

Press Update – 15 October 2012

“Sicko Salmon”/“Farms & Disease”/“PR Disaster”/“Passionate Pleas”

The latest [Global News Update](#) includes media coverage from [Canada](#), [Scotland](#), [New Zealand](#), [Australia](#), [United States](#), [Ireland](#), [Norway](#) and the [Netherlands](#) (where two people have died from eating salmonella-infected farmed salmon - with the Dutch health agency warning that the [death toll](#) could rise to 17).



Two die from infected Foppen salmon

Dutch health agency said death toll could reach 17.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 15 October 2012 06:07 AM
Updated: 15 October 2012 07:50 AM

Two people in the Netherlands have died from eating salmonella-infected salmon produced by Dutch seafood company Foppen, according to the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

So far, the RIVM told *BNR* newsradio in the Netherlands, 550 people became ill from eating the salmon and 200 ended up in the hospital.

Norwegian TV [reported](#) (14 October) on nematode worms in Norwegian farmed salmon whilst Scottish TV [reported](#) (11 October) on a parasite causing 20% mortalities on Scottish salmon farms. E24 in Norway [reported](#) (5 October) that Norwegian farmed salmon was the source of the salmonella outbreak with Marine Harvest refusing to comment.



E24! JONAS TJERSLAND Misforstått flåteferd PER BERGE Kronisk led

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BBC NEWS EUROPE 2 October 2012 Last updated at 09:32 GMT
Salmonella in Netherlands and US Dutch smoked fish
Scores of people in the Netherlands and hundreds sickened in Dutch-US salmonella outbreak

Smoked salmon blamed for salmonella outbreak
Hundreds sickened in Dutch-US salmonella outbreak

WBOC 16 NEWS STATIONARY: Salmonella outbreak tied to salmon
Hundreds sickened in Dutch-US salmonella outbreak

TILBAKEKALLES: Hundrevis skal ha blitt syke etter å ha spist norsk røkelaks solgt i USA og Nederland. Saken har vakt oppmerksomhet verden over.

FRANK PERRY/SKJERMDUMP AFP/E24

Gir gresk fabrikk skylden for salmonella i «norsk laks»

Upcoming news includes a public hearing for a new salmon farm off Mull in [Scotland](#) (5 November); public consultation on a new 15,000 tonne ‘organic’ salmon farm in [Ireland](#) (consultation period closes on 12 December); a prize for ‘[Controversy](#)’ awarded to Dr. Alexandra Morton and Professor Richard Routledge at Simon Fraser University (24 October); and talks by Alexandra Morton at [Dalhousie University](#) (19 October) and the [Atlantic Salmon Federation](#) (16 October). Follow Alexandra Morton’s trip to Nova Scotia [online here](#)

Read Global News Updates in full [online here](#)

Including [STV News](#) (11 October) on the spread of infectious diseases at Scottish salmon farms:

“Creel fisherman Angus Campbell said: “The reports on Sepa indicate that there are hundreds of tonnes of fish dying in these sites. “Last week we saw a load of 26 tonnes heading down to Uist to get buried. It’s just incredible the amount of dead fish coming out of these sites.”



Including [ABC News](#) (4 October) on salmonella-infected Norwegian farmed salmon:

Hundreds sickened by Costco smoked salmon



Please see below for more details:

“Sicko Salmon”/“Passionate Pleas”/“Farms & Disease”/“PR Disaster”

Please find enclosed a press update (web-links are embedded in the headlines and the articles are available in full [online here](#)) including:

[“Salmon Farms and Disease: The Importance of Both Academic Freedom and Community-Engaged Research”](#) (Dr. Alexandra Morton and Professor Richard Routledge at Simon Fraser University, 24 October)

[“Alexandra Morton on ‘Farmed Salmon vs. Wild: the role of government, scientists and citizens’”](#) (Dalhousie University, 19 October)

[“Alexandra Morton at ASF”](#) (Atlantic Salmon Federation, 16 October)

[“Fish farms, lobster don’t mix, expert says: Coastline will be an aquaculture dump site, marine biologist warns”](#) (The Chronicle Herald, 15 October)

[“Isle of Mull Sleepwalks to PR Disaster/Public Hearing re Fingal's Cage may be held at Dervaig, Isle of Mull, 5th November”](#) (Salmon Factory, 15 October)

[“Two Dead After Eating Infected Farmed Salmon - Death Toll Set to Rise to 17!”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 15 October)

[“Two die from infected Foppen salmon – Dutch health agency said death toll could reach 17”](#) (Intrafish, 15 October)

[“Sushi fans urged to eat with care as oceans empty”](#) (The Standard, 15 October)

[“Consultation begins on deep sea salmon farm”](#) (Fish Farmer, 15 October)

[“Mainstream Canada takes heat over new farm – DFO approves new open net pen in Canada’s Clayoquot Sound”](#) (Intrafish, 15 October)

[“How to better use wild fish near fish farms”](#) (FIS, 15 October)

[“Tuna grow faster in deep seas: research”](#) (The Australian, 15 October)

[“King Salmon launch targets top end”](#) (Fairfax NZ, 15 October)

[“Pontoon floats away”](#) (Marlborough Express, 15 October)

[“Scientists sound the alarm and require national surveys to find out whether nematodes can be found in fish from Norwegian salmon farms”](#) (TV2, 14 October)

[“No one can understand why”](#) (Alexandra Morton, 14 October)

[“£17m loss threatens the salmon industry”](#) (Daily Mail, 13 October)

[“Parasite kills hundreds of tonnes of fish across the Western Isles”](#) (The Scotsman, 13 October)

[“Salmonella poisoning kills two in Netherlands”](#) (Mareeg, 13 October)

[“Over 500 Salmonella Cases Tied to Smoked Salmon in Netherlands”](#) (Food Safety News, 13 October)

[“Dutch public health watchdog says at least 1 elderly patient has died in salmonella outbreak”](#) (Associated Press/Montreal Gazette, 13 October)

[“Nova Scotia Day 1”](#) (Alexandra Morton, 13 October)

[“Rafe Mair's Landmark Free Speech Case Credited in Salmon Activist Staniford's Victory”](#) (Common Sense Canadian, 12 October)

[“Lessons from a fish farm defamation lawsuit”](#) (West Coast Environmental Law, 12 October)

[“DFO approves new open net-pen salmon farm in Clayoquot Sound despite ongoing concerns about disease and pathogens”](#) (Farmed & Dangerous, 12 October)

[“Clark government approves new fish farm in Clayoquot Sound”](#) (Friends of Clayoquot Sound/Living Oceans, 12 October)

[“Salmon”](#) (FAO Globefish, October)

[“Salmon ruling may be delayed”](#) (Marlborough Express, 12 October)

[“Port Gore salmon farm plan canned”](#) (Marlborough Express, 12 October)

[“King Salmon 'bought opponents' property”](#) (Marlborough Express, 12 October)

[“Vast numbers of salmon dying from major disease outbreak”](#) (Hebrides News, 12 October)

[“Fishermen in Western Isles losing up to 20% of stock as disease spreads”](#) (STV News, 11 October)

[“Jefferson County commissioners hear from experts on salmon net pens”](#) (Port Townsend Leader, 11 October)

[“Open ocean or on land for salmon farms”](#) (Marlborough Express, 11 October)

[“Salmon oil claim disputed”](#) (Marlborough Express, 11 October)

[“Inquiry ‘may be charade’”](#) (Marlborough Express, 11 October)

[“Fast-track plan may trample democracy”](#) (Marlborough Express, 11 October)

[“11 firms fined for failing to act on infected salmon”](#) (Dutch News, 11 October)

[“Salmon farming industry is a waste of resources”](#) (The Daily News, 10 October)

[“Scales of injustice”](#) (The Mercury, 10 October)

[“Judge appreciates young ideas”](#) (Marlborough Express, 10 October)

[“Locals know area better”](#) (Marlborough Express, 10 October)

[“Fish farms expected to hit property values”](#) (Marlborough Express, 10 October)

[“Fears of light pollution from farms”](#) (Marlborough Express, 10 October)

[“Anglers' objection to salmon status bid”](#) (Belfast Telegraph, 10 October)

[“Sea lice from farmed fish goes out over the wild salmon stocks”](#) (NRK, 9 October)

[“Western Isles salmon farm in wrasse ‘first’”](#) (BBC News, 9 October)

[“Nova Scotia Atlantic salmon feedlots, sea lice? Maybe”](#) (You Tube, 9 October)

[“Fish disease experts discuss aquaculture”](#) (Peninsula Daily News, 9 October)

[“Marine Harvest preliminary Q3 core earnings drop 86 pct”](#) (Reuters, 9 October)

[“Residents raise opposition to NZKS plan”](#) (Marlborough Express, 9 October)

[“Farms will ‘scar’ sounds”](#) (Marlborough Express, 9 October)

[“Salmon farm moved again”](#) (Marlborough Express, 9 October)

[“Fish farms to expand in West”](#) (The Mercury, 9 October)

[“Final hurdle for fish farm expansion”](#) (ABC News, 9 October)

[“Green light for salmon farming expansion”](#) (ABC News, 8 October)

[“Residents show their concerns”](#) (Marlborough Express, 8 October)

[“Balance of nature in Sounds 'at risk'”](#) (Marlborough Express, 8 October)

[“Zealot – not really”](#) (reLAKSation, 7 October)

[“Sockeye success key to our spiritual health”](#) (The Vancouver Sun, 6 October)

[“Roundworms found in Norwegian farmed salmon for first time: see what the researchers found in farmed salmon”](#) (TV2, 5 October)

[“Greek factory blamed for salmonella in ‘Norwegian Salmon’”](#) (E24, 5 October)

[“Salmon in giant tanks can threaten the Norwegian export”](#) (Aftenposten, 5 October)

[“Cermaq takes \\$9 million hit on disease outbreaks in Q3”](#) (Intrafish, 5 October)

[“Activists call for Fisheries Bill to help wild waters”](#) (The Scotsman, 5 October)

[“Could Foppen’s flop cost it the Coscto contract?”](#) (Intrafish, 5 October)

[“Do You Want to Eat Genetically Engineered Salmon?”](#) (EcoWatch, 5 October)

[“BAP certifies its first two salmon farms in Australasia”](#) (FIS, 5 October)

[“We will defend our rights”](#) (Marlborough Express, 5 October)

[“Funding Advances Important Reporting Work by BC's Salmon Farmers”](#) (The Fish Site, 5 October)

[“Wise words from Carl Sagan”](#) (Salmon Farm Science, 5 October)

[“Salmon farm activist acquitted of defamation”](#) (The Daily News, 4 October)

[“Mainstream defamation suit dismissed by BC Supreme Court”](#) (The Westerly News, 4 October)

[“Norsk laks får skylden for salmonellautbrudd”](#) (Aftenposten, 4 October)

[“Laks får skylden for hundrevis av salmonellatilfeller”](#) (NTB/Nettavisen, 4 October)

[“Video: Costco salmon made me sick”](#) (Intrafish, 4 October)

[“Sicko Salmon - ABC News on "Horrible" Norwegian Farmed Salmon”](#) (Salmon Farming Kills, 4 October)

[“Costco Recalls Smoked Salmon Sold to Quarter of a Million Customers”](#) (Food Safety News, 4 October)

[“Costco pulls salmonella-tainted salmon from shelves”](#) (FIS, 4 October)

[“Hundreds sickened by Costco smoked salmon”](#) (KVUE/ABC News, 4 October)

[“Passionate pleas at fish farm hearing”](#) (Marlborough Express, 4 October)

[“Iwi slates poor cultural approach at hearing”](#) (Marlborough Express, 4 October)

[“Scotland’s fish farming faces stricter controls”](#) (BBC News, 4 October)

[“Law ‘can reform fisheries industry’”](#) (IC Scotland, 4 October)

[“Austin woman says Costco smoked salmon made her sick”](#) (ABC News, 3 October)

[“FDC, CDC advise consumers not to eat Foppen smoked salmon”](#) (Intrafish, 3 October)

[“Call for appeals board transparency”](#) (The Fish Site, 3 October)

[“First salmon farm commits to ASC”](#) (Seafood Source, 3 October)

[“Salmon activist wins defamation case”](#) (Fish & Fly, 3 October)

[“Commissioners told to include net-pens in Shoreline Management Plan update”](#) (Port Townsend Leader, 3 October)

[“Green MP says salmon firm has history of mistakes”](#) (Marlborough Express, 3 October)

[“Will salmon farming ever stop having a hard time?”](#) (Seafood Source, 2 October)

[“Salmon Activist Don Staniford Wins Big Victory in Defamation Case Over Norwegian Aquaculture Giant”](#) (Common Sense Canadian, 30 September)

From Brian Plaisier in the [Marlborough Express](#) (8 October) in New Zealand:

“We have a duty to our children to protect our environment. We need to recognise that we've reached a tipping point in our Sounds. We need to ask ourselves the hard questions: do we put economy before environment, and how do we justify that to our mokopuna?”

From [NRK News](#) (9 October) in Norway:

“Leader of the scientific advice for salmon management, Torbjørn Forseth, says sea lice situation in Norway is very serious. Lice has long been a problem for farmed fish in Norway. Increasingly, however, has lice spread to wild salmon.....Forseth says that sea lice in wild salmon is a clearly the biggest problem in the area with much farming. - One must really keep the pressure up, for there is a connection between how much it is lice in farmed fish and the quantity of lice that come in wild fish.”

From the [Port Townsend Leader](#) (11 October) in Washington state in the US:

“Jefferson County commissioners have begun discussing what happens when native fish become infected with lethal viruses and parasites as a result of net pens, even though no pens are currently planned for the county..... John Kerwin, with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said a virus known as infectious salmon anemia (ISA) was detected in Canadian waters in October 2011. He said Washington state labs have samples, but haven't fine-tuned the testing process.”

From Alexandra Morton [reporting](#) (13 October) from her visit to Nova Scotia:

“We passed dozens of signs “STOP FISH FARMS,” “OPEN NET SALMON FARMS ARE NOT WELCOME!” Clearly there is a [battle going on here](#)..... The signs made it clear this community is not willing to give their way of life easily. They are standing ground.”



Watch Norwegian TV (14 October) on nematode worms in Norwegian farmed salmon – [online here](#)



From [The Marlborough Express](#) (11 October) in New Zealand:

“King Salmon aquaculture general manager Mark Preece had said land-based farming was feasible but operating costs were double those of the company's sea farms. However, a Canadian study found it would cost \$12 to \$14 million to build a farm capable of growing 1000 tonnes of fish, he said. This was similar to the cost of the hearing and would eliminate community concerns.”

From [The Mercury](#) (10 October) in Australia:

“Frances Bender and David Whyte are salmon farmers but sometimes, particularly on a long-distance flight, they might not want to admit to it. David says he can almost see a person pressing the buzzer for the flight attendant and asking to be moved when he tells them his job. If he is tired he might claim to be a public servant working in statistics. Frances, who with her husband Peter owns Huon Aquaculture, says sometimes she also is too tired to "fight the good fight".

From [The Mercury](#) (9 October) reporting on the trebling of production in Tasmania:

“The decision by the Federal Environment Minister requires that baseline environmental survey and ongoing water quality monitoring is undertaken on all lease areas and compliance sites prior to commencement of operations," Greens MP Tim Morris said. "Without baseline data and effective monitoring in place, any expansion of salmon farming within Macquarie Harbour could have the potential to backfire terribly and undermine the long term viability of the industry."

From the [Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform](#) (12 October) in British Columbia:

“Replacing a poorly producing site with a site able to greatly expand production of Atlantic salmon in open net-pens along the Bedwell Sound and Fortune Channel corridor is a recipe for disaster for wild salmon.”

From [The Marlborough Express](#) (10 October):

“Mrs Gerard said rough weather in Gore Bay risked predator exclusion nets at the proposed Papatua farm being damaged, then entangling dolphins. King Salmon reports had mentioned a policy of no guns except in extreme circumstances, Mrs Gerard said. "We don't believe they should have the right to shoot anything in a marine environment," she said.”

From [The Marlborough Express](#) (9 October):

“Some Marlborough Sounds residents accused King Salmon of operating with a "slash and burn" mentality and failing to acknowledge the danger further farms would pose to boat traffic at a hearing on Friday.....East Bay Conservation Society president Mark Denize opposed King Salmon's application, on behalf of the society, saying the farms would pollute the environment and there was a lack of monitoring on existing sites. "It is now abundantly clear that the entire enterprise is being run under a slash and burn modus operandi”.

From the [Peninsula Daily News](#) (9 October) in Washington state in the United States:

“Midway into a workshop about fish diseases with regard to net pen aquaculture, one of the panelists put the discussion into a certain perspective. “I can't imagine any rational company would install a fish-farming site anywhere in Jefferson County,” said Mike Rust, science coordinator for the Office of Aquaculture in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, on Monday afternoon. He later said the comment was a joke, though some attending the meeting took it seriously.”

From artist Robert Bateman in [The Vancouver Sun](#) (10 October) in response to the question ‘What’s wrong with farmed salmon?’:

“We’re catching fish down in South America like anchovies and all kinds of things like that and processing it to feed to other fish. It’s a mug’s game. You actually lose in the food chain. We shouldn’t be doing that. If we have to farm fish, it should be tilapia farmed on land — it should have a vegetarian diet. It’s just a bad idea.”

From [The Washington Post](#) (10 October) on Norwegian farmed salmon:

“Norwegian ocean-farmed salmon is richer in omega-3s than wild salmon (although there is a growing body of evidence pointing to [the negatives](#) of the fish).”

From Laurie Watt writing in [The Daily News](#) (10 October):

“In my opinion the entire salmon feedlot industry is a waste of resources....in addition to being breeding grounds for sea lice and disease and should be completely banned. I believe the feedlot industry in B.C. is allowed to exist because both the federal and provincial governments want to kill all the wild salmon and the indigenous cultures they support, for the ultimate goal of drilling for oil off our once-pristine coast”

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

The screenshot shows a GoFundMe page for the 'Salmon Disease Testing Fund'. At the top, the GoFundMe logo and tagline 'The easy way to raise money online.' are visible, along with a search bar and buttons for 'Help', 'Sign Up', and 'Donate'. The main title of the campaign is 'Salmon Disease Testing'. Below the title is a large image featuring a woman holding a salmon, with a 'Superstore' sign in the background. The image also shows salmon fillets and a table with data. The table has columns for 'Fund Link #', 'Fund & Name', 'Location', 'Project Funding (\$)', and 'Date/Time of Post'. Below the image, it shows 'Raised: \$36,500.00' and 'Goal: \$100,000.00'. To the right of the image is a sidebar with the creator's information: 'Created by Alexandra Morton', '3021 Friends', and buttons for 'Contact' and 'Embed'. A quote from the creator reads: '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'. Below the quote are social media sharing options for Facebook (393 Likes), Pinterest, Twitter (52 Tweets), and Email (57). At the bottom right is a large blue 'DONATE!' button with a checkmark icon.

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

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

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.

Best fishes,

Don

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

Simon Fraser University, 24 October 2012



Please join us for the presentation of the
**2012 Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy to
Dr. Alexandra Morton
& Dr. Richard Routledge**

Join us for their Sterling Prize Lecture:

*Salmon Farms and Disease:
The Importance of Both Academic Freedom
and Community-Engaged Research*

Wednesday, October 24, 7pm

Morris J Wosk Centre for dialogue
580 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
(enter from Seymour Street courtyard)

Reception Follows

Sponsored by the Vice-President, Academic

www.sfu.ca/sterlingprize

This event is free but reservations are required:
Register [online](#) or call 778.782.5010

The Nora and Ted Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy was established by Nora and Ted Sterling, the founding chair of computing science at Simon Fraser University, in 1993 to honour and encourage work that provokes and/or contributes to the understanding of controversy. The Sterling Prize is awarded annually to a recipient whose work presents new ways of looking at the world, ways that are daring and creative.

