salmon along the Norwegian coast in 2012'](#).

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/21/salmon-lice-levels-in-wild-stocks-appear-to-be-up-say-researchers/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=europe_newsletter_dec_21

3 News, 21 December 2012

Fish farming raises tourism fears



A salmon farm in Canada

There are claims the Marlborough Sounds will be ruined by four new salmon farms given the go-ahead by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Approval was granted, despite opposition from individuals and groups including Forest and Bird, the Department of Conservation and the Marlborough District Council.

An 11,000-signature petition was presented to Parliament by environmental campaigner Leona Plaisier, whose family runs the Tui Nature Reserve in the outer Pelorous Sound.

"To have these farms coming in right in front of you, when tourism is the only thing that supplies us any kind of income, we're really worried that tourists are not going to want to come if they see marine farming and industrialisation all around them."

Ms Plaisier says New Zealand's clean-and-green image is under threat.

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Fish-farming-raises-tourism-fears/tabid/1160/articleID/281128/Default.aspx>

Nelson Mail, 21 December 2012

'Yes' to salmon farms

Decision prompts regret and anger

[BILL MOORE](#)



BILL MOORE/Fairfax NZ

MORE TO COME: New Zealand King Salmon Clay Point salmon farm in the Marlborough Sounds.

A bob-each-way board of inquiry decision on New Zealand King Salmon's expansion plans has disappointed both the company and its opponents.

King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne says the partial approval could generate 170 jobs but New Zealand has missed a great opportunity, while the Green Party says the decision has ignored the public and set a worrying precedent. The environmental group set up to fight the application, Sustain our Sounds, says it is "immensely disappointed".

In a draft report and decision yesterday the Environmental Protection Authority's board of inquiry has approved four new salmon farms for the Marlborough Sounds. The company wanted to add nine to its existing five.

The board has ruled:

- Farms at Papatua (Port Gore), Ngamahau (Tory Channel), Waitata and Richmond (Waitata Reach, Pelorus Sound) are allowed.

- Farms at Kaitapeha (Queen Charlotte Sound) and Ruaomoko (Queen Charlotte Sound), Kaitira and Tapihi (Waitata Reach) are declined.

- The White Horse Rock farm, also in the Waitata Reach but within an existing aquaculture zone, is declined.

Resource consents for the four sites have been granted for a 35-year term, with conditions.

Mr Rosewarne said the draft decision was a missed opportunity for the company, Marlborough, Nelson and New Zealand.

But it would allow the company to eventually double production and if King Salmon went ahead with the four farms there would still be about 100 new jobs in Nelson and 70 in Marlborough, compared with 370 if all nine farms had been permitted.

He said commerce and conservation could live together and the Sounds could easily support the nine farms.

"But too often in New Zealand commerce is pitted against conservation in an adversarial way that prevents regions achieving benefits from their natural advantages."

The company would carefully review the draft.

"New Zealand depends on sustainable primary production to support a standard of living and a way of life we all enjoy," Mr Rosewarne said.

"Australia has recently granted almost 200 per cent more space for salmon farming than we have received at about one-fifth of our cost. How does New Zealand industry compete with these realities?"

He hoped the first of the new farms would be producing fish by March 2015, and was delighted that Ngamahau in Tory Channel got the go-ahead as it was the pick of the sites.

"A certain amount of scale is important, and that's why we pitched it at nine farms. We're talking about 12 surface hectares - it's a lot of jobs, it's a lot of value, but it's a relatively small amount of space."

Green Party fisheries spokesman Steffan Browning said the decision showed that plan development and Environment Court case law "mean nothing to the Government or the board of inquiry".

"New Zealanders don't want companies over-ruling 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," Mr Browning said.

It was obvious the Sounds had reached capacity for salmon farming but the company had been able to bulldoze its way into public water space, he said.

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

Sustain our Sounds (SOS) chairman Danny Boulton said pollution from the additional farms would take the environment "another step closer to the unknown edge, exploiting the ecosystem to a level that is unsustainable".

The Sounds were "a biodiversity hotspot", frequented by five dolphin species and home to one of the world's rarest seabirds, the king shag.

Many members of the Sounds community had raised and defended their concerns.

"This decision flies in the face of that public opinion," Mr Boulton said.

"Serenity is further traded for the incessant noise of generators and visual beauty compromised by obtrusive constructions. This salmon expansion may produce greater profit margins for overseas shareholders but has little concern for the environment, recreational user, mussel farmer and community."

The ability of the Sounds to adequately assimilate a significant increase in nutrients was unknown with unforeseen risks, Mr Boulton said, and SOS had presented robust scientific evidence to back its concerns.

"The board, selected by the Government, made a political decision based on insufficient information in favour of big business and short-term gain and as such has compromised opportunities for future generations," he said.

Forest and Bird said the that five farms were turned down was a victory in one sense, but the four that had been approved would ruin a significant area of the Sounds. It was particularly concerned that a farm was approved for the wilderness of Port Gore.

For more information, click on 'Draft report and decision' at <http://www.epa.govt.nz/Resource-management/king-salmon>.

KEY POINTS

- Four of the nine farms applied for by NZ King Salmon to go ahead.
- Importance of Queen Charlotte Sound as a recreational area underlined.
- People and communities to gain economic and social benefits from the farms being built.
- Fish farms require water of the appropriate temperature, depth and current.
- Draft consent conditions require King Salmon to monitor water quality for up to two years before stocking farms, depending on the site.
- No ecologically significant sites found beneath or close to farms approved and far-field effects are unlikely.
- Negative impacts acknowledged include a compromise of Maori values around water quality, traditional food gathering and traditional waka routes.

- Threatened king shags in the Waitata Reach of Pelorus Sound could be the "canary in the coalmine".

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/8108760/Yes-to-salmon-farms>

Timaru Herald, 21 December 2012

Cheap salmon popular

MATTHEW LITTLEWOOD



SUPPLIED/ Graeme Kennerley

FEEDING FENZY: Salmon farm worker Tiegan Wilson loads the fish into chilly bins at the weekend sale.

