

Press Update – 7 November 2012

“Flesh-Eating Lice”/“Chlamydia & Gill Disease”/“Strong Opposition”/“Risky Salmon Farms”/“Scotland’s Salmon Wars”

Please find enclosed a press update (download in full [online here](#)):

“[Caught Between Roc and a Hard Place](#)” (Green Around the Gills, 7 November)

“[Parasites have big impact on salmon](#)” (The Royal Society, 7 November)

“[Salmon report spawns new fish farm fight](#)” (North Shore News, 7 November)

“[Flesh-eating lice spread by fish farms kill 39 per cent of wild salmon](#)” (The Scotsman, 7 November)



Flesh-eating lice spread by fish farms kill 39 per cent of wild salmon



Campaigners have claimed that farmed salmon is ravaged with disease. Picture: PA

“[Chlamydia and gill disease ravage Scottish salmon: GAAIA](#)” (FIS, 7 November)

“[Flesh-eating lice from fish farms kill](#)” (Berwick Advertiser, 7 November)

“[Half of all Atlantic salmon are being killed by bloodsucking parasites, researchers claim](#)” (The Daily Mail, 7 November)

“[Farmed fish lice link to wild salmon deaths](#)” (The Herald, 7 November)

“[Sea lice killing ‘large numbers’ salmon](#)” (BBC News, 7 November)

[“Farmed salmon ravaged with parasitic diseases, campaigners warn”](#) (The Scotsman, 6 November)

[“Salmon Wars heads to Big Apple”](#) (The Chronicle Herald, 6 November)

[“Fish farms decimate wild salmon”](#) (Nanaimo Daily News, 6 November)

[“Anti-fish farm campaigner visits Isles”](#) (Stornoway Gazette, 6 November)

[“Skyfall for Scottish Salmon!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 6 November)

[“Will Santa be kind to smoked salmon suppliers?”](#) (Intrafish, 6 November)

[“Farms not to blame”](#) (The Province, 6 November)

[“Don’t be duped by story”](#) (Campbell River Mirror, 6 November)

[“Sealice levels up in Faroe Islands”](#) (Undercurrent News, 6 November)

[“Government funding announced to expand salmon farming”](#) (The Telegram, 6 November)

[“Mainstream Welcomes Research to Help Fill Knowledge Gap”](#) (The Fish Site, 5 November)

[“Stushie for Scottish Salmon! Global anti-farming campaigner Don Staniford gives a talk in Back”](#) (Outer Hebrides Against Fish Farms, 5 November)

[“Salmon farming kills seals”](#) (GAAIA, 5 November)

[“Hebridean island residents scared of being cut off by giant salmon farm”](#) (The Sunday Times, 4 November)

[“‘Stushie’ for Scottish Salmon!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 4 November)

[“Toxic chemicals pervade farming”](#) (The Sunday Herald, 4 November)

[“The Stench of Scottish Salmon Farming”](#) (GAAIA, 4 November)

[“Cohen report not an indictment of fish farms”](#) (Times Colonist, 4 November)

[“Salmon Farm Disease Disaster in Lamlash Bay, Arran”](#) (GAAIA, 3 November)

[“Ground Zero in Scotland’s Salmon Wars!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 3 November)

[“Cohen report falls short: Sto:lo Tribal Council”](#) (Chilliwack Progress, 2 November)

[“Atlantic salmon group praises B.C. report's recommendation to limit fish pens”](#) (The Canadian Press/CTV News, 2 November)

[“Harper should follow wise advice in Cohen fish report”](#) (The Province, 2 November)

[“Salmon report shows the effect of politics dictating policy”](#) (The Vancouver Sun, 2 November)

[“Strong opposition to plans for Loch Slapin fish farm”](#) (West Highland Free Press, 2 November)



[“Salmon farm plan withdrawn on Eastern Shore”](#) (CBC News, 2 November)

[“Editorial: Sockeye salmon report sobering, but definitive”](#) (The Vancouver Sun, 2 November)

[“Canadian Salmon Inquiry Exposes Agency Conflicts; US Needs Similar Effort”](#) (Fly Rod & Reel, 2 November)

[“Marine Biologist, Alexandra Morton Speaks About Her Impression Of The Findings Of The Cohen Report”](#) (CKNW, 2 November)

[“Special report on salmon gets mixed reviews in Nanaimo”](#) (Nanaimo Daily News, 2 November)

[“Sockeye report 'balanced,' salmon farmers say: Farm fish spokesman confident more research will vindicate their operations”](#) (The Vancouver Sun, 2 November 2012)

[“Fish Farmer’s Not Concerned With Cohen Report”](#) (HQ Comox Valley, 2 November)

[“Risky salmon farms must be shut down: report”](#) (FIS, 1 November)

[“Carter backs fish farms”](#) (Marlborough Express, 1 November)

[“Galway Bay fish farm criticised for environment and wild salmon risks”](#) (Galway Advertiser, 1 November)

[“Shetland fish farm moves to protest stock from seals”](#) (BBC News, 31 October)

Including from [Roc Sandford](#) (6 November) who is fighting salmon farm expansion in Scotland:

“I think we all need to link together, because at the moment we're all getting picked off one by one.”



Watch video report [online here](#) and read more via “[Caught Between Roc and a Hard Place](#)”

From Paul Dean in [The Campbell River Mirror](#) (6 November):

“We owe this industry nothing. In fact it owes Canadians uncountable compensation.”



From [The Scotsman](#) (7 November) on sea lice from salmon farms killing wild fish:

“A new international study found “unexpectedly large” numbers of wild salmon are dying in European waters every year, with 39 per cent killed by the flesh-eating lice. A leading academic at the University of St Andrews, who took part in the research, said it showed

Scotland's multi-million-pound salmon farming industry needed to do more to prevent sea lice from destroying wild fish stocks – as well as protecting the sector.”

“Co-author Professor Christopher Todd, specialist in marine ecology at the St Andrews Scottish Oceans Institute, warned: “This high-per-cent mortality attributable to sea lice was unexpected. The salmon aquaculture industry has long placed a high priority on controlling sea lice on their captive salmon – but these results do emphasise the need for the industry to not only maintain the health of their own stocks, but also to minimise the risk of cross-infection of wild fish.”



From Stephen Hume writing in [The Vancouver Sun](#) (2 November):

Oft-vilified marine biologist and wild salmon campaigner Alexandra Morton seems vindicated here. She has argued that these farms are an epicentre for stressors that can adversely affect immature wild salmon as they pass. Cohen says that unless these farms can be shown to pose no more than a minimal risk to migrating sockeye, they should be ordered by the federal government to cease operations.”

From the [Chilliwack Progress](#) (2 November):

“Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil said the commission could have gone further to protect wild salmon from diseases carried by farmed fish. "I wanted the Commissioner to recommend there be no (salmon) farms on the migratory route of Fraser sockeye, and the relocation of farms to new sites," he said. Diseases transferred from farmed fish "pose a singular threat to wild salmon," he said, and "could decimate wild fish entirely." "Indeed, contagion from salmon farms may already be taking their toll," he said.”

From Jim Erkiletian writing in [The Province](#) (2 November) and [Nanaimo Daily News](#) (6 November):

“Now that the three-year, \$26-million Cohen Report has been released, we are finally told the science shows salmon farms spread disease and parasites that decimate wild salmon populations. These are obvious actions from an industry that see wild salmon stocks as competition, and should have been obvious to the government when these Norwegian corporations were allowed here. They had already trashed wild stocks in Norway and Scotland, and are destroying those of Chile and Peru. They should be outlawed and removed

from any waters used by wild salmon for migration to the ocean and return. Will the NDP do this or are they still as enamoured of Norwegian ecocide as the B.C. Liberals are?"

From Ian Roberts in [The Province](#) (6 November):

“Salmon aquaculture takes fishing pressure off wild salmon, an important part of salmon conservation. It's therefore important that people such as Mr. Erkiletian not misrepresent the findings of a report that can help us focus on what is important to the long-term sustainability of wild salmon.”

From [The Fish Site](#) (5 November):

"We are confident in the health of our fish and in the quality of our farm information and will continue to work with government regulators to show the public that we are committed to making sure our farms don't pose any risk to wild salmon," said Laurie Jensen, Mainstream Canada's Corporate Sustainability Manager.

From [CTV News](#) (2 November):

“Bill Taylor of the Atlantic Salmon Federation says governments on this coast are allowing open-net salmon pens and they are having devastating impacts on wild Atlantic salmon. In his report released Thursday, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen concluded that the potential harm posed by salmon farms to Fraser River sockeye salmon is "serious or irreversible." Taylor says wild Atlantic salmon in southern Newfoundland, the Bay of Fundy and along the coast of Nova Scotia might migrate near the open-net pens and risk interaction with escaped farmed salmon.”

Elena Edwards, a campaigner for Wild Salmon First who is visiting Norwegian-owned salmon farms in Scotland & Ireland, [said](#) (31 October): "May the global voices for wild salmon unite to deliver the message to Norway that Norwegian salmon farms are not welcome and must go!"



"The flag and declaration will be travelling to Scotland and Ireland to support efforts to stop Norwegian owned salmon farms from killing wild salmon," continued Edwards. "The more names on the flag the stronger the message which will be brought to Norway next year. Your voice matters!"

Sign the Declaration and view more details via <http://www.wildsalmonfirst.org/>

Support Alexandra Morton's testing for salmon diseases – please [donate online here now!](#)

Salmon Disease Testing Fund

Raised: \$36,500.00 Goal: \$100,000.00

Created by Alexandra Morton (3021 Friends)

Last fall we began testing salmon in BC for European viruses spreading worldwide in Atlantic salmon farms, which import millions of eggs into places like BC an... more

gofundme.com/SalmonDisea Like 393

Pin it Tweet 52 Email 57

DONATE!

Sign a petition calling on supermarkets to stop selling disease-ridden farmed salmon – [sign online here!](#)

change.org Start a Petition Browse Petitions Find Login or Sign Up

Sign this petition
with 14,018 supporters
982 NEEDED

First Name
Last Name
Email
Postal Code Spain
Why is this important to you? Optional

SIGN

Display my signature publicly

By signing, you accept Change.org's terms of service and privacy policy.

Petitioning CEO - Safeway
**COSTCO, Safeway & Loblaws:
Please stop selling diseased farm salmon!**

Best fishes,

Don

Remember: Global News Updates are now archived and available in full [online here!](#)

Green Around the Gills, 7 November 2012

Caught Between Roc and a Hard Place

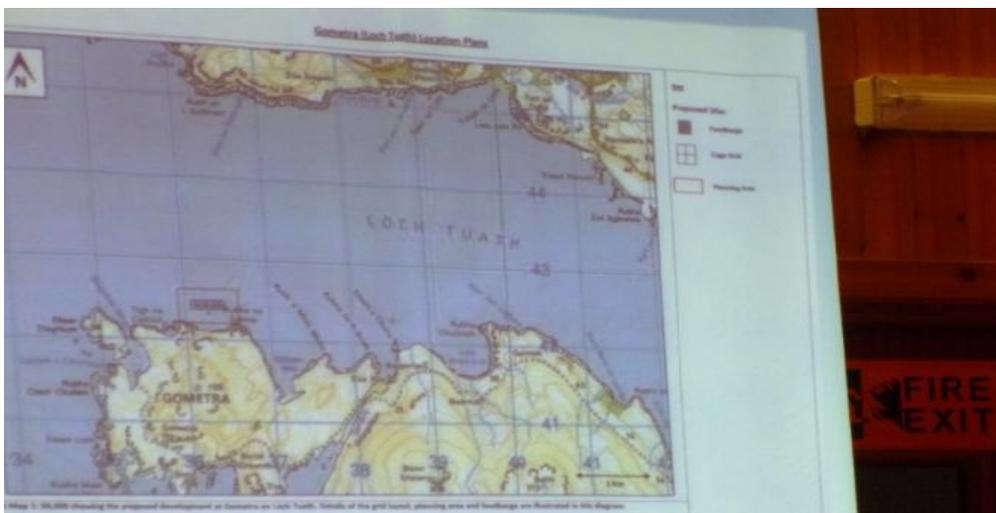


Roc Sandford on Gometra with Staffa in the background

Roc Sandford, owner of the island of Gometra off Mull in Western Scotland, has a huge [fight](#) on his hands in the shape of the Scottish Salmon Company (aka the '[Salmon Factory](#)').



The corporation - [owned](#) by a Swiss bank and a who's who of Norwegian investors - won the latest skirmish when Argyll & Bute Council dutifully approved a super-sized salmon farm following a public hearing on the Isle of Mull on Monday (5 November).



Outside the public hearing at Dervaig on the Isle of Mull this week (5 November) the islanders had one simple message to the Norwegian banks, pension funds and investors bank-rolling the Scottish Salmon Company: [STOP!](#)



For more information on the wall of opposition against the 'Salmon Factory' please visit [online here](#) and watch an interview with Roc Sandford via “[Scottish Salmon Farms Bully Island Residents](#)”

The threat of a legal challenge to the "flawed decision" now hangs like a cloud of [Amoebic Gill Disease](#) over the Scottish Salmon Company. On Friday (2 November), Roc Sandford's lawyers wrote to Argyll & Bute Council setting out the grounds for a legal challenge.



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Date: 2 November 2012

Richard Kerr
Planning Department
Argyll & Bute Council
Whitegates Office
Whitegates Road
LOCHGILPHEAD
PA31 8SY

By email: Richard.kerr@argyll-bute.gov.uk; centralvalidationteam@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Dear Mr Kerr

Roc Sandford
Planning application 12/01176/MFF

We act for Roc Sandford, the proprietor of Gometra, who has of course already lodged specific planning objections with your department.

For our part, and on his behalf, we attach an appendix setting out various legal objections which, in our submission, militate against planning consent being granted without various important issues being considered in much greater detail. If the Council is to insulate itself from legal challenge, then we would urge the Committee to take the attached points on board at or in advance of Monday's meeting.

The letter laid out seven legal objections including:

APPENDIX

Legal Ground of Objection

Ground 1: That the Council will be in breach of its EU law obligations if it allows the assessment of potentially significant environmental impacts to be dealt with by SEPA outside the EIA process.

It is not lawful for the impacts upon the marine environment to be delegated to SEPA and thereby divorced from the planning appraisal process. The environmental impacts require to be dealt with holistically. SEPA themselves have been internally inconsistent, having first indicated that the proposal would be "likely to impact significantly on the water quality", and then giving no such indication in their response to the Council during the EIA consultation process. Planning considerations must be formally linked to environmental considerations, with planning authorities being obliged to take account of the impact of pollution, rather than simply leaving pollution impacts to be dealt with by another agency. It is therefore submitted that, at the very least, (1) planning consent should not be granted until the application for a CAR licence has been determined and (2) compliance with the CAR licence, if granted, should itself be a condition of any planning permission.

Ground 2: That the Council will breach its statutory duties on NSAs

The planning authority's obligation is to ensure that in exercising its planning powers, "special attention is paid to the desirability of safeguarding or enhancing [the NSA's] character or appearance".

With respect, the advice being provided by SNH is flawed and should not be followed. SNH have focussed on whether the development would undermine the integrity of the NSA as a whole, whereas the Council's obligation relates to giving special attention to "safeguarding" or "enhancing" the NSA. Currently, there is no evidence that the Council intends giving the required "special attention", nor any evidence in relation to safeguards or enhancements. On the contrary, all available information indicates that the development will have a detrimental effect. It is thus impossible to see how, based on the information currently before the Council, the Council can show that it has discharged its statutory duty.

Read the letter in full [online here](#)

"Which law are we governed by?" asked one councillor as the committee discussed the threat of legal action in Europe. "Which law takes precedence - Scottish law or European law?"

"European law takes precedence," replied the Argyll & Bute Council planning officer Richard Kerr who completely ignored his own advice and recommended approval for the salmon farm. "It has been concluded that these impacts are not significant."