<http://www.sfu.ca/sterlingprize/>

Alexandra Morton at Dalhousie University, 19 October 2012

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

5th Annual
Ransom A. Myers Lecture
in Science and Society
Friday, Oct. 19th, 2012, 7pm

Farmed Salmon vs. Wild:
the role of government, scientists
and citizens

The Ransom A. Myers
Lecture Series

Venue: Potter Auditorium
Rowe Management Building
Dalhousie University
Reception to Follow

Speaker: Dr. Alexandra Morton
Founder and Director of the
Raincoast Research Society
Simoom Sound, BC Canada

You are cordially invited to attend the Fifth Annual Ransom A. Myers Lecture on Science and Society on Friday October 19th, 2012, at 7 pm in the Potter Auditorium of Dalhousie University's Rowe Management Building, 6100 University Avenue.

The lecture titled "Farmed Salmon vs. Wild: the role of government, scientists and citizens" will be given by renowned marine biologist, Dr. Alexandra Morton.

A reception will follow. Admission is free.

Salmon farming is expanding rapidly in Canada and elsewhere, and has replaced fisheries for wild salmon in some regions. Environmental concerns around this industry include pollution, exotic disease introduction, and the amplification and transfer of other pathogens to wild salmon.

Renowned marine biologist and environmental advocate Alexandra Morton will discuss the sometimes conflicting roles of government, scientists, citizens and industry in the struggle to regulate environmental impacts, and to maintain healthy and productive salmon populations in Canada.

Dr. Alexandra Morton is the founder and director of the Raincoast Research Society, a charitable non-profit society dedicated to science (see: www.raincoastresearch.org) in Simoom Sound, British Columbia.

The annual Ransom A. Myers Lecture on Science and Society has been organized by his family, colleagues and former students and is supported by the President's Office at Dalhousie University.

<http://nsapes.ca/invitation-alex-mortons-talk>

Atlantic Salmon Federation, 16 October 2012

Alexandra Morton at ASF

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7.00 pm

Dr. Alexandra Morton will be speaking at the **ATLANTIC SALMON INTERPRETIVE CENTRE**

on the topic of **SALMON FARMING: IMPACTS AND POLITICS**

to be followed by a community discussion. Presented by the Atlantic Coalition for Aquaculture Reform.

Alexandra Morton is internationally recognized for her work in British Columbia with regard to sea lice, ISA and particularly the sites in the Broughton Archipelago.

Dr. Morton also led a successful court case to shift jurisdiction for aquaculture to the Federal Government in BC waters.

at ATLANTIC SALMON INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
CHAMCOOK, NB
TUESDAY, OCT. 16, 7 PM

JOIN US FOR A
COMMUNITY
PRESENTATION
& DISCUSSION

SALMON FARMING: IMPACTS AND POLITICS

Presentation by

DR. ALEXANDRA MORTON

Followed by a Community Discussion

<http://www.asf.ca/alexandra-morton-at-asf.html>

The Chronicle Herald, 15 October 2012

Fish farms, lobster don't mix, expert says

Coastline will be an aquaculture dump site, marine biologist warns

By [BRETT BUNDALE Business Reporter](#)



Alexandra Morton at her research station in Echo Bay, B.C., in 2008. (THE NEW YORK TIMES)

An independent marine biologist says Nova Scotia's coastline is slated to become a dump site for the aquaculture industry.

Alexandra Morton, who has spent 20 years studying the impact of fish farming on wild marine species in British Columbia, is warning that Nova Scotia's fisheries are in peril.

"There is a tremendous conflict between fish farms and the lobster industry here," Morton said in an interview Sunday from Freeport, a fishing village at the end of Digby Neck on Long Island.

"Fishermen here feel like aquaculture is destroying their way of life."

Morton will give the fifth annual Ransom A. Myers Lecture in Science and Society at Dalhousie University in Halifax on Friday.

A renowned marine biologist and conservationist, Myers was passionate about halting the deleterious effects of overfishing on the ocean's fish stocks, especially Atlantic cod.

Morton has picked up the mantle of defending wild marine species, but it is aquaculture, not overfishing, that she sees as the threat.

She arrived in Nova Scotia a week before her lecture to learn first-hand how fish farming is affecting communities in the province.

Her concerns with the aquaculture industry include fish fecal waste accumulating beneath the cages, excess fish feed, chemicals, sea lice and viruses.

“Not only does the industry pollute the shorelines, but it threatens lobster grounds,” Morton said.

She said some of the drugs used to treat sea lice can be harmful to shelled marine species such as prawns on the West Coast or lobsters in Atlantic Canada.

Another issue is the location of fish farms.

Morton said on the West Coast, fish pens are located in deep waters, but in Nova Scotia, many are being placed in shallow bays close to homes and popular fishing grounds.

“They are putting these farms on top of viable lobster grounds where it’s shallow and there is low flush. It seems a real conflict of interest to have one industry allowed to come in and set anchors down right on top of the prime fishing grounds.”

Morton said she was surprised by the number of homemade signs in people’s yards and strong opposition to fish farming in Nova Scotia.

“People feel abandoned by the NDP government. They tell me they feel betrayed by (Premier) Darrell Dexter, who criticized the Conservative government for not listening to the community, then turned around and granted fish farm licences and gave \$25 million to Cooke Aquaculture.”

Despite two decades of striving to protect sockeye salmon in the Fraser River, Morton said she does not have a quick solution to Nova Scotia’s aquaculture dilemma.

“I wish I could point to one place in the world where the wild fisheries were working around the salmon farms. I would study that and say, ‘Here’s what we need to do,’ but that place doesn’t exist.”

She said alternatives, such as getting fish farms out of the ocean and into closed, onshore pens remains elusive for now.

“They say it’s the cost of building the tanks, so they keep putting fish in the ocean, which is acting like a big, free flush for them.

Morton said “this coastline has been clearly slated to become a dump site for this industry.”

“I can’t believe how beautiful these communities are and how viable the lobster fishery still is. But the coastline will suffer if aquaculture continues this way.”

The lecture will take place at 7 p.m. in the Potter Auditorium of the Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building.

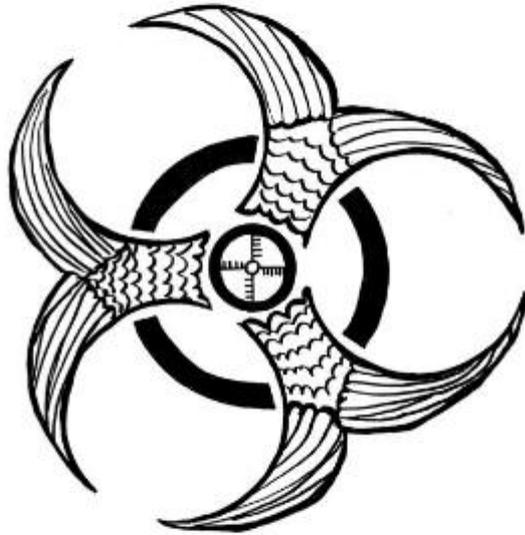
bbundale@herald.ca

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/148415-fish-farms-lobster-don-t-mix-expert-says>

Salmon Factory, 15 October 2012

Public Hearing re Fingal's Cage may be held at
Dervaig, Isle of Mull, 5th November

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

Scottish salmon farming means ...

* *Creating Jobs ... ?* *

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.

- ✂ [Wild Salmon killed by Sea Lice](#) ✂
- ✂ [Iconic Landscapes de-Wilded](#) ✂
- ✂ [Cetaceans Excluded and Disturbed](#) ✂
- ✂ [We Prefer our Seals Alive](#) ✂
- ✂ [And our Lochs Unpolluted](#) ✂
- ✂ [Risk of Cancer and Birth Defects](#) ✂
- ✂ [Mysterious Quango U-Turns](#) ✂
- ✂ [Salmon Industry Cover Ups](#) ✂

~~✘~~ [Wild Fishery Crisis Exacerbated](#) ~~✘~~

~~✘~~ [Public Right to Navigate Blocked](#) ~~✘~~

~~✘~~ [Welfare - Royal Veterinary School](#) ~~✘~~

~~✘~~ [Is this Mayhem Unnecessary ?](#) ~~✘~~

<http://www.salmonfactory.com/>

Read also "[Isle of Mull Sleepwalks to PR Disaster - Salmon Industry News](#)"

Green Around the Gills, 15 October 2012

Two Dead After Eating Infected Farmed Salmon - Death Toll Set to Rise to 17!

The Norwegian trade publication [Intrafish](#) reported today (15 October) that two people had died after eating salmonella-infected salmon - with the Dutch health agency warning that the death toll could rise to 17.

"Blunders to Recall Contaminated Salmon" reported the [Dutch newspaper AD](#) (15 October). "Someone has been sleeping," said a food safety expert as it was revealed that the Dutch processor Foppen took five days to recall the contaminated salmon. "This is a serious error that can get quite legal consequences," said IJsbrand Velzeboer.

'Blunders bij terugroepactie besmette zalm'

BEWAAR

GERELATEERD NIEUWS

Door: redactie

15-10-12 - 09:57 bron: ANP / De Stentor



Twee doden door eten van besmette zalm



Al 550 mensen ziek door besmette zalm



Boete voor 11 bedrijven wegens besmette zalm

MEER OVER

GEZONDHEID

HARDERWIJK

GELDERLAND

NEDERLAND

"So far, 550 people in the Netherlands are certainly ill from consuming contaminated salmon," continued the article in [AD](#). "Of these, about 200 hospitalized. Based on the large number of patients by the outbreak and fixed computational models the Dutch health agency RIVM estimated that eventually 17 people can die from the infection."

TV2 in Norway also broadcast a shocking report over the weekend (14 October) featuring nematode worms in Norwegian farmed salmon.

Read article in full via: <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/10/two-dead-after-eating-infected-farmed-salmon-death-toll-predicted-to-rise-to-17-.html>

Intrafish, 15 October 2012



Two die from infected Foppen salmon

Dutch health agency said death toll could reach 17.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 15 October 2012 06:07 AM

Updated: 15 October 2012 07:50 AM

Two people in the Netherlands have died from eating salmonella-infected salmon produced by Dutch seafood company Foppen, according to the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

So far, the RIVM told *BNR* newsradio in the Netherlands, 550 people became ill from eating the salmon and 200 ended up in the hospital.

The RIVM says that the actual number of infections with the bacterium is likely in the thousands.

"There's been a very exceptional and large outbreak, and we expect the next week that there is still a lot of cases to recover," said RIVM director Roel Coutinho.

In early October, **Foppen recalled 100,000 packages of smoked salmon** from retail shelves in the Netherlands after being alerted to the **contamination**.

The recall spread to the United States, where warehouse club giant **Costco was forced to pull private-label and Foppen brand product from its shelves** and **contact over 250,000 customers** who had purchased the product. The infected salmon is being blamed for roughly **100 illnesses in the United States**.

Based on mathematical models, RIVM estimates the number of deaths from the outbreak could reach 17.

The infectious salmon came from Foppen's operations in Greece.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1357325.ece>

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Fish Farmer, 15 October 2012

Consultation begins on deep sea salmon farm

The public consultation period officially begins today (Monday 15th October 2012) in the licence application process for a deep sea fish farm in outer Galway Bay.



The consultation period will run for eight weeks, during which time any member of the public may make observations or comments to the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D. The closing date for submissions to the Minister is midnight on the 12th of December 2012.

The public consultation period is being widely publicised and accompanied by a comprehensive information campaign. All of the application information, including the full Environmental Impact Statement, drawings and artists impressions of the proposed development as well as Irish and English versions of a non-technical summary are available at www.bim.ie.

BIM's CEO, Jason Whooley, reiterated the Seafood Development Agency's commitment to full and transparent communications throughout the process and welcomed the beginning of the public consultation phase.

He said: 'BIM have a vital role to play in the coming eight weeks to ensure that members of the public are given the opportunity to inform themselves about the proposed development. The level of scientific research that has gone into identifying these potentially suitable locations in outer Galway Bay for deep sea fish farming is unprecedented, bringing together research and modelling from some of the State's most eminent marine scientists. We are confident that the very carefully chosen locations, matched with the rigorous monitoring that must accompany any salmon farm in Ireland will enable the proposed development to run successfully and produce premium organic salmon, something that Ireland is world renowned for.'

The licence application for the deep sea salmon farm is to produce 15,000 tonnes of organic-certified salmon. It is envisaged that, should the application be successful, this output will be carefully and incrementally built up over a 6 year period, bringing with it over 500 new jobs. These jobs would be created both directly (350) and indirectly (150) creating a €14.5 million annual wages flow, mainly in the vicinity of the proposed farm. Irish organic farmed salmon is a premium product in Europe, commanding on average a 50% premium on farmed salmon produced elsewhere. This exceptional market position is a direct result of the strict standards that Ireland's organic salmon farmers adhere to. The single biggest issue facing Irish salmon producers today is that they cannot fulfil the demand for their product.

In order to ensure that this highly valuable natural resource remains in the ownership of the State and also to ensure ongoing rigorous enforcement of environmental standards, BIM would retain the licence as an asset for the State and seek a suitable commercial operator to manage the efficient running of the salmon farm. This approach will allow BIM to apply additional standards to the running of the farm, to maximise returns to the local coastal economy in accordance with our mission to develop the Irish seafood industry and sustain coastal communities.

BIM has already engaged in widespread stakeholder meetings and briefings in an effort to make people aware of the proposed project, its nature and scale and also to explain the unique approach that is being taken to secure this opportunity to create jobs and wealth for the local economy.

http://www.fishfarmer-magazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/2234/Consultation_begins_on_deep_sea_salmon_farm.html

The Standard, 15 October 2012

Sushi fans urged to eat with care as oceans empty

CANDY CHAN

We should rein in our appetite for five types of sushi that have tipped the oceans' ecological balance into dangerous waters.

So says Greenpeace, which notes locals ate 500,000 kilograms of fish last year - about 70kg per capita - putting the SAR second in Asia in terms of consumption.

This exceeds Japan, the world's sushi capital, which ranks third, with each Japanese consuming about 54kg. The Maldives tops the list at 139kg per capita.

Greenpeace campaigner Yeung Man-yau said our appetite for fish is threatening the ecological balance of the oceans. "Salmon, for example, is being extensively bred in the Atlantic and could threaten the oceans' ecological order," Yeung said.

Some 16 million kg of salmon - mostly imported from Norway - were consumed in Hong Kong last year.

Yeung said farmers raised the ocean-farmed salmon from the cold waters of Norway through "unsustainable methods."

The second most consumed is eel, with 1.4 million kg eaten last year.

"Eel can neither be manually bred nor raised. It is being extensively harvested and may be endangered if the trend continues," Yeung said. The others are swordfish, tuna and prawn.

In Causeway Bay, sushi lover Yennis Leung said she rarely thinks of conservation when eating sushi. "Salmon is a favorite as it is tasty and cheaper," she said.

Having completed patrols of the South Korean and Taiwan seas, the Greenpeace flagship will arrive in the SAR, where it will host public events from Saturday to Tuesday.

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?we_cat=4&art_id=127299&sid=37911153&con_type=1&d_str=20121015&fc=10

Intrafish, 15 October 2012

Mainstream Canada takes heat over new farm

DFO approves new open net pen farm in Canada's Clayoquot Sound.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 15 October 2012 06:01 AM

Updated: 15 October 2012 07:58 AM

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) and other green groups are coming out against Mainstream Canada's most recent open net pen salmon farm in Canada's Clayoquot Sound, which Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) approved on Wednesday.

"DFO calls this new license a 'replacement' for another site that has been inactive for 47 out of the last 51 months," said David Lane, executive director of the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation. "Replacing a poorly producing site with a site able to greatly expand production of Atlantic salmon in open net-pens along the Bedwell Sound and Fortune Channel corridor is a recipe for disaster for wild salmon."

Earlier this year Mainstream Canada emptied two of their farm sites in Clayoquot Sound due to confirmation of the IHN virus in their Atlantic salmon. The source was passing wild salmon, they claim.

Testimony was given at the Cohen Inquiry last winter showing evidence of positive test results for the ISA virus at two other Pacific salmon farms in the Sound. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is currently in the first year of a two year pathogen surveillance program of wild and farmed salmon in British Columbia coastal waters. Results are not yet available.

"We are hugely disappointed that DFO took this decision at this time," said Kelly Roebuck, of the Living Oceans Society. "The Cohen Report is due out in less than a month and the recommendations from that report may have an impact on salmon farming everywhere in B.C., not just along the migration routes of Fraser River sockeye."

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1357293.ece>

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Read also:

["DFO APPROVES NEW OPEN NET-PEN SALMON FARM IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND DESPITE ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT DISEASE AND PATHOGENS"](#) (Georgia Strait Alliance, 12 October)

Fisheries Information Service, 15 October 2012



A large catch of cod that was caught in shallow water. (Photo: Ole Vegard Mosseng/Nofima)

How to better use wild fish near fish farms



NORWAY

Monday, October 15, 2012, 03:00 (GMT + 9)

There is an abundance of wild fish around fish farms, but it is not permitted to fish within 100m of those centres. [Scientists at Nofima Mat, the Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research](#), and the [Institute of Marine Research](#) have studied how to utilize these fish better.

Protection and access to food offer increased production

The studies showed that the amount of wild fish, both saithe and cod, was much higher right beside the sea cages than at a distance of 100m. Wild fish have a tendency to be attracted to physical installations in the sea.

In addition, it is presumed that wild fish can benefit from increased access to food either directly from the fish farms or by grazing on animals that exploit the increased access to food. As fishing is not permitted within 100m of fish farms, the coastal fleet does not have access to this resource.

Coastal fleet needs to consider

The ban on fishing within 100m of fish farms was introduced because of the large risk of damage to fish farms and fishing gear. The wild fish attracted to fish farms represent a resource that can and should be utilized.

A “win – win” situation

It is believed the abundance of wild fish in the fjords is reduced by establishing fish farms, while others claim the fish farms attract fish. The goal of this project was to study the basis for fishing wild fish around fish farms.

“We know of coastal vessels that have caught their entire cod quota just outside the 100m limit,” said Project Manager Bjørn Steinar Sæther.

The project, which involves scientists from both Nofima and the Institute of Marine Research, tested several types of fish pots, which will be able to provide a gentle live capture, better raw material quality and economic benefits for fishers.



The fish pot being slowly pulled to the surface. (Photo: Ole Vegard Mosseng/Nofima)

More saithe than cod

Saithe was the predominant species round the fish farm. Observations indicate that the saithe is attracted to fish farms primarily because of the access to feed. This is supported by the fact that more saithe were caught in the fish pots.

Saithe dominated the diet of big cod, and the cod caught near the sea cages were larger than those caught 100m from the cages. This indicates that the big cod are attracted to the fish farm to eat saithe. In all likelihood, smaller cod are to a higher degree attracted by the feed.

Fish pots well suited

The largest fish pots had the best catch. Video observations showed that movements in the fish pots scared away the saithe. Consequently, fish pots should be constructed in such a way as to restrict movement in the water current.