Hundreds of people drove for hours to Lake Pukaki - and all to get some bargain-priced salmon at the weekend.

Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, which farms on the hydro canals, is moving hundreds of thousands of fish in preparation for Genesis' canal repair work over the summer.

General manager Janine Tulloch said it would be re-homing some of the fish in special rafts, and harvesting most of them, but there was a significant amount of "excess" stock.

By the time the Herald arrived early Saturday, she estimated it had sold more than 2000 medium-sized salmon at bargain prices.

"These salmon were of a decent size, most of them were only six months away from full maturity," Ms Tulloch said. "We could have exported them to the States, but we decided to let the community have them instead. By the end of the weekend, we had sold 10,000 salmon. Some people camped out by the Lake Pukaki visitors' centre overnight." Wanaka man Graeme Kennerley drove up in the morning after hearing about the offer on the radio.

"I thought it was a great offer, and it was a nice drive up. Everyone has been pretty nice today, there's been no-one pushing or getting in front," he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/8108015/Cheap-salmon-popular>

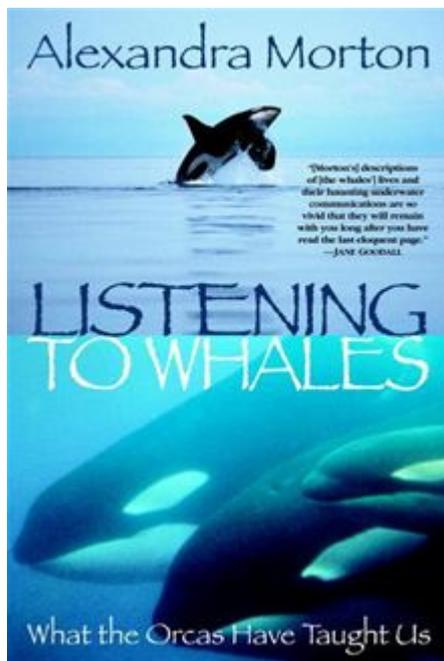
South Coast Today, 20 December 2012

Guest Editorial: The only thing we have is each other

by ALEXANDRA MORTON

If I am not mistaken, the recently announced Jordan Bay salmon farms will have three meters of water under them.

The remark was made that they are going to "shit themselves an island," and that the middle of this farm will touch bottom when storm waves lift the two ends.



I am having trouble imagining this will be a longterm salmon feedlot site. It crossed my mind sitting at Ricky Hallet's table during my recent visit that what they want is the bay.

Do they want to own the place, to have control of the lobster fishery in the end, when all the fishermen have given up?

I hope this is wrong but looking at this diagram (see below) I can't think they are going to be able to dump tons of waste daily under that farm for very long.

Here in BC, they brag about how there are only deep water sites, that they don't site in shallow bays. Three meters would be unthinkable here.

I am so sad for Ricky Hallett who compiled all the info on the Jordan Bay sites, showing that berried female lobster use that area, that his vessel helped in the research that DFO denies was done.

He put his life on hold to fight this thing. I know the feeling. I can only imagine how he is feeling today. I would imagine the people of Murphy's Cove think they must be next in line to lose their homes and livelihoods.

I lost my home to this industry.

It felt like an invasion, we couldn't even get a foreshore lease to tie up our float houses. Government was reserving the bays for salmon farming. The bureaucrat who cheerfully told me this, said there had been an MOU signed.... 100 years of a way of life, small floating communities, was outlawed with a few signatures on a page.

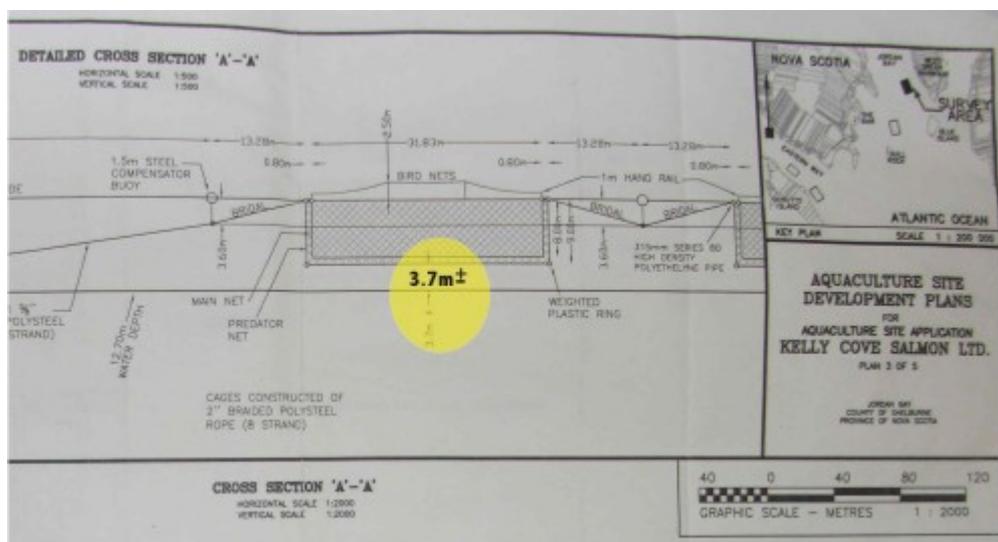
The school is closed now, and people have wandered away.

The whales I was there to study were driven out by the acoustic harassment devices the industry used to try and keep seal away.

Those whales never came back. A direct violation of the Fisheries Act - but nothing was done. There are 27 huge salmon feedlots, and I am now studying European salmon viruses in the pacific.

We do not have the power, nor resources of this godforsaken, dirty industry, ruthless industry, the only thing we have is each other.

Alex Morton is a registered professional biologist who moved to a remote archipelago in British Columbia, Canada in 1984 to study sound production in a particular pod of orca. She describes the place as "the perfect place because the whales frequented the area, called the Broughton Archipelago, and there was a small community called Echo Bay with a one room school for my son." Since then, she says, there have been 24 large salmon "feedlots" installed in the region. Morton was a key witness at the recent Cohen Commission regarding the decline of wild salmon in the waters off BC.