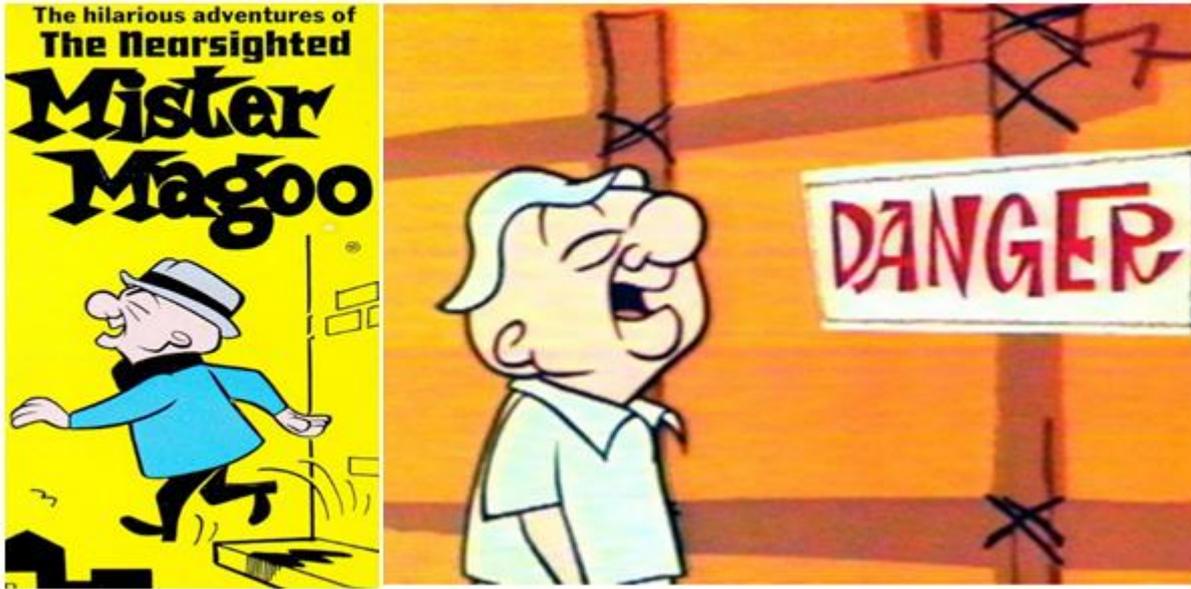
In approving the salmon farm, the councillors of Argyll & Bute not only disregarded EU law but they also ignored the views of the local community including everyone on the island of Gometra.



"Normally I would listen to a very small island community," said one councillor before blatantly disregarding their views.

"There's only one policy and that's the council policy to promote aquaculture," said another councillor. "We are a planning authority and we cannot take other things into account."

"You can hardly see the fish farms," said another councillor blind to the ecological impacts of salmon farms under the cages. "I don't see them as a problem," he concluded following a morning site visit to the proposed salmon farm.



The views of over 1,000 people from around the world who signed a [petition](#) objecting to the application were dismissed by Argyll & Bute Council who unanimously voted in favour of the proposal and in support of four short-term jobs at the expense of local democracy and long-term environmental costs.



"We don't need more farmed salmon," said Polly Huggett who lives on the island of Gometra. "We don't need to whip nature to increase salmon farming production. I am so shocked and sad at the risks being taken."



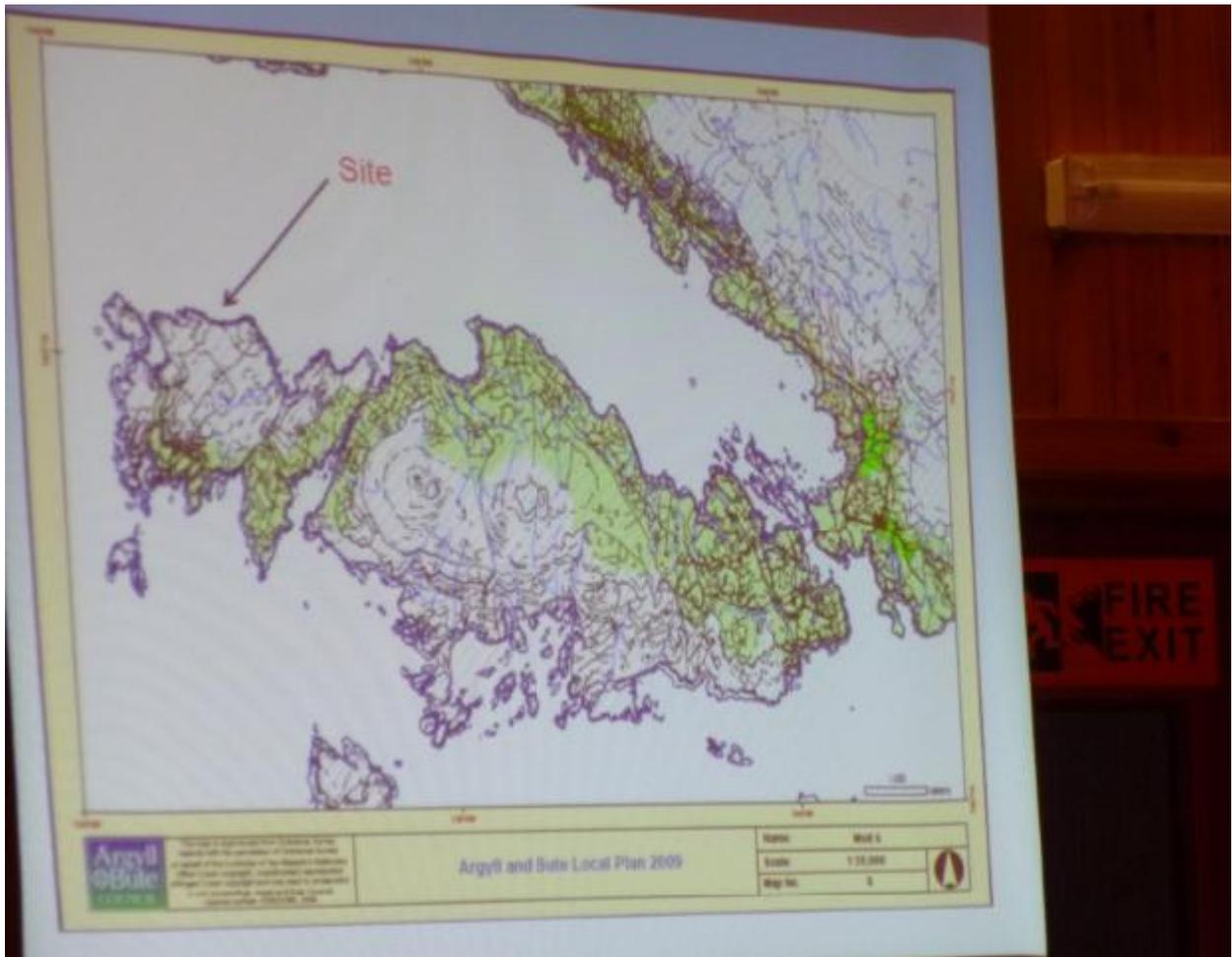
"This is an unsafe proposal," said Sophie Baker, another island resident vehemently opposed to the salmon farm. "It will make the waters more hazardous and the journey unsafe," she said raising the spectre of liability issues.

"If you put a salmon farm there you will put our lives in danger and at risk," said Rhoda Munro, who runs a farm on the island of Gometra. "There's going to be one occasion that we cannot get out of it," she warned.



"Everyone on Gometra is against it and you have to consider the community's view," said Gometra resident Liam Ryan. "You will put our lives at risk if the proposal goes through. It would be negligent."

"I don't want a salmon farm off Gometra," said Ian Munro, another island resident who has lived and worked locally for over 30 years. "It would be very dangerous to go into deeper water around the salmon farm."



"This proposal is irresponsible," said Guy Bolton of Tostary Croft on the Isle of Mull. "I appreciate there's jobs but I feel we must look at the bigger picture. We may look back in 10 years time and think 'my goodness, what have we done?'"

"I don't see balance on this island," said wildlife tourist operator Dave Woodhouse who made a passionate plea for local eco-tourism not foreign-owned salmon farms.

Beyond the shores of Mull visitors thinking of coming here perceive the people of Mull to be environmentally aware and very protective of all they have achieved in turning Mull into one of the Worlds top eco destinations.

We've literally had to fight tooth and nail to get the Island and its economy to where it is today and to be a place that is admired and even envied by other communities in Scotland as being a green thinking and reasonably prosperous place to live.

But here we are now with this gigantic and threatening development.

Should we be doing anything to dabble with or risk that image that we have successfully cultivated to the world at large. Even if they don't think that they do, everyone in this room benefits directly and indirectly from the tourism cash that comes into the island.

Without our environmentally aware visitors there would be fewer ferry sailings, roads which are hardly repaired at present would not be repaired at all. Island stores that are currently expanding wouldn't be doing so and instead could probably be closing.

We all want to be friends here but this possible development has split the community mainly because of the total lack of Island meetings to inform and discuss concerns. Instead this was all rushed through and sensible objections bizarrely overturned. I don't see the divisions being healed if this development goes ahead.

Call me an old fashioned country boy but am I the only one that sees The Island as a living breathing beautiful entity in its own right?

"Salmon farming kills seals," said Mark Carter of [Marine Concern](#) as he addressed the council.



"Here's the licenses to kill seals around the Isle of Mull," said Mark Carter as he detailed the [killing farms](#).

marine scotland
The Scottish Government

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: PART 6 – CONSERVATION OF SEALS

Seal Management Licence
Licence to shoot seals to protect the health and welfare of farmed fish in Scotland

Licence Number: [REDACTED]

The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 110(1) (f) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and after consultation with the Natural Environment Research Council, hereby license Scottish Sea Farms – Scotland Region (hereinafter referred to as "the licensee") to have up to a maximum of 20 Grey and 40 Common Seals shot by the nominated marksmen named in Annex A in waters within 150 metres of the fish farms named in Annex B to protect the health and welfare of farmed fish on those farms during the period 31st January 2011 to 31st January 2012 (both dates inclusive) subject to the conditions specified below.

Marine Scotland will issue a reminder to each licensee that a record of any seal killed under this licence be sent to this office on a quarterly basis. Returns should be despatched on the statutory form covering the most recent three month period so as to reach this office within 10 days of the end of each period. If no seal is killed a "nil" return shall be sent. The return shall be addressed to Seal Licensing, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, PO Box 101, 375 Victoria Road, ABERDEEN, AB11 9DB.

For and on behalf of the Scottish Ministers

Fiona Mackintosh
Licensing Operations Team
Marine Planning and Policy

One License
23 Locations.
31 Licenses
1167 Seals.

Shooting by:
Fisherman
Anglers
Netsmen
Aquaculture

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/SealLicensin>

Annex B
Fish Farms Included

- Creran B – FS0426
- Creran D(A) – FS1047
- Dunstaffnage – FS0299
- Kerrera A (Oban Bay) – FS0251
- Kerrera B (Charlottes Bay) – FS0663
- Lismore A – FS0745
- Lismore B – FS0914
- Shuna – FS0695
- Walters (East Lismore) – FS0675
- Speive A – FS0634
- Speive B – FS0253
- Bloody Bay – FS0964
- Fishnish A – FS0427
- Fishnish B – FS0694
- Scallastle – FS0209
- Nevis A – FS0430
- Nevis B – FS0616
- Nevis C (Ardintigh) – FS0546
- Kishorn A (South) – FS0709
- Kishorn B (North) – FS0804
- Fada – FS0858
- Tanera – FS0549
- Loch Ba (freshwater) – FS0429

Watch an interview via [“Unnecessary Seal Deaths – Mark Carter Explains”](#)



"Salmon farms spread infectious diseases," [said](#) Don Staniford who echoed the concerns of opponents around the world. "It is incumbent upon the council to look at all the mortality, chemical and disease data from Marine Scotland the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. If you adopt due diligence there is only one conclusion: you must refuse this application."

Don Staniford speaks at public hearing against salmon farms

Don Staniford

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Watch the interview in full via “[Don Staniford speaks at public hearing against salmon farms](#)”

Read more in The Scotsman today on infectious diseases and sea lice infestation via “[Flesh-eating lice spread by fish farms kill 39 per cent of wild salmon](#)” and “[Farmed salmon ravaged with parasitic diseases, campaigners warn](#)”

Flesh-eating lice spread by fish farms kill 39 per cent of wild salmon



Campaigners have claimed that farmed salmon is ravaged with disease. Picture: PA

"This is a time-bomb," said Roc Sandford as he summed up the community's case against the salmon farm. "A disease-ridden salmon farm is not welcome. People all around the world agree that Gometra is the last place on earth to site a salmon farm. We are very sorry to be difficult, but we insist: our community cannot carry the burden of this salmon farm. It will irresponsibly endanger the lives of the islanders, including the lives of the most vulnerable ones. Not one person on the island wants it, the buck stops with you, you cannot fly in the face of an island's entire community and you must turn it down."



"The controversy over this flawed decision with run and run," said Roc Sandford as he consulted with his lawyers following the council's approval.



"I think we all need to link together, because at the moment we're all getting picked off one by one," said Roc Sandford in an [interview](#) outside the public hearing (5 November).



"We need to start telling the Scottish Government this isn't on," continued Roc Sandford. "People come from all over the world to see this world-class landscape. It's very sad to disrupt that with a salmon farm."



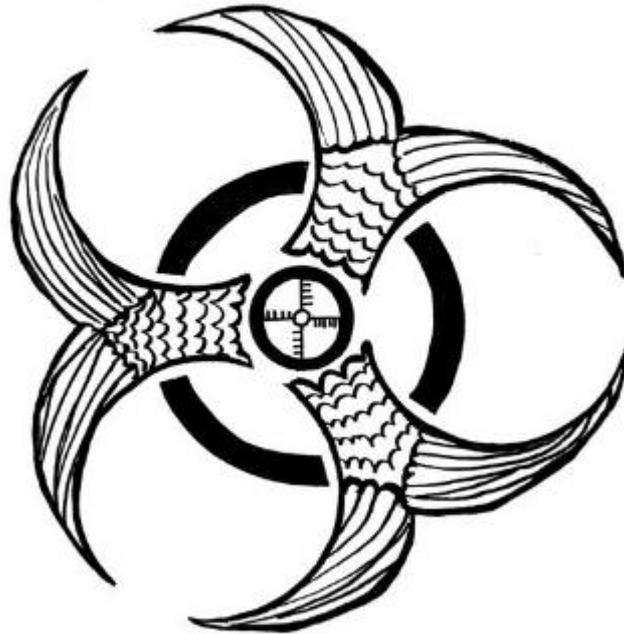
Watch the interview in full online via “[Scottish Salmon Farms Bully Island Residents](#)”

"The fight back begins!" screams the Salmon Factory [web-site](#). "When the last wild fish is infected, the last seal shot, the last loch poisoned and the last dolphin displaced, you will discover that you [cannot eat](#) factory farmed salmon."



Argyll and Bute approve Gometra salmon farm - the fight back begins!

Save Staffa Archipelago Stop Fingal's Cage



Or why the *Island of Gometra* is **NOT** the place for 2 kilotonnes of *factory farmed salmon* in 5.6 Wembley Stadium football pitches of cage array on 42 Wembley pitches of indefinitely '*privatised*' seabed

Roc Sandford is certainly winning the PR battle.

Read article in full via: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/11/caught-between-roc-and-a-hard-place.html>

More details via "[Scottish Salmon Farms Bully Island Residents](#)"

The Royal Society, 7 November 2012

Parasites have big impact on salmon



Sea lice on an Atlantic salmon. Photo credit:
Christopher Todd

Title: [Impact of parasites on salmon recruitment in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean](#)

Authors: Martin Krkošek, Crawford W. Revie, Patrick G. Gargan, Ove T. Skilbrei, Bengt Finstad and Christopher D. Todd

Journal: [Proceedings of the Royal Society B](#)

A new study published in [Proceedings of the Royal society B](#) today shows that between 18% and 55% of adult salmon in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean are lost to parasites each year. Sea lice on an Atlantic salmon.

Scientists have long been puzzled by the fluctuating numbers of fish in the oceans. An international team of researchers, led by Martin Krkošek from the University of Otago, New Zealand, compared the survival of wild salmon that received parasite medication with those that did not. The authors conclude that parasites can have a significant impact on fisheries and conservation.