Fish pots are a relatively safe type of fishing gear with respect to damage to fish farms and other installations. As the fish are captured alive, it creates opportunities for controlled killing, bleeding and handling of the catch in an optimal manner, which provides raw material with whiter flesh and less variation in quality.

Source: [Nofima](#)

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www.fis.com

<http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=aquaculture&monthyear=&day=&id=56092&ndb=1&df=0>

The Australian, 15 October 2012

Tuna grow faster in deep seas: research

by: *Kellee Nolan*

DEEP sea tuna farming could be the way of the future, after Australian researchers found the fish grow twice as fast when raised in "farms" further from the coast.

University of Tasmania scientist Nicole Kirchhoff said the research could open the way for commercial fisheries around the world to find financial backing for deep sea "farms", after previously struggling to get funding to relocate, due to a lack of research about outcomes.

The University of Tasmania research was funded jointly by the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

It tracked the health and growth of about 10,000 tuna caught and raised for sale in caged farms the traditional 20km offshore, compared with about 10,000 others raised in farms 50-60km offshore.

"We found that when we moved the fish (further) offshore they got to market size in about half the time as the fish in the traditional environment," Dr Kirchhoff told AAP.

"We also found none of the parasites we commonly find in ranch-farmed tuna and ... what we had to feed them to get to market weight was a lot less."

Ranch-farmed tuna are caught weighing between 15-20kg and are fed pilchards while caged until they grow to more than 30kg for harvest.

Dr Kirchhoff said the world-first research found the tuna farmed further offshore reached 30kg or more in six weeks, compared to 13 weeks for those closer to shore, were happier and healthier on 15 different markers and ate less, making deep-sea farming more sustainable.

The research was conducted at tuna farms in Port Lincoln, South Australia, from January to September 2010 and was presented at a Fresh Science event in Melbourne on Monday.

Dr Kirchhoff said four of the 12 Port Lincoln tuna farms had now moved further offshore and organisations around the world were interested in the research results.

She said possible reasons for tuna growing faster when caged further offshore could include more stable water temperatures, clearer, cleaner waters allowing the tuna to see their prey more clearly and greater water depths making them less vulnerable to ocean-floor parasites.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/tuna-grow-faster-in-deep-seas-research/story-fn3dxiwe-1226496426062>

Fairfax NZ, 15 October 2012

King Salmon launch targets top end

Jenny Keown

South Island salmon producer King Salmon has launched a new premium breed of salmon targeting local and overseas professional chefs and high-end restaurants.

The company says that the product, Ora King, is founded on more than two decades of classical breeding.

For some months the company has been testing the product in overseas markets and it was served at the Governor General's dinner in honour of the country's Olympians in London in July.

Ora King has been selectively available in Europe, Australia and China and is soon to be launched in the United States and Japan. This month the product is being launched to professional chefs in New Zealand.

The company has set up a specialist food service team to market the product directly to chefs, the hospitality industry and selected distributors.

However the launch has the potential to be overshadowed by the company's \$8 million application to the Environmental Protection Authority to build eight new farms in the Marlborough Sounds, some in areas where marine farming is prohibited.

The company's application has been met with strong opposition from the local Marlborough Sounds community. Commentators say the new initiative is high-risk because the company's supply to overseas markets depends on the EPA's approval.

The EPA's hearing on the matter is in its last week. It is scheduled to issue a draft decision to the Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson on November 19 and a final decision by December 31.

However the EPA has asked Wilkinson for another three months to make its decision, citing concerns that the time constraints would compromise a robust decision.

The company said if granted all the space applied for it would be able to increase export income from \$60 million to \$220m a year and create more than 300 new jobs for the region.

King Salmon is the world's biggest farmer and supplier of the King salmon variety with 55 per cent of the global market.

It produces about 7,500 metric tonnes of King salmon a year accounting for 70 per cent of the country's salmon production.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/7817519/King-Salmon-launch-targets-top-end>

Marlborough Express, 15 October 2012

Pontoon floats away

Anna Williams



Scott Hammond

Adrift: This salmon farm pontoon was afloat in Havelock Harbour overnight on Saturday.

Heavy rain and flooding in Canvastown and Havelock caused a salmon farm pontoon moored in the Pelorus River to break free and float into the entrance of the Havelock marina.

The 40 metre by 40 metre salmon farm, owned by King Salmon, was not in use and was being dismantled for sale as scrap metal.

Havelock man Murray Sleeth said he saw the pontoon floating around in the main channel entrance to the marina at 7.15pm on Saturday.

He lost sight of it when it got dark and by 7am yesterday it had moved from the eastern side of the channel to the western side, he said.

"It's amazing it could just be floating around like that," he said.

"You don't expect to see one floating around the entrance to the marina with no-one on it or watching it."

It was fortunate there were not many people out on the water, Mr Sleeth said.

"Luckily it was a weekend and a crap night," he said.

The pontoon had no lights and was not visible once it was dark, he said.

"I wouldn't like to come across it at night."

King Salmon aquaculture general manager Mark Preece said the pontoon was on Twiddles Island in the Pelorus River and it was washed off when the river rose after the heavy rain.

The pontoon did not make it into the channel, Mr Preece said.

He compared it to a tree falling into the river and said the situation was being managed.

The Marlborough harbourmaster had put out a navigation warning and the pontoon would have been visible by radar, he said.

Depending on the tide, the pontoon would be towed back to the island in the Pelorus River this morning. It would take two to three days to finish dismantling it, he said.

Havelock man John Humm said the pontoon ended up in front of his house on Rose St yesterday morning.

He did not believe the situation was dangerous.

"I don't think at any stage it was a hazard. It was monitored all night," Mr Humm said.

"It's a non-event. It was a big high river and it got flushed down the river. They put it up there to cut it up but didn't finish the job before the flood came."

Pelorus Boating Club commodore Michael Connolly was on the water on Saturday but left because of the weather.

"The river was rising like crazy, so we left about 1pm," he said.

He was not aware of the pontoon yesterday and said if anyone would be affected by a floating pontoon blocking the channel it would be the mussel farmers who rely on going out on a Sunday for Monday's production.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7816094/Pontoon-floats-away>

TV2, 14 October 2012

[Translated via Google Translate]

Researchers require national efforts after shock discoveries in the Norwegian fish

Scientists sound the alarm and require national surveys to find out whether nematodes can be found in fish from Norwegian salmon farms.



Watch video report [online here](#)



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While several researchers TV 2've talked to recommend a broad survey of Norwegian fish farm after the discovery of roundworms - so called nematodes - in Norwegian farmed fish, the government chooses to restrict the investigations to one plant.

Livestock facility chosen is exactly the same as the Veterinary Institute have already examined. Through scientific investigation, they establish that the parasite can be detected in the draft fish - so called taper fish - which are much smaller and weaker than usual farmed fish plant.

- Cannot be ruled out

So far it is not found nematodes in farmed fish that go to market. National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research (NIFES) is engaged by the FSA to investigate found on.

But not Nifes possible that fish going to include sushi can contain nematodes.

- Of course we can not rule it out. But the risk of parasitic nematode to infect the edible parts of the salmon is negligible, says researcher Arne Levsen, National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research (NIFES) in Bergen.

Requires wider study

Nematodes can cause serious intestinal diseases if it enters the human body.

Professor Trygve Poppe and students at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science the discovery in 2011. He thinks we have too little knowledge about fish farming in other parts of the country.

- There may be significant regional differences here. That's important, because we export after all fish from the coast, certainly, said Poppe.

- That's why we suggest that we should do this more, says section Tor Atle Mo at Veterinærinstituttet to TV 2

They get support from one of the foremost researchers on fish health, which mean found by nematodes are serious.

- This should initiate more research on the situation along the Norwegian coast. For seals and whales are found along the Norwegian coast, and the infection will be found along the Norwegian coast, said professor Are Nylund at the Department of Biology at the University of Bergen.

Risk

FSA to apply a risk assessment from the European Food Safety Authority EFSA, which in 2010 established that the risk of nematodes in raw Norwegian farmed fish is very low.

The premise for review is that normal farmed exclusively feed on pellets. However, recent studies show that farmed fish also eat other organisms and small fish that may contain infectious agents.

In spring 2013 rains Nifes having completed his study of nematodes in Norwegian farmed fish. Levsen do not rule out that this could trigger a new assessment or updated scientific advice from EFSA.

<http://www.tv2.no/nyheter/innenriks/forskere-krever-nasjonal-innsats-etter-sjokkfunn-i-norsk-fisk-3899490.html>

Alexandra Morton, 14 October 2012

No one can understand why

The story of Port Mouton was even more disturbing than Sheet Harbour. We left Sheet Harbour early in the morning and drove down to Port Mouton through beautiful scenery of ocean, rivers and trees in fall foliage. We met Bob Swim, his wife Norma, Brian, Ron and Ruth Loucks and Gloria Gilbert and headed out on Bob and Norma's boat Lydia Belle, named after his grandmother.

In the stiff offshore breeze and brilliant sunlight we headed out to the salmon feedlot. Spectacle Island, owned by Cook Aquaculture and now Ocean Trout. Strangely they are raising steelhead in this ocean pen. These Friends of Port Mouton have a long history of trying to protect their community from salmon farming. In exchange for removing this sign from locations around their town, Cooke Aquaculture agreed to fallow the farm for three years, but now it was stocked again.

The farm had the distinctive smell, and a sheen of oil smoothed the tops of the waves. As we sat in lee of the wind Bob explained.

“The farm went in in 1996, by 2000 we were noticing changes. Before the farm went in there were about 15 boats running 150 traps per boat, getting 7-10 lobsters per trap, per day. A few years later there were only 5 boats able to run 100 traps, getting 4-5 lobsters per trap. Twelve years later only one boat and skiff can make a living in the inner bay of Port Mouton, there just is not enough to go around anymore. Lobster fishing is good where there are no salmon farms.”

Gloria who has worked to stop this destruction every day since 2006 said, “There used to be an Irish Moss and muscle harvest here, but that stopped when the farm went in. During the three-year fallow these started to come back, the eel grass came back too, but now the farm is back and things are disappearing again. ”

Ron Loucks and Ruth Smith are scientists and without anyone paying them, they decided to measure the copper levels in the microlayer (the very surface of the water). The salmon feedlot nets are often soaked in copper paint to slow down the growth of seaweed and muscles and this toxin flakes off as the nets billow and flex. Ruth and Ron found the copper levels near the farm exceeded government guidelines for 27 months after the farm was emptied. It appeared the copper was being pushed to the surface by the gas being emitted by the waste on the seafloor. The levels exceeded the guidelines for lobster survival by 6-7 times. They wrote a paper on it.

Copper in the sediment and sea surface microlayer near a fallowed open-net fish farm.

This is important because after hatching lobsters swim on the surface for 6 months where the copper can kill them.

Gloria told us, “The premier-to-be, Darrell Dexter stood on the beach over there and criticized the Conservative Government about salmon farming saying The government of the day showed a lack of leadership by not listening to the community. Now that he is premier he

supports the industry!” Then on June 20, 2012, Dexter’s government gave \$25 million to Cooke Aquaculture to develop an even bigger industry.

Everyone on the boat shook their heads saying this gift to Cooke came at the same time as public services such as hospital beds and schools are being cut. No one could understand why.

They pointed to a piece of open water saying that is where the next farm is supposed to go, right in front of the white sand dunes of Carter Beach. Bob guided his boat back into the harbour and tied it up amongst the fleet of well-kept boats. Each boat representing a benefit to the local economy.

We came off the sea and warmed up with a bowl of corn chowder. The small gathering asked a familiar question, “How do you think we can stop this.” This is what people on both coast are asking. What do you do when politicians turn in circles? When nothing makes sense? When local people seem to no longer count?

Next we met Marian and Herschel Specter. Herschel is a retired engineer. They live on the edge of the Inner Shelbourne Harbour. The Specter’s took Belliveau, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and he is Minister of Environment to Supreme Court because Cooke Aquaculture (Kelly Cove Salmon) were running farms that were not on their leases. In a one-day hearing, the judge ruled the Minister had the right to decide where the farms despite the lease boundaries. So while the company had leases, Belliveau could override the siting rules and permit the farm to exist outside the lease. Why have rules?

The Specters lost a large part of their retirement funds as they look out at three salmon feedlot sites from their front porch. They continue to research the industry and found records that a salmon feedlot was exceeding sulfide limits on the seafloor up by to five times the recommended levels year after year.

Herschel said: “They appear to be complying, but they are just horsing around – you can’t fool me.”

Inka Milewski, an independent scientist, continues to track the sulfide levels in Shelbourne Harbour around these farms.

Herschel cannot understand why the government would allow this coast to be used as a dumping site for the salmon feedlot industry, when the 5,000 miles of Nova Scotia coastline have a far greater value as an incredibly lovely place to live. The industry is owned by an ambitious, wealthy New Brunswick family and the profits leave Nova Scotia. The salmon grown in Nova Scotia are trucked to New Brunswick for processing. Cooke promised Shelbourne over 300 jobs, in a processing plant by December 2015. But as several people pointed out if they built a processing plant that big, every bay on the coast of southwest Nova Scotia would have to be plugged with salmon farms to produce 3 million farm salmon/year!

Next we met Francis and Ricky and David Hallett commercial lobster fishermen, born and raised in Green Harbour.

In David’s cozy little home, woodstove so hot you could “melt an anchor” as Francis pointed out I heard the story of Ricky’s three year battle to protect his livelihood from the salmon

farming industry. Ricky assisted the DFO biologists who came to the bay where he fishes to count the number of egg-bearing female lobsters. He was so interested in their work, they gave him a vial of the preserved larval lobsters. As he held this up he explained the outer Shelbourne Harbour is a nursery area for the lobsters. During their fishery, the fishermen release these females so as not to damage their fishery.

But now DFO was of the opinion that the bay was not important as a lobster reproduction area. Ricky was in disbelief. DFO has over 1,500 pages of fishermen's log books recording the high number of egg-bearing females that come into the bay to drop their eggs.

They had made a decent living all their lives, but now Ricky felt so uncertain about his future as a fisherman that he was not replacing his old traps. His life was on hold as he fought to bring some sense to government's pending decision to site salmon farms in a bay so shallow the depth under the pens, would be less than the depth of the nets!

In the schematic below you can see that the depth under this farm would be 3.7m. The depth of the nets holding the fish was 8m, the predator nets 9m.

"They are going to shit themselves an island," said Ricky, "the waste is going to build up under that farm, until it's dry land. Then they will be in closed-containment!"

David and Francis both nodded as Ricky described the winter storms. The farm was planned for water so shallow the 30' waves that roar in from the open Atlantic will be cresting over the farm. Given the length of the farm, the ends will be up on top of two different waves, while the middle of the farm will be hitting bottom in the wave trough.

"Those fish will be smashed, that's inhumane," said Ricky in his strong local accent.

They described how the government pays compensation for fish lost, and how if the company does actually grow fish to harvest-size in that incredibly stressful environment, that the revenue and processing will go to New Brunswick, not Shelbourne county. The men clearly did not believe that a processing plant would be built locally, because the plant in New Brunswick was not operating at capacity. They felt it was being dangled as bait to lure their community into a bad deal.

"I have put my business on hold, being compromised by a multi-millionaire from New Brunswick, the fishermen take all the risk, it is not a fair game."

Article with photos: http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/alexandra_morton/2012/10/no-one-can-understand-why.html

Daily Mail, 13 October 2012

£17m loss threatens the salmon industry

SCOTLAND's lucrative salmon industry is facing a multi-million-pound threat from a parasitic disease outbreak, experts have warned.

Worried fishermen said the spread of the disease in farms has seen hundreds of tons of fish being killed.

There are fears a recent outbreak of the parasite could have cost the industry as much as £17million. Some farms claim they are losing up to 20 per cent of stocks.

Yesterday, fishermen in the Western Isles said the disease is devastating stocks of farmed salmon.

Warmer and saltier waters are being blamed for the recent outbreak, which occurs naturally and is difficult to control.

The parasite only appeared in Scotland last year, but has colonised farms from Shetland to Argyll.

Critics say the over-expansion of

By **Julie-Anne Barnes**

farms and the overcrowding of salmon has encouraged the disease to flourish.

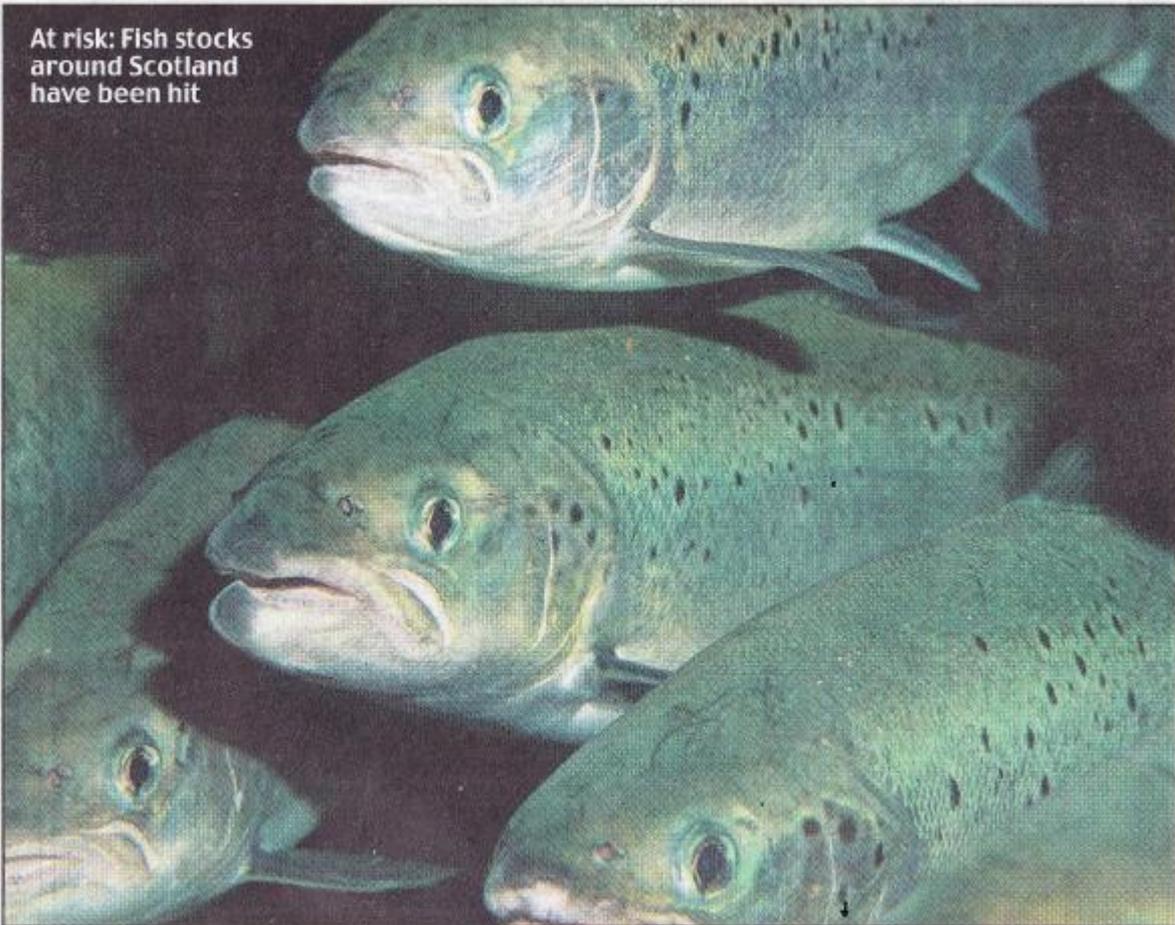
But the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) maintained that 'the treatment being used to kill the parasite is entirely safe for both fish and the marine environment'.