<http://www.southcoasttoday.ca/content/guest-editorial-only-thing-we-have-each-other>

Galway Bay FM, 20 December 2012

GALWAY TD ADDS TO CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED SALMON FARM OFF INIS OIRR

A Galway West TD has expressed serious concerns over a proposed deep sea salmon farm off Inis Oirr.

Deputy Noel Grealish is worried about the effect the farm will have on wild salmon and sea trout numbers.

Research has shown that infestations of sea lice concentrate in salmon farms and this can pose a serious threat to wild salmon and sea trout during their migration period.

Deputy Grealish raised the issue with Taoiseach Enda Kenny in the Dail and he hopes it will be dealt with in the New Year.

<http://www.galwaynews.ie/29425-galway-td-adds-concerns-over-proposed-salmon-farm-inis-oirr>

CBC News, 20 December 2012

Mesh pens don't overcrowd salmon: MUN researcher

An aquaculture researcher at Memorial University disagrees with critics who say the industry should grow salmon in land-based tanks rather than in pens at sea.

Cyr Coutourier said mesh pens currently used on Newfoundland's south coast don't overcrowd the fish.

He said any tanks built on land would have to be very large to achieve the same growing conditions.

"It's a huge environmental footprint, a spacial footprint, not to mention the cost that would be required," said Coutourier.

"Not only economically, but environmentally. The carbon footprint is higher than a net pen, for example, for the equivalent area and the equivalent production."

Coutourier also said there's no guarantee that growing salmon in tanks will prevent infections.

This week, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency confirmed an outbreak of infectious salmon anaemia at a farm operated by Cooke Aquaculture.

That prompted a call from provincial Liberal fisheries critic Jim Bennett to stop keeping the fish in pens.

Related Stories: [Another outbreak of infectious salmon anemia confirmed](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2012/12/20/nl-coutourier-on-aquaculture-fish-pens-1220.html>

CBC News/Times Colonist, 20 December 2012

Victorious salmon-farming critic censured by judge



Don Staniford, of The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, has been ordered to pay \$8,300 for court fees even though he won the case against Mainstream Canada. (Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press)

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.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/12/20/bc-salmon-farm-critic-censure.html> and <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/bc/salmon-farm-critic-gets-costly-rebuke-1.31964>

The Province, 20 December 2012

Salmon-farming critic censured for conduct

Wins case but suffers financial rebuke



DON STANIFORD

Photograph by: Arlen Redekop, PNG Files , The Canadian Press

A 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.

<http://www.theprovince.com/Salmon+farming+critic+censured+conduct/7725381/story.html>

Undercurrent News, 20 December 2012

Don Staniford fined over conduct in court



- [44 sea lice per salmon at Marine Harvest Ireland farm](#)
- [Scotland ordered to reveal seal shooting data](#)
- [Mainstream Canada appeals defamation ruling](#)
- [Staniford wins Canada court victory](#)

Aquaculture activist Don Staniford was ordered to pay Cermaq-owned Mainstream CAD 8,500 in court fees due to his conduct in court.

Even though Staniford won the defamation case which Mainstream brought against him, the judge in the case, Justine Elaine Adair, censured Staniford for his “open disrespect for witnesses and disdain for the court and the judicial process”, reports theprovince.com.

The winner of a lawsuit is usually awarded costs but in this case, the judge only awarded Staniford 25% of his costs and ordered him to Mainstream for court fees.

According to the news website, the judge “*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.*”

Cermaq took Staniford to court in 2011 after the activist launched a campaign that featured images of cigarette packs comparing salmon farming to smoking. In September this year, the

judge ruled that although Staniford's statements were defamatory and he was motivated by malice, he honestly believed what he was saying.

Mainstream is appealing the decision.

[Full story here](#)

http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/20/don-staniford-fined-over-conduct-in-court/?utm_source=wysija&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=europe_newsletter_dec_17

MSN New Zealand, 20 December 2012

Greens slam new King Salmon farms

Draft approval for four new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds could open up recreational coastlines for marine farm development, the Green Party says.

In a decision released on Thursday, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) said it would allow Marlborough District Council to change its rules to allow King Salmon to open farms at Papatua, Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond.

The sites are spread across different parts of the sounds.

However, it declined the request for five other farms at Kaitapeha, Ruaomoko, Kaitira and Tapipi, and also the White Horse Rock farm.

The decision follows a nine-week inquiry in Blenheim, which heard from about 1200 submitters, many opposed.

An 11,000-signature petition opposing the farms was presented to parliament earlier this month.

Green MP Steffan Browning says the inquiry board ignored decades of consultation that formed Marlborough District Council's planning, along with most submitters and the local community, in reaching its decision.

"New Zealanders don't want companies overruling their community plans and polluting their pristine, recreational water space.

"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.

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

King Salmon, which says it produces 70 per cent of New Zealand's farmed salmon, is owned by Malaysian company Evergreen Holdings and investment firm Direct Capital.

It already owns seven farm sites in the Marlborough Sounds, producing around 8500 tonnes of salmon each year.

King Salmon, government, council and submitters will be allowed to comment on minor or technical aspects of the decision before a final report is due in February next year.

<http://news.msn.co.nz/nationalnews/8583000/king-salmon-gets-four-sounds-fish-farms>

Undercurrent News, 20 December 2012

NZ King Salmon deplors expansion ruling



- [NZ fishing company convicted over illegal fishing](#)
- [NZ seafood industry welcomes US standards agreement](#)
- [High-end New Zealand salmon reaches US menus](#)
- [Sanford turns to chilled salmon in hope of better prices](#)

New Zealand King Salmon deplored a draft decision by the Environmental Protection Authority's to give the go-ahead to only four out of nine proposed new sites in the Marlborough Sounds.

The EPA's draft decision followed a nine-week inquiry into NZ King Salmon's proposal to set up nine new salmon farms in the area. The EPA considered around 1200 submissions during that time.

In a freshly released draft report, the EPA ruled that farms at Papatua, Ngamahau, Waitata and Richmond were allowed, but declined expansion at five other places.