The scientists analysed data from 24 trials, which tagged 283,347 young Atlantic salmon between 1996 and 2008. Paired groups of control and anti-parasite treated salmon were released into ten areas of Ireland and Norway. All experimental fish were infection free when released and a proportion of each group were recovered as adults returning to coastal waters one or more years later.

Treatment had a significant positive effect on survival. The untreated salmon were 1.29 times more likely to die. The parasites were probably acquired during migration in areas that host large populations of domesticated salmon, which elevate local abundances of parasites. The concern is not only for a loss in salmon abundance, but also the loss of genetic variability and its associated potential for adaptation to other environmental changes.

<http://royalsociety.org/news/2012/parasites-impact-salmon/>

North Shore News, 7 November 2012

Salmon report spawns new fish farm fight

Elizabeth James

"It is not my role to micromanage DFO by suggesting detailed improvements to every element of its work relevant to Fraser River sockeye. Instead, my recommendations reflect those matters so important to the future sustainability of the Fraser River sockeye fishery that I must urge DFO or the Government of Canada to act."

Justice Bruce Cohen, Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River - final report, Oct. 31, 2012

IF one statement can be said to justify a \$26-million, 1,100-page analysis, Justice Bruce Cohen delivered it in the executive summary to his final report on the decline of Fraser River sockeye, released last week:

"The ultimate authority over the management of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery should rest with the (federal) minister of fisheries and oceans."

Implied in Cohen's statement, of course, is that accountability for the health and survival of the fishery also must rest with the minister - and on the shoulders of scientists and staff of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

But anyone who hoped Cohen would be able to identify a single, definitive cause for what has been a fluctuating but steadily declining fishery since the 1940s will have been disappointed when the judge said he had found no such "smoking gun."

From industrial activity and land development to fish farms and warming migration waters, the report implicates a range of factors as stressors that have exerted an adverse and cumulative effect on salmon habitat.

Disappointing, also, is that it was beyond the Commission's purview to comment on the extent and influence of diseases associated with farmed salmon that were and are being analyzed at the urging of salmon advocate, biologist Alexandra Morton.

As one might expect, Cohen's open-ended statement, "The idea that a single event or stressor is responsible for the 1992-2009 decline in Fraser River sockeye is appealing but improbable," has encouraged a variety of interested individuals and groups to draw their own preferred emphases from Cohen's analysis and 75 recommendations.

Nevertheless, the two and a half years of cross-province hearings and sworn testimony crystallized and gave legitimacy to the opinions and problems British Columbians have been learning about - from Morton, Rafe Mair and groups like Save Our Salmon and the Watershed Watch Salmon Society - for well over a decade.

But if our provincial and federal governments do not treat Cohen's recommendations as binding, the report will gather dust on the shelves of their respective ministries, and Canadians will be left at Square One - minus \$26 million.

The thought that could happen is anathema to Morton, who attended the report's official release Oct. 31.

"During the press conference," she wrote, "Judge Cohen concluded that the potential harm posed to Fraser River sockeye by salmon farms is serious or irreversible." That statement - far more unequivocal than the overall diplomatic tone of the written report - seemed to throw gasoline on Morton's unrelenting fire.

In the wake of the event, she is urging British Columbians to send letters to Premier Christy Clark demanding that provincial leases for the open-net salmon farms sited in the migration paths of wild salmon not be approved when they come up for renewal (see her petition at change.org).

Although the Campbell-Clark government's history is not encouraging in this regard, there is reason for hope: B.C. is only six months away from an election. Clark needs every vote she can muster, so there may never be a better time for us all to come together and make this demand.

Prominent among those immediately affected are B.C.'s First Nations, as well as commercial and sports fishing interests. Centuries of culture and today's livelihoods could disappear within a decade if DFO fails to implement Cohen's recommendations.

Over the years, many groups have been vocal about their "rights" to the annual fishery.

But placed against the backdrop of warnings from people like Morton, those disagreements and federal-provincial disputes are reminiscent of squabbles between geese at feeding time: They're all so busy fighting over territory, they don't even notice the food has disappeared.

And although international aquaculture corporations may dream of the marketing opportunities that would follow, the disappearance of wild salmon would be a home-grown environmental disaster.

Devotees of man-made climate-change may point to Cohen's report as evidence to further their cause; but if we sit idly by as wild fish disappear from our waters, it will be what we have NOT done that accelerates a change for the worse in our B.C. environment.

Wild salmon are the canary in the mine for our generation.

As First Nations and other Canadians alike depend on wild salmon stocks to provide what can be argued is the finest nutrition on the planet, so, too, does the wellbeing of the entire ecosystem along the coast of British Columbia.

That environment is not ours to destroy with our negligence; we hold it in trust for generations yet to be born.

And as Judge Cohen's report describes, there is much work yet to be tackled if wild sockeye salmon are to survive.

Let's hope we are willing to carry the banner.

rimco@shaw.ca

<http://www.nsnews.com/Salmon+report+spawns+fish+farm+fight/7510237/story.html>

Berwick Advertiser, 7 November 2012

'Flesh-eating lice from fish farms kill one in three wild salmon'

SCOTTISH fish farms are spreading a deadly parasite that now kills more than a third of wild salmon in the north-east Atlantic, experts warn today.

A new international study has found "unexpectedly large" numbers of wild salmon are dying in European waters every year, with 39 per cent killed by the flesh-eating lice.

A leading academic at the University of St Andrews, who took part in the research, said it showed Scotland's multi-million-pound salmon farming industry needed to do more to prevent sea lice from destroying wild fish stocks – as well as protecting the sector.

The study, disputed by the industry, comes as campaigners renewed warnings that a range of parasitic diseases were spreading through Scotland's fishing industry "like cancer".

The sea lice paper, published today in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal, stated that "the parasitic crustaceans were probably acquired during early marine migration in areas that host large aquaculture populations of domesticated salmon, which elevate local abundances of ectoparasitic copepods (sea lice)."

Co-author Professor Christopher Todd, specialist in marine ecology at the St Andrews Scottish Oceans Institute, warned: "This high-percent mortality attributable to sea lice was unexpected. The salmon aquaculture industry has long placed a high priority on controlling sea lice on their captive salmon – but these results do emphasise the need for the industry to not only maintain the health of their own stocks, but also to minimise the risk of cross-infection of wild fish."

He added: "For the first time, we can effectively place a reliable value on the predicted mortality loss of free-ranging salmon subject to infection from this parasite."

Environmentalists renewed calls for the Scottish Government to toughen legislation in the forthcoming Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill and force the industry to provide more information about the extent of diseases.

Alex Kinninmonth, of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "Sea lice are naturally occurring, but fish farms provide ideal breeding conditions which create unnaturally high populations which juvenile wild salmon are very susceptible to when they migrate to sea.

“There is a voluntary code of conduct on measures like synchronised fallow periods to break the life cycle of the lice. The government suggested publishing sea lice data farm by farm, but that has now been dropped from the bill.”

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland said the research confirmed that sea lice from farmed fish could have a “highly significant impact on wild stocks”.

“Over the last 20 years there has been no substantive evidence to counter the hypothesis that sea lice arising from aquaculture cages harm wild salmonids,” a spokesman said.

However, the Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation (SSPO) chairman, Professor Phil Thomas, said the study appeared “at odds with a number of substantial scientific studies” demonstrating that sea lice were “not a significant factor influencing wild salmon conservation”.

He added: “The report is consistent with the numerous other international studies that show the overwhelming majority of wild salmon, 95 per cent and above of total populations, die at sea during their oceanic migration.” That figure was also noted in the latest study, but authors believe their results are statistically valid.

A Scottish Government spokesman said it wanted reporting of sea lice data to improve, but remain voluntary. Yesterday, Don Staniford, of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, said diseases were rife in the Scottish salmon farming industry.

The SSPO refused to respond to the activist, whose views were branded “prejudiced and unreliable” by a Canadian judge in a recent defamation case.

<http://www.berwick-advertiser.co.uk/news/business-headlines/local-business/flesh-eating-lice-from-fish-farms-kill-one-in-three-wild-salmon-1-2618602>

The Scotsman, 7 November 2012

Flesh-eating lice spread by fish farms kill 39 per cent of wild salmon



Campaigners have claimed that farmed salmon is ravaged with disease. Picture: PA

By JULIA HORTON

SCOTTISH fish farms are spreading a deadly parasite that now kills more than a third of wild salmon in the north-east Atlantic, experts warned today.

• Farmed salmon in Scotland are ravaged with disease, say anti-aquaculture campaigners

• FoI request reveals amoebic gill disease, proliferative gill inflammation and chlamydia are 'rife' among stocks

A new international study found “unexpectedly large” numbers of wild salmon are dying in European waters every year, with 39 per cent killed by the flesh-eating lice.

A leading academic at the University of St Andrews, who took part in the research, said it showed Scotland’s multi-million-pound salmon farming industry needed to do more to prevent sea lice from destroying wild fish stocks – as well as protecting the sector.

The study, disputed by the industry, comes as campaigners renewed warnings that a range of parasitic diseases were spreading through Scotland’s fishing industry “like cancer”.

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Co-author Professor Christopher Todd, specialist in marine ecology at the St Andrews Scottish Oceans Institute, warned: “This high-per-cent mortality attributable to sea lice was unexpected. The salmon aquaculture industry has long placed a high priority on controlling sea lice on their captive salmon – but these results do emphasise the need for the industry to not only maintain the health of their own stocks, but also to minimise the risk of cross-infection of wild fish.”

He added: “For the first time, we can effectively place a reliable value on the predicted mortality loss of free-ranging salmon subject to infection from this parasite.”

Environmentalists renewed calls for the Scottish Government to toughen legislation in the forthcoming Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill and force the industry to provide more information about the extent of diseases.

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“Over the last 20 years there has been no substantive evidence to counter the hypothesis that sea lice arising from aquaculture cages harm wild salmonids,” a spokesman said.

However, the Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation (SSPO) chairman Professor Phil Thomas said the study appeared “at odds with a number of substantial scientific studies” demonstrating that sea lice were “not a significant factor influencing wild salmon conservation.”

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/farmed-salmon-ravaged-with-parasitic-diseases-campaigners-warn-1-2616431>

Fisheries Information Service, 7 November 2012



Diseased farmed salmon. (Photo: GAAIA)

Chlamydia and gill disease ravage Scottish salmon: GAAIA

 **UNITED KINGDOM**

Wednesday, November 07, 2012, 02:00 (GMT + 9)

The [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#) (GAAIA) claims that salmon farming in Scotland’s Isle of Mull is being plagued by several diseases, such as amoebic gill disease, proliferative gill inflammation and chlamydia.

The organisation released this information in a report called *Scottish Salmon’s Dirty Big Secret*, which issued last year based on the data obtained from a dossier via Freedom of Information.

And it no states that it got a former public relations director of the salmon farming company first affected by gill diseases to blow the whistle.

“[I was] not prepared to lie to journalists about the extent of the mortalities,” stated Fiona Cameron, former director of public relations for Pan Fish and [Lighthouse Caledonia](#) during the 2007-8 disease outbreak at the Lamash Bay site.

The [Scottish Salmon Company](#) (SSC), [Marine Harvest](#) and [Scottish Sea Farms](#) are all seeing mass mortalities of up to 70 per cent in their farms. Marine Harvest and the SSC both reported considerable losses to shareholders and investors in their latest financial reports, and Marine Harvest predicted further losses in Q4 due to gill diseases, GAAIA stated.



Alison Prince, editor of Voice for Arran and author of 'Trumpton', with Don Staniford, a member of GAAIA. (Photo: GAAIA)

“Scottish salmon is farmed and diseased. Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran is ‘ground zero’ with reports of infectious gill diseases since 2007. Since then amoebic gill disease has spread like a malignant cancer along the coast of Scotland from Argyll to Orkney and from Skye to the Western Isles,” said Don Staniford of GAAIA, who is visiting salmon farms on the Isle of Skye this week along with representatives of [Wild Salmon First](#).

Cameron said she believes amoebic gill disease is exactly what caused those large mortalities.

“I find it impossible to believe that this is not the same disease which killed a large number of fish at Pan Fish’s Arran site a number of years ago (and indeed was the cause of my parting company with them, as I was not prepared to lie to journalists like Nick Underdown about the extent of the mortalities),” Cameron wrote in an email to GAAIA. “Not sure why they’re saying it’s a new phenomenon. I guess they don’t want to frighten the horses (a.k.a. the shareholders!).”

According to official data from the Scottish Government, amoebic gill disease was first reported at Lamlash Bay in October 2011, killing 279,000 farmed salmon. By April 2012, the lethal disease had spread to 15 sites including Loch Roag in the Western Isles, the Firth of Lorne, Seil Sound, the Sound of Mull, Loch Kishorn, the Isle of Gigha and the Orkney Isles, GAAIA stated.

The organisation has now filed a FOI with Marine Scotland requesting disease data from

April-November 2012.

"May the global voices for wild salmon unite to deliver the message to Norway that Norwegian salmon farms are not welcome and must go!" said Elena Edwards of Wild Salmon First, who is visiting from British Columbia, Canada.

Related article:

- [Environmentalists push for boycott of Scottish salmon](#)

By *Natalia Real*
editorial@fis.com
www.fis.com

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=56640&ndb=1&df=0>

The Daily Mail, 7 November 2012

Half of all Atlantic salmon are being killed by bloodsucking parasites, researchers claim

- Salmon louse may affect up to 55% of population
- Fears it could harm genetic variability of species already at risk

By [Mark Prigg](#)

Nearly 40 per cent of Atlantic salmon is being killed by parasites, researchers believe.

A study found that 39 per cent of the fish are being lost to the parasitic salmon louse, which spreads from fish to fish and feeds on surface tissue.

The true mortality figure could even be as high as 55 per cent, reports journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.



Over half of all Atlantic Salmon are at threat from a killer parasite, researchers have found

Martin Krkosek, of New Zealand's University of Otago, was part of a team which studied surveys of thousands of hatchery raised salmon young - or smolts - as they were released into rivers.

Half received parasiticide treatment and the other did not, and all were tagged on release.

Twelve months later, after a year in the North East Atlantic, the recovered fish were examined.

The researchers estimate that nearly 40 per cent of the salmon was dying because of the lice.

They found that although the parasiticide significantly increased their chance of survival, in all 39 per cent of the fish had been killed by the parasites.

Dr Krkosek said that a further worry was that because salmon tended to return to their native rivers, it meant that the parasite could easily infect small populations of the fish.



Salmon louse, which live off the mucus, skin and blood of the fish

He said: 'The concern therefore is not only for a 39 per cent loss in salmon abundance but also for the loss of genetic variability and its associated potential for adaptation to other environmental changes.'

'Our results supply manipulative field evidence at a large spatial scale that parasitism may be a significant limiting factor for marine fish, fisheries and conservation.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2228864/Almost-half-Atlantic-salmon-killed-parasites.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

The Herald, 7 November 2012

Farmed fish lice link to wild salmon deaths



Brian Donnelly

MORE than one-third of deaths in some Atlantic salmon are caused by sea lice found largely in stocks of farmed fish, new research has claimed.



FEARS: Anglers could see a decline in wild salmon numbers after new research showed the extent of sea lice threat . Picture: Jeff Mitchell.

An unexpectedly large number of free-ranging salmon are being killed by the parasitic lice in European waters every year, a major international study involving experts in Scotland has found.

The study, published today in the biological research journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* and partly carried out by scientists at St Andrews University, is claimed to be the first evidence of the full impact of lice on salmon mortality levels.

Read article in full via: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/farmed-fish-lice-link-to-wild-salmon-deaths.19350059>

BBC News, 7 November 2012

Sea lice killing 'large numbers' of salmon



The study examined the survival rates of tagged free ranging salmon

Large numbers of free ranging salmon are being killed by parasitic sea lice in European waters every year, an international study has suggested.

The research involved the release of 280,000 tagged salmon smolts into 10 rivers in Ireland and Norway.