Exports of fresh Scottish salmon have leapt to record levels, according to the latest figures. Emerging and well-established markets helped boost exports by 22 per cent during 2011, rising to 95,638 tons.

Seven of the top ten markets have grown in volume and fresh Scottish salmon now reaches 64 countries worldwide. Exports of Scottish salmon have almost doubled in the past decade.

But the Scottish Salmon Company, an independent supplier, estimated it could lose 1,000 tons

At risk: Fish stocks around Scotland have been hit



of fish. If replicated across the industry, it would mean a loss of nearly £17million at wholesale prices.

But the company, which produces 20,000 tons of salmon each year, insisted it would still be able to honour contracts and meet customer demand.

A spokesman for the Scottish Salmon Producer's Organisation moved to allay fears over the quality of the fish. He said: 'There will be no impact on texture, freshness and quality.'

The estimated multi-million-

pound bill is for dead salmon, lost production and the huge cost of expensive chemical treatment.

Amoebic Gill Disease (AGD) attacks the gills, causing swelling and mucus and suffocating the fish.

A spokesman for the Scottish Salmon Company said: 'We take the health and wellbeing of our fish very seriously and work rigorously to protect the natural environment and eco-systems in which we operate. We undertake daily health checks and where an incidence of AGD is discovered we act quickly,

in accordance with industry best practice guidelines, our own exacting veterinary procedures and Government regulation through our Marine Scotland licence.'

The SSPO says salmon farming is one of biggest private employers in the Highlands and Islands

The industry directly employs 2,124 people and thousands more in the salmon supply chain. It has put more than £1.4billion into the economy during the past four years with 500 new jobs created during the last three years.

j.barnes@dailymail.co.uk

<http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/10/daily-mail-on-scottish-salmon-farming.html>

The Scotsman, 13 October 2012

Parasite kills hundreds of tonnes of fish across the Western Isles

THE spread of disease in fish farms across the Western Isles has resulted in hundreds of tonnes of salmon being killed, fishermen have warned.

A parasite that causes fish to choke to death is devastating stocks of farmed salmon.

Warmer and saltier waters are being blamed for the outbreak.

It is estimated that some fish farms are losing 20 per cent of their stock.

Creel fisherman Angus Campbell said: "Last week we saw a load of 26 tonnes heading down to Uist to get buried.

"It's just incredible the amount of dead fish coming out of these sites."

The parasite only appeared in Scotland last year, but has colonised farms from Shetland to Argyll.

Critics say the expansion of fish farms, and overcrowding of salmon, has encouraged the disease to flourish.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/parasite-kills-hundreds-of-tonnes-of-fish-across-the-western-isles-1-2572428>

Mareeg, 13 October 2012

Salmonella poisoning kills two in Netherlands

Salmon which was contaminated with salmonella has cost two lives in the Netherlands. Press agency IEDE reports that two elderly people have died after eating the poisoned fish.

Both victims were above 80 years of age. The director of the Dutch government's Institute for Health and the Environment (RIVM), Roel Coutinho, has said that there is a 100 percent certainty in one of the cases that salmonella was the cause of death; the second case is being investigated.

A rare variant of the bacteria, called Salmonella Thompson, was found in smoked salmon distributed by the Foppen company of Harderwijk. The salmon was also marketed as an ingredient in salads. Supermarkets have removed the products from their shelves, and consumers were advised to check their fridges for salmon products.

So far, 200 Dutch people have been hospitalised; a majority of them are women.

<http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?sid=26144&tirsan=3>

Food Safety News, 13 October 2012

Over 500 Salmonella Cases Tied to Smoked Salmon in Netherlands

One victim has died, according to health officials



More than 500 people in the Netherlands have now contracted Salmonella infections linked to smoked salmon, and at least one of these patients has died, reported Dutch health officials Saturday.

According to The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands, two fatalities have been connected to the outbreak. One has been confirmed to be a result of the patient's Salmonella infection and the other is under investigation. Both people who died were over 80 years old, reported [New England Cable News](#) Saturday.

The Dutch health agency says approximately 550 people have are now thought to be affected by the outbreak, which has been tied to smoked salmon produced by Netherlands-based Foppen but manufactured in a facility in Greece.

Foppen issued a [recall](#) of the implicated salmon October 1 after its product was named as the potential source of the outbreak, which at the time was known to have sickened around 300 people.

The company's fish is sold globally, and was distributed in the United States by Costco Wholesale under the Foppen and Kirkland Signature brands. Costco [contacted all customers](#) – approximately 250,000 – who purchased this smoked salmon after it was made aware of the problem.

The Kirkland Signature has since been released onto the market again, as it was not manufactured at the plant where the contamination was found in Greece. The recalled Foppen brand salmon has been destroyed.

No illnesses have been linked to the product in the U.S. to date, although Costco did receive reports of illnesses after customers were notified of the recall.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is investigating an uptick in Salmonella Thompson infections but so far has no evidence of a common food source for the bacteria.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/10/over-500-illnesses-linked-to-smoked-salmon-in-netherlands/>

Associated Press/Montreal Gazette, 13 October 2012

Dutch public health watchdog says at least 1 elderly patient has died in salmonella outbreak

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The Dutch public health watchdog says at least one elderly patient has died and more than 500 people have been sickened in a major salmonella outbreak caused by tainted salmon.

The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment said in a statement Saturday tests have confirmed one death and another fatality is under investigation. Both victims were aged over 80.

The institute announced earlier this month that the outbreak had been traced to a Dutch company called Foppen and ordered its products pulled off shelves at stores across the Netherlands.

It now says the number of people sickened by tainted salmon before the recall has risen to at least 550.

CostCo Wholesale Corp., which sells Foppen products in the United States, also recalled salmon products.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Dutch+public+health+watchdog+says+least+elderly+patient+died/7386698/story.html>

Alexandra Morton, 13 October 2012

Nova Scotia Day 1

On October 11, I flew into the beautiful city of Halifax. At daybreak, Anissa Reed and I headed up the Eastern Shore. The leaves were red and orange, a soft wind blowing out to sea. We passed dozens of signs “STOP FISH FARMS,” “OPEN NET SALMON FARMS ARE NOT WELCOME!” Clearly there is a [battle going on here](#).



After an hour and a half, we pulled into [Murphy's Campground](#) near Sheet Harbour. Brian and Marilyn Murphy welcomed us with steaming coffee, warm cookies and muffins. We climbed down the wharf into the saucy little RYAN, a distinctly east coast wood boat.



With the west wind freshening at our backs, Brian told us his family have lived on Shoal Bay for 6 generations.

His family used to fish lobsters, but for the last 50 years Brian takes people out to enjoy the wild beauty of the bay that he and Marilyn call home. Ecotourism is a big economic resource to this regions. The bay is shallow, only about 13 meters average depth and Brian explained how there is very little current to flush this bay. As he throttled back RYAN, Brian spoke over the wind, “and this is where they are planning to put the fish farm. There’s going to be 36 pens, 750,000 farm salmon.” The depth sounder read 35 feet, only 10 meters! Brian explained that during the winter storms the waste from this industrial feedlot would be smeared across the beaches of his home.

[Tangier Lobsters](#) nearby stands to lose their lobsters here when the salmon farms start using drugs to kill the sea lice. There is a lawsuit before the courts in New Brunswick for [lobsters killed](#) by drugs used on salmon farms to kill sea lice.

Snow Island and Loch Duart of Scotland have united to put 4 over-sized salmon feedlots in the area around Sheet Harbour. This region was once safe from salmon farms, but Loch Duart has developed a salmon that can survive the frigid waters of Nova Scotia. The town, the town council, the fishermen, nearly everyone seemed against their home waters being used to flush

salmon feedlot waste. With a population of 2,000, each of the salmon farms would produce untreated waste equal to a town of 40,000! This community has a sustainable lobster industry that fuels the local economy. They cannot move their fishery off shore as other fishermen have done after the salmon feedlots moved in. The signs made it clear this community is not willing to give their way of life easily. They are standing ground.

Next we headed to the Sheet Harbour High School. The children looked worried. They asked what would happen to the lobsters. Two boys with T-shirts they had made, came and asked me what would happen to the local sea trout that they loved to fish. These were hard questions for me. The natural urge is to protect children from bad news. I could only tell them wild salmon and sea trout have gone into steep decline wherever there are salmon farms. It was clear they were part of this fight.



.....

We were joined by Marike Finaly and Karin Cope of [APES](#), Association for Preservation of the Eastern Shore. Through the meal a disturbing tale of millions of government dollars given to the salmon farming industry in eastern Canada, an MLA that threatens to sue people who disagree with him. People feel betrayed by the NDP leadership in Nova Scotia, abandoned in favour of the salmon farming moguls. Deals offered to preserve one bay if people will shut up about the feedlots going into other bays. Huge private dollars went into liming the West River and 11,600 wild Atlantic salmon have returned, but the proposed salmon feedlots with profits shared by a Scottish company would be placed near the mouth of this river. No one felt the salmon of the West River would survive this.

At 7pm I gave a talk to over 100 people of Sheet Harbour. I told them about the denial and coverup exposed by the Cohen Commission. I told them how the federal and provincial governments and industry testified under oath that no exotic viruses have been brought into

British Columbia by the salmon farming industry and how we are now tracking three European fish virus everyone denies are here.



Nova Scotia was a place of natural wealth; abundant cod, logging, deep-sea shipping ports, tourism and lobsters. But every generation is being forced to make do with less. Now the people of the eastern shore are expected to let go of their lobster fishery, tourism and way of life that includes clean water and gorgeous views in service to an industry that has sparked anger and regret around the world.

Article in full with photos via:

http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/alexandra_morton/2012/10/nova-scotia-day-1-.html

Common Sense Canadian, 12 October 2012

Rafe Mair's Landmark Free Speech Case Credited in Salmon Activist Staniford's Victory

Written by [Damien Gillis](#)



I was delighted to learn recently that my good friend and colleague, leading salmon farming critic Don Staniford, won a major victory in the BC Supreme Court over the aquaculture industry - in large part thanks to an important legal precedent established by another good friend and colleague, Rafe Mair.

According to an [opinion piece by Andrew Gage](#) of West Coast Environmental Law, it was Rafe's landmark victory at the Supreme Court of Canada a decade ago that formed the basis of Don's victory in a defamation case brought against him last year by Mainstream Canada (the local arm of Norwegian global aquaculture giant Cermaq). At issue was a campaign the globetrotting British activist Staniford created comparing the salmon farming industry with Big Tobacco.

In his analysis of the case and judge's ruling in favour of Staniford, [announced two weeks ago](#), environmental law expert Andrew Gage explains how the precedent set by Mair's victory in an unrelated defamation suit from his days on the radio at CKNW helped get Don off the hook today:

Don won because the Supreme Court of Canada has recently expanded the “defence of fair comment” in a case known as WIC Radio Ltd. v. Simpson. That case was a defamation suit against BC’s own Rafe Mair for comments that he made comparing a speech made by Kari Simpson on homosexuality to speeches made by Hitler and U.S. segregation era politicians. The Supreme Court of Canada allowed Rafe’s appeal, and in doing so, said that individuals who express honestly held opinions – as long as they are clearly opinions and not claims of fact – cannot be found guilty of defamation. The Supreme Court says that the defence applies where:

(a) the comment must be on a matter of public interest;

(b) the comment must be based on fact;

(c) the comment, though it can include inferences of fact, must be recognisable as comment;

(d) the comment must satisfy the following objective test: could any [person] honestly express that opinion on the proved facts?

(e) even though the comment satisfies the objective test the defence can be defeated if the plaintiff proves that the defendant was [subjectively] actuated by express malice.

Don's case is the first defamation case that we're aware of involving defamation by an environmental activist since the Supreme Court's decision in WIC Radio, and Adair J. found that Don's cigarette packages satisfied all of these criteria. In doing so, she made a couple of findings which will protect environmentalists and others seeking to comment on high profile public issues.

As Gage alludes to above, the campaign created by Staniford that led to Mainstream's suit involved a series of cigarette package graphics - disseminated through his [website](#), social media and print materials - containing images of the salmon farming industry and statements comparing it to the tobacco business. The essence of the comparison was more with regards to the industry's PR tactics and corporate behaviour than medical matters, though many of the graphics raised specific health impacts for marine life and humans from its operations and products.

Staniford and his lawyer David Sutherland characterized Mainstream's legal strategy as a SLAPP suit (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) - designed to shackle criticism of the company through the threat and reality of unwieldy legal costs. While Sutherland, acknowledged as one of the country's top media and free speech lawyers, worked *pro bono* or at a reduced rate for much of the case, Don's cause drew an [outpouring of public support](#). In the end he raised \$50,000 for his legal fund online, mostly through small donations, plus several other larger contributions from salmon fishermen's unions, Norwegian anti-aquaculture groups and NGOs like West Coast Environmental Law.

I've had the privilege of working alongside both Don and Rafe for a number of years, doing battle with the Norwegian aquaculture giants around the world - and am proud of their significant contributions both to this cause and to the protection of free speech.

My assessment of Cermaq/Mainstream's tactics in this case - apart from the legal dimensions, which are not my province - is that this Norwegian-Canadian Goliath allowed its own pride and bullying attitude to draw it into a battle it should never have waged.

Don had some valid points and he wasn't the first to make them - in fact, the genesis of his campaign concept was a comment made by mutual ally and aquaculture critic Otto Langer in a documentary Don and I produced together a few years ago, called ["Farmed Salmon Exposed"](#). In that film, the retired DFO senior scientist and manager equates the industry's choice to deny steadfastly the growing body of evidence of its environmental impacts with Big Tobacco's denial of health effects. But rather than agree to disagree with Don's campaign, rebutting it through their own PR machine (which they did in abundance), they had to go one step further and bully him through the courts.

They saw Don was financially vulnerable and decided to attack him with a vengeance.

But Don had many assets on his side they failed to see: overwhelming public goodwill stemming from years of frustration with the industry - which translated into tens of thousands of dollars for Don's legal fund - a skilled lawyer with a point to prove, and that little case won years ago at the Supreme Court by Rafe Mair.

In choosing to take this beef into the courts, Mainstream gambled and lost big time. Not only will they have to repay some of Staniford and Sutherland's legal costs as part of the court's judgement, but they suffered yet another black eye in the media.

As Andrew Gage asserts in his insightful post-mortem, Staniford's case is a "victory for free speech" and "give[s] environmentalists some comfort that they won't be held liable for any controversial statement made about corporations." Yet it also underscores how heavily the legal process has become weighed toward corporations - and should prompt renewed discussion about tilting the balance more in the direction of free speech and social activism:

...the decision does nothing to address the broader problem of allowing large corporations with extremely deep pockets to drag their political opponents into court. The costs of going to court (and defamation cases are particularly expensive) are prohibitive for activists, but are a tax deductible expense for big companies. The result is an unequal playing field where those who speak out against environmental destruction risk being sued by deep-pocketed opponents.

Gage and Sutherland both offer solutions, including legislative changes to ban corporate lawsuits in defamation and specifically restricting SLAPP suits. Clearly, Don's case brings these concerns to the fore again and it's high time we had this discussion at the political level, instead of relying on costly courtroom battles to decide these matters one precedent at a time.

For the moment, though, I offer a pat on the back to my two friends and colleagues, Don and Rafe, for their ongoing commitment to the environment and free speech. Both have the balls to take on Goliath and the skill to land one between the eyes every now and then.

<http://thecanadian.org/item/1763-rafe-mair-free-speech-salmon-activist-don-stanifords-victory-aquaculture-damien-gillis>

West Coast Environmental Law, 12 October 2012

Lessons from a fish farm defamation lawsuit

Congratulations to Don Staniford – and his lawyer, David Sutherland – who, last month, defeated a lawsuit brought against him by fish farm giant, Mainstream Canada! The fish farm company had sued Don for a series of [mock cigarette ads](#) with warnings related to the impacts of fish farms.

In many ways West Coast Environmental Law and fish farm activist Don Staniford sit at opposite ends of the spectrum of environmental activism. We depend upon well researched legal positions to advance environmental protection, while Don focuses on an appeal to the emotions, with the factual basis sometimes being less obvious. We would not have endorsed, for example, Don's mock cigarette ads, which accuse Norwegian fish farming, of among other things, "killing workers" and being "like the black death plague."

However, we believe in free speech, and in the ability of activists to speak their mind without being sued for it. Public discourse takes all types, and, we were there for Don when he was sued – through a grant from our [Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund \(EDRF\)](#). As well, we hoped that the case would help to clarify how defamation law applies to colourful

statements by environmental activists – so that those behind future environmental campaigns can breathe a bit easier. In this spirit, we offer the following lessons learned from [Don's judgment](#).

Your conduct during the trial matters

Don has (understandably) been [publicly claiming a victory](#), but it's worth noting that the court did not consider him blameless. The [court found that Don's cigarette ads had defamed Mainstream Canada](#):

Mr. Staniford's words are defamatory, in the sense that they would tend to lower Mainstream's reputation in the eyes of a reasonable person; the words in fact referred to Mainstream; and the words were communicated to at least one person other than Mainstream.

But it's also pretty clear that Don's conduct during the trial did not impress the judge. While Adair J. seems to have made every effort to keep an open mind in respect of Don's case, her judgment does spend a significant amount of time discussing Don's conduct – both in the courtroom and on the [GAAIA blog](#) – often in less than flattering terms. This conduct included some behaviour that few would defend – such as publishing insulting comments about the physical appearance of female witnesses.

Activists who find themselves in court – whether because they're sued or for other reasons – need to know that there are certain expectations, including communicating respectfully to the judge, the lawyers, witnesses and other participants.

There is nothing wrong with updating supporters with the progress of a court case via a blog or the media, but you'd better be sure to be accurate and respectful, or you may (as Don did) find your blog post quoted in the judgment.

Some activists – due to their style or personal beliefs – find no difficulty with the conventions of court. Others find it more difficult to strike a balance between making their views and perspectives heard, and observing a level of decorum that the judge expects. However, at the end of the day, activists would be well advised to be aware of the expectations of the judge, who will be deciding the case.



Be clear in the scope of your campaign

Don's cigarette packages never referred to Mainstream Canada by name, and Don's lawyer argued, unsuccessfully, that the packages referred to the Norwegian fish farming industry globally, and not to Mainstream Canada in particular. A significant portion of the judgment examines whether Don was actually talking about Norwegian fish farm companies in British Columbia (where Mainstream Canada, owned by the Norwegian company, Cermaq) is a major player) or globally (where Mainstream Canada would be a minor player).

The judge concluded that the campaign was focused on BC, and therefore that the cigarette ads could be understood as referring to Mainstream.