A final decision is due in February.

NZ King Salmon said it would have to review its strategy in light of the decision.

“As a company we had extremely good growth prospects but will now have to review our strategy. Our next move is to carefully examine the draft decision. We are able to comment on minor or technical aspects of the report before the board’s final decision is issued in February,” its CEO Grant Rosewarne said in a statement.

The decision represents a “missed opportunity for the community”, he said. “All could have benefited so much more had we been granted additional space.”

Rosewarne deplored the fact that business and environment are too often pitted against each other.

“Too often in New Zealand commerce is pitted against conservation in an adversarial way that prevents regions achieving benefits from their natural advantages. As a nation we must find a way to view development as not being contrary to environmental objectives.”

“While the board has granted us some space to grow we are mindful that the farms must come with consent conditions which make them practical to operate. We will need more time to assess the resource consent conditions.”

Rosewarne pointed out the lost commercial opportunity and compared the decision to Australia’s recent decision to expand its salmon farming area.

“New Zealand depends on sustainable primary production to support a standard of living and a way of life we all enjoy. But Australia has recently granted almost 200% more space for salmon farming than we have received at about one fifth of our cost. How does New Zealand industry compete with these realities?

“We have missed an opportunity to bring more than 370 new jobs to the Top of the South and support local businesses across a wide range of categories.”

“We acknowledge the community’s voice during the process. We will continue to work hard to show them they can be proud of our wonderful world-class King salmon product in the same way that Marlborough is proud of the region’s renowned Sauvignon Blanc.”

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/20/nz-king-salmon-deplores-expansion-ruling/>

The Oban Times, 20 December 2012

Fish farm site changes would help fishermen

PLANS to alter a fish farm site off Mull which will allow local fishermen to continue working the area may be lodged.

A meeting of Mull Community Council (MCC) heard suggestions that The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) will apply for planning permission to alter the layout of its farm at Gometra if fishermen support its appeal at Loch Scridain.

Problems have arisen around the Gometra site after fishermen discovered agreements made with SSC were not in the planning application. Chairman of

MCC Steve Willis said: 'The application that's gone in is not what the fishermen thought they had agreed to.'

It is understood the anchors are going right in to the shore so fishermen can't lay creels.

The meeting heard the company is willing to apply for new planning permission 'but they are looking for support for Loch Scridain'.

But Mr Willis added: 'They can't hold us to ransom.'

SSC hope to have stock in the Gometra farm in April therefore any move of the

cages and anchors wouldn't take place until 2015 due to following processes, the meeting claimed.

Staff at SSC confirmed the company was putting in an appeal for the proposed fish farm in Loch Scridain.

Stewart McLelland, chief executive of SSC, said: 'At no point in our recent discussions with Mull Fishermen's Association has the SSC suggested that any future decision on what we do in relation to one farm location is affected by how we operate another farm location.'

'We are quite clear that in any water

system where we need to operate with other users it is not possible for a one stop fits all solution.

'We have been pleased about the collaborative nature and constructive tone of these talks and are baffled by the suggestion of any desire on the SSC's part to link any proposals together.

'We will continue to keep local community representatives, including Mull Community Council, fully up to date with any further outcomes from this partnership-based approach as they arise.'

<http://obantimes.co.uk/>

The Oban Times, 20 December 2012

Loch Etive fish farm plan sparks row

A FISH farm developer has been accused of being 'extremely economical with the truth' over its consultation exercise for a large development on Loch Etive.

Scottish company Dawnfresh recently lodged a planning application to establish a £2.5million, 14-pen rainbow trout farm on the loch, which would stretch south-east from Airds Point to parallel with the Muckairn Castle jetty. **'Full community consultation'**

Reacting to concerns from the community the farm would damage one of Scotland's most stunning natural beauty spots, the company's fish farm manager, Gideon Pringle, said none of the concerns were raised during 'thorough, full and wide community consultation, including two open days'.

Ardochattan, Connel and Taynuilt community councils

"This company is being extremely economical with the truth."

Les Stewart, chairman Connel Community Council

have criticised Dawnfresh's position, criticising in particular the decision to hold the Taynuilt public meeting at the Brander Lodge Hotel - nearly three miles from the village.

In a joint letter to *The Oban Times*, signed by Connel Community Council secretary Les Stewart, the community councils

said: 'Dawnfresh held two 'public consultations' on their ideas for this fish farm on Loch Etive. One was at Brander Lodge, on May 1, 2012 from 9am to 1pm; the other was at North Connel Village Hall on the same day, from 2pm till 8pm.

'If Dawnfresh thought holding a consultation at Brander Lodge constituted an 'open day' for Taynuilt, they are being disingenuous to say the least.

'Mr Pringle goes on to say that 'no concerns have been made to Dawnfresh'. This is untrue.'

Mr Stewart said five community councillors had 'made clear' to the company their concerns over noise, visual intrusion and potential pollution.

He added: 'This company is being extremely economical with the truth to satisfy their commercial interests.'

Mr Pringle has accused the community councillors of having a 'change of heart' adding the Brander Lodge Hotel was a 'suitable venue'.

'There's been a very, very large change of heart,' he said. 'Until this kicked off last week, we only had one person, Keith Macmillan, say he wasn't happy with it.'

A fatality just waiting to happen at Bridge of Orchy roadworks say local police

MOTORISTS speeding through roadworks on the A82 near Bridge of Orchy will cause a

fatality or are driving their JCBs near the bridge.

'Not only are motorists speed-

<http://obantimes.co.uk/>

Read more via <http://ardchattan.org.uk/news/2012/12/18/loch-etive-fish-farm-planning-application/>

Undercurrent News, 20 December 2012

Seafood entrepreneur: Farming salmon differently



- **Seafood entrepreneur: ‘I’m glad I didn’t sell to a PE fund, or British Seafood’**
- **Kampachi Farms: Fighting for aquaculture**
- **Scottish salmon producer to farm mullock in Africa**
- **Don Staniford fined over conduct in court**

Neil Ramsden

Expanding a salmon-farming business at a time when most are struggling, or at least being cautious, takes confidence.