Sea lice were responsible for 39% of deaths among the young fish, according to study's newly-published results.

Scientists from University of St Andrews' Scottish Oceans Institute worked on the research.

Also involved were the Department of Zoology at the University of Otago in New Zealand, Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada, Inland Fisheries in Ireland, Institute of Marine Research in Norway and Norwegian Institute for Nature Research.

The scientists said natural mortality of wild salmon during their ocean migration could be as high as 90-95%, with deaths caused by a variety of factors including sea lice.

The creatures are a naturally occurring parasite.

The pest also affects the salmon farming industry. Its efforts to control sea lice include [the introduction of ballan wrasse, a so-called "cleaner-fish" that prey on the pest, to a farm in the Western Isles.](#)

'Major drivers'

The sea lice research team analysed the rates of survival of salmon when they returned to freshwater as mature adults.

The data analysed included 24 trials carried out between 1996 and 2008 which involved the 280,000 individually tagged smolts that were released into rivers.

In each trial half the fish were treated chemically before their release to protect them from sea lice infection during their first one to two months at sea.

The remainder in each trial were untreated control fish.

A proportion of each group were then recovered as adults on their return to coastal waters a year later.

By comparing the tags recaptured from both the treated and control groups in each trial, the researchers showed that sea lice were responsible for an average 39% of the total mortality losses of salmon at sea.

Prof Martin Krkosek, of the University of Otago and who led the study, said the research was similar to clinical studies in medicine but with fish instead of human patients.

He added: "Usually we think of food, climate, predators and fishing as the major drivers of fish abundance, but we have learned that parasites are taking a very large share of the catch."

Related Stories

[Wrasse 'first' for salmon farm](#)

09 OCTOBER 2012, SCOTLAND BUSINESS

[Fish farms face stricter controls](#)

04 OCTOBER 2012, SCOTLAND POLITICS

[Wrasse move over salmon parasite](#)

22 FEBRUARY 2012, SCOTLAND BUSINESS

[Salmon farms in 'sea lice' threat](#)

07 APRIL 2011, SCOTLAND

[Lice 'not behind salmon decline'](#)

14 DECEMBER 2010, SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-20236291>

The Scotsman, 6 November 2012

Farmed salmon ravaged with parasitic diseases, campaigners warn



Campaigners have claimed that farmed salmon is ravaged with disease. Picture: PA

By JULIA HORTON

PARASITIC diseases have spread through farmed salmon across Scotland “like cancer”, international campaigners warned today.

• **Farmed salmon in Scotland are ravaged with disease, say anti-aquaculture campaigners**

• **FoI request reveals amoebic gill disease, proliferative gill inflammation and chlamydia are ‘rife’ among stocks**

The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture said the Scottish salmon farming industry was ravaged by infectious diseases.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that amoebic gill disease, proliferative gill inflammation and chlamydia were all rife in stocks, the group said.

Don Staniford, spokesman of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, who is visiting salmon farms on the Isle of Skye tomorrow, said: “Scottish salmon is farmed and diseased.

“Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran is ‘ground zero’ with reports of infectious gill diseases since 2007. Since then amoebic gill disease has spread like a malignant cancer along the coast of Scotland from Argyll to Orkney and from Skye to the Western Isles.”

The claims were backed by the former public relations director at Pan Fish, the salmon farming company on Arran first affected by gill diseases. Fiona Cameron said she was “not prepared to lie” about the deadly impact on stocks.

The Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation said the industry did not want to engage in a debate with Mr Staniford, who was described as “deeply prejudiced and unreliable” by a Canadian judge in a recent court case.

Mr Staniford was cleared of defamation in relation to critical comments he had made about leading British Columbian fish farm, Mainstream Canada.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/farmed-salmon-ravaged-with-parasitic-diseases-campaigners-warn-1-2616431>

The Chronicle Herald, 6 November 2012

Salmon Wars heads to Big Apple

[By BRUCE ERSKINE Business Reporter](#)

Halifax writer and filmmaker Silver Donald Cameron is taking his documentary, Salmon Wars, to the Big Apple.

Cameron and co-producer Chris Beckett will make a presentation on the film to the Atlantic Salmon Federation during its annual meeting in New York City later this month.

“If we get an opportunity to speak to others, we’ll certainly do so,” Cameron said in an interview in Halifax on Tuesday.

The federation is committed to conserving and restoring wild Atlantic salmon stocks and their ecosystems.

It has regional councils in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Maine and western New England.

Lewis Hinks, director of programming for the Atlantic Salmon Federation in Nova Scotia, said he hoped the film would make people outside the province aware of the issues surrounding open-pen farmed salmon.

“We’re not against aquaculture, but it has to be done differently,” he said in an interview Tuesday.

Hinks said there is well-documented evidence that open-net farmed salmon can have a negative impact on wild salmon and other species through disease transfer, among other things.

Pam Parker, executive director of the Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, said the association is aware of the film and the agenda of those opposed to salmon farms.

“What I saw doesn’t give an accurate portrayal of our industry,” she said in an interview Tuesday.

But Hinks defended the documentary, which he saw at its premiere in Halifax in June.

“Silver Donald did try to get accurate information,” he said.

Cameron thinks New Yorkers, who call cured salmon lox, ought to know that Atlantic salmon comes from commercial farms.

“How many of them know that the salmon they’re eating has been dyed, drugged and bathed in pesticides to rid it of sea lice?” he said.

Cameron said Salmon Wars set out to look at both sides of the open-pen farmed salmon debate, which has become heated in Nova Scotia since Cooke Aquaculture of New Brunswick announced ambitious expansion plans in the province.

Cooke, which declined to participate in the film, has destroyed farmed salmon stock due to outbreaks of infectious salmon anemia, which Nova Scotia Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau has called a manageable disease that isn’t harmful to humans.

“We came to the conclusion, not unfairly, that this doesn’t look like something that can be done in a sustainable way,” Cameron said.

“A huge sack jammed with salmon is a prime target for diseases and parasites, which the industry combats by lacing the feed with antibiotics and giving the fish regular baths in solutions of pesticide.”

Cameron added that the sea bottom under the open-net cages is polluted by farmed salmon feces.

“Over the course of a grow-out cycle, that mass of fish produces enough feces to fill a jumbo jet.”

Cooke spokeswoman Nell Halse referred questions on the documentary to the Fish Farmers Association.

Cameron and Beckett will also be collecting interviews with environmentalists during their stay in New York for TheGreenInterview.com, a subscription website.

berskine@herald.ca

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/164114-salmon-wars-heads-to-big-apple>

Nanaimo Daily News, 6 November 2012

Fish farms decimate wild salmon

To the Editor,

Now that the three-year, \$26-million Cohen Report has been released, we are finally told science shows salmon farms spread diseases and parasites that decimate wild salmon populations. Not to mention that salmon farmers kill thousands of sea lions and seals that protect wild stocks by eating sharks, mackeral and other species that prey on salmon or compete with them for habitat.

These are obvious actions from an industry that sees wild salmon stocks as competition, and should have been obvious to the government when these Norwegian corporations were allowed here. They had already trashed wild stocks in Norway and Scotland, and are destroying those of Chile and Peru.

They should be outlawed and removed from any waters used by wild salmon for migration to the ocean and return. Will the NDP do this, or are they still as enamoured with Norwegian ecocide as the Liberals are?

Jim Erkiletian

Nanaimo

<http://www.nanaimobulletin.com/opinion/letters/177333261.html>

Stornoway Gazette, 6 November 2012

Anti-fish farm campaigner visits Isles



Award-winning author and anti-fish farm campaigner, Don Staniford is presenting a talk in Back, Isle of Lewis, on Tuesday 13th November, as part of his month-long tour of Scotland and Ireland.

In the talk – which will also be presented in Harris on Thursday November 15th – Don Staniford will set out disease and chemical data obtained via Freedom of Information legislation, and detail his campaign against fish farming in Scottish and Irish waters.

Don Staniford is the author of ‘Silent Spring of the Sea’ and works for the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA). His controversial ‘Salmon Farming Kills’ campaign sparked legal action in Canada and has attracted global media attention on the lethal impacts of salmon farming.

The talk in Back also sees the local launch of a new campaign aimed at supporting and coordinating local anti-fish farm campaigns in the Outer Hebrides.

All are welcome to attend, the meeting takes place at 7.45pm on Tuesday November 13th at ‘The Hut’ – Loch a’Tuath Community Hut, Back, Isle of Lewis.

The Hut is situated 100 yards beyond Gordon’s Shop on the main road through Back heading toward Tolsta.

<http://www.stornowaygazette.co.uk/news/local-headlines/anti-fish-farm-campaigner-visits-isles-1-2616253>

Green Around the Gills, 6 November 2012

Skyfall for Scottish Salmon!

Day 3: Isle of Mull, Scotland (follow our tour of Scotland & Ireland [online here](#))

GAAIA and Wild Salmon First are heading tomorrow to the Isle of Skye on the West coast of Scotland for a two-day tour (7-9 November) of disease-ridden feedlots operated by Marine Harvest and the Scottish Salmon Company (read our Itinerary [online here](#)).



Photo: Elena Edwards of [Wild Salmon First](#) in the Sound of Mull (5 November) in front of a salmon farm operated by Norwegian-owned Scottish Sea Farms

"May the global voices for wild salmon unite to deliver the message to Norway that Norwegian salmon farms are not welcome and must go!" said Elena Edwards of [Wild Salmon First](#) who is visiting from British Columbia, Canada. "The stench of Scottish salmon farming is nauseating."

Our route North weaves past dozens of Norwegian-owned salmon farms on the West coast of Scotland and the rugged terrain of the Mountains of Glencoe where the new James Bond film 'Skyfall' was [filmed](#).



“The sky is falling on the Scottish salmon farming industry,” said Don Staniford of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture in a [press release](#) (6 November). “Scottish salmon is farmed and diseased. Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran is ‘[ground zero](#)’ with reports of infectious gill diseases since 2007. Since then Amoebic Gill Disease has spread like a malignant cancer along the coast of Scotland from Argyll to Orkney and from Skye to the Western Isles.”



A dossier of data obtained via Freedom of Information reveals that Scottish salmon farming is being ravaged by infectious diseases led by the parasitic killers Amoebic Gill Disease, Proliferative Gill Inflammation and Chlamydia: '[Scottish Salmon's Dirty Big Secret](#)'. Now a former PR adviser of the salmon farming company first affected by gill diseases has blown the whistle stating that she was "not prepared to lie to journalists about the extent of the mortalities".

From: Fiona Cameron [mailto:fiona@cameron-stark.co.uk]

Sent: 14 October 2012 15:07

To: 'Don Staniford'; 'Guy Linley-Adams'

Subject: RE: Daily Mail on disease: "£17 m loss threatens the salmon industry"

Hi Don

I find it impossible to believe that this is not the same disease which killed a large number of fish at Pan Fish's Arran site a number of years ago (and indeed was the cause of my parting company with them, as I was not prepared to lie to journalists like Nick Underdown about the extent of the mortalities). In these days they called it PGD (Proliferative Gill Disease), and apparently it was caused by a form of chlamydia virus. They had the same thing in some of the more southerly farms in Norway, where they called it something that translated as PGI (proliferative gill inflammation) No-one knew exactly how it was carried, but the symptoms were the same across both countries, and sound exactly the same as the one mentioned in the article: it gets into the gills which get inflamed, so the fish suffocates, in effect. Presumably a slow, painful death.

If it's not exactly the same, then it must be very similar. Not sure why they're saying it's a new phenomenon. I guess they don't want to frighten the horses (a.k.a. the shareholders!). It's been bad in the northern isles too this year, have had calls from BBC Orkney trying to find out more about it. Unusual for these diseases usually associated with warm water to hit Orkney. Maybe Malthusian economics works for fish too – if you get too many of them, and there are no conveniently timed fish wars to keep numbers down, you get pestilence?

Best fishes

Fiona

Official data obtained via Freedom of Information from the Scottish Government reveals that Amoebic Gill Disease was first reported at Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran in October 2011 killing 279,000 farmed salmon. By April 2012 the deadly disease had spread to 15 sites including Loch Roag in the Western Isles, the Firth of Lorne, Seil Sound, the Sound of Mull, Loch Kishorn, the Isle of Gigha and the Orkney Isles. GAAIA has now filed a FOI with Marine Scotland requesting disease data from April to November 2012.

Read more via '[Gill Diseases: Scottish Salmon's Dirty Big Secret](#)'

Read article in full online here: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/11/skyfall-for-scottish-salmon.html>

Intrafish, 6 November 2012



Will Santa be kind to smoked salmon suppliers?

With the Foppen salmonella scandal still looming over Europe's smoked salmon sector, will consumers be skittish?

 Elisabeth Fischer

Published: 06 November 2012 02:20 PM

Updated: 06 November 2012 04:48 PM

Smoked salmon is an integral part of Christmas in many European countries – a special treat for a special occasion. With the holiday festivities just around the corner, processors are starting to prep for the expected boost in sales.

Associated Articles

- EU alerts: Listeria in salmon, trout
- More than 1,000 confirmed ill in Foppen salmonella outbreak

But in light of the [recent salmonella outbreak](#) – which kept the sector on tenterhooks for weeks – will producers actually see a surge in sales?

"The recent salmonella outbreak will definitely have an effect [on Christmas sales]," Felix Heinrich, an analyst at Pareto Securities, told **IntraFish**. "Sales would be higher without the scandal."

The drop in sales, however, will mainly be seen in the Netherlands, Heinrich said.

He predicts lower prices in the European smoked salmon market in 2013, even though spot prices for fresh salmon could be higher.

"When it comes to Christmas, looking at the recent price reductions in Germany and in other markets such as France and the United Kingdom, which are traditionally more expensive markets for smoked salmon, anything else but a volume boost would be a disappointment," he said.

"Smoked salmon will be cheaper and that will boost volume."

Martin Mischel, CEO of Hamburg-based fish smoker Gottfried Friedrichs agrees with Heinrich and told **IntraFish** economic data shows consumers will not trim back on premium products over the holidays – at least not in Germany.

"We expect consumers to spend more money over the holidays," he said. "The salmonella outbreak is not a huge public topic."

The same applies for Lithuanian processor Norvelita. Asta Simkute, product manager at the company, told **IntraFish** even though it is difficult to foretell Christmas sales, the company – which supplies salmon for private label products in its main markets Germany, Belgium, Italy, France, Lithuania, Estonia, and Slovenia – has not seen any negative side effects so far.

"The scandal is an important question for us," she said. "But I don't believe it will spread to the rest of Europe. Its influence was lower than expected."

And what does Foppen say?

Dutch producer Foppen itself looks ahead to the holiday season with "balanced optimism," as Wilbert Vedder, sales manager at the company, told **IntraFish**.

Read article in full via: <http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1358464.ece>

Subscribe to Intrafish via: <http://www.intrafish.com/subscription/>

Read more via "[FDA Health Warning for Scottish Farmed Salmon](#)" and "[Death Toll Rises to Three - 950 People Infected from Farmed Salmon!](#)"

The Province, 6 November 2012

Farms not to blame

It's a shame that some have chosen to misrepresent the recommendations of the Cohen Report, a \$26-million study looking at the recent decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon.

Letter writer Jim Erkiletian is wrong to suggest that the study states that "salmon farms decimate wild salmon populations."

- A weighty issue: UK supermarkets short-selling smoked salmon?
 - German smoker to focus on wholesale
 - Confusion reigns in EU smoked salmon market
-

The judge actually states he found no evidence that salmon farms have a negative impact on Fraser River sockeye - but suggests that research continues to prove a minimal risk. B.C. salmon farmers support this recommendation.

The report says there is "no smoking gun" and that a myriad of issues, including rising water temperatures, habitat loss, implementation of the wild salmon policy and salmon enhancement require attention.

Salmon aquaculture takes fishing pressure off wild salmon, an important part of salmon conservation. It's therefore important that people such as Mr. Erkiletian not misrepresent the findings of a report that can help us focus on what is important to the long-term sustainability of wild salmon.