In our view, this portion of the judgment is not entirely satisfactory, in that Adair J. glosses over parts of the GAAIA website that do not support the view that the campaign was BC focused, instead focusing on a number of blog posts and other portions that do. For example, the [January 31, 2011 press release](#) launching the cigarette package campaign directly quotes Juan Carlos Cardenas, Director of Ecoceanos in Chile, as providing a basis for several of the claims about fish farming, including the controversial claim that fish farming kills workers:

By draining our Southeast Pacific oceans of wild fish for feed, Norwegian-owned farmers are robbing Pedro to pay John and stealing fish out of the mouths of Latin Americans. ... This lethal industry has been responsible for the deaths of divers and sixty four workers as well as hundreds of sea lions and other marine birds and animals. The practices of Norwegian

companies operating here and in Chile provoked the most important sanitary, environmental and social crisis in the south Chilean coastal regions where 20,000 jobs have been destroyed in the last three years. The industry has blood on their hands and ought to hang their heads in shame.

Similarly, Don's claims that "Norwegian Fish farming kills lobsters" (when BC has no lobsters) or "Fish farming kills around the world" are clearly not part of a BC-focused campaign.

The reality is probably that Don, as a campaigner, was engaged at both a BC and a global level. It is not an either-or situation. Many of his most defamatory statements seem to have been based upon the international performance of the industry, but some readers may have been confused about this when he used the GAAIA website to tackle BC-specific operators.

Activists need to be careful, particularly when making emotionally charged statements, to make the factual basis for their opinions clear. It is important not to allow subsequent communications to create confusion as to the basis for earlier statements.

The defence of fair comment

At the end of the day, Don won not because the judge agreed with his statements about Mainstream Canada -- quite the contrary.

Don won because the Supreme Court of Canada has recently expanded the "defence of fair comment" in a case known as [*WIC Radio Ltd. v. Simpson*](#). That case was a defamation suit against BC's own Rafe Mair for comments that he made comparing a speech made by Kari Simpson on homosexuality to speeches made by Hitler and U.S. segregation era politicians. The Supreme Court of Canada allowed Rafe's appeal, and in doing so, said that individuals who express honestly held opinions – as long as they are clearly opinions and not claims of fact – cannot be found guilty of defamation. The Supreme Court says that the defence applies where:

- (a) the comment must be on a matter of public interest;
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- (c) the comment, though it can include inferences of fact, must be recognisable as comment;
- (d) the comment must satisfy the following objective test: could any [person] honestly express that opinion on the proved facts?
- (e) even though the comment satisfies the objective test the defence can be defeated if the plaintiff proves that the defendant was [subjectively] actuated by express malice.

Don's case is the first defamation case that we're aware of involving defamation by an environmental activist since the Supreme Court's decision in *WIC Radio*, and Adair J. found that Don's cigarette packages satisfied all of these criteria. In doing so, she made a couple of

findings which will protect environmentalists and others seeking to comment on high profile public issues.

First, the Judge applied an English case, *British Chiropractic Association v. Singh*, in support of the view that the “courts – and defamation actions in particular – should not be used to settle or attempt to settle scientific controversies.” On the basis of this case the court found that Don’s assertions related to the toxicity of farmed are his opinions (rather than fact) that could be honestly expressed based on the scientific literature. Since corporate plaintiffs will often be able to muster the best experts, this approach may be helpful in many cases where critics of mainstream industrial practices are sued. That being said, while it may help environmentalists in some cases, this defence might also be advanced by climate change deniers sued (for example) for defaming climate scientists (although perhaps not – since Adair J. seems to suggest that this criteria where the science is settled, as, for example, is the case in relation to the risks of tobacco).

Second, while the Judge found that Don did have malice towards Mainstream Canada, she concluded that this malice was not Don’s “dominant purpose” in making the defamatory statements.

... I am unable to conclude that [Malice against Mainstream Canada] was Mr. Staniford’s dominant purpose in publishing the statements in issue. Mr. Staniford’s main goal is to end industrial aquaculture, and he seeks (albeit in clumsy, crude, irrational or foolish ways) to influence public opinion to that end. That (currently) is his life’s work. His commitment to that cause is illustrated by his self-published magnum opus – “Smoke on the Water, Cancer on the Coast.” I find that Mr. Staniford’s statements and publications are related primarily to that purpose. As Tysoe J.A. observed in *Creative Salmon* ..., the protection of a person’s ability to exercise his or her right to freedom of expression in order to attempt to influence public opinion on legitimate public issues is the objective of the defence of fair comment. The defence cannot be defeated if Mr. Staniford was doing the very thing that the defence was designed to protect.

This seems to me to be an important finding. Environmental activists generally act out of what they perceive is best for their community or the environment, but it is not uncommon for an activist to develop a dislike towards the companies or individuals that they see as contributing to environmental destruction. In past defamation cases against environmentalists, the courts have sometimes held that individual activists [made their statements out of malice](#), failing to recognize that their broader goal was opposition to a particular project or development.

Conclusion

Mainstream Canada v. Staniford should give environmentalists some comfort that they won’t be held liable for any controversial statement made about corporations. The decision also suggests a number of lessons for environmentalists and others speaking out.

However, while the decision is a win for free speech, and for Don, the decision does nothing to address the broader problem of allowing large corporations with extremely deep pockets to drag their political opponents into court. The costs of going to court (and defamation cases are particularly expensive) are prohibitive for activists, but are a tax deductible expense for

big companies. The result is an unequal playing field where those who speak out against environmental destruction risk being sued by deep-pocketed opponents.

Don has been lucky, in that he had access to an experienced defamation lawyer and is an accomplished fundraiser. And he won. But even so, the costs award that he will receive from Mainstream Canada will not cover his legal bills, and will not replace the months of his time and attention that the case has taken.

David Sutherland, Don's lawyer, has suggested that [BC follow Australia's example of banning corporate lawsuits in defamation](#). Others have suggested that [BC needs legislation](#) to protect people against [Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation \(SLAPPs\)](#) (Don characterized this lawsuit as a SLAPP). What do you think? How should we protect ordinary citizens against being sued when they speak out against large companies? Does the law currently strike the right balance?

By Andrew Gage, Staff Lawyer

<http://wcel.org/resources/environmental-law-alert/lessons-fish-farm-defamation-lawsuit>

Farmed & Dangerous, 12 October 2012

DFO approves new open net-pen salmon farm in Clayoquot Sound despite ongoing concerns about disease and pathogens

Vancouver, B.C.— The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) is appalled to learn that on October 10, DFO quietly issued a new aquaculture licence to Mainstream Canada for another open net-pen salmon farm in Clayoquot Sound. The new site is located in Fortune Channel near Plover Point on Meares Island.

“DFO calls this new licence a ‘replacement’ for another site that has been inactive for 47 out of the last 51 months,” said David Lane, Executive Director of the T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation. “Replacing a poorly producing site with a site able to greatly expand production of Atlantic salmon in open net-pens along the Bedwell Sound and Fortune Channel corridor is a recipe for disaster for wild salmon.”

Wild salmon in Clayoquot Sound continue to be some of the most depressed stocks along the west coast of Vancouver Island even though their freshwater habitat is relatively pristine. Earlier this year Mainstream Canada emptied two of their farm sites in Clayoquot Sound due to confirmation of the IHN virus in their Atlantic salmon. They claim the source was passing wild salmon. As well, testimony was given at the Cohen Inquiry last winter showing evidence of positive test results for the ISA virus at two other Pacific salmon farms in the Sound. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is currently in the first year of a two year pathogen surveillance program of wild and farmed salmon in B.C. coastal waters. Results are not yet available.

“We are hugely disappointed that DFO took this decision at this time,” said Kelly Roebuck from Living Oceans Society. “The Cohen Report is due out in less than a month and the recommendations from that report may have an impact on salmon farming everywhere in B.C., not just along the migration routes of Fraser River sockeye.”

CAAR supports an end to net-pen production and a transition to closed containment technology for the industry.

“The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation in Clayoquot Sound makes it the perfect proving ground for raising salmon in closed containment technology,” said John Werring, Senior Science and Policy Advisor for the David Suzuki Foundation. “The intent of the designation is to explore new ways to create employment that have less harmful environmental impacts and closed containment has huge potential to do just that by eliminating any interaction between the farmed salmon and their surrounding marine environment.”

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For more information:

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Kelly Roebuck, Living Oceans Society, Cell: 1-778-232-0329

John Werring, David Suzuki Foundation, Phone: 604-732-4228 Ex. 1245 Cell: 604-313-3132

Ruby Berry, Georgia Strait Alliance, Cell: 1-250-650-9756

<http://www.farmedanddangerous.org/media-releases/2012/10/4275/>

Friends of Clayoquot Sound/Living Oceans Society, 12 October 2012

Clark government approves new fish farm in Clayoquot Sound

Tofino, B.C. – Environmental groups and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations have written an angry letter to Premier Christy Clark for allowing the approval of a new salmon farm site in Clayoquot Sound on the West Coast of Vancouver Island while never addressing serious concerns about diseases from farms impacting wild salmon.

On October 3rd the Province offered Mainstream Canada a 55-hectare salmon farm tenure on the shores of Meares Island, near Plover Point, in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Environmental organizations and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations first wrote to Premier Clark on July 18th asking her to ensure that site approval would not go ahead given the weak state of wild salmon stocks and evidence of recent disease outbreaks at Mainstream Canada’s existing farms in the area. The Premier responded saying that they could expect a reply from the **Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, the Hon. Steve Thomson, addressing all concerns. No communication has been received from the Minister.**

The July 18 letter to Premier Clark pointed out that Clayoquot Sound salmon runs, particularly Chinook salmon, are in dramatic decline, with some runs now being counted in the tens, rather than in the tens of thousands. Clayoquot Sound already has 20 salmon farm sites. No wild salmon population anywhere in the world has thrived in close proximity to salmon farms.

In May of this year, Mainstream reported an outbreak of Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHN) on one of their open net- cage salmon farms in Clayoquot Sound. The fish from this farm, numbering 560,000, were destroyed. In July another of Mainstream's Clayoquot farms reported an outbreak of IHN, and these fish were also destroyed.

Dr. Kristi Miller, Head of the Molecular Genetics section at the Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, reported Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAv) positive test results in two other Clayoquot Sound salmon farms last year.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has started a two-year, coast-wide pathogen surveillance program to get a more complete picture of the ISAv, IHN, and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN) situation in British Columbia's wild salmon. All of these pathogens are highly contagious and can cause mortality in wild and farmed salmon.

Furthermore, the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (Cohen Commission) is scheduled to release its findings at the end of October. Bonny Glambeck from Friends of Clayoquot Sound denounced the tenure approval decision saying: "The Plover Point salmon farm site should never have been approved in advance of the Cohen Commission report and recommendations, which will likely bring in new measures to curb the expansion of salmon farming on the B.C. coast."

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To view the letter: http://focs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Christy-Clark-letter-Oct_2012.pdf

For more information please contact:
Bonny Glambeck 250-726-5100 / <mailto:bonny@focs.ca>

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/717441/e774fdd375/281632425/d87dcb9548/> and
<http://www.livingoceans.org/media/releases/salmon-farming/clark-government-approves-new-fish-farm-clayoquot->

FAO Globefish, October 2012

Salmon

Demand for farmed salmon remains steady, despite the economic turbulence experienced in many developed markets. Lower prices are convincing consumers of the continued attractiveness of the species, as Chile's comeback in production capacity has led to increased production and inevitably lower prices. The industry remains profitable but market development rather than boosting production is needed if the sector is to remain sustainable in the long term.



Supplies and prices

Salmon prices have weakened somewhat during the last month as supply is plentiful. With lower prices, the larger and more integrated companies are targeting production and distribution as areas for cost improvement as well as a more effective use of the capital employed.

Salmon prices in the European market are slightly weaker, especially for the smaller sizes for which the new generation fish is now

available. Big sized salmon are becoming scarce with prices rising.

At current salmon prices, operations are still profitable for most producers, although much less so than during 2010 and early 2011.

Norway

The first half-year export statistics from Norway show shipped volumes substantially up by 29%. Exports have been boosted by markedly lower prices compared with the previous year, causing the value of Norway's exports to fall 6.5% to NOK 14 billion (EUR 1.88 billion).

One positive development in Norway's salmon industry is the growing share represented by more value-added products. Fillets in particular have been showing good growth during 2012 with export volumes up 17% during the first six months.

UK

Scottish salmon exports during the first quarter were unchanged from the previous year at 21 100 tonnes. The USA remains the largest export destination for fresh salmon from the UK, although the comeback of Chilean supplies has now reduced UK (and Norwegian) shipments to this market. As a result, new focus is given to France, the traditional market for UK salmon exports, with volumes growing 11% as a result during the quarter.

Faroe Islands

Export volumes from the Faroe Islands were up a massive 64% during the first quarter compared with the same quarter last year. Lower average prices caused total values to increase only by 12%.

The main markets are the UK and the USA, which are both supplied with whole salmon whereas Denmark, Germany and France also take a large part of frozen portions.

Chile

The low price of salmon has forced several Chilean companies to suspend planned releases of new equity as investors were not willing to commit at current quotations. One of the companies, Cultivos Marinos de Chiloé has since confirmed take-over talks with Mainstream, a Norwegian controlled company operating in Chile.

The value of Chilean exports of salmon and trout rose 13% in the first six months of 2012 compared with the same period in 2011. The growth was mainly due to increased shipments of Atlantic salmon, which grew by 25% in value, from USD 0.9 billion in the same period in 2011 to USD 1.1 billion this year.

Markets

France

Europe's main salmon market bounced back during the first quarter as a result of the markedly lower prices compared with the same period during 2011. Norway dominates the fresh whole and fresh fillet categories both of which saw growing volumes during the period.

Germany

Over the last decade, Germany has developed into one of the largest and most promising salmon markets in Europe. The high prices registered in 2010 and 2011 dampened demand with lower imports as a result, but that the decline continued during the first quarter of 2012 is surprising.

Japan

Japanese salmon imports showed good growth in all product segments during the first quarter. Fresh salmon volumes increased by 40% with Norway dominating the segment. The frozen category is mainly supplied by Chile, which saw volumes grow during early 2012. However, inventory is reportedly high in Japan and buyer interest was much diminished during the second quarter.

USA

The US salmon market registered a turn-around in import volumes during the first quarter after a set-back during 2011. Chile is back as the principle fillet supplier with Norway's role much diminished. Of note is also the large jump in frozen fillet imports.

Official statistics for the first five months show total import volumes up 21% and values up 2%. Both fresh (+20%) and frozen (+27%) fillets grew strongly, with the fresh product supplied by Chile and the frozen by China.

Outlook

Salmon prices have rebounded slightly at the beginning of August as supply has fallen thanks to summer closures by producers. Over the next two quarters new market size production will become available from Chile and this should soften any price movement upwards. Demand is still able to absorb available volumes but prices will have to remain low in order to clear supplies.

For more information on market trends, subscribe the GLOBEFISH Highlights

<http://www.globefish.org/salmon-october-2012.html>

Marlborough Express, 12 October 2012

Salmon ruling may be delayed

Cathie Bell

The Environmental Protection Authority's board of inquiry yesterday asked Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson for three months longer to make their decision on whether New Zealand King Salmon can set up eight new farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), the five-member board is supposed to report to the minister with its draft decision by November 19 and its final decision is due by December 31.

But yesterday board chairman Judge Gordon Whiting issued a minute to parties involved in the hearing saying the board was concerned that the statutory time constraints it was under would compromise a robust decision.

The board's lawyers wrote to Ms Wilkinson asking for more time, and requesting she extend its deadline till February 22 next year. Ms Wilkinson has the power to grant an extension if she considers special circumstances apply and only for up to 18 months, unless the applicant agrees to longer.

Judge Whiting said the board was committed to providing a robust and accurate decision and considered that, due to the special circumstances, more time was needed to achieve that outcome.

The special circumstances include:

1293 submissions, significantly more than any other Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) process.

More than 7500 pages of evidence, excluding the application which is more than four lever arch folders, and more than 3400 pages of evidence transcripts.

More than 150 witnesses, with further submissions and seven more expert planning witnesses to be heard.

Compressed working time.

An estimated five-week hearing extended to eight weeks, significantly longer than any other EPA hearing.

The first hearing of a concurrent plan change and resource consent applications.

The board plans to produce a draft by December 19.

The current timetable requires the board to release its draft decision by November 16, which gives it only 16 working days to deliberate, consider and write the report. The EPA needs three working days to then print and distribute the draft.

The board has used its best endeavours to ensure that the hearing has occurred efficiently, it says, including extending hearing hours, working during the evenings and weekends, and doing site visits during the weekend.

The letter says the board was aware of the costs associated with any extension in time.

Other members of the board are Environment Court commissioner Helen Beaumont, former Northland Regional Council chairman Mark Farnsworth, former Marlborough district councillor Michael Briggs, and Te Runanga o Otakou chairman Edward Ellison. All have considerable Resource Management Act experience.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7806915/Salmon-ruling-may-be-delayed>

Marlborough Express, 12 October 2012

Port Gore salmon farm plan canned

Cathie Bell

NZ King Salmon has abandoned its unused two-year-old resource consent to farm salmon at Melville Cove, Port Gore.

The site, owned by Ngati Apa, would now be used to grow mussels, the Environmental Protection Authority's board of inquiry hearing in Blenheim was told yesterday.

The board of inquiry is hearing an application by King Salmon to set up eight new farms in the Marlborough Sounds, some in areas of the Sounds where marine farming is prohibited.

King Salmon lawyer Derek Nolan tabled four letters at the beginning of yesterday's hearing, including one explaining that the company no longer held an unused resource consent for a salmon farm in the Marlborough Sounds.

The letter, from Gascoigne Wicks partner Brian Fletcher who acted for King Salmon in the attempted purchase of the site from Ngati Apa, says that "ultimately" King Salmon came to the conclusion the 5.5-hectare site could not be developed for salmon because there were only nine years to run on the consent.

It said there was also "uncertainty" over whether a suitable EQS (Environmental quality standard) standard would ultimately apply. The resource consent had tighter environmental limits on the amount of deposits under the farm than King Salmon's other farms because of the low-flow water it is in.

"These concerns were communicated by King Salmon to Ngati Apa, and King Salmon withdrew from the commercial arrangement with Ngati Apa as it no longer considered the site suitable for salmon." The commercial arrangement had been in place since August 2008, and the consent to farm salmon in Port Melville was granted in August 2010.

King Salmon has also abandoned its appeal to the Environment Court against conditions of the consent. An Environment Court spokeswoman confirmed that had happened on Monday. Environment Court judge John Jackson made an order withdrawing the appeal and closed the file with no issues as to costs, she said.

Mr Fletcher's letter said Ngati Apa had entered a long-term lease arrangement to use the site for mussel farming under the original consents.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7806861/Port-Gore-salmon-farm-plan-canned>

Marlborough Express, 12 October 2012

King Salmon 'bought opponents' property'

Cathie Bell

NZ King Salmon had bought the Ngamahau Bay property of people who objected to its proposal to set up a farm near the property, the company's planner Sarah Dawson said yesterday.

Ms Dawson made the information public during cross-examination by Marlborough District Council lawyer Steven Quinnt at the Environmental Protection Authority's board of inquiry hearing in Blenheim yesterday.

The board is considering an application by King Salmon to set up eight new salmon farms, some in areas of the Marlborough Sounds where marine farming is prohibited.

When asked about what assessment she had done of properties in Ngamahau, she said the Ngamahau property of the Gledhills was now purchased by King Salmon, but then immediately retracted that, saying she had no idea what the arrangement was, other than an arrangement had been made.

"Agreement has been reached with the owners of that property and I have given no regard to that property since then."

The Marlborough Express reported in August that four submissions against NZ King Salmon plans to develop new farms in the Marlborough Sounds were withdrawn after the company reached an agreement with objectors Lawrence and Petrice Gledhill, of Picton.