But confidence in his product is one thing that Loch Duart’s co-founder and general manager, Nick Joy, has in abundance.

Demand for the Scottish farmer’s high-end salmon, which it says are the nearest farmed fish can get to wild salmon, has not wavered despite the volatile marketplace, Joy told *Undercurrent News*.

“The essence is to start off with something people want to eat,” he said. “There’s a difference between needing to eat, or being cheaper than other foods, and we’re trying to create a food that makes you want to eat it, again and again.”

Its customer bases range from the UK and Europe to the US, Russia and the Far East, with two thirds of its produce going out as exports.

“Niches come along and people want to develop them if they believe they have a product which gives them strength in the marketplace,” said Joy.

“So it’s not just about whether we have strength in the marketplace but whether our customers have strength in the marketplace. The more strength we can deliver to them, in terms of our practices and the taste of our fish, the stronger they become, and the keener they become to find niches for our product.”

Because Loch Duart sells a ‘boutique’ fish, they do not compete as much in the currently tough salmon market, he said.

“There are those who say that our price is hitched to the commodity price, but it’s not any more really. Our price doesn’t move up and down very much,” said Joy.



Head office on Badcall Bay

In fact, he said, prices have steadily increased over the past two or three years, meaning the company’s decision to expand at a time when other farms were struggling actually paid off.

“We made a decision, and in fish farming when you make a decision you have to commit to it, and we made the decision really before the [economic] crash,” he said.

“If I’d known what was going to happen would I have made a different decision? That’s one I’ll keep to myself. But the fact is that we have the market to take the fish, so we’d be fools if we didn’t supply it.”

The company was, and still is, a small one, dealing with other small companies and currently thriving.

“The market space is filling with competing products, which is a clear sign that there is a very large hunger out there for a differently, better-produced, salmon.”

This type of salmon has been the aim of the company since it was founded in 1999.

In particular, said Nick Joy, he and his two co-founders, Andy Bing and Alan Balfour, wanted to find new ways to develop greater sustainability over time.

Their key principles, which were written into the original business plan that Joy still has 14 years later, were to focus on the fish, the environment and the people.

“By people I don’t just mean the people who work on the farm but the people who eat your food as well.”

The one thing you can be sure of is if you’re making an impact in the world then there will be people against you

Loch Duart prides itself on producing salmon as closely resembling wild fish as is possible. They are farmed at well below capacity, at a ratio of 98.5% water to 1.5% fish, and are fed irregularly to mimic their natural environment.

Each year Loch Duart then leaves one of its sites, deep tidal lochs located on the north west coast of Scotland, to fallow. During this time it can cleanse itself of parasites and disease, lessening the need for pesticides.

“The aim was to try and make sure that one respected the fish, the environment and the people, which is a constant challenge, but we managed to find some people who are much, much more competent than me, who continue to believe that it’s the right way to go,” said Joy.

Thirty years earlier

Nick Joy may have spent over 30 years in the industry, but it all began when he attended only the second agriculture course to be run in Scotland.

“I found it...not too easy, but found that there were books you could read that could tell you how to do pretty much everything,” he said. “I wanted to do something that was more exciting, and I was interested in fish, so that’s what took me there.”

At the time the fish-farming industry in the UK was tiny, he says, and he found himself working on a trout farm in Malaysia for six months.



“Then I came back to the UK and decided it would be great fun working for the salmon industry, and luckily the salmon industry didn’t think it was quite as interesting as I did.”

He took a job with a small salmon farm near Ullapool, then spent the next 20 years with small, independent salmon farmers, noticing that the numbers of such companies were beginning to dwindle.

“Luckily I’d met two other idiots who were willing to consider purchasing a salmon farm, and we found a couple of very far-sighted and sensible backers who helped us buy the farm, and that was the beginning of Loch Duart.”

Nowadays the company has its sights set on expansion, with the ongoing Snow Island Salmon project receiving investment from a combination of the company’s backers and the Scottish Investment Bank.

Expansion and opposition

There are those who would prefer not to see Loch Duart expanding, however.

Anti salmon farming groups, the global alliance against industrial aquaculture (GAAIA) in particular, have targeted the Scottish company over apparent use of toxic chemicals at its Sutherland lochs.

The GAAIA, whose global coordinator Don Staniford has recently appeared in Canadian courts over a defamation charge brought by Cermaq-owned Mainstream, has also campaigned against Loch Duart’s Snow Island operations.

“The one thing you can be sure of is if you’re making an impact in the world then there will be people against you,” said Joy.



Loch Laxford

“That is, I’m afraid, just the territory one lives in, and nowadays the territory’s becoming more and more rabid.”

In the case of Loch Duart, Joy believes there are a number of people trying to put the company ‘back in the box’, with anti-aquaculture groups accusing it of being no better than other salmon farms, despite its sustainable aspirations.

“You just have to start off with the fact that we fallow for a year and go, okay, if we’re just the same as everyone else, who else fallows for a year? Quite clearly we’re not.”

“Whether or not we actually meet the standards or the requirements of these people is another matter. But the question is, do we think that their views are accurate? Do our customers? Do our customers’ customers? And the current view is no.”

Joy revealed that pressure groups have sent letters directly to customers of Loch Duart, warning them of the perceived lies and dangers that come with buying Loch Duart salmon.

To date, he said, this year he has received two emails expressing concern over the warnings, and 17 or 18 telling him that salmon buyers expect this attention with every farmed fish they buy, and are taking no notice.

“I’m afraid we live in a world where there are groups that are paid to attack, and do. Spending a long time reasoning why is probably a waste of time.”

New continent, new species



The Calbha site – all photos courtesy of Loch Duart

Nick Joy is cautious about detailing Loch Duart’s future plans, partly because he wants to avoid opening the company to attacks from such groups.

But he was excited to tell *Undercurrent* about a new project the company is embarking on in Mozambique: the farming of dusky kob, also known as mulloway.

“It’s extraordinarily exciting, because all my career I’ve worked with salmon and all my career I’ve said to the various boards I’ve worked for, ‘don’t give me another species to play with because you’ll find I can’t concentrate on what I’m supposed to be doing’ – and I’m afraid to say all my warnings have proved utterly correct.”