Ian Roberts, Marine Harvest, Campbell River

<http://www.theprovince.com/Farms+blame/7504140/story.html>

Campbell River Mirror, 6 November 2012

Don't be duped by story

Re: "[Salmon farmers put brave face on chilling report](#)" (Mirror, Fri., Nov. 2, 2012)

I hope none of your readers are actually duped by the pathetic sob story you've published about the poor Salmon farmers.

As the environmental movement has been maintaining for years and is now suggested by the \$26 million Cohen Commission the Salmon farming industry has caused untold and likely irreversible destruction to our wild fish stocks and environment. Unfortunately, our wild salmon and environment are priceless and can not simply be replaced with money or other wise.

Contrary to Campbell River Mayor Walter Jakeway; quoted as saying "We need this industry." I beg your pardon Mr. Jakeway but we did just fine before the salmon farming industry came. It's like the salmon farming industry has created a situation that we're now dependent on. This sounds like the relationship between a drug addict and his pusher in a feeble scenario where the addict eventually dies from use of the pushers product. Has Mayor Walter Jakeway forgotten how vibrant a city Campbell River and many other coastal communities were before the salmon decline?

The jobs created by the salmon farming industry are but a fraction of what the commercial wild salmon industry used to provide to the economy before salmon farming appeared and began destroying it. And that's just the commercial fishery. The sport sector and tourism is touted by B.C. as paramount and world class and contributes significantly to our economy. Why not give tourists something to boast about instead of us having to give embarrassing whining excuses about our stocks in decline?

Mayor Jakeway says, "We need to let the industry grow and if there are problems solve them."

Mr. Jakeway doesn't understand natural laws are being broken with salmon farming by densely populating carnivores in pens, and there is no right way to do the wrong thing.

BCSFA board member Clare Backman states "Our members are committed to farming responsibly."

Cohen's report proves these sort of statements from the salmon farming industry are worthless. This industry has had its chance to play clean, to be responsible and ethical, they chose not to and have destroyed our wild stocks and environment. This loathsome behaviour demonstrates who we are dealing with. We've now learned from this solely "profit at any cost" oriented industry that they are not trust worthy and certainly not deserving to continue practising in this country.

Clare Backman also states, "There is no science of fish farm harm." The fact that BCSFA is maintaining their position of deceit, confusion and pseudo science with the public with statements like this proves the salmon farming industry has learned nothing from all this and are as unethical and devious as ever.

Clare Backman goes on to say, "We see this as an opportunity to work with the federal government, the regulators and the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to satisfy those concerns."

The BCSFA has known full well what the "concerns" are all along and the fact they want to "work with regulators and the NGOs" is actually just a camouflaged, negotiate to input minimal effort "to satisfy", so they can maintain profits. This proves who we're dealing with. This industry has had its chance and they've squandered it.

BCSFA board member, Stewart Hawthorn, said: "We are committed to protecting the marine environment and our iconic wild salmon and we support the call for further research" The reality is the research has been done & conclusion is SF is destructive. This is simply more deceit & an old stall tactic. If this industry truly wants to operate in a way that protects our wild stocks & environment they need to move the farms on to land in closed containment which they've repeatedly told us they do not want because its too expensive and is unprofitable.

B.C. Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick said the government will review Cohen's report closely. He said the province wants to ensure there is a healthy sockeye salmon run and to play whatever role it can "to make that happen." The various government departments and salmon farming industry had their chance long ago to make this work and they blew it. Instead they chose to deceive the public, destroy the environment and cover their tracks. Canadians and B.C. citizens especially are fed up with this industry. They've caused untold damage its now time for them to pack up and

And if any one believes this industry is a way to feed the worlds starving masses, this is not the industry that will ever do it. The energy inputs, intensive management and fishing down the worlds stocks of "forage fish" (Herring, Anchovies, Sardines) to turn into feed pellets and multitude of other secondary environmental damages caused, makes this product unsustainable.

We owe this industry nothing. In fact it owes Canadians uncountable compensation.

Paul Dean,

Vancouver

<http://www.campbellrivermirror.com/opinion/177542941.html?c=y&curSection=/&curTitle=BC+Opinion&bc09=true>

Undercurrent News, 6 November 2012

Sealice levels up in Faroe Islands

The biological situation for salmon farming in the Faroe Islands remains good said Bakkafrost, the country's largest salmon producer, in its third quarterly report.

However, the number of sea lice has increased, it said.

To address this, Bakkafrost and other farmers have improved their pest management to mitigate the risk, Bakkafrost said:

“The biological/veterinary situation in the Faroes is good, even if the number of sea lice has increased. To reduce the risk from sea lice, Bakkafrost and the other farmers in the Faroe Islands have improved the pest management in order to mitigate the risk.”

- [Bakkafrost: Salmon prices should recover in Q4](#)
- [Faroese salmon producer to up investment, expand VAP](#)
- [Departing CEO 'made company 55 times more valuable'](#)
- [Faroe Islands considers foreign ownership law](#)

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2012/11/06/sealice-levels-up-in-faroe-islands/>

The Telegram, 6 November 2012

Government funding announced to expand salmon farming



Pictured (from left) Dr. Daryl Whelan, Director of Aquatic Animal Health in St. Alban's; Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley; and Tim Gray, President of Gray Aqua Group Ltd., tour the province's Centre for Aquatic Health and Development in St....

Gray Aqua Group Limited has received \$5 million in provincial government funding to expand its salmon farming business on the south coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, it was announced today.

A news release notes the new funding will be used for the purchase of capital assets associated with the expansion of farming activities, including site set up and farming equipment, such as boats, motors, cages, and moorings.

The expansion is expected to enable the company to grow from an initial annual production of 4,000 metric tonnes to 16,000 metric tonnes by 2018, increasing employment from 42 to 96 full-time positions.

“Our company is one of the largest of its kind and believes there is a lot of potential for expansion in Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Tim Gray, President of Gray Aqua Group.

“We will continue to work with government and the communities on the south coast to provide sustainable, long-term opportunities for our workers, and other local businesses, while supplying the global seafood market with the high-quality farmed salmon they have come to expect from our company.”

The funding comes through the provincial government's Aquaculture Capital Equity Program.

The announcement was made today at the Centre for Aquatic Health and Development in St. Alban's.

“Aquaculture development continues to drive the economy of the south coast of Newfoundland,” said Fisheries Minister Derrick Dalley.

“We are pleased today to once again partner with Gray Aqua Group to expand this vital industry. In turn, our investment will provide more employment opportunities and income for the region, as well as other socio-economic benefits.”

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2012-11-06/article-3115069/Government-funding-announced-to-expand-salmon-farming/1>

The Fish Site, 5 November 2012

Mainstream Welcomes Research to Help Fill Knowledge Gap

CANADA - Mainstream Canada has announced it was pleased to see that the Cohen Commission report urges research to fill in the knowledge gaps about wild and farmed salmon.

This scrutiny and research will help the public better understand how salmon farms operate, how they are sustainable and how they are part of the solution for protecting wild salmon.

"Without such work, scientists and managers alike are left speculating about the real effects that the diseases found on fish farms have on wild stocks such as sockeye," said Justice Bruce Cohen in his report.

The report was complimentary of the quality and depth of the fish health data provided by salmon farmers to Justice Cohen to review. He recommended that this information continue to be made public, and Mainstream Canada agrees.

"We are confident in the health of our fish and in the quality of our farm information and will continue to work with government regulators to show the public that we are committed to making sure our farms don't pose any risk to wild salmon," said Laurie Jensen, Mainstream Canada's Corporate Sustainability Manager.

Cohen's report makes a number of recommendations about how salmon farmers could work to protect wild salmon. He expressed some concerns about the potential risks posed by a small number of salmon farms in the Discovery Islands region. He pointed out that there is no clear indication if salmon farms are having any effect on wild salmon, but as a precautionary measure, he recommended more scientific research in this region to fully understand wild salmon populations.

Mainstream Canada supports his call for more scientific research and initiatives that protect and enhance wild salmon populations and habitat in B.C. More research by credible, accredited scientists will help us all understand the interactions in the wild and between the wild and farmed fish.

Mainstream Canada also agrees with many of Justice Cohen's other recommendations, including working to address the causes of warming ocean waters and climate change.

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18690/mainstream-welcomes-research-to-help-fill-knowledge-gap>

Outer Hebrides Against Fish Farms, 5 November 2012

Stushie for Scottish Salmon! Global anti-farming campaigner Don Staniford gives a talk in Back



Award-winning author and campaigner Don Staniford (pictured) will present disease and chemical data obtained via Freedom of Information as part of a talk in Back, Isle of Lewis on Tuesday 13th November.

Infectious diseases such as Amoebic Gill Disease are ravaging the Western Isles and the toxic chemicals used to kill sea lice are causing mortalities in shellfish and chemical resistance across Scotland, and Don's new data will lay the facts bare about what is happening in Hebridean waters.

Don's talk is part of a series during his tour of Scotland and Ireland (see link below), and is taking place in a community that 18 months ago won an historic battle against Scottish Salmon Company / Lighthouse Caledonia to stop their plans for a mega fish farm in Loch a'Tuath - the first planned for the bay that is home to nationally important stocks of sea trout, salmon, porpoises, dolphins, birds and seals.

Don Staniford is the author of 'Silent Spring of the Sea' (online via: <http://www.gaaia.org/silent-spring-sea>) and works for the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA). His controversial 'Salmon Farming Kills' campaign (<http://www.gaaia.org/lawsuit>) sparked legal action in Canada and has attracted global media attention on the lethal impacts of salmon farming.

From November 2nd to 30th, Don Staniford of [GAAIA](#) and Elena Edwards of [Wild Salmon First](#) will be touring salmon farms in Scotland and Ireland. The itinerary includes a public hearing on the Isle of Mull (5th) as well as public meetings in Armadale on Skye (8th), [Ullapool](#) (12th), Harris (15th) and Bantry Bay (23rd). Protests are planned in Edinburgh (21st) and Dublin (29th) – see the GAAIA website for full details.

All are welcome to attend, the meeting takes place at:

7.45pm on Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 'The Hut' – Loch a'Tuath Community Hut, Back, Isle of Lewis:

<http://fishfarmsout.wordpress.com/>

Green Around the Gills, 4 November 2012

'Stushie' for Scottish Salmon!

Day 2: Isle of Arran, Scotland (follow our tour of Scotland & Ireland [online here](#))



Photo: Alison Prince, editor of Voice for Arran and author of 'Trumpton', with Don Staniford

"When The Arran Voice first blew the whistle on infectious diseases killing tens of thousands of farmed salmon at the Lamlash Bay farm there was a bit of a stushie," said Alison Prince, editor of the [Voice for Arran](#) (formerly the Arran Voice). "The newspaper was first alerted by concerned members of the public who were worried about the stench coming from the salmon farm. We published photos of the maggot-infested farmed salmon in mort bins piled up at the site."

The Collins Dictionary [defines](#) "stushie" as follows:

English Dictionary

Definition of “stushie”

Your search found: [stushie](#) / [Usage examples](#) / [Trends](#)

stushie ('stʊʃɪ ) *or* **stishie** *or* **stashie**

► Definitions

noun

(Scottish)

1. a commotion, rumpus, or row
2. a state of excitement or anxiety; a tizzy

Also called: **stooshie**, **stoushie**

[Alison Prince](#) is a giant of childrens' literature and is certainly not afraid to take on the adults in a "bit of a stushie". She is the author of the children's TV show '[Trumpton](#)' which spawned Half Man Biscuit's cult classic '[The Trumpton Riots](#)'.



“If anyone is thinking of asking me how to get started, please don’t,” said Alison in an interview on [Trumpton](#). “There’s only one thing I can say, and that is, **Just get on and do it.**”



Watch an interview with Alison Prince [online here](#)



Dr. Sally Campbell and her husband Dr. John Campbell, who live overlooking the Lamlash Bay salmon farm, are not afraid of causing a bit of a stushie either.



"We heard about the disease problems when people on the ferry started smelling the dead farmed salmon," said Dr. Sally Campbell. "Thanks to the community pulling together we successfully fought off plans by Marine Harvest to expand off the Isle of Arran. And we stopped the expansion of the Lamlash Bay site which is poorly flushed and has a history of pollution and disease problems."



Watch an interview with Dr. Sally Campbell - including her laughing at the joke of Ireland's 15,000 tonne "organic" salmon farm off Galway Bay - [online here!](#)

"Nobody had the decency to tell the residents of Lamlash that there was a serious proble," said Dr. Campbell. "So we're very concerned."



"There's a complete lack of information going to locals unless you delve much deeper," said Howard Wood who has dived under the Lamlash Bay farm since it was first established in the 1980s. "In fact, the first time there was a mass mortality it was ferry workers that said there were lorries full of stinky fish. I think local communities need to be aware of what is happening on salmon farms."



Watch a video report "[Salmon Farm Disease Disaster in Lamlash Bay, Arran](#)"

Read in full via: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/11/stushie-for-scottish-salmon.html>

The Sunday Times, 4 November 2012

Hebridean island residents scared of

SUNDAY TIMES SCOTLAND 4-11-12

Mark Macaskill

THE inhabitants of a remote Scottish island claim a planned salmon farm will endanger lives.

Argyll and Bute council is expected to decide tomorrow if the farm at Ardmearach on Mull, in the Inner Hebrides, should go ahead.

If approved, the fish farm would be among the largest in Britain, capable of rearing 2,000 tons of farmed salmon in 16, 30m-wide cages. The site would be interlinked with walkways across an area of seabed equivalent to 42 football pitches.

However, residents on Gometra, a tiny neighbouring island less than two miles long and without electricity, doctor or

school, insist the farm would pose a life-threatening risk.

They argue the proposed location means that if forced to take the most direct route to Mull, such as in a medical emergency, they will have to sail around the fish farm, taking them further out into Loch Tuath, a tidal sea loch.

Roc Sandford, the owner of Gometra, said that in bad weather, conditions on the loch can be "horrific".

"If there is one place in Scotland not to site a factory salmon farm, this is it," said Sandford. "If this ill-sited salmon farm goes ahead, it will compromise our lifeline access to schools and accident and emergency departments, especially in foul weather when it blocks our coast hugging route to the Isle of



Mull. I cannot believe Argyll and Bute planning committee would be irresponsible enough to put our lives at risk in this way."

Gometra is one of Britain's most underdeveloped

regions, and it takes a one-hour quad bike ride and 20-minute ferry trip to reach Mull.

Sandford also said the fish farm would "de-wild the most beautiful place in the

world" and revealed that a petition opposing the plans has been signed by 1,500 people from dozens of countries, including America, India, Germany, France, Estonia, Taiwan and

being cut off by giant salmon farm



ALAMY, ASHLEY COOMES

Residents on Gometra, left, say plans for a salmon farm will endanger lives

New Zealand. On Friday, the council was told it would breach its obligations under European Union law to protect flora and fauna, and face legal action, if the fish farm is approved.

There are concerns the fish farm will affect two special areas of conservation, noted for their rocky reefs and populations of grey seals and freshwater pearl mussels. It has been claimed that

other species such as common seals, porpoise, dolphins, whales, salmon, and sea trout could also suffer, in contravention of the EU Habitats Directive. Barry Love, from Glasgow-

based Environmental Law Chambers, said in a letter that the proposal threatened a National Scenic Area (NSA), a view that contradicts Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) opinion. Love said: "With respect, the advice being provided by SNH is flawed and should not be followed".

However, Stewart McLelland, chief executive of The Scottish Salmon Company, a Jersey company listed in Oslo and which is behind the plans, said: "We are committed to delivering a sustainable and successful industry in and for Mull and the wider Argyll and Bute community, supporting local jobs and the economy, while operating in a way that ensures environmental

stewardship is paramount." The Mull and Iona Community Trust has expressed support for the fish farm, provided that jobs are offered to local people, local housing can be provided, and that regulators safeguard the marine environment from pollution.

Scotland is the largest producer of farmed salmon in the European Union and ministers are keen to expand production by nearly 50% by 2020.