The Gledhills submitted against the company's application to develop a new salmon farm in front of the family's bach and fishing base at Ngamahau, on Arapawa Island. In April, Mr Gledhill told the Marlborough Express that the proposed farm would ruin their view, destroy their privacy and devalue the property.

King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne said the Gledhills explained their concerns and a mutually beneficial agreement was reached. The location of the proposed Ngamahau farm in Tory Channel was not being moved.

Mr Gledhill said in August that the agreement between the parties was confidential.

Neither Mr Rosewarne nor Mr Gledhill could be contacted yesterday.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7806943/King-Salmon-bought-opponents-property>

Hebrides News, 12 October 2012

Vast numbers of salmon dying from major disease outbreak

A major disease outbreak is threatening to devastate fish farms across the Western Isles. Some farms are losing up to 20% of fish which are being choked to death by a parasite. Incidents of Amoebic Gill Disease (AGD) appeared in Loch Roag on Lewis last summer and is now rife across the islands.

The parasite attacks the gills causing swelling and mucus. The fish struggles to breath and suffocates.

Millions of fish are dying. The disease is widespread across Scotland's fish farms and has hit virtually every sea farm in the islands.

The Western Isles-based Scottish Salmon Company reckons it could lose 1,000 tonnes of fish, which, if replicated across the industry, would mean a loss of nearly £17 million at wholesale prices.

Unless the shock spread of the parasite is brought under control, it risks devastating a number of farms and wrecking next year's production.

Critics say the hungry expansion of fish farms and over-crowding of salmon in pens means the disease has exploded because the fish are crammed together in an environment they are not naturally designed for.

Island fishermen are worried that vast quantities of hydrogen peroxide, often used as bleach and in cleaning chemicals, is being pumped into sea lochs and important fishing grounds after treating farmed salmon for the disease.

The protozoan parasite neoparamoeba perurans appeared in Scotland only in the last year or so but is now colonising fish farms and creating serious havoc with the industry.

Numbers exploded this summer - said to be due to sea water in lochs around the Scottish coast being saltier than usual.

http://www.hebrides-news.com/salmon_disease_outbreak_in_scotland_121012.html

STV News, 11 October 2012

Fishermen in Western Isles losing up to 20% of stock as disease spreads



Fishermen in the Western Isles say they are concerned about the spread of disease in fish farms across the area.

A parasite which causes fish to choke to death is devastating stocks of farmed salmon.

Warmer and saltier waters are being blamed for the outbreak.

It is estimated some are losing 20% of their stock.

On the Western Isles local fishermen, who have to exist side by side with the giant tanks, are worried about the possible effects.

Creel fisherman Angus Campbell said: "The reports on Sepa indicate that there are hundreds of tonnes of fish dying in these sites.

"Last week we saw a load of 26 tonnes heading down to Uist to get buried. It's just incredible the amount of dead fish coming out of these sites."

The protozoan parasite *Neoparamoeba perurans* only appeared in Scotland last year, but has colonised in farms from Shetland to Argyll.

Producers are blaming unusually warmer seas this summer.

Critics say the over expansion of farms and the overcrowding of salmon has encouraged the disease to flourish.

Industry body, the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation claims "the treatment being used to kill the parasite, is entirely safe for both fish and the marine environment".

<http://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/194441-fishermen-in-western-isles-losing-up-to-20-of-stock-as-disease-spreads/>

Port Townsend Leader, 11 October 2012

Jefferson County commissioners hear from experts on salmon net pens

County officials still working on conditional-use permit

By Tristan Hiegler of the Leader

Jefferson County commissioners have begun discussing what happens when native fish become infected with lethal viruses and parasites as a result of net pens, even though no pens are currently planned for the county.

During an Oct. 8 workshop at the Cotton Building in Port Townsend, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) asked state experts in fish health and husbandry how net pens might impact native salmon if introduced into county waters.

The county is working on including a conditional-use permit for net pens in an update to the Shoreline Master Program. The state Department of Ecology is requiring that some provision for aquatic net pens be included.

Virus risks

The experts were asked if raising Atlantic salmon in net pens increased the risk of viruses making their way into the environment.

John Kerwin, with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said a virus known as infectious salmon anemia (ISA) was detected in Canadian waters in October 2011. He said Washington state labs have samples, but haven't fine-tuned the testing process.

Hugh Mitchell, a fish veterinarian, said wild populations are actually the ones that pass parasites and viruses onto the more vulnerable farm populations, not the other way around.

"The thing about viruses, bacteria and parasites, they are in the wild populations of fish. Usually, there's a nice balance in place ... what happens with farm populations is, a lot of time immune systems are naive. They can be like canaries; they pick up everything.

"Every disease comes from the wild," Mitchell added. He said he has numerous private and public clients, and serves as the contract veterinarian for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

"I do not believe ISA is here," Mitchell said.

Kerwin cautioned that it's difficult to predict viruses among fish populations because the

diseases mutate year to year.

“We get a flu shot every year because that virus mutates,” he said. “It’s tough to predict that future.”

Mitchell said that in his experience, virus particles dissipate quickly in the ocean. He said a certain threshold for particles must be reached in order to infect fish.

“The dissolution is tremendous just a couple of meters from the pen; the virus particles were down tremendously,” he said.

Sea lice

Questions were asked about sea lice carrying viruses and posing health risks to farm and native salmon.

“It’s been shown sea lice can be a vector,” Mitchell said.

He added that greater salinity in the region’s ocean might decrease the risk of lice infections and that having some sea lice wasn’t that dangerous.

“One or two doesn’t matter. That used to be a sign of a fresh fish, when you had one or two sea lice on it,” Mitchell said.

Commissioner Phil Johnson asked about the danger of sea lice falling off farm fish and latching onto younger native fish swimming by below the nets.

“The farmer cannot afford to keep a large amount of sea lice on their fish,” Mitchell said.

Managing waste

Another concern raised by commissioners about net pens was waste from Atlantic salmon contaminating local waters.

Jill Rolland, with the U.S. Geological Survey, said all animal-raising practices, whether based on land or sea, create waste that has an impact on the surrounding environment.

“To think there is no impact is unrealistic ... and the key is to put in provisions that minimize the impact on the environment,” Rolland said.

Mike Rust, a science coordinator with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said he’s spent many years raising fish and disposing of them, when necessary. Rust said the best practices for fish have become more sophisticated.

He said video monitors are used to measure the waste from the net-pen fish.

“Salmon farming is so much more efficient,” Rust said of the practice versus other animal husbandry industries.

Mitchell said the rule of thumb recognized in the aquaculture industry is to limit fish density

in the pens to 15 kilograms of fish per cubic meter.

Future projects

The entire discussion was possibly rendered moot by one of Rust's answers to a question about properly placing net pens.

"I honestly can't imagine any rational company wanting to site in Jefferson County," he said.

Mitchell said concerns with currents, water depth and marine traffic complicate properly placing net pens in the county's waters.

He added, "You really can move a site quite easily." He said within six months of moving a net pen, there's usually no sign it was at the previous location.

Johnson said he's not convinced that a complete picture of the problems facing the industry was given.

"They're having a great deal of trouble in Canada," he said.

Johnson said he also doesn't want multinational companies moving and setting up shop off Jefferson County's coasts.

"I think it's going to become a huge industry, and that's my fear," he said.

<http://www.ptleader.com/main.asp?SectionID=36&SubSectionID=55&ArticleID=32295>

Marlborough Express, 11 October 2012

Open ocean or on land for salmon farms

Penny Wardle

The Marlborough Recreational Fishers' Association and Soundfish say farming salmon in the ocean or on land would be more sustainable than in the Marlborough Sounds.

Retired biologist John Leader suggested this alternative at the Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim on Tuesday, in a submission from the fishing groups and Des Boyce, who sits on both groups' committees.

In its prospectus, the Nelson-based Cawthron Institute says its current focus is sustainable fish farming in the open ocean, Mr Leader said. Given this, it was surprising King Salmon, which employed Cawthron experts in its application to expand in the Marlborough Sounds, rejected ocean farming as technically impossible.

A mussel farm was planned for a deep-water site offshore from Pegasus Bay in Canterbury and consent had been granted for deep-water aquaculture on the west side of D'Urville Island in the Marlborough Sounds and in Clifford Bay near Ward, Mr Leader said.

Overseas, there were many deep-water fish farms, including one in Hawaii raising many tonnes of fish in submerged pens. This company was trialling new technology including remote monitoring that meant farms could be left unattended for two to three weeks in rough weather.

For King Salmon, disadvantages of deep sea farming would be more costly net construction, anchoring, travel and harvesting, Mr Leader said.

These would be offset by faster-growing, healthier fish and the marketing benefits of clean technology.

King Salmon aquaculture general manager Mark Preece had said land-based farming was feasible but operating costs were double those of the company's sea farms.

However, a Canadian study found it would cost \$12 to \$14 million to build a farm capable of growing 1000 tonnes of fish, he said.

This was similar to the cost of the hearing and would eliminate community concerns.

Clifford Bay near Ward would be a suitable place to build a land-based farm, Mr Leader said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7801252/Open-ocean-or-on-land-for-salmon-farms>

Marlborough Express, 11 October 2012

Salmon oil claim disputed



Arapawa Island resident Carney Soderberg

New Zealand King Salmon has supported its application to expand in the Marlborough Sounds with misleading statements, Arapawa Island resident Carney Soderberg says.

The firm had aggressively marketed its king salmon as nutritionally superior to atlantic salmon, Mr Soderberg told the Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim on Tuesday.

A flyer distributed in Marlborough in April this year said foreign atlantic salmon had half the healthy omega 3 oil of king salmon, which was one reason it was in demand. However, this was disputed by figures published by the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, he said.

That information showed king salmon had 12 per cent more calories than atlantic salmon, 8 per cent more fat, 11 per cent more saturated fat, 35 per cent more cholesterol, and 19 per cent less omega 3. On the positive side, king salmon had 16 per cent more protein and 1.6 per cent less sodium, Mr Soderberg said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7801287/Salmon-oil-claim-disputed>

Marlborough Express, 11 October 2012

Inquiry 'may be charade'

Penny Wardle

Marlborough Environment Centre chairman Tim Newsham hopes the board of inquiry considering whether New Zealand King Salmon can build new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds is free to make a decision based on intuition and wisdom.

"I hope this process . . . is not just a pageant, a charade, to try to lull us into thinking we are still working within a fair and democratic process," Mr Newsham said at the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) hearing in Blenheim on Tuesday.

In February, the EPA phoned Mr Newsham asking whether he would consider being appointed to the board of inquiry; an offer which after some thought he refused. "For the next few days I tore my belief system to shreds trying to come to terms with whether or not I was capable of hearing all the evidence and remaining objective."

The data he had since read on both sides of the debate reinforced his view that little was known about the marine environment. "I haven't seen a glimmer of evidence to say this is a safe activity."

Judge Gordon Whiting said when making decisions on environmental matters, the board could not consider who had done what to whom in the past but must focus on the present to make decisions for the future.

Mr Newsham also gave a submission for the Bay of Many Coves Ratepayers and Residents Association, questioning the benefits of allowing an industry to develop an export product in the Sounds when this might destroy the ability of people to feed themselves from their environment.

Among community members submitting against the application this week:

- Richard Ford, who has lived at Bulwer in Pelorus Sound on and off for 41 years and watched water quality decline and marine growth increase on moorings and the sea floor. Children would not swim in the bay because of sharks attracted by the farm and he felt unsafe to dive. If its application was successful, King Salmon should be charged a bond so the cost of cleaning up the environment would not fall on ratepayers.

- Hanneke Kroon of Elie Bay said King Salmon's own evidence showed the water in the whole of Pelorus Sound and most of Queen Charlotte Sound was unsuitable for salmon farming .

- Eric Jorgensen of Port Underwood said rapid deterioration of the Sounds environment underlined the importance of aquaculture-free zones.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7801289/Inquiry-may-be-charade>

Marlborough Express, 11 October 2012

Fast-track plan may trample democracy

Bev Doole



OPINION: Week seven of the Environmental Protection Authority hearing into NZ King Salmon's expansion plan for the Marlborough Sounds is coming to a close and, with just a week to go, the clock is ticking.

This is a test case for coastal areas under the EPA process and the legal teams, submitters, expert witnesses and sometimes even the board of inquiry have been grappling with the time pressure of the new fast-track approach.

NZ King Salmon has applied to the Environmental Protection Authority for nine more farms in the Marlborough Sounds, eight of them in areas where aquaculture is prohibited.

It is just over a year since legislation was passed to kick-start the aquaculture industry in the hope of increasing export earnings and creating jobs. The law change has streamlined the consents process and done away with aquaculture management areas that had restricted where marine farms could go.

Combined with the Environmental Protection Authority, which was set up by the Government as a fast-track planning process, the King Salmon application has a fair wind behind it.

But where does this leave the 800 or so community submitters, the Marlborough District Council and the Department of Conservation, who have opposed the application? Their budgets are nowhere near the \$8 million that King Salmon is believed to have spent so far on their case and paying for the board of inquiry hearing.

The board, headed by Environment Court Judge Gordon Whiting, has sat in Blenheim, at Waikawa Marae and at Portage. Residents, bach owners, tourism operators, boaties, fishermen and iwi have come to the unfamiliar surroundings of the temporary courtroom to present their cases and, in some instances, try their hand at cross-examination. Few can afford to hire a lawyer and despite Judge Whiting's inclusive approach, the process can be bewildering.

There have also been questions from Wellington as cabinet ministers quizzed Marlborough Mayor Alistair Sowman on why the council has opposed King Salmon, and Nelson MP Nick Smith has been knocking on the mayor's door urging him to change the council's mind.

The application has raised the issue, which will be relevant for other councils around the country, of who is in charge of planning for the region. Aquaculture already has its own zone in the Marlborough Sounds but King Salmon wants to go into the prohibited area where cooler, faster-flowing water provides better growing conditions for the salmon and flushes away the fish faeces and uneaten food.

The board has heard how discharge from salmon farms smothers the seafloor and releases nitrogen, which has been compared to the runoff from intensive dairy farming. Little is known about where this nitrogen flows to and the impact on other bays and sealife.

The environmental effects need to be balanced with the economic gains of the proposal, which are difficult to quantify because a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis has not been presented to the hearing.

Over the weeks it has become clear that community submitters and the Marlborough District Council are not saying "no" to economic development. They are saying "yes" to a balanced approach as represented by their District Plan, which was consulted on and takes account of all Sounds users.

The pressure is on for the board of inquiry - the EPA process allows just nine months from public notification for submissions to the final decision due by the end of December.

The NZ King Salmon expansion plan in the Marlborough Sounds started out being about aquaculture. But it is increasingly becoming a question of democracy as the community

struggles with a fast-track planning system, a highly resourced applicant and a Government on a mission.

What happens if the Government doesn't get the result it wants from this board of inquiry? Will it "do an ECan" - remove the Marlborough District Council and call in commissioners to ensure government policy is carried out to expand aquaculture, all in the name of economic growth?

A lot can happen in 12 months; with further reforms to the Resource Management Act and Local Government Act coming up, the legal framework is changing to ease the way for large projects such as the King Salmon application.

Bev Doole is a freelance journalist based in Marlborough. She specialises in environmental issues.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/opinion/7801701/Fast-track-plan-may-trample-democracy>

Dutch News, 11 October 2012

11 firms fined for failing to act on infected salmon

The food safety body NVWA has fined 11 companies for continuing to sell salmon which might have been contaminated with salmonella or failing to keep their customers informed about the food poisoning outbreak.

The NVWA says it is pleased most outlets took immediate steps to withdraw smoked salmon from fish firm Foppen from sale when the salmonella was first identified. Several hundred people were taken ill after eating the infected fish.

According to the Telegraaf, the NVWA has confirmed the salmon came from one of the company's six production lines in Greece. Production has now been restarted in the Netherlands, the paper says.

http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2012/10/11_firms_fined_for_failing_to.php

The Daily News, 10 October 2012

Salmon farming industry is a waste of resources

Re: 'Salmon farm activist acquitted of defamation' (Daily News, Oct. 4)

I enjoyed reading D.C. Reid's article about Don Staniford today. My comment is that since Atlantic salmon are carnivores even if they're farmed on land they would still require wild fish to eat.

I've been told the wild fish components of their food pellets come from the Pacific Ocean off South America, and, due to the size of the salmon feedlot industry, their harvest is depleting

wild stocks of small fish there. Each kilogram of feedlot salmon requires from two to four kilos of wild fish.

I would venture to guess that the vast majority of land-based fish farms he's encountered are for vegetarian fish.

In my opinion the entire salmon feedlot industry is a waste of resources as described above in addition to being breeding grounds for sea lice and disease and should be completely banned. I believe the feedlot industry in B.C. is allowed to exist because both the federal and provincial governments want to kill all the wild salmon and the indigenous cultures they support, for the ultimate goal of drilling for oil off our once-pristine coast - you are aware that most of the offshore B.C. waters are leased to the world's major oil companies, aren't you?

Laurie Watt New Westminster

<http://www.canada.com/Salmon+farming+industry+waste+resources/7369536/story.html>

The Mercury, 10 October 2012

Scales of injustice

Elaine Reeves



Huon Aquaculture business support manager David Whyte in the ``paddock''. Picture: ELAINE REEVES

FRANCES Bender and David Whyte are salmon farmers but sometimes, particularly on a long-distance flight, they might not want to admit to it.

David says he can almost see a person pressing the buzzer for the flight attendant and asking to be moved when he tells them his job.

If he is tired he might claim to be a public servant working in statistics.

Frances, who with her husband Peter owns Huon Aquaculture, says sometimes she also is too tired to "fight the good fight".

As likely as not, the person sitting next to her or David -- a marine biologist who is Huon Aquaculture's business support manager -- has a clutch of information about the evils of salmon farming that has come from the internet, which is 20 years out of date or was never correct in the first place.

Top of the list will be that salmon are the battery hens of the sea, raised in overcrowded pens.

Then that they are fed an unsustainable amounts of seafood, that the cost of raising them is not justified by the kilograms of fish produced and that the fish farms are polluting.

If either Frances or David is feeling a little perky, they will politely put the naysayer straight.

Most people, when asked to guess what proportion of a pen the 60,000 salmon in it occupy, are way off the mark.

The answer is the fish occupy 1.2 per cent of the space the rest is water. And that is when fully grown.

The pellets Huon Aquaculture uses to feed its fish contain only 15 per cent fish meal from fish such as anchovies. Nine years ago it would have been 30 per cent and the aim is to get it lower yet. In the two years it grows on the farm, a salmon eats only 6.5kg of feed.

For every 100kg of feed you can raise 13kg of pork, 20kg of chicken or 65kg of salmon.

And if the entire farm in the Huon River were to be packed up, within a year even a diver could not tell where it had been.

"Salmon are sensitive indicators of pollution. By definition, if you are growing healthy fish you are doing the right thing by the environment," Frances said.

"In our business the health of our fish and the health of our environment are so interlinked, you just wouldn't do the wrong thing."

None of this is the cheapest way to go.

"I remember someone saying ocean yacht racing was like standing under a cold shower tearing up \$20 notes," David said. "Well, fish farming is like standing under a cold shower tearing up \$100 notes with accountants shouting at you."

The fish are killed at night in such a way that they are unaware and not stressed.

David said a line-caught fish goes into rigor mortis in about an hour.