The chance to work with a new species, to ask questions and learn about the fish, is one motivating factor in the project, he said.

Others are a chance to try and help protect a fish which is on the red list in South Africa due to heavy overfishing, and the chance to provide employment in an area where 80% of people are living by subsistence.

“It’s very useful in terms of employment in Mozambique. We can employ a very large number of people very quickly, I’m talking hundreds, more than hundreds, in relatively quick time,” he said.

So although he admits the next year won’t be the best year on record for any salmon farmers, Nick Joy remains confident that Loch Duart’s principles will see them through.

“They were written in the business plan, which I keep to remind myself what I said I would do, what we said we would do, and we’re still doing it. I do have every confidence that we’ll grow and grow.”

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/12/20/seafood-entrepreneur-farming-salmon-differently/>

The Whistler Question, 20 December 2012

Salmon stocks vital to B.C.

Dear Editor,

Laurie Jensen assures us in her letter to the editor last week that salmon are not extinct in Norway or Ireland. The number of salmon returning to the rivers in Norway declined by 90 per cent last year and the stocks in Ireland and Scotland are suffering the same fate, decimation from the same reasons our salmon stocks decline here. Thank you for this quibble.

Personally I think Atlantic salmon do not belong in the Pacific Ocean, nor do they belong in pens attracting billions of sea lice which in turn attach themselves to the healthy salmon smolt returning to the ocean from the salmon rivers. Also unnatural to our waters is the salmon fecal matter deposited beneath these penned, over fed, growth hormone induced, antibiotic riddled, Atlantic salmon farms. This untreated waste is laden with antibiotics, pesticides and heavy metals from the toxic copper coating used as an antifoulant on the nets.

Recently a friend of mine, who works for the public works in Squamish, told me that there must be some salmon return this year as he has seen a lot less eagles in the dump. Nice indicator.

Ultimately salmon farm interests really lie in money. Personally I feel the salmon stocks here are so vital to the wellbeing of every aspect of life in B.C. that anything that could possibly jeopardize their survival should be put on hold or banned.

Lets not waste time said the Atlantic cod to the fisheries ministers — too much is at stake here and for the interest of profits. The Atlantic cod are not extinct yet either, but barring some miracle it is too late for their survival. Which take us next, to the Enbridge pipeline propaganda.

Geoff Swan

Whistler

<http://www.whistlerquestion.com/article/20121220/WHISTLER07/312209962/-1/WHISTLER/salmon-stocks-vital-to-bc>

Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 20 December 2012

Most people prefer conventionally farmed salmon

Canada: A Simon Fraser University thesis show that only about 16% of people asked prefer “closed containment aquaculture” to conventional salmon farming. But coincidentally- approximately 16% of the respondents also belonged to an environmental organization

Odd Grydeland

The author of the thesis was perhaps more interested in consumers’ willingness to pay more money for salmon produced in facilities called “*Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture*” (IMTA), where multiple species of fish, shellfish and marine plants are produced in a symbiotically beneficial environment- one feeding off the other’s waste. As described in the following article by *Salmon Farm Science*, the two research questions posed were;

1. How do salmon consumers in the US Pacific Northwest perceive IMTA and its products compared to other salmon aquaculture methods and products; and,
2. What are salmon consumers in the US Pacific Northwest willing to pay for salmon produced by IMTA compared to its potential close substitutes?

People are willing to pay more for salmon raised in the ocean in multi-species farms, but not for salmon grown on land in tanks, suggests research earlier this year by an SFU student. SFU Masters student Winnie Yip polled thousands of people to gauge what they are looking for in grocery store salmon, and how much more they are willing to pay for farming practices and certifications perceived to be more sustainable. The results of her thesis work, titled “Assessing the willingness to pay in the Pacific Northwest for salmon produced by Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture,” are fascinating. She found that:

- *People are willing to pay 9.8% more for salmon farmed in an integrated multitrophic system.*
- *People are only willing to pay 3.9% more for salmon farmed in a closed-containment system.*
- *44.3% of respondents preferred the adoption of integrated multitrophic aquaculture to conventional salmon farming.*
- *Only 16.3% of respondents preferred the adoption of closed-containment aquaculture to conventional salmon farming.*

The survey was done by a market research firm and concentrated on people in the Seattle, Portland and San Francisco areas, the main market for BC salmon farmers. The polling firm contacted 4,653 people but whittled results down to responses from 1,712 respondents to get a fair and accurate picture of their responses.

We found it very interesting how much support there is for integrated multitrophic systems in the ocean, despite all the work done in recent years by environmental groups to convince people that on-land closed-containment systems are the only way to go. This is encouraging and seems to show that people understand that the ocean is the best place to farm fish. And a multitrophic approach could be a big part of the future of ocean farming. An integrated multitrophic system is where several species are grown together in the ocean; for example, a conventional style salmon farm surrounded by shellfish ropes, which would feed on the fish waste, as well as kelp, which also uses fish waste to grow. The salmon, shellfish and kelp can

all be harvested and sold, and the system can have a smaller impact on the environment than a conventional finfish system.

We've talked about this topic before, and see a lot of potential for BC salmon farmers to experiment with multitrophic aquaculture systems. A small-scale project near Kyuquot run by UVic's Stephen Cross shows a lot of promise, and has been around for several years. There are some concerns with growing shellfish next to fish (there are fish health issues to consider, such as pathogens that can be passed between shellfish and finfish and how to mitigate that), but given that people are willing to pay a premium for fish grown in such systems, it's worth serious consideration. Business and number-minded readers, especially those involved in salmon farming, should really take a look at Yip's full thesis document. It is full of interesting information, including how much more per pound different kinds of customers would be willing to pay; what they are looking for in the grocery store; and peoples' attitudes towards salmon farming and farming technologies.

http://fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=97246

VOCM, 19 December 2012

FFAW weighs in on second ISA case on South Coast



The second case of Infectious Salmon Anaemia at a fish farm on the south coast has caught the attention of the fisheries union. The disease was confirmed this week by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which has ordered the fish to be removed from the site. The president of the FFAW says the aquaculture industry on the south coast should exercise caution when talking of expansion. Earle McCurdy told VOCM Open Line with Randy Simms this morning that we tamper with the environment at our peril, and should do so only with a full understanding of the implications. He says the plans for expansion are extremely ambitious, and he doesn't think there is sufficient appreciation of the impact on the marine environment and the wild fishery.