Last year, Scottish farmed salmon production peaked at its highest level since 2004, with more than 158,000 tons produced, at a value of €600m.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council declined to comment on the proposal.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/>

The Sunday Herald, 4 November 2012

Toxic chemicals pervade farming

Read via: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/letters/toxic-chemicals-pervade-farming.19320876>

GAAIA, 4 November 2012

The Stench of Scottish Salmon Farming

Don Staniford

Subscribe

6 videos ▾



Dr. Sally Campbell, marine scientist living in Lamlash Bay off the Isle of Arran, speaks with Don Staniford of GAAIA about the stench of Scottish salmon farming, its disease outbreak, and the impacts on the marine environment.

In 2008 Dr Campbell went to Norway to speak at the Marine Harvest annual general meeting about the impacts of salmon farming in Scotland.

She continues to be outspoken about the negative impacts of salmon farming and the need to protect what few wild salmon stocks remain in Scotland.

Go to www.salmonfarmingkills.com and www.wildsalmonfirst.org to follow the campaign against destructive salmon farming.

Watch online via: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DPXrWDLiTs>

Times Colonist, 4 November 2012

Cohen report not an indictment of fish farms

Re: "B.C. report calls for freeze on fish farms," Nov. 1.

On Oct. 31, with considerable fanfare, Justice Bruce Cohen released his long-awaited report into the causes of the poor 2009 Fraser River sockeye salmon return.

At nearly 1,200 pages and with 75 recommendations to government, the report covers a wide range of issues.

Principal among them are the negative impacts of warming oceans and the non-implementation of DFO's wild-salmon policy.

Cohen was clear in stating that there was no single cause and no "smoking gun" to explain the 2009 run. It is an oversimplification of this complex issue to assume the report zeroed in on any one factor.

In contrast to Cohen's cautious but clear message are the responses from those opposed to aquaculture, who spin the report as an indictment of salmon farming. In fact, the report commends B.C. salmon farmers for collecting and providing an impressive 10-year fish-health database that allowed commission-appointed experts to conclude that there was no correlation between the health of farmed salmon and the decline of the sockeye. In fairness, the reviewers called for even more data so that with more information; a firmer conclusion of "unlikely effect" can be applied to this issue.

Salmon farmers expected to be asked to voluntarily provide fish-health data and we embrace this recommendation, as well as those describing the Discovery Islands research project. The public wants to be assured that salmon farming does not put sockeye salmon at risk and we intend to meet that request.

Clare Backman, director

British Columbia Salmon Farmers Association Campbell River

<http://www.timescolonist.com/Cohen+report+indictment+fish+farms/7495860/story.html>

GAAIA, 3 November 2012

Salmon Farm Disease Disaster in Lamlash Bay, Arran

Don Staniford

Subscribe

6 videos ▾



In a visit to ground zero of Scottish salmon farming's disease nightmare, Don Staniford of GAAIA and local diver Howard Wood tour the site of Scotland's first reported outbreak of Amoebic Gill Disease -- in Lamlash Bay on the Isle of Arran on the West coast of Scotland. Here they talk about the circumstances and impacts of the disease outbreak.

The salmon farm was formerly operated by Norwegian giant Marine Harvest and is now operated by the Scottish Salmon Company which is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange and has shareholders including Norwegian banks.

Read more about it here: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/11/ground-zero-in-scotlands-salmon-wars.html>

Go to www.salmonfarmingkills.com for the full monty on salmon farming around the world.

Salmon farming spreads disease!

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

Watch also: "[GAAIA goes to Scotland's diseased fish farms on Arran](#)"

Green Around the Gills, 3 November 2012

Ground Zero in Scotland's Salmon Wars!



Lamlash Bay off the Isle of Arran is ground zero in Scotland's '[Salmon Wars](#)'. Yesterday (2 November), [GAAIA](#) and Elena Edwards of [Wild Salmon First](#) visited the scene of some of the worst crimes against the marine environment with local diver [Howard Wood](#).



"The stench of Scottish salmon farming is nauseating," said Elena Edwards who is visiting from British Columbia. "Lamlash Bay is our first stop in a three week [tour of Scotland](#) and could be the worst!"

"We're here at ground zero in Scotland's disease disaster," said GAAIA's Don Staniford. "They've had mass mortalities here dating back to 2007."



Watch a video report from wind-swept Scotland - [online here](#)

"The area under the salmon farm is grossly impacted," said Howard Wood who has been diving in Lamlash Bay for decades. "This site has a long history of diseased farmed salmon."



For video footage under Scottish salmon farms watch "[Shame Below the Waves](#)"

The Scottish salmon farming industry's weapons of mass destruction - infectious diseases, mass mortalities and toxic chemicals - are hidden behind the Holy Isle and St. Molios close to Scotland's first ['No Take Zone'](#).



Sadly, when it comes to salmon farming it is a question of take, take, take. The Scottish salmon farming industry has spread like the Black Death plague as it encroaches further upon shellfish grounds, pristine bays and precious marine ecosystems.



Lamlash Bay is home to rare corals and protected maerl beds. "Maerl is an ecologically important, calcified, pink coral-like seaweed that grows slowly on the seabed," explained Dr. Sally Campbell, our lovely host during our 2-day stay on Arran, to [BBC News](#) in 2010. "It forms interlocking pieces that provide nooks and crannies, ideal habitat where eggs and juvenile species can develop away from predators. Maerl is an important nursery area for many species including commercially important ones such as queen scallops, cod, saithe and pollack. Once maerl has been destroyed it is lost forever, so it is vital that any healthy area of maerl must be protected, urgently."



Yet salmon farms like this one in Lamlash Bay have been allowed to impact upon maerl beds. "Scientific studies have clearly shown that the wastes from salmon farms impacts maerl beds," explained Howard Wood as we circled the salmon farm. "Lamlash Bay is a poorly flushed area and completely unsuitable for salmon farming."



Read the scientific studies via "[Impact of fish farms on maerl beds in strongly tidal areas](#)"

For more details on the marine life of Lamlash Bay visit COAST's [web-site](#).



During our visit we also met Russell and Elspeth Cheshire who have been fighting to protect Lamlash Bay. Locals led by the [Community of Arran Seabed Trust](#) (COAST) successfully [fought off](#) plans from Marine Harvest for a new site nearby at Clauchlands back in 2008. Locals here on the Isle of Arran are certainly sickened by the disease-ridden salmon farming industry!



Read article in full via: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/11/ground-zero-in-scotlands-salmon-wars.html>

More details via [“Salmon Wars – The Truth Fights Back!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 1 November)

Chilliwack Progress, 2 November 2012

Cohen report falls short: Sto:lo Tribal Council

Sto:lo Tribal Council leaders welcomed the final report of the Cohen Commission's inquiry into the decline of Fraser River sockeye.

But Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil said the commission could have gone further to protect wild salmon from diseases carried by farmed fish.

"I wanted the Commissioner to recommend there be no (salmon) farms on the migratory route of Fraser sockeye, and the relocation of farms to new sites," he said.

Diseases transferred from farmed fish "pose a singular threat to wild salmon," he said, and "could decimate wild fish entirely."

"Indeed, contagion from salmon farms may already be taking their toll," he said.

Grand Chief Clarence Pennier said the STC is studying the report while awaiting the federal government's reaction to the recommendations, which come at a time when wild salmon are under assault from many sides.

"Ottawa is failing to protect Fraser River sockeye," he charged, and the federal government "has added insult to injury by gutting habitat safeguards in the Fisheries Act, trashing the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and scuttling the Navigable Waters Act.

Pennier said job cuts and funding cutbacks at federal fisheries shows "obviously, this government is not the least bit concerned about the future of Fraser River Sockeye."

McNeil said he also wanted the commission to recommend "an overhaul of the relationship between First Nations and the DFO" and restore traditional aboriginal knowledge and salmon management practices.

Instead, the commission recommended that Ottawa hang onto the role of the ultimate authority in the fishery.

"This is both troubling and ironic," McNeil said, "because it was Ottawa that got all of us and the fish into trouble to begin with.

The Sto:lo Tribal Council represents eight First Nations located within Sto:lo Territory in the Fraser Valley.

<http://www.agassizharrisonobserver.com/news/176989961.html>

Alexandra Morton [commented on your post in Salmon Are Sacred.](#)



Alexandra Morton

6:53am Nov 3

Chief Tyrone McNeil is right to be concerned. Government and industry testified under oath that they could not find the European salmon flu virus in BC, but my colleagues and I pick up 11 salmon out of the Fraser River and 3 of them test positive. We did not do this test in our basement - we used the best labs in the world. There is something very wrong here. I am doing what I can to ground-truth this situation by sampling salmon throughout BC, but there is no indication government will listen to those results either. The province of BC grants the tenures this industry needs to anchor to the seafloor. Many of those tenures are expired and BC is pressuring First Nations right now to approve renewals.

Comment History



Eddie Gardner

4:53am Nov 3

Chief Tyrone McNeil and Grand Chief Clarence Pennier have shown the weakness of the Cohen Commission's report, and this must be addressed regardless. Justice Cohen gave us more to work with in pushing for DFO to get out of the conflict of interest situation by removing its involvement in promoting and supporting the open net cage feedlot business. He also gave the right interpretation to the "precautionary principle" that would add to the reasons piling up as to why fish farms need to be removed from migration routes of our sacred wild salmon! :)

The Canadian Press/CTV News, 2 November 2012

Atlantic salmon group praises B.C. report's recommendation to limit fish pens



ST. ANDREWS, N.B. -- The Atlantic Salmon Federation is welcoming the recommendations of a B.C. report on the dramatic decline of the Fraser River sockeye fishery.

Federation president Bill Taylor says the report's messages apply to the eastern fishery even though it focuses on the West Coast stock.

Taylor says governments on this coast are allowing open-net salmon pens and they are having devastating impacts on wild Atlantic salmon.

In his report released Thursday, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen concluded that the potential harm posed by salmon farms to Fraser River sockeye salmon is "serious or irreversible."

Taylor says wild Atlantic salmon in southern Newfoundland, the Bay of Fundy and along the coast of Nova Scotia might migrate near the open-net pens and risk interaction with escaped farmed salmon.

Cohen says open net-pen farms should be prohibited in the Discovery Islands unless those farms pose only a minimal risk to migrating sockeye.

<http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/atlantic-salmon-group-praises-b-c-report-s-recommendation-to-limit-fish-pens-1.1021978>

The Province, 2 November 2012

Harper should follow wise advice in Cohen fish report

By Jim Erkiletian



Some readers hope Ottawa will follow the recommendations in Bruce Cohen's report on sockeye salmon.

Photograph by: Jason Payne, PNG , The Province

Now that the three-year, \$26-million Cohen Report has been released, we are finally told the science shows salmon farms spread disease and parasites that decimate wild salmon populations.

(Not to mention that salmon farmers kill thousands of sea lions and seals that protect wild stocks by eating sharks, mackerel and other species that prey on salmon or compete with them for habitat.)

These are obvious actions from an industry that see wild salmon stocks as competition, and should have been obvious to the government when these Norwegian corporations were allowed here. They had already trashed wild stocks in Norway and Scotland, and are destroying those of Chile and Peru.

They should be outlawed and removed from any waters used by wild salmon for migration to the ocean and return. Will the NDP do this or are they still as enamoured of Norwegian ecocide as the B.C. Liberals are?

Jim Erkiletian, Nanaimo

<http://www.theprovince.com/opinion/Harper+should+follow+wise+advice+Cohen+fish+report/7487738/story.html>

The Vancouver Sun, 2 November 2012

Salmon report shows the effect of politics dictating policy

By Stephen Hume



A huge spring salmon among the sockeye on the Fraser River near Langley, B.C

Photograph by: Ian Smith/Postmedia , Times Colonist

British Columbians concerned about wild salmon have been nervously awaiting the final report from Bruce Cohen's \$25-million inquiry into the declines of Fraser River sockeye stocks.

Would it finally produce the smoking gun — fish farms; federal mismanagement; the aboriginal fishery; commercial overfishing; habitat degradation; pollution; changing ocean regimes — that various factions are convinced is largely to blame for the declines? Or would it be a whitewash?

As it turns out, it was neither.

First, on the evidence provided by 179 witnesses over 138 days of hearings, it concluded there is no smoking gun — no single simple cause that can be blamed for the consistent dwindling over two decades of a resource into which both Americans and Canadians have poured many millions in management and infrastructure.

“Appealing but improbable,” the report said in dismissing simple-minded explanations that are habitually presented to rationalize prejudices. In other words, it's complicated, like the ecosystem itself, which surprised everyone with a historic return of 35 million salmon in 2010 then collapsed to 2.3 million in 2012. Singling out one factor for blame is just a way of evading the devilish reality with which we must deal.

Second, the report is no whitewash. It's a bracingly direct commentary on the cascading effects of policy dictated by politics rather than science. Cohen pulls no punches regarding the successive governments that first politicized and then undermined the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which, in turn, lost sight of its science-based mandate and then mismanaged a crucial sustainable resource into its current state of crisis.

Yet even here, Cohen is even-handed, expressing satisfaction “that DFO's front-line staff in the Pacific Region have done a creditable job in challenging circumstances.” The challenges arise from the federal department's ability to recognize the problem at the top but its inability, for reasons political and bureaucratic, to implement in the field the policies it developed to address it.

“I call for action on two pivotal DFO policies that have yet to be fully implemented — the 1986 Habitat Policy and the 2005 Wild Salmon Policy,” Cohen said. It's worth pointing out here that some of the key, front-line scientists responsible for that habitat policy were, in effect, hounded out of government because their advocacy for its principles fell afoul of politicians and top mandarins in Ottawa.

The Wild Salmon Policy was a major initiative that simply never achieved more than the lip service afforded a mission statement. Cohen calls on DFO to have a detailed plan for implementing the policy by the time the next generation of salmon emerges from the spawning gravel at the end of March 2013. The federal government should budget dedicated funding sufficient to carry out the plan and cover ongoing operational costs. And there should be annual progress reports.

One thinks this would be standard operating procedure in a well-run federal department but Cohen, at least, has put it squarely in the floodlights. Let's hope the squabbling factions outside government can come together to ensure that it stays there.

The role of fish farms in the salmon controversy also earned his unblinking gaze — and deservedly so.

Critics have long argued that DFO's mandate to both promote development of marine aquaculture while protecting wild salmon stocks puts its senior management in a grotesque structural conflict of interest – something like making the parks department responsible for promoting clearcut logging.

But the department's mandate is clear, Cohen points out – conservation of wild salmon stocks – hence, the government should remove from DFO's mandate the promotion of salmon farming as an industry and farmed salmon as a product. The department's role should be as scientifically informed regulator, not commercial marketing skill.

Cohen urges a renewed effort to gather and analyze fish health data from farms on wild salmon migratory routes and says that data should be far more open than it has been, including being made available to non-government scientific researchers.

More importantly, he advocates for a strict precautionary principle in addressing the location of fish farms, something that has long been a cause celebre for environmental organizations.

For example, net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands, which lie between Vancouver Island and the mainland at the north end of the Strait of Georgia, and are right on the outbound route of migrating Fraser River sockeye smolts should be rigorously evaluated.

Oft-vilified marine biologist and wild salmon campaigner Alexandra Morton seems vindicated here. She has argued that these farms are an epicentre for stressors that can adversely affect immature wild salmon as they pass.

Cohen says that unless these farms can be shown to pose no more than a minimal risk to migrating sockeye, they should be ordered by the federal government to cease operations.

Finally, Cohen offers one of those crucial reminders that seems self-evident but is often overlooked — the buck for all this stops on the federal minister's desk.

Those concerned with the fate and future of wild fish will be mining the exhaustive report — three volumes and more than 1,000 pages — and the commissioner's 75 pointed recommendations to Ottawa for months to come.

In the meantime, this is a democracy. In democracies, citizens have the final say. So those who care about B.C.'s sockeye salmon know where to take their concerns.

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<http://www.vancouversun.com/Stephen+Hume+Salmon+report+shows+effect+politics+dictating+policy/7479549/story.html>

West Highland Free Press, 2 November 2012

Strong opposition to plans for Loch Slapin fish farm

BY KEITH MACKENZIE (keith.mackenzie@whfp.co.uk)

The prospect of a new fish farm development on Loch Slapin in south Skye was met with overwhelming opposition at a public meeting held in Sleat last week.