Their salmon do not go into rigor mortis for as long as 10 hours, which means they can be processed before that sets in which avoids problems of the flesh "gaping" where it has torn away from the bone.

Attention to detail all the way "from egg to packet" gives their smoked salmon a superior shelf life and much firmer texture.

Whereas many companies smoke fish for as little as eight hours, at Mt Barker in South Australia, Huon Aquaculture takes an "artisan" approach and takes 24 to 48 hours to smoke the fillets over red gum. Their slices of salmon are not more orange at the edge, which is an indicator of quick smoke, where the smoke and flavour have not penetrated through the fillet.

The newest of Huon Aquaculture's four labels are Reserve and Salmon to Go.

The Reserve is the top of the range and available only by mail order via the [website](#).

Only when an order for, say, smoked salmon cured in Lark Whisky, or hand-rolled Banquet Rolls is received will it be prepared and only by chosen staff.

It starts with the selection of the fillets at the Parramatta Creek processing factory in northern Tasmania, is finished in South Australia and mailed to your door. The Salmon to Go is a line developed especially for independent supermarkets and specialty stores.

It includes hot and cold-smoked portions ready eat, and soon there will be a range of burgers.

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2012/10/10/363553_lifestyle.html

Marlborough Express, 10 October 2012

Judge appreciates young ideas

Penny Wardle

Sixth generation Marlborough Sounds resident Patrick Gerard earned accolades from Judge Gordon Whiting at the Environmental Protection Authority hearing at the Portage Resort Hotel on Monday.

Judge Whiting, who heads the board of inquiry considering whether New Zealand King Salmon can build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds, said he appreciated young people like 16-year-old Patrick sharing their ideas.

The Nelson Boys' College student and resident of Hopai Bay, in Pelorus Sound, said the proposed term of consent for the salmon farms was 35 years, until 2047. By then, few people in the room would be alive.

Thirty-five years back in time, the number one selling album in New Zealand was The Best of ABBA, punk music was just beginning and everyone was watching Saturday Night Fever.

"How many of you were jiving to that?" he asked.

Judge Whiting said he had a correction to make to Patrick's evidence. Jiving pre-dated ABBA and rock 'n roll and he could still dance to Lady Gaga with his grandchildren.

Patrick said aquaculture-prohibited zones where King Salmon had applied to build farms were a snapshot of Sounds history worth protecting. Returning home from school, he enjoyed the peacefulness of the non-industrialised Sounds at Hopai where his family farmed and in Port Gore in the outer Sounds where they holidayed.

Patrick's mother, Kristen Gerard, was angry the nine applications for farm space were being heard as one because site-specific landscape considerations might not be given justice.

Sounds property owners who had watched "massive expansion" of aquaculture worried about the precedent if the King Salmon application was successful, Mrs Gerard said.

The company went about site selection with great secrecy because they knew there were others "sniffing around", she said.

These competitors might follow behind.

If the board allowed marine farms in prohibited areas, this could devalue previously unmodified landscapes, so easing the way of future applications through the resource consent process, Mrs Gerard said.

King Salmon expert Frank Boffa had suggested a proposed farm at Papatua in Port Gore should not include accommodation barges, because this was a significant landscape. However, the absence of a barge would be negated by a service vessel and work boats coming and going.

Mrs Gerard said rough weather in Gore Bay risked predator exclusion nets at the proposed Papatua farm being damaged, then entangling dolphins.

King Salmon reports had mentioned a policy of no guns except in extreme circumstances, Mrs Gerard said.

"We don't believe they should have the right to shoot anything in a marine environment," she said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7795968/Judge-appreciates-young-ideas>

Marlborough Express, 10 October 2012

Locals know area better

Penny Wardle

People who live in the Marlborough Sounds have a richer knowledge of the landscape than experts from outside the area, says Pelorus Sound's Tony Black.

Mr Black, whose family owns a bach 300 metres from a salmon farm at Waihinau, is opposing an application by New Zealand King Salmon to build nine new fish-farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

Experts for King Salmon came across as strangers to the landscape he knew well, Mr Black said.

King Salmon had applied to place salmon farms in three of four places he routinely took visitors to, Mr Black said. This included Waitata which was one of the last bays in the area with no man-made structures and the gun emplacement at Post Office Point.

Negative changes he had already seen in Waitata Reach included the collapse of the cod fishery, near-destruction of scallop beds and the loss of all but one remnant area of paua.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7795969/Locals-know-area-better>

Marlborough Express, 10 October 2012

Fish farms expected to hit property values

Penny Wardle

Nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds could shave millions of dollars off property values in the area, says Wellington man Mark McGuinness.

Mr McGuinness is a property developer and also owns property on Arapawa Island, in the Sounds. He said a property looking out over two proposed farms at Kaitapeha Pt might lose \$500,000 in value.

New Zealand King Salmon's failure to analyse costs as well as benefits of its application to expand was a fatal flaw, he told the Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim yesterday.

The day King Salmon was given consents for its proposed new farms in the Sounds, its capital value would increase at the expense of neighbouring property owners. This would happen even if the farms were not built.

"I could live with losing value on our property if I thought this was a good thing for New Zealand, but struggle when asked to be an unwitting part in a poor deal for the local economy and the country," Mr McGuinness said.

King Salmon said its farms had a small footprint but the application was the equivalent of putting a 40-storey building in a suburb of colonial villas, he said.

Arapawa Island resident Carney Soderberg said he had contacted several valuers in the Sounds to assess his property as a result of the King Salmon application. All but one had a conflict of interest because of past and present associations with the company.

The valuer Mr Soderberg employed said the proximity of a salmon farm to his property could reduce its value because of noise, visual and pollution effects.

King Salmon had concealed evidence of market devaluations through confidentiality clauses with property owners, Mr Soderberg claimed.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7795699/Fish-farms-expected-to-hit-property-values>

Marlborough Express, 10 October 2012

Fears of light pollution from farms

Penny Wardle

Proposed new salmon farms in the Waitata Reach of Pelorus Sound would create light pollution, says Waitaria Bay resident Colin Roper.

The Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association lighting expert told an Environmental Protection Authority hearing that King Salmon's planned five proposed farms in the Waitata Reach of Pelorus Sound would have too many flashing lights.

Anyone travelling the reach at night would see up to 25 lights, each flashing five times every 20 seconds, Mr Roper said.

"At 5 to 6 knots in clear conditions a boat's crew will be staring at a proliferation of flashing lights for an hour," he said.

This could make other vessels harder to see and cause confusion and irritation.

King Salmon planned to add to this light pollution by illuminating water under the farms, Mr Roper said.

This was to delay fish maturity.

Mr Roper was speaking to the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry.

The inquiry will decide whether King Salmon should have the required plan change and resource consent to build nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

On Monday the hearing was held at the Portage Resort Hotel in Kenepuru Sound. Yesterday it moved to the Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7795912/Fears-of-light-pollution-from-farms>

The Belfast Telegraph, 10 October 2012

Anglers' objection to salmon status bid

By Linda Stewart



It's a mark of quality that would see salmon from Ireland joining the ranks of such world renowned foods as Feta cheese, Champagne and the Cornish pasty.

But Northern Ireland's anglers are up in arms about plans to seek PGI (protected geographical indication) status for the term 'Irish salmon', so that only salmon farmed in Irish waters can be labelled as such.

The Ulster Angling Federation has lodged an objection to the PGI application, which is the first to be made on an all-Ireland basis.

The anglers claim the term has been hijacked by the Irish salmon farming industry and will create confusion following last week's warning that wild Irish salmon is in danger of going extinct.

UAF chairman Jim Haughey said: "The idea is clearly to create the illusion that consumers are receiving a wild Irish product.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. The proposal needs to be amended to, say, 'Farmed Salmon from Ireland'."

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/anglers-objection-to-salmon-status-bid-16222210.html>

NRK, 9 October 2012

[Translated via Google Translate]

Sea lice from farmed fish goes out over the wild salmon stocks



Such wild salmon have been fewer. Along the whole coast of Norway will be no pushing hard to take care of wild salmon.

The problem is greatest in the area with many farms, says Torbjørn Forseth to scientific advice for salmon management.

- *Hans-Olav Rise* Hans-Olav.Rise@nrk.no
- *Anne-Mari Flatset* anne-mari.flatset@nrk.no

Leader of the scientific advice for salmon management, Torbjørn Forseth, says sea lice situation in Norway is very serious.



Lice has long been a problem for farmed fish in Norway. Increasingly, however, has lice spread to wild salmon.

No science has advice for lakseforvaltning come with the important thorough review to no

on site.

- If the problem continues then it may go beyond the existence of wild salmon in the Norwegian fjords, says council leader Torbjørn Forseth to NRK.no.

- Setting the context

Forseth says that sea lice in wild salmon is a clearly the biggest problem in the area with much farming.

- One must really keep the pressure up, for there is a connection between how much it is lice in farmed fish and the quantity of lice that come in wild fish.

The new report goes on lice its impact on wild salmon.

Sea lice on wild salmon, a growing problem.



Photo: Kjartan Trana / NRK

In some areas in Norway, it is proved that there is less wild because of lice. The situation is described as very serious.

- Where farming is most intense, this is a problem that goes on level of existence for several salmon stocks, announces Forseth.

Especially in Hordaland, and especially in the Hardangerfjord, the problem has been found.

- All salmon river as it was previously caught in has now been closed for many years.

- This can happen other places in the country where lice have an increasing effect, concludes chairman scientific advice for salmon management.

• READ ALSO: [Record Low salmon to the West Coast](#)

• READ ALSO: [11.6 million project to wild salmon](#)

http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/distrikt/more_og_romsdal/1.8351286

BBC News, 9 October 2012

Western Isles salmon farm in wrasse 'first'



The "cleaner-fish" are being used to manage sea lice populations

Farmed ballan wrasse have been introduced to a Scottish salmon farm for the first time.

They were transferred to a farm run by The Scottish Salmon Company (SCC) in the Western Isles.

It is hoped they will help minimise the impact of sea lice - a naturally-occurring parasite that attaches itself to both farmed and wild salmon.

SCC worked with Viking Fish Farms at Ardtoe in Argyll to develop the first commercial production of ballan wrasse.

It follows four years of research and development aimed at finding a natural method of tackling the problem of sea lice.

SCC said it saw the wrasse as effective "cleaner-fish" which offered a natural biological means to control the parasite.

Scottish Salmon Company technical manager Dale Hill said: "We recognise the significant potential for wrasse to play a part in the management of sea lice populations within our marine production facilities.

"However, the capture and use of wild wrasse is not sustainable and farmed wrasse has the advantage of being certified as disease free.

"One additional benefit afforded by the work undertaken with Viking Fish Farms is to build on the knowledge provided by the wrasse farming technology."

He added: "This will assist in improving the cost basis for this method of sea lice control and therefore extend its use and uptake for sea lice management within our Industry."

Ecofish project

Research into the use of wrasse was launched in 2008 and later co-opted into the Ecofish project, an initiative financed through the European Regional Development Fund and backed by state grants and private funding.

The findings from the initiative will be shared with the industry as a whole.

Viking Fish Farms research manager Jim Treasurer commented: "The Ardtoe hatchery working with The Scottish Salmon Company, along with other partners in the Ecofish project, pioneered the rearing of ballan wrasse in Europe.

"It is encouraging to see that the first of these farmed ballan wrasse are now being stocked with salmon in Scotland."

SSC said the transferred wrasse were "thriving".

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28 JANUARY 2011, SCOTLAND

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

14 DECEMBER 2010, SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-19878554>

You Tube, 9 October 2012

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Nova Scotia atlantic salmon feedlots, sea lice? Maybe.

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When Premier Dexter tells Nova Scotians that we haven't had an "outbreak" of sea lice here in a decade is that just a weasel word for "pesticides take care of them"?

Watch online here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EIFQ6OhUec>

Peninsula Daily News, 9 October 2012

Fish disease experts discuss aquaculture

By Charlie Bermant



Charlie Bermant/Peninsula Daily News

Mike Rust, the science coordinator for the Office of Aquaculture in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, sits on the panel at the aquaculture workshop Monday.

PORT TOWNSEND — Midway into a workshop about fish diseases with regard to net pen aquaculture, one of the panelists put the discussion into a certain perspective.

“I can't imagine any rational company would install a fish-farming site anywhere in Jefferson County,” said Mike Rust, science coordinator for the Office of Aquaculture in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, on Monday afternoon.

He later said the comment was a joke, though some attending the meeting took it seriously.

The meeting was called to examine the potential disease dangers of fish farming.

Jefferson County commissioners are looking into using a conditional-use process to evaluate potential fish-farming operations since the state Department of Ecology has said the county cannot place an outright ban on the practice in its shoreline management program update.

In addition to Rust, the panel included Jill Rolland, director of the U.S. Geological Survey Western Fisheries Research Center; Laura Hoberecht, National Wildlife Refuge aquaculture coordinator, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; Hugh Mitchell, an expert on fish health and vaccines; and John Kerwin of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

After the meeting, Rust said his statement was facetious, that it had no basis in fact and that he “had thrown it in just to add a little bit of levity to the discussion.

“It was obviously in jest,” Rust said. “Until you go out and find out what the water is like and the oceanography is like, there is no way to tell if it's a good choice or a bad choice.”

The joke wasn't clear to attendees, especially since the comment followed a discussion about where a fish pen could be located.

The commissioners already have ruled out Discovery Bay and Hood Canal for fish-farming operations, with the only acceptable places in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and on the Pacific Coast of the West End of the county.

Jefferson County Commissioner Phil Johnson didn't think Rust's statement was a joke and thought it pertained to the intense permit process that any applicant would need to satisfy should they choose to locate in Jefferson County.

“I think that the reason they might not want to locate here is because they don't want to have to fight for everything they want,” Johnson said.

Johnson said he was most worried about infectious salmon anemia virus — also known as ISA — and how its presence would affect the aquatic wildlife that are in proximity to the fish farm.

“We don't believe there is any ISA in British Columbia,” Mitchell said.

“There was a piece of DNA that showed its presence, but it wasn't there when we tested again, and even that little piece is debatable.”

Several panelists said the virus transmission more often occurs from wild fish to farmed fish, but the concentration of many fish in a small space is still an issue.

“When the fish are in close proximity to each other, the diseases can spread more easily, like when you take a sick kid to day care,” Rolland said.

“Farmed fish are more likely to get viruses from wild fish than the other way around.”

“There is a variety of currents that pass through a net pen, but most of the toxins are reduced to a background level within a football field's length,” Kerwin said.

“They seem to be telling us that everything is OK and they have this under control, but I still have some questions,” Johnson said.

“I find it hard to believe that the concentration of feces is not a problem after all the articles that I've read about this.”

Johnson also is concerned about the presence of sea lice, something panel members said was not an issue in United States waterways.

Associate planner Michelle McConnell said net pens currently are allowed under Jefferson County code and that no applications for such a venture have been received for several decades, but the examination process is still necessary.

“There is risk in all things, but the best way to restrict the use is to take a look at all the foreseeable possibilities and to put an adaptable system in place,” she said.

In developing the shoreline management program, the greatest sticking point has been establishing a mechanism for evaluating fish farms.

"I'm not doing this to be difficult," Johnson said of his continued skepticism about the fish-farming process.

Jefferson County Reporter Charlie Bermant can be reached at 360-385-2335 or at charlie.bermant@peninsuladailynews.com

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20121010/NEWS/310109991/fish-disease-experts-discuss-aquaculture>

Reuters, 9 October 2012

Marine Harvest preliminary Q3 core earnings drop 86 pct

Oslo - Marine Harvest, the world's biggest Atlantic salmon producer, said core [earnings](#) fell about 86 percent in the third quarter but it harvested volumes slightly above its July guidance during the quarter.

Operational earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) for the group declined to about 65 million Norwegian crowns (\$11.39 million) in the July-September period from 457 million crowns a year ago, it said on Tuesday in a preliminary earnings update.

Total volumes was 93,000 tonnes of fish compared to its guidance for 90,000 tonnes.

"The results for the Chilean and Canadian activities were adversely impacted by the challenging market conditions during the quarter," it said.

Marine Harvest, controlled by shipping tycoon John Fredriksen, is due to report its full quarterly report on Oct. 26.

(\$1 = 5.7045 Norwegian crowns)

(Reporting by Victoria Klesty; Editing by Matt Driskill)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/09/marineharvest-earnings-idUSL6E8L90Q620121009>

Marlborough Express, 9 October 2012

Residents raise opposition to NZKS plan

Jared Nicoll

Some Marlborough Sounds residents accused King Salmon of operating with a "slash and burn" mentality and failing to acknowledge the danger further farms would pose to boat traffic at a hearing on Friday.

The residents voiced their opposition to King Salmon's proposal to build nine new fish farms in the Sounds during the third day of the Environmental Protection Agency board of inquiry hearings at Waikawa Marae.

East Bay Conservation Society president Mark Denize opposed King Salmon's application, on behalf of the society, saying the farms would pollute the environment and there was a lack of monitoring on existing sites.

"It is now abundantly clear that the entire enterprise is being run under a slash and burn modus operandi when even Clay Point, their highest velocity flow site and still well under its predicted maximum feed load, can reach an impacted state requiring intervention after only four years of operation."

Knox Dowson spoke against a proposed salmon farm at Ngamahau and said his family knew Tory Channel well from owning a bach there for more than 40 years.

He believed the risk to boats and ferries from debris from the farm or the chance it would float away from its mooring in rough conditions was too high and that the aquaculture company did not understand the danger they could pose to human life.

The company had based its research on that provided by the Cawthron Institute but the institute had calculated the water speed too close to the shore and not at the actual location of the proposed farm site where conditions were rougher, he said.

Picton man Jeremy Hall said he opposed all salmon farms on the grounds they could create navigational hazards and toxic algal blooms.

At the end of proceedings, Judge Gordon Whiting thanked the marae, all present and their ancestors, before giving a closing statement in Maori.

"Te Atiawa is clearly a strong and vibrant iwi, it stands tall in the forest of mankind.

"While they are together, they can agree to disagree and it was a privilege to hear.

"The strength of your iwi is reflected in this beautiful marae."

Earlier in the day, Judge Whiting emphasised evidence given by "experts and non-experts" would be given the same weight in judgment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7787234/Residents-raise-opposition-to-NZKS-plan>

Marlborough Express, 9 October 2012

Farms will 'scar' sounds

Jared Nicoll



JARED NICOLL

Peter Beech, Guardians of the Sounds

King Salmon's fish farms create more pollution than the environment can handle and proposed sites in Tory Channel will pose a navigational risk to boats, Guardians of the Sounds chairman Peter Beech says.

Mr Beech opposed King Salmon's application to build nine new fish farms at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing at Waikawa Marae on Thursday and Friday.

Representing Marlborough Sounds conservation advocacy group Guardians of the Sounds, Mr Beech said the farms would permanently scar the environment with "five to 9000 litres of anti-foul [paint] containing zinc and copper per farm per annum".

"Every time I see mussel or fish farms and think of the pollution and adverse effects I feel a sense of profound sadness for a paradise lost."

The industry needed to use closed-containment farming to control the feeding, waterflow and pollution of the farms.

The Tory Channel sites were a prime example of uncontrolled pollution, the original depositional footprint was 150 metres, and the company was now applying for 900 metres, but faeces and toxins had been found up to kilometres away because of the high water flow, he said.