He says the latest outbreak of infectious salmon anaemia is just another warning sign. He says there's been approval of a sea lice

treatment called Salmosan which is very toxic to aquatic organisms and may cause long-term adverse effects. He says before anyone gets too ambitious with plans for expansion, there's a need to take stock of impact and risk.

<http://www.vocm.com/newsarticle.asp?mn=2&id=29308&latest=1>

Atlantic Salmon Federation, 19 December 2012

Here we go again

St. Andrews..." Here we go again," says Bill Taylor, President of the Atlantic Salmon Federation; "another outbreak of infectious salmon anemia discovered at a Newfoundland south coast aquaculture site. It has only been six months since the last outbreak of this serious disease was confirmed in Newfoundland. This is unacceptable and, as we have said before, shows the industry's poor management, lack of emergency planning, and inadequate husbandry practices along with the government's poor oversight and lack of concern for threatened wild Atlantic salmon populations."

"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" adds Mr. Taylor. ASF and the Conservation Fund Freshwater Institute, of Shepherdstown, WV, have proven the effectiveness of land-based aquaculture facilities, where salmon are produced without the use of vaccines, antibiotics, or harsh chemicals to control disease and sea lice. All water is recycled, and all wastes are captured. An added bonus is that these salmon cannot escape and breed with wild salmon, weakening the wild gene pool.

For now, **350,000 farmed fish at a Cooke Aquaculture site have been ordered destroyed** by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency because of another ISA outbreak. "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," continues Mr. Taylor.

To eliminate these problems in the future, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, along with other concerned conservation groups, is advocating that the Federal and Provincial governments stop the expansion of open-net pen aquaculture in all provinces and transition to land-based systems that are environmentally friendly.

While ASF recognizes the economic value of this industry to the Province of Newfoundland and the employment opportunities generated by it, we believe the time has come to start charting a new course for the industry. As such, ASF would welcome an opportunity to meet with the new Minister to share our concerns about the impacts current aquaculture operations are having on wild Atlantic salmon populations on the south coast of Newfoundland and to provide assistance to the new Minister to help chart a more environmentally and economically sustainable course for the industry.

-30-

The Atlantic Salmon Federation is dedicated to the conservation, protection and restoration of wild Atlantic salmon and the ecosystems on which their well being and survival depend. ASF has a network of seven regional councils (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Maine and Western New England). The regional councils cover the freshwater range of the Atlantic salmon in Canada and the United States.

ASF Contact: Muriel Ferguson, Communications 506 529-1033 or 506 529-4581

<http://asf.ca/here-we-go-again.html>

Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 19 December 2012

Approval of fish farms in Nova Scotia triggers excitement

Canada: The approval of two new salmon farms in Nova Scotia is good news for Cooke Aquaculture and the provincial government, but as expected- not so for environmentalists

Opinion

Odd Grydeland

The arguments against any expansion of the Canadian salmon farming industry by the environmental community is getting more inappropriate and dominated by ignorance by the day. As this article by *Canadian Press* writer **Aly Thomson** in Halifax demonstrates, environmental groups claim to have a better understanding of the environmental conditions around a proposed new site for salmon farming than all of the company biologists that have to make sure that the growing conditions for the salmon will be appropriate, and also the government regulators that will use local knowledge as well as historical data and sophisticated computer models to ensure that the planned production will not exceed the natural carrying capacity of a future location;

Nova Scotia announced the approval of two aquaculture sites on the southwestern tip of the province Tuesday, sparking outcry from a conservation group that says the area is not appropriate for the open-net farming pens. Kelly Cove Salmon Ltd., a subsidiary of New Brunswick-based Cooke Aquaculture Inc., has been granted the right to operate two fish farming pens in Shelburne County's Jordan Bay. The government said a condition of the agreement includes site monitoring by a third-party consultant. Kelly Cove Salmon will also be required to establish a committee to provide a forum for communication with the community.

Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau said the company went through a rigorous two-year application process that concluded the sites would pose minimal risk to the area's environment. "The province is committed to ensuring aquaculture continues to be an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable industry in Nova Scotia," Belliveau said in a statement. "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 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.

Susanna Fuller, marine conservation co-ordinator at the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, said Jordan Bay is too shallow for fish farms and doesn't have a strong enough current to wash away fish waste.

"Shallow water with no current means all the feces from the salmon farms goes directly to the bottom and doesn't get flushed away," said Fuller. "That area of the South Shore just doesn't really have huge flushing rates. They are shallow bays, and they're not appropriate for this kind of industrial farming."

Fuller said it was premature of the provincial government to approve the aquaculture sites before it reviews its regulations and policies for open-net pens as set out in an aquaculture strategy released earlier this year.

In the spring, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ordered Cooke Aquaculture to destroy thousands of salmon in their ocean pens outside Shelburne Harbour due to the presence of infectious salmon anemia.

But the Nova Scotia government has shown its support for open-pen salmon farming, announcing a \$25-million (~€19.3 million) loan to Cooke Aquaculture earlier this year to expand its operations in Shelburne, Digby and Truro. Its aquaculture strategy also emphasized expanding the industry to create jobs in parts of rural Nova Scotia hit hard by unemployment and outmigration.

http://fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=97231

Fish Farming Xpert/Norwegian Fish Farmer, 19 December 2012

Industry fighting back

Canada: Canadian fish farmers from British Columbia are increasingly addressing statements made in mainstream media by people either ignorant of facts or full of mischief

Odd Grydeland

It is a fact that most media outlets like or even promote controversy- and in British Columbia, few issues are more controversial among Joe Public than the well-being or otherwise of “wild” salmon. The recently completed investigation in the relatively poor returns of sockeye salmon to the Fraser in 2009 provided fodder for speculators of all stripes, and a record return of the same kind of salmon a year later did little to stem the flow of speculation and finger pointing.