Marine Harvest have lodged plans for a 12-pen site, which they say will create seven new jobs in the area. But residents on the Sleat side of the loch have expressed opposition — largely on environmental grounds — and say they were not consulted on the development

The site falls within the boundaries of Broadford and Strath Community Council, though residents in Ord and Tarskavaig say developers should also have sought opinion from them, claiming the sea traffic and activity at the site will impact on their communities. Broadford and Strath Community Council went into abeyance in the period since talks with them took place last year.

At last Thursday's meeting in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig 39 of those present opposed the development, with two voting in favour and three abstaining. Sleat Community Council agreed to pass on the findings of the meeting to Highland Council, though the local authority turned down the request for an extension to the period in which comments can be lodged. The final date for submissions on the proposal is tomorrow (2nd November), and so far over 30 comments have been submitted in opposition to the plans.

Among those present at last week's meeting were representatives of the local inshore fishing fleet.

Neil Robertson said that, in principle, commercial fishing interests were not opposed to fish farm developments — though in this instance he felt the opinion of the fleet was that the Loch Slapin plans were inappropriate. He added that there was a fear some 21 vessels could be displaced to other fishing grounds as a result.

Several more people centred their opposition on the impact the fish farm would have on the area's biodiversity, and on concerns over chemical usage.

There were also voices in support. Robert Kelly, who runs a mussel farm in Loch Slapin, - pointed out that he had previously managed a fish farm on a nearby site, and while this had operated for 30 years there appeared to be little damage to local biodiversity.

Another supporter of the plan suggested the community should be encouraging economic development, and backed any proposals which would stem the emigration of young people from the island.

Dougie Hunter, technical services manager for Marine Harvest, told the **Free Press** the fish farm would have only “minimal” impact on the area. He said: “This is part of our strategy to move to more open water locations. If we are allowed to develop this site then we would be able to give up four other nearby leases. We've carried out extensive surveys and are confident that this is an appropriate site for a fish farm with a minimal environmental impact.”

Meanwhile, questions have emerged over how Marine Harvest intend to resolve the issue of gaining a lease to operate the proposed fish farm development on Loch Slapin.

While the company are currently seeking planning consent for the 12-pen site, the Crown Estate has confirmed that the option to take a lease on the area has already been granted to a rival company. Shetland firm Hjaltland are currently carrying out “screening and scoping” on three potential fish farm sites on Loch Slapin and Loch Eishort.

Charlene McPake, aquaculture co-ordinator for the Crown Estate, confirmed that the lease option was not held by Marine Harvest. In her submission to the planning process she wrote: “The area indicated... is not available for lease from the Crown Estate due to an existing lease interest already in place.”

She told the Free Press that should planning consent be granted to Marine Harvest, the rival firm would then have to agree to hand over the lease option in order for the development to proceed.

Marine Harvest’s technical services director Dougie Hunter said: “The current system can be confusing because there are two processes involved which are not always aligned. The other company have a lease option agreement which is temporary. We are hopeful that the situation would be resolved were we to gain planning permission.”

http://www.whfp.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1073&Itemid=1

CBC News, 2 November 2012

Salmon farm plan withdrawn on Eastern Shore

Scotland-based company withdraws Beaver Harbour application

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[No 'smoking gun' for Fraser River sockeye salmon collapse](#)
[Salmon farms proposed for Eastern Shore](#)



A Scotland-based company has withdrawn one of its three applications to develop salmon fish farms on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. (CBC)

A Scotland-based company has withdrawn one of its three applications to develop salmon fish farms on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore.

Snow Island Salmon Inc. — the Canadian subsidiary of Scottish aquaculture company Loch Duart Ltd. — wanted to operate salmon farms at Shoal Bay, Spry Harbour and Beaver Harbour.

The application for Beaver Harbour was withdrawn by the company because of its proximity to wild salmon populations.

"Snow Island, in conjunction with government, conservation groups and the scientific community, is working to further understand wild salmon migration routes along the Eastern Shore," Shane Borthwick, the vice-president of operations for Snow Island Salmon Inc., said in a statement.

"Snow Island will continue to work with local communities, regulators and stakeholders to establish a responsible, world class salmon farming model that will bring new economic opportunities to rural Nova Scotia."

Sterling Belliveau, the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, said Friday he doesn't see the withdrawal as a win for opponents of fish farming.

"That issue about the migration of wild salmon on that river system, the West River, that was an issue of discussion," said Belliveau.

"I think that the company made that decision based on the information that the residents and salmon anglers have brought to their attention."

Belliveau said people need to put fish farming in perspective.

"You can put all the existing open salmon pens that exist now and you can put them into one tenth of Bedford Basin," he said.

"I really believe, with my background as a fisherman, knowing that that's a very small footprint."

Belliveau said he's convinced fish farming can be done safely and bring jobs to rural communities.

Snow Island Salmon Inc. said it's standing behind its two remaining applications for fish farms in Shoal Bay and Spry Harbour. Those applications are currently in the review stage.

B.C. salmon report to be studied

Meanwhile, Belliveau said his staff would be reviewing a lengthy report released by a B.C. Supreme Court justice earlier this week, which recommends a cap on farmed salmon in British Columbia's Discovery Islands.

In a three-volume report on the future of the sockeye fishery, the judge recommended a freeze on new open-net salmon farm production in the Discovery Islands until September 2020.

"We are listening to all the information that's being collected by aquaculture and we make the right decisions based on good science," said Belliveau.

But Liberal fisheries critic Michel Samson said that doesn't go far enough.

"We have said as a Liberal caucus here in Nova Scotia that we'd like to see no new sites approved in Nova Scotia until we have a comprehensive review of the regulations which are currently in place," he said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/story/2012/11/02/ns-salmon-farm-withdrawal.html>

The Vancouver Sun, 2 November 2012

Editorial: Sockeye salmon report sobering, but definitive

Vancouver Sun editorial



Commissioner Bruce Cohen's report into the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery is depressing, if only because it's the latest in a long string of commissions, inquiries, studies, policy frameworks and white papers that cost the taxpayers millions to produce and then were ignored by politicians and bureaucrats.

Photograph by: submitted , for the TIMES

Bruce Cohen's commission of inquiry into what he quite rightly calls the uncertain future of Fraser River sockeye salmon is both refreshing and depressing.

Refreshing because the former B.C. Supreme Court Justice brings a rigour to the weighing of evidence and a shrewd understanding of political context to the management policies under which this extraordinarily bountiful, valuable and sustainable resource has steadily dwindled for two decades.

Refreshing because Cohen is direct and forthright in his recommendations at a time when we've become accustomed to Orwellian obliqueness and disingenuous subtexts in much of what passes for analysis in political circles.

Who could doubt the meaning of Recommendation 1: the Department of Fisheries and Oceans should follow the principle that "the minister (of fisheries) is the ultimate authority" in decisions and it should consistently reflect this principle in all its agreements and processes? In other words, let the minister worry about special interest pressure groups, commercial interests, provincial governments, aboriginal factions; the department is there to fulfil a legislated mandate to conserve and protect wild salmon.

And who could doubt the meaning of Recommendation 2: the department should act in accordance with its paramount regulatory objective to conserve wild fish.

So, one — do your job and leave the politics to the politician; two — your paramount job is to conserve wild fish stocks, not to try to appease every noisy stakeholder in the process, whether sports anglers, commercial recreational interests, the commercial fishing industry, loggers, miners, farmers, municipalities or aboriginal nations.

And yet the report is also depressing, if only because it's the latest in a long string of commissions, inquiries, studies, policy frameworks and white papers that cost the taxpayers millions to produce and then were ignored by politicians and bureaucrats while fisheries management and science went through a pernicious cycle of downsizing as budgets dwindled.

Cohen's report is also a testament to an utter failure of political will, the pathetic and abject politicization of what should be an evidence-driven portfolio.

Some of our worst fisheries ministers have been from the Atlantic provinces where a fisheries catastrophe unfolded, in large part due to politicians imposing a harvest policy that took little or no heed of the mounting scientific evidence that urged otherwise. Atlantic cod stocks, once among the most abundant food fish on the planet, exceeded a million tonnes 60 years ago; by 1990 they had been depleted by roughly 90 per cent and the fishery collapsed.

Yet Liberal and Conservative governments have repeatedly appointed fisheries ministers from the Atlantic to oversee the Pacific fishery. There have been 19 federal fisheries ministers since 1979, 14 of them have come from provinces on the Atlantic shore — one came from Yukon Territory. Only four were appointed from B.C. — and one of those, David Anderson, proved among the most effective at grappling with real problems on the West Coast, the very problems outlined yet again by Cohen — habitat loss, overharvesting, inadequate science, lack of enforcement, management distracted by conflicting mandates.

Cohen warns that Fraser River sockeye are a stock in crisis, the magical return of 35 million salmon in 2010 proved a stunning anomaly in two decades of decline but returns promptly returned to their downward spiral in 2011 and 2012.

But this is precisely what Peter Pearse said in 1982 when he tabled the exhaustive report from the commission he led to study Pacific fisheries policy. “Canada’s Pacific fisheries are at a crisis point.” Pearse noted “growing concern about the precarious condition of many of our fish stocks and increasing anxiety among Indians about their traditional fishing rights and among sport fishermen about their recreational opportunities.” This sentence might have come from Cohen’s executive summary.

We know what the problems are. We’ve studied them to death while fish stocks continue to decline and various factions squabble like seagulls over the tattered remnants of once stupendous salmon runs — it’s thought by some scholars that the annual return to the Fraser once topped 160 million salmon.

We know what has to be done to preserve habitat; to ensure the return of adequate spawning stocks; to enforce compliance with regulations. We even have the policies in place to achieve this. What we haven’t had is the political will to make the painful decisions — and as we have known for the past 20 years, they become more painful the longer we wait — that we know to be necessary. Every time the hard decisions arise, it seems, federal politicians call for another inquiry.

Let us agree that the Cohen commission is the last inquiry into the future and fate of not only Fraser River sockeye but all Pacific fish stocks.

Instead, let’s put the money we’ve been wasting reinventing the wheel into the enforcement capacity of DFO; let’s give it a clear mandate to enforce the regulations aimed at rebuilding Pacific fish stocks. This may mean short-term pain in some sectors. But it will be a long-term investment in the future of the West Coast fishing industry, in the sustainability of coastal communities, in the tourism that accompanies the sports fishery and in our constitutional obligations to First Nations.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Sockeye+salmon+report+sobering+definitive/7491651/story.html>

Fly Rod & Reel, 2 November 2012

Canadian Salmon Inquiry Exposes Agency Conflicts; US Needs Similar Effort

Ted Williams

The Cohen Commission of Inquiry (<http://www.cohencommission.ca/en/>), an independent group formed to investigate the declining Fraser River sockeye salmon runs, released its final report on Wednesday. The report calls for an end to the split mandate of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), the Canadian federal agency that both promotes aquaculture and is supposed to protect wild salmon stocks. BC Supreme Court Justice Bruce I. Cohen was in charge of the investigation that held 133 days of hearings, examined over three million pages of documents, and took two years to complete its work. Another key finding of the

final report is that federal and provincial laws and policies to protect habitat and wild salmon stocks are not adequately funded, implemented, or enforced.

“The Commission's final report is a brave and sincere effort that uncovers a fundamental conflict of interest within the primary salmon management agency, and I commend their work,” said Kurt Beardslee, executive director of Wild Fish Conservancy. “Unfortunately, it’s the same story down here. Our agencies have policies that promote aquaculture and commercial fishing, and they also operate fish hatcheries, many of which are still harming wild salmon. Their legal responsibilities for protecting wild fish and habitat are less important to them, even though sound science is the basis for those responsibilities.”

The Cohen report also calls for additional measures to address disease concerns from salmon farms, including greater transparency and data sharing with non-governmental researchers. Overall, the report makes seventy-five specific recommendations, including having an independent body evaluate DFO’s progress in implementing its own seven-year-old Wild Salmon Policy.

“Washington adopted its Wild Salmonid Policy in 1997 and fifteen years later it has not been implemented,” added Beardslee. “Other policies and recovery efforts are either inadequate or they have not been fully implemented. It is unwise for us to continue on the same path without our own version of a Cohen Commission review. Justice Cohen exposed the problems and has made reasonable recommendations in order to recover BC’s wild salmon. Our salmon deserve no less.”

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Wild Fish Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the recovery and conservation of the Northwest region’s wild-fish ecosystems, with over 2,500 members. Wild Fish Conservancy’s staff of over twenty professional scientists, advocates, and educators works to promote technically and socially responsible habitat, hatchery, and harvest management to better sustain the region’s wild-fish heritage. For more information, visit us at wildfishconservancy.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/wildfishconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/wildfishconservancy).

<http://www.flyrodreel.com/blogs/tedwilliams/2012/november/canadian-salmon-conflicts>

CKNW, 2 November 2012

Marine Biologist, Alexandra Morton Speaks About Her Impression Of The Findings Of The Cohen Report

Listen online via: <http://soundcloud.com/cknwnewstalk980/marine-biologist-alexandra>

Nanaimo Daily News, 2 November 2012

Special report on salmon gets mixed reviews in Nanaimo

By Robert Barron

Calls for an immediate freeze on new salmon farms around the Discovery Islands, until it can be definitely determined whether the controversial farms pose a serious risk to wild salmon stocks, are getting mixed reviews locally.

In his long-anticipated report released Wednesday, Commissioner Bruce Cohen said he found "no smoking gun" to explain a two-decade decline in Fraser River sockeye salmon, but concluded that it's likely the decline is related to numerous stresses and their cumulative effects which need more research.

But Cohen said that shouldn't preclude Ottawa from acting now to freeze fish farming around the Discovery Islands, a grouping of islands near Campbell River, until 2020.

He added that if during that time, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans can't confidently say the risk of serious harm to wild stocks is minimal, it should prohibit all net-pen salmon farms from operating in the marine area.

Biologist Alexandra Morton, a long-time foe of open-pen fish farming who spoke at the commission, said she was pleased beyond her "wildest expectations" by Cohen's report.

Doug White, chief of the Snun-eymuxw First Nation which had participatory status at the Cohen Commission, noted that Cohen said he was "troubled" by recent changes to the Fisheries Act that took resources away from fisheries science and said he expects the federal government to take Cohen's final report seriously.

But Ron Cantelon, the Liberal MLA for Nanaimo-Parksville who also served as vice-chairman of the province's legislative committee on sustainable aquaculture, said the report acknowledged that no definite causes for the decline of the sockeye on the Fraser River. He cautioned against sudden and harsh actions against the fish-farm industry.

"After participating in this commission for a number of years, we expect the federal government to take these recommendations seriously and take the steps that are necessary to save this critical species," White said.

"Sockeye salmon are a major part of who we are, both for aboriginals and non-aboriginals, and the opportunity, knowledge and direction is now there to create greater opportunities for sockeye in the Fraser River."

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<http://www.canada.com/Special+report+salmon+gets+mixed+reviews+Nanaimo/7490299/story.html>

The Vancouver Sun, 2 November 2012

Sockeye report 'balanced,' salmon farmers say

Farm fish spokesman confident more research will vindicate their operations

By Scott Simpson

Salmon farmers are mostly pleased with this week's Cohen Commission report on the reasons behind the decline of Fraser River sockeye, including recommendations to explore a connection between fish farms and missing fish.

Clare Backman of Marine Harvest, speaking for the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, said Thursday they support former B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen's recommendation that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans conduct more intensive research - particularly at fish farms around the Discovery Islands north of Campbell River.

That area is one of the original salmon farming locations in British Columbia and is also a primary migration route for both juvenile and adult Fraser River sockeye.

Backman said there are nine Atlantic salmon farms operating there at present, although most industry maps show about 30 site locations, which are mostly "dormant."

Cohen suggested in a 1,200-page report released Wednesday that farms in the area "have the potential to introduce exotic diseases and to exacerbate endemic diseases which can have a negative effect on Fraser River sockeye."