A couple of recent examples of the sometimes extreme reactions to the Cohen *Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River* were addressed by two industry insiders;

Laurie Jensen from Mainstream Canada wrote in a response to a letter posted by the **Whistler Question**;

Letter misrepresents Cohen report

Dear Editor,

Geoff Swan makes several incorrect statements about the Cohen Commission, salmon farms and wild fish in his Dec. 6 letter “Cohen report no surprise.”

- *He claims wild salmon are “extinct in Ireland, Norway etc.” This is not true. There are still wild Atlantic salmon in Ireland and Norway, and although their numbers have been greatly diminished by centuries of overfishing, they are not extinct.*
- *As well, he claims Bill C-38 will “increase the tenure of the existing salmon farms.” This is not true, either. Tenure decisions are up to the provincial government, not the federal, and have nothing to do with bill C-38.*
- *Finally, he misrepresents the main conclusion of the Cohen Commission report, which stated that there is no “smoking gun” and no evidence that anything in particular, e.g. salmon farms, are causing harm to Fraser sockeye.*

Justice Cohen calls for more research and for science-based decision making, which as salmon farmers, we fully support.

And in a response to a letter printed in the California-based *Napa Valley Register*, **Ian Roberts** from Marine Harvest Canada puts another record straight regarding myths and facts;

Misconceptions about farmed fish

The letter from Gabriela Salva (“Farmed and dangerous: the dish about fish,” Nov. 30) was so full of untruths that it is an unwarranted attack on thousands of hard-working people who grow sustainable and healthy seafood. I plan to bust just a few myths in her letter:

- *Myth — There are “2 million aquaculture lots” in the Pacific Northwest.*

Fact — *There are several hundred salmon hatcheries and about 80 farms.*

- *Myth — Aquaculture fish are “constantly doused with antibiotics.”*

Fact — *Most aquaculture fish receive an effective vaccination and are closely monitored by a veterinarian. As a result, medicinal use in aquaculture is rare— and unlike most other food growers, this information is available to consumers online.*

- *Myth — Consumption of aquaculture fish “increases heart disease.”*

Fact — *The American Heart Foundation recommends eating fish (particularly fatty fish rich in Omega-3s) two times per week, and this includes farm-raised salmon.*

- *Myth — Aquaculture farms have “crammed conditions.”*

Fact — *Fish naturally “school.” Fish farmed in the ocean are given ample room to range and are raised at low densities that ensure the fish are stress-free.*

To insist that “America be aquaculture-free” is akin to asking that all terrestrial agriculture cease. Seafood is healthy, and as our population grows, wild creatures in our lakes and oceans (like on land) cannot keep up with demand. Aquaculture— growing catfish in freshwater ponds in Mississippi and ocean ranching salmon in Alaska and farming salmon in British Columbia — plays a vital role in providing healthy food and conserving our lakes and oceans.

I would encourage Ms. Salva to learn more about aquaculture before scaring people away from a healthy and sustainable food choice.

http://fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=97214

Seafood Business, December 2012

Can helper species combat sea lice at salmon farms?



By James Wright, *SeaFood Business* senior editor

Of the roughly 25,000 fish swimming in each of four circular net pens moored off the coast of New Brunswick, Canada, perhaps the most important ones contained therein aren't even salmon. For every 100 salmon being fattened to market size for restaurants and supermarkets internationally, there are about four or five cunners, a smaller fish that's been sent in to do

a simple job: Feast on sea lice, the finfish aquaculture industry's most persistent pest. Think of them as ladybugs controlling aphids in a garden.

Sea lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) have caused millions of dollars in losses for salmon farms worldwide — as well as bad publicity for one of Canada's top supermarket chains. One way to get rid of them is a pesticide. Slice (*emamectin benzoate*) and Salmosan are two common and effective ones on the market, but aquaculture industry critics oppose the use of such substances, fearing dire consequences for other species, like lobsters, that live near the farm sites.

There is, however, an alternative measure under development that doesn't depend on chemicals and the early results are encouraging. Projects in Norway and Canada, at both the university and corporate levels, are turning to helper fish like the cunner (aka connor or bergall; *Tautoglabrus adspersus*) and wrasse to remove the lice that enter salmon farms; scientists at the University of Maine in Orono believe mussel rafts placed on the periphery of the finfish farms can also help, as larval lice have been found in mussel bellies and digestive tracts.

[Click here to read the full story which ran in the December issue of *SeaFood Business* >](#)

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=18870>

The Oban Times, 22 November 2012

MSPs tour Marine Harvest operations



Marine Harvest Glenfinnan site manager Sandy MacKinnon, MSP Rob Gibson and Marine Harvest business support manager Steve Bracken head down Loch Shiel.

The Oban Times 22 Nov
RURAL Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee MSPs toured Marine Harvest operations in Lochaber last weekend – on foot and by boat.

The parliamentarians viewed the new smolt production plant being built at Lochailort and the processing plant on Bear Mhor Industrial Estate.

The fact-finding visit also included a trip down Loch Shiel by motorboat to the firm's freshwater site and Drimsallie Mill hatchery on Loch Arkaig, where Marine Harvest is working alongside the River Lochy Association to restore native River Lochy salmon and sea trout populations.

Fisheries

The committee is currently scrutinising the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, which is set to reform both wild and farmed fisheries.

Committee convener Rob Gibson said: "The farmed fishing industry is a significant employer in the Fort William area, whilst the wild angling sector attracts thousands of visitors to our rivers and their preservation is critical for our environment."

"This has been invaluable for the committee to see and will help inform their scrutiny of the Bill."

<http://obantimes.co.uk/>

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:

17 December - "Boycott Urged"/"Gathering Ireland"/"Senseless Destruction"/"AGD Alert"/"Sea of Protest"/"Filthy Fish Farms OUT!" - [online here](#)

12 December - "Fleck 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](#)