He said the Fraser sockeye could suffer "serious or irreversible harm" if exposed to disease and that DFO needs to recognize the possible risk of disease transfer between wild and farm fish.

However he declined to quantify the scale of risk, saying it "requires further study."

As a result, he's recommending the DFO undertake a decisive study of the risks to wild salmon from Discovery Islands fish farming operations, with conclusive results by 2020, as well as an annual cap on salmon production. If by that year the DFO "cannot confidently say the risk of serious harm is minimal," then the area should be closed to salmon farming, Cohen said. That should happen sooner if research confirms a link, he added.

One of the keys to an analysis of the risks is making all farm fish health assessments available for public scrutiny and independent research.

Backman noted the assessment data suggested by Cohen has been available since B.C. ceded regulation of fish farms to the federal government in 2010.

"Our migration over to the new federal regulator has just immensely increased the amount of information that goes up on the DFO website," Backman said.

"They're collecting a variety of information. It used to go into the provincial databases and then they would provide a summary report that was always a year late. Now the DFO puts it up on the website within the quarter. So now, within three months you've got predator interaction, any escape issues, the sea lice info, any incidental bycatch in the cages.

"The transparency is much more than it used to be. We're fine with continuing to be even more transparent because, as he said in the report, he couldn't find any evidence of disease transfer to the sockeye but there's an overwhelming (public) concern, so he felt that more research needs to be done to bring that to ground."

Backman said he is not aware of any companies looking to put new farms into the Discovery Islands area.

"The areas that are considered for further development when and if our regulator is willing to consider (expansions or transfers) are far, far further afield. The evolution of siting criteria demands that we choose areas which are deeper water, better currents, further away from shorelines, further away from key areas of recreation or habitat protection.

"If there is a further call to relocate some of the (Discovery Islands) farms, we would not be averse to that."

He said closing farms would be an "alarming" precedent but believes the industry can show it's not having an impact on sockeye.

Overall, he added, the Cohen report was "quite balanced."

David Suzuki Foundation marine biologist John Werring said his organization and others in the Canadian Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CARR) believe it would be more prudent to remove all 30-odd farms along the migratory sockeye route, not just those in the Discovery Islands identified by Cohen.

"It's a biological pinch point," Werring said. "Even industry acknowledges that there's a zone of influence of farms in regards to pathogen and parasite dispersal.

"That extends to about 26 kilometres from a farm. The Johnstone Strait at any point is only about five kilometres across and within the John-stone Strait there are several farms that are only about five or 10 kilometres apart. So now you've got all these overlapping zones of impact on farms. There's actually 36 from the top of Queen Charlotte Strait down to the bottom of Discovery Passage."

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<http://www.vancouversun.com/Sockeye+report+balanced+salmon+farmers/7488176/story.html>

HQ Comox Valley, 2 November 2012

Fish Farmer's Not Concerned With Cohen Report

By Carmen Weld

Campbell River

Many groups are asking for a freeze on fish farming in the wake of the Cohen Report on the collapse of the Fraser River sockeye salmon, which as one of its 75 recommendations urges for an immediate eight-year freeze on new net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands between northern Vancouver Island and the B.C. mainland, but the those in the fish farm industry are saying they are not concerned.

The Cohen Commission states that farms in our area should be prohibited and shut down in 2020 if the Department of Fisheries and Oceans cannot confidently say by then that the risk to wild salmon from aquaculture is minimal. However it is important to note that not one single culprit, including fish farms, overfishing, pollution, natural predators or global warming, is blamed or accused of causing the two-decade decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon.

Those running the fish farm industry itself are not concerned. They believe their product will withstand any scrutiny and they support more research to keep up marine health.

Stewart Hawthorn with the BC Salmon Farmer's Association denies his industry's is in trouble.

"They asked for a freeze in one small area, the Discovery Islands area, and that is only 5 farms out of the 70 farms that are operating right now. Let's do the research, we support doing the research, because we are absolutely committed to supporting the marine environment," noted Hawthorn.

BC's Agriculture Minister Norm Letnick is not prepared to comment yet on the report; he says his staff needs some time to study the report, including the science behind Cohen's call for a partial freeze on new fish farms.

"We have to look at it from a provincial perspective as to what his recommendations are, and come up with an intelligent response to what everyone is asking, so I am asking for a little bit of time to go over a 1500 page report," said Letnick.

Letnick did note that he believes Cohen is applying the precautionary principle to the expansion of fish farms while the issue is studied further.

But the Aboriginal community is jumping on the Cohen report. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip is now calling on the federal government to embrace the commissions 75 recommendations, including the freeze on fish farming on the central coast.

"The Cohen commission has in fact pointed out the fundamental contradictions in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with respect to their mandate, and their duty and obligation to protect wild salmon stock is being undermined by their promotion of the salmon farming industry," said Phillip.

Cohen agreed with this point and also recommended that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans no longer handle the promoting of the salmon farming industry to prevent favoritism or conflicts of interest from compromising its duty to defend wild fish.

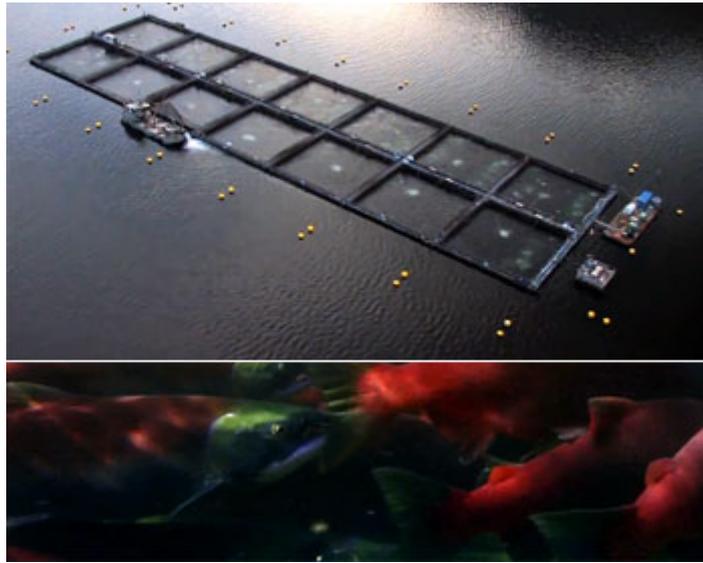
To be clear, if the Federal Government chooses to follow the 75 recommendations from the Cohen Report, existing farms in the Discovery Islands could continue operations, until the time when and if the fisheries minister decides before 2020 that the farms cause "more than minimal risk of serious harm" to the wild Fraser sockeye.

The Cohen inquiry heard from more than 170 witnesses and spent hundreds of hours going through more than 2,000 reports and pieces of evidence.

Cohen was appointed by the federal government after less than 1.5 million sockeye returned in 2009 to the Fraser River, far fewer than the more than 10 million expected.

<http://hqcomoxvalley.com/news/local/news/Local/2012/11/02/Fish-Farmer-s-Not-Concerned-with-Cohen-Report>

Fisheries Information Service, 1 November 2012



There is no evidence to explain the decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon. (Photo: YouTube, CommonSenseCanadian/ FIS)

Risky salmon farms must be shut down: report



CANADA

Friday, November 02, 2012, 00:20 (GMT + 9)

Because salmon farms are one of many stressors to wild salmon stocks, British Columbia (BC) Supreme Court Justice Bruce Cohen said that salmon farm development in the Discovery Islands should be frozen and the existing farms should be shut down.

Still, there is no conclusive evidence explaining the decline of Fraser River sockeye salmon, he clarified in his report containing 75 recommendations for the federal government, 11 of which tackle the province's salmon farming industry.

The Discovery Islands are located on the migration path for young salmon, and Cohen stressed concerns about the potential for farmed salmon to introduce exotic diseases and pathogens to wild fish.

"Disease can cause significant population declines, and, in some situations — for example, if a disease were to wipe out a vulnerable stock of Fraser River sockeye — such effects could be irreversible," wrote Cohen, *Calgary Herald* reports.

"I therefore conclude that the potential harm posed by salmon farms to Fraser River sockeye salmon is serious or irreversible," he added.

While more research is still needed, he said that the fisheries minister should ban net pens in the Discovery Islands by September 2020, unless he is sure they represent only minimal risk to Fraser River sockeye, *The Victoria Times Colonist* reports.

"In the meantime, if there is any sign that there is a more than minimal risk, they should be prohibited immediately," he said. "I accept the evidence that devastating disease could sweep through the wild populations, killing large numbers of wild fish without scientists being aware of it."

Cohen called for new criteria for fish farm locations and warned of conflicting interests.

"The [Department of Fisheries and Oceans](#) (DFO) should seek to approve only the best sites to avoid the negative impacts on wild stocks, rather than the best sites to provide farmed salmon," he said. "When DFO has simultaneous mandates to conserve wild stocks and promote the salmon farming industry, there are circumstances when it finds itself in conflict of interest because of divided loyalties."

The inquiry commenced after a collapse of the sockeye salmon run in 2009, when only 1.4 million salmon returned to spawn instead of the expected 10 million. In 2010, 35 million fish returned — the biggest run in almost a century — but the general trend over two decades has been a steady drop.

Canada needs changes in salmon management and DFO must conduct more research to make up for insufficient data, the report says, as contaminants, diseases and especially warming water are all stressors that feed off each other.

"The warming water is the elephant in the room that we cannot ignore," he said.

Cohen disapproved of the federal government's legislative changes introduced before he issued his report.

"My concern is that the amendments to the Fisheries Act are focused more on fisheries than on habitat," he said. "You can't have healthy wild fish if you don't have healthy habitats."

Related article:

- [Sockeye salmon productivity is falling along west coast: study](#)

By *Natalia Real*
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<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=2&id=56545&l=e&special=&ndb=1%20target=>

Marlborough Express, 1 November 2012

Carter backs fish farms

The Government would support the aquaculture industry in its efforts to achieve \$1 billion in annual sales by 2025, Primary Industries Minister David Carter said in Nelson yesterday.

The minister also said he wanted "a positive outcome" from the New Zealand King Salmon expansion application in the Marlborough Sounds.

Addressing the New Zealand Aquaculture Conference at the Rutherford Hotel, Mr Carter said aquaculture was vital to export growth and the Government was "committed to partnering with your industry to ensure we meet all our targets".

The conference's theme, "looking forward to sustainable growth" was very much his and the Government's focus.

NZ King Salmon has been involved in a long Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry hearing into its application for regulation changes to allow it to add nine new salmon farms to its existing five in the Sounds.

The application, which the company says has cost it \$9 million, has met determined opposition from environmental and recreational groups, many Sounds residents, and the Marlborough District Council.

Mr Carter said aquaculture regulations needed to be efficient, effective and support responsible stewardship of natural resources while allowing marine farmers to conduct their business economically.

"One of our top priorities is effective coastal planning."

In spite of the Government's 2011 aquaculture reforms, many coastal plans were restrictive.

"I have asked the Ministry for Primary Industries to look at ways central Government can work proactively with local government to unlock growth opportunities, and ensure protection of your existing aquaculture space."

He and Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson were planning a review of the rules around land-based aquaculture, "an area with unrealised potential".

"When we came into office, we signalled that we would create a framework that fosters environmentally sustainable aquaculture development while balancing that development with other coastal uses," Mr Carter said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7897902/Carter-backs-fish-farms>

Galway Advertiser, 1 November 2012

Galway Bay fish farm criticised for environment and wild salmon risks

By Martina Nee

A storm is brewing over a large scale Galway Bay fish farm with opposition groups rubbishing earlier claims that the project will be a jobs and local economy boost saying it will instead lead to an environmental disaster, adversely affecting wild salmon stocks, and actually posing a risk to existing jobs.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) made an announcement last month that the licence application for the deep sea salmon farm located at Inis Oírr, Galway Bay, has moved into the public consultation phase. The project was lauded not only by BIM but also local representatives for its potential to produce 15,000 tonnes of organic-certified salmon, an output that would be gradually built up over a six year period and result in the creation of more than 500 jobs as well as injecting €14.5 million into the local economy.

Environmental Impact Statement has no credibility, says angling group

However the Galway City Salmon Angling Association has this week spoken out about the possible risks the project poses. Secretary for the group, Billy Smyth, called into question the credibility of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which was released as part of the public consultation process.

“We believe that an EIS for a salmon farm this size which will turn out to be an environmental disaster should have been carried out by a competent independent body and not the people seeking the licence.” He said that a farm which has the capacity to produce 3.6 million salmon to full size would cause serious pollution to Galway Bay due to the level of excrement and waste feed deposited. Local anglers are also concerned about the affect that sea lice would have on wild salmon stocks in areas such as Spiddal, Kilcolgan, Clarinbridge, and the Corrib River systems.

“BIM tells us there will be no pesticide used on this farm to control sea lice. If this is the case then sea lice will be free to breed out of control in a short period of time as they will have millions of hosts to breed on, producing millions of larvae that salmon smolts migrating outward from Galway rivers will have to pass through.”

Mr Smyth pointed to research which shows that “the escape of hatchery bred salmon from this and other farms” puts wild salmon at risk. “Inland Fisheries Ireland will from this year not be restocking Irish rivers with hatchery reared smolts so why would BIM put our wild salmon stocks at risk from a catastrophe like what happened on Christmas Eve last off the Shetland Isles when a storm wrecked a smaller salmon farm to this one being applied for and 300,000 salmon of harvestable size escaped into the open sea or perished in the cages. When and not if this happens in Galway Bay wild salmon stocks on the west coast of Ireland could then be at risk resulting in the loss of thousands of our hard won sustainable jobs in the tourist angling industry. BIM have grossly exaggerated the amount of jobs this salmon farm will create.”

Inland Fisheries Ireland criticises lack of relevant research on sea lice impact

These concerns have been echoed by the Friends of the Irish Environment (FIS) who have highlighted a submission made by the Government agency body Inland Fisheries Ireland which criticises EIS. FIS accuses the EIS of containing many statements which are not

supported by research and highlights the absence of relevant research. The IFI state “no data is provided on the known migration routes of salmonids to support BIM’s claim that there is a ‘very low to zero risk of farmed salmon sea lice infecting wild salmon’, that ‘the extensive literature published on interactions of sea trout and salmon lice in Ireland are not referred to or discussed’, and that sea lice issues are ‘a legitimate concern in this proposal’. The IFI has called for “a full monitoring system” to be put in place and a “baseline study” to be undertaken.

A submission made by An Taisce also expressed concerns for the impact of sea lice on wild populations of salmonids including Atlantic salmon and sea trout. In its response BIM said the assertion that the Environment Impact Assessment has not accurately assessed this impact is “not grounded in fact”. It said that studies sponsored by The Marine Institute are “comprehensive, and demonstrate clearly that the proposed development, by virtue of its location and stringent sea lice management regime, is highly unlikely to have any significant impact on migratory salmonids in Galway Bay”. BIM also said that a baseline study is “clearly unnecessary” as extensive studies have already been carried out.

<http://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/56226/galway-bay-fish-farm-criticised-for-environment-and-wild-salmon-risks>

BBC News, 31 October 2012

Shetland fish farm moves to protest stock from seals



The project will see stronger nets and electronic seal scarers installed

A Shetland fish farm is investing nearly £100,000 in a project designed to protect stock from seals.

Balta Island Seafare Ltd is to install two new electronic seal scarers and introduce stronger nets at its sites off Unst.

It said the move would give better protection to salmon stocks.

The company operates a total of four marine farming sites off the coast of Unst.

The project is being supported with funding by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the European Fisheries Fund.

Christopher Ritch, from Balta Island Seafare, said: "We have had some success deterring seals with electronic scarers, and these new scarers should exclude seals from an even bigger area around the cages.

"Together with the stronger nets, I think this will go a long way towards allowing us to farm in harmony with the local nature and keep the company growing."

David Priest, from HIE, said fish farming was a major part of the Shetland economy.

He added: "The loss of stock from seals not only damages the business but escaped farmed salmon can also cause environmental damage by threatening the wild salmon population.

"The new nets and equipment installed by Balta Island Seafare will protect these wild stocks while also increasing the profitability of the business."

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