Mr Beech said all existing farms exceeded enrichment stage (ES) level 5. Level one being pristine, level seven being completely dead.

Proposed sites at Kaitapeha, Ruaomoko and Ngamahau were a risk to safe navigation in the channel for private boat owners and ferries. The farms could also leave debris in the water and could come adrift from their moorings creating a floating minefield.

"They cannot guarantee these huge structures will not come adrift and it is irresponsible to place them in a narrow [high volume shipping] channel."

The application went against the Treaty of Waitangi, the United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people and the Takutai Moana Act because the Government was attempting to claim ownership of part of the seabed to let King Salmon use it exclusively.

He believed the proposed 35-year leases were too long and could easily be renewed provided King Salmon complied with regulations.

Guardians of the Sounds' long-term goal was for a Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Structure made up of various stakeholders to govern the area and for the boundaries of Coastal Marine Zone 1 to be a prohibited zone.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7787331/Farms-will-scar-Sounds>

Marlborough Express, 9 October 2012

Salmon farm moved again



NZ King Salmon farm when it was moved from Wahinau Bay 7 nautical miles to Forsyth Bay in 2009.

New Zealand King Salmon has shifted its Waihinou Farm back to Forsyth Bay a year earlier than planned.

Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association chairman Pat Williams said the Waihinou farm, where large numbers of fish have died since late summer, was towed to Forsyth on Sunday. King Salmon managers had said this was because the farm reached non-compliant pollution levels earlier than expected.

Mr Williams told the Environmental Protection Authority hearing deciding whether King Salmon should be permitted to build nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds, that this raised the question of the suitability of Waihinou and Forsyth Bay for fish farming. The farm was shifted from Forsyth only a year ago because it was not compliant.

King Salmon operations and compliance manager Mark Gillard told the Marlborough Express the farm was moved a year earlier than planned, ahead of yearly monitoring for compliance by the Nelson-based Cawthron Institute in November.

King Salmon general manager Mark Preece said the move was prompted by the farm reaching its 3000-tonne limit for feed discharge.

Farms were moved as and when required, Mr Preece said.

Marlborough District Council regulatory department manager Hans Versteegh yesterday said the move raised questions being followed up with the company.

Mr Versteegh said King Salmon had told the harbourmaster of the shift but not the council's environmental monitoring staff, even though the move was to ensure consent compliance. However, the company was not required to notify the council.

A staff member was contacting the company to see if the existing state of the Forsyth farm was measured before the farm was installed.

"They may have done that. They haven't reported it to us, so we don't know."

Mr Preece said Sunday's move was the fourth tow after the farm was relocated from Forsyth Bay to Waihinau Bay in 2000, then back to Forsyth in 2008, and then back again to Waihinau last year.

Harvesting at the new site began on Sunday, he said.

Mr Versteegh said he understood that the council had an agreement with King Salmon that it would keep the Forsyth Bay site fallow for two years.

The farm supplies both New Zealand and overseas markets and produces about \$25 million of salmon a year.

Waihinau is the same farm where an unusually high number of salmon deaths - 7 per cent of the 500,000-strong fish farm - began in March.

Testing by the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry confirmed the fish were clear of all known viruses and bacterial diseases.

Mr Preece said the tow was not because of the salmon deaths.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7787332/Salmon-farm-moved-again>

The Mercury, 9 October 2012

Fish farms to expand in West

HANNAH MARTIN

PLANS to expand fish farms in Macquarie Harbour have the potential to triple production rates for three leading Tasmanian salmon producers.



Petuna Aquaculture at Macquarie Harbour, on Tasmania's West Coast.

Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke has signed off on a proposal to increase the size of salmon farms in the West Coast harbour by 63 per cent to 926ha.

The farms are operated by Petuna Aquaculture, Tassal and Huon Aquaculture, which was last week named Tasmanian Exporter of the Year.

Tasmania is the largest salmon-producing state in Australia and the industry is one of its fastest growing.

Primary Industries and Water Minister Bryan Green said the value of salmon production in Tasmania had increased \$250 million in the past five years , growing by almost \$1 million a week.

The sector last year produced more than 30,000 tonnes of fish and was expected to reach 80,000 tonnes this year.

Mr Green said the Macquarie Harbour project at Strahan would create 100 jobs during construction and inject about \$88 million into the regional economy in the next five years.

Another 160 production and processing jobs will be created in the salmon farming industry.

Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association chief executive Dr Adam Main said the industry was working with the local community to investigate training opportunities that would allow residents to fill some of the roles.

Dr Main said the majority of salmon farmed in the state was consumed in Australia, with Tasmanian products available in supermarkets around the country.

He said there was also a strong market for fresh Tasmanian salmon in Asia, as well as smoked salmon products.

Despite initial concerns from environmental groups, the plan has had widespread support from union groups, the aquaculture industry and even the Tasmanian Greens, who welcomed environmental monitoring conditions placed on the Macquarie Harbour fish farms.

"The decision by the Federal Environment Minister requires that baseline environmental survey and ongoing water quality monitoring is undertaken on all lease areas and compliance sites prior to commencement of operations," Greens MP Tim Morris said.

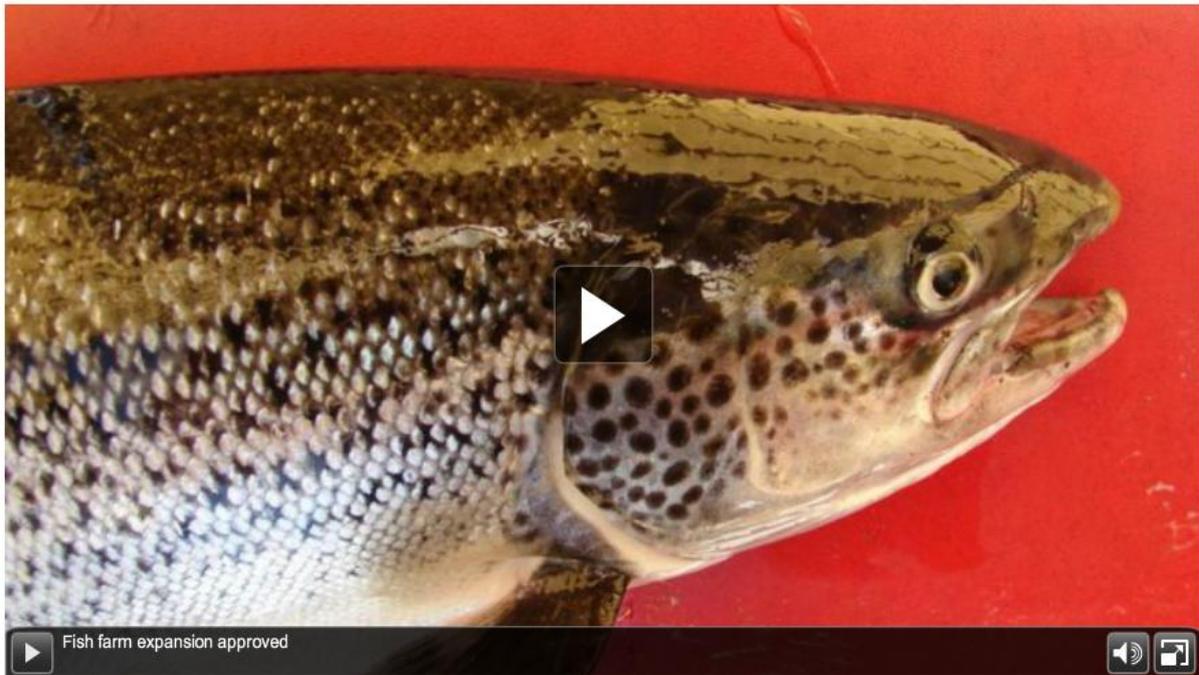
"Without baseline data and effective monitoring in place, any expansion of salmon farming within Macquarie Harbour could have the potential to backfire terribly and undermine the long term viability of the industry."

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2012/10/09/363415_tasmania-news.html

ABC News, 9 October 2012

Final hurdle for fish farm expansion

Video: [Fish farm expansion approved](#) (7pm TV News TAS)



Related Story: [Go-ahead for nation's biggest fish farm](#)

Map: [Strahan 7468](#)

The Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, has approved a massive expansion of fish farming at Macquarie Harbour in Tasmania's west.

Salmon farmers Tassal, Huon Aquaculture and Petuna are expanding their marine leases in the harbour to nine square kilometres.

The companies won State Government approval for the expansion in May and say a Federal Government review has made almost no changes to the plan.

Tassal managing director Mark Ryan says the move will allow his company to vastly increase production but he cannot yet say how many new staff his company will employ.

"At the moment, until we've got board approval for it, we're not going to go through all the numbers other than to say we'll significantly increase our production coming out of Macquarie Harbour," he said.

"Ultimately it could be as much as double."

State Resources Minister Bryan Green says the expansion will provide an economic boost to the region.

"[There will be] 100-odd people employed through construction ... and ensuring that \$88 million-odd is spent in this important industry for the state," he said.

West coast Mayor Darryl Gerrity has told ABC Radio's Country Hour program the expansion will benefit local engineering companies that already work with mining companies.

"This will be a bonus for them because there will be work in building these farms and the premises where they go, so there will be other jobs locally rather than just the fish farm," he said.

Environment groups argued the project was unsustainable and could damage ecosystems in the nearby world heritage area.

Alderman Gerrity believes the pollution concerns have been overstated.

"We've lived with salmon farms on the west coast now in Macquarie Harbour for 20 years and the community doesn't see a big problem with the expansion," he said.

"But I think this will probably be the max it could take."

A conservation group is calling for strict environmental monitoring.

Rebecca Hubbard from Environment Tasmania says the impact on marine life and ecosystems needs to be independently monitored.

"We're yet to see whether the conditions that have been applied by the Federal Government will be tight enough and strict enough to ensure that considerable environmental impact is not allowed to occur before it's caught by the managers and by the government," she said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-10-08/final-hurdle-for-fish-farm-expansion/4301162?section=tas>

ABC News, 8 October 2012

Green light for salmon farming expansion

By Margot Foster/Tony Briscoe



Lease area for salmon and trout fish pens has been increased to just over 3% of Macquarie Harbour at Strahan in Tasmania. (Michael Cavanagh)

The Federal Government has given the go ahead to the multi million dollar expansion of fish farming on the West Coast of Tasmania.

Deputy premier Bryan Green made the announcement today after the State Government had earlier given its approval of the project.

The three big salmon producers in Tasmania , Tassal, Petuna and Huon Aquaculture plan to almost double the size of their farms in Macquarie Harbour from the current 5.5 square kilometres to 9 square kilometres.

Deputy Premier Bryan Green says it's a positive for the aquaculture industry.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/tas/content/2012/10/s3606124.htm?site=hobart>

Marlborough Express, 8 October 2012

Residents show their concerns

Jared Nicoll

Some Queen Charlotte Sound residents claim New Zealand King Salmon overlooked the contribution of bach owners and minimised risks to boat-owners, in assessing the impacts of fish farms it has applied to build in the Marlborough Sounds.

Queen Charlotte Sound Residents' Association secretary Monyeen Wedge, of Lochmara Bay, and Biosecurity Limited director John Hellstrom, of Endeavour Inlet, opposed King Salmon's

application to build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds at an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) hearing at Waikawa Marae on Thursday.

Ms Wedge said King Salmon's tourism and recreational assessment report was "deficient" because it failed to include people who contributed economic benefits to the area by returning to their baches for holidays.

She estimated that 2666 homes were used by people holidaying in the Sounds for an average of six weeks a year, contributing about \$16 million to the economy. Boat mooring fees could also account for about an extra \$8m, she said.

The company had under-valued the tourism and recreational sector's value to the local economy which was at risk from proposed salmon farms putting off potential holidaymakers.

She refuted the company's claim that Tory Channel was a thoroughfare not a destination and doubted it would establish a factory in Picton when it would be easier for it to create a new one near its existing factory and head office in Nelson.

The EPA board of inquiry needed to give weight to the Marlborough District Council's Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan and not allow the King Salmon proposal to side-step existing prohibited area rules, she said.

Mr Hellstrom opposed the proposal on the grounds the farms would look ugly, were not thoroughly assessed for their threat to the environment, and could negatively impact boat navigation.

Ferry passengers and recreational boats would be faced with the farms which would create a negative view of the Sounds and hinder navigation, he said.

Risk assessments failed to take into account the "unexpected".

"Any new salmon farms will increase the risk of collisions," he said. "In the case of the farms at Waitata Reach and particularly at the east entry to Pelorus Sound and the inner entrance to Tory Channel, there will be a new risk of small craft being forced into more hazardous areas, particularly during poor weather conditions."

His company has provided advice on biosecurity, biodiversity and related issues to a range of clients including government departments over the past 15 years, he said.

The application is essentially about a trade-off between maximising profitability for New Zealand King Salmon and the erosion of ecological, landscape and other values for all other users of the Sounds' resources."

Mr Hellstrom asked the EPA board to decline the aquaculture company's proposal to build farms at Kaitira, Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko, increase monitoring of existing farms, and include a consent condition for the provision of regular tourist access to at least one of any approved farms because "otherwise their argument for industrial tourism is a moot point".

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7782609/Residents-show-their-concerns>

Marlborough Express, 8 October 2012

Balance of nature in Sounds 'at risk'

Jared Nicoll

The Marlborough Sounds is at a "tipping point" and people have the responsibility to protect the environment and wildlife from pollution caused by salmon farms, Tui Nature Reserve Wildlife Trust chairman Brian Plaisier says.

Mr Plaisier spoke passionately about the risks of pollution from more salmon farms and the threat they could pose to the next generation's ability to enjoy the area to a full house at Waikawa Marae as part of the New Zealand King Salmon hearing on Thursday.

The trust, with support from the Conservation Department, runs a bio diversity conservation programme for students in the outer Pelorus Sound that includes field work, lectures and visits to the marae.

"We have a duty to our children to protect our environment. We need to recognise that we've reached a tipping point in our Sounds.

"We need to ask ourselves the hard questions: do we put economy before environment, and how do we justify that to our mokopuna?"

Mr Plaisier believed that not only would any new salmon farms pollute the area, they would set a precedent for further industrialisation.

Young people needed to be given the tools to protect their environment and they needed to have an environment left to protect, he said.

"We want to encourage young people to become involved and continue those projects. It's not too late, we can still save some habitat."

Salmon farms also posed a risk to wildlife such as the king shag and Hector's dolphins, whose habitats could be reduced, farm by farm.

The balance of nature in the Sounds was too delicate and unready for further expansion, he said. Suggestions it would adjust and create a fresh eco-balance were untrue.

Damage to the ocean floor due to existing farms, high nitrogen levels polluting the water and dead fish being dumped or left in the water painted an ugly picture for the future of the area.

"It's a threat to the king shag and the work done to protect it, the work of our students. We like to think we are born survivors but we seem to ignore the fact that we are destroying our life support."

Mr Plaisier labelled the aqua culture company's intentions as "shortsighted, with complete disregard for our next generation" and in direct conflict with the trust's conservative approach.

Tui Nature Reserve Wildlife Trust board Ngati Kuia representative Raymond Smith supported Mr Plaisier's request that the Environmental Protection Agency board of inquiry reject King Salmon's proposal to develop nine new farms in the Sounds.

After hearing submissions at Waikawa Marae for three days last week, the hearings move to the Portage Resort Hotel today and then to the Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim tomorrow.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7783664/Balance-of-nature-in-Sounds-at-risk>

reLAKSation, 7 October 2012

Zealot – not really

The Victoria and Vancouver Island Times Colonist reports that Justice Elaine Adair dismissed the action taken by Mainstream Canada against Don Staniford despite agreeing that his comments were defamatory. She suggested that Mr Staniford is akin to a zealot. Salmon Farm Science chooses to illustrate this suggestion with reference to a quote from Carl Sagan's book Cosmos in which he says that we have been bamboozled for so long that we're no longer interested in the truth. The suggestion is that Mr Staniford is so passionate about his hatred of salmon farming that he ignores the science and retains a view of an industry as it once was not as it is now. <http://salmonfarmscience.com/2012/10/05/wise-words-from-carl-sagan/>

This week he suggested that the reason why Costco's smoked salmon was tainted was because farmed salmon was used to make the product. He preferred to ignore the fact that rather it was an error in the smoking process that was to blame and it could have occurred even using wild salmon. This is like blaming a car manufacturer for an accident because the driver didn't see a car coming the opposite way. Mr Staniford clearly thinks that the world will be a better place without salmon farming. He is living in a world of his own.

This week, Seafood News reported that thousands of seal pelts were ready to be processed in Newfoundland this year after the spring harvest. Mr Staniford lived in Canada for some time but didn't seem to mind the annual cull of seals yet, he readily launched a major campaign against Scottish salmon farms because they killed a few seals which had threatened the salmon stock. Equally, he doesn't seem bothered by the similar numbers of seals killed by nets men and fishery managers. It is only because the seals were killed by salmon farmers that he has an issue. Clearly seals are unimportant to him and just simply a means to an end.

Equally, he makes a fuss about the amount of fish faeces that accumulates under the cages, but doesn't seem bothered by the overflows of domestic sewage that pollute Scottish waters. It is the simple act of salmon farming that he so verbally rejects.

The survival of wild salmon is another one of the issues he fights. He claims that sea lice are responsible for the demise of wild salmon stocks but isn't interested in the fact that so many wild salmon are killed every year in the name of sport.

As a zealot, Mr Staniford prefers to ignore the truth, This is not surprising since according to Wikipedia, the Zealots were also known as the ‘Biryonim’ meaning ‘boorish’, ‘wild’ or ‘ruffians’ who were condemned for their aggression and their unwillingness to compromise. It remains to be seen whether Mr Staniford can be compared to these political activists for when they faced insurmountable odds against the Roman army at Masada, they committed suicide rather than surrender. When Mr Staniford was faced with the inevitable during his time in Canada, his fate was only to suffer deportation and then only for overstaying his welcome.

<http://www.callandermcdowell.co.uk/relaks576.html>

The Vancouver Sun, 6 October 2012

Sockeye success key to our spiritual health

By Craig Orr and Pete Broomhall, Special to the Sun



A male sockeye shows its full spawning colours — red body and green head. The more we learn about salmon, the more we realize how important they are to us.

On Sept. 26, The Vancouver Sun reported that Canada ranks second only to Denmark as the world’s happiest country, and that Canadians are “satisfied or very satisfied” mainly because they enjoy relatively high levels of income and a publicly funded health care system.

Before cheering, we should also heed The Sun's frequent warnings that Canadians jeopardize their future by saving too little, and by assuming too much debt, and that there's compelling evidence consuming more does not necessarily make humans happier.

It's past time to acknowledge that the individual and collective well-being of Homo sapiens — "happiness" if you wish — depends on economic, cultural, social and, yes, "spiritual" aspects hardwired to the health of the environment. Or to ecosystem services, to be more precise: the providing and filtering of water, regulating climate, protecting against floods, and so on.

A recent report puts the total economic benefits accruing from these three ecosystem services to Lower Mainlanders at an impressive \$5.4 billion annually, or \$6,368 per household.

But those figures don't begin to capture the full value of our wild Pacific salmon. Maybe we don't even need polls or experts to tell us that wild salmon have a diverse and immense value — or that things aren't all that rosy with Fraser sockeye (or, for that matter, with the Pacific ecosystem itself).

We know deep down that our future well-being is inextricably linked to the full suite of benefits that comes to us from healthy populations of wild salmon.

Thanks to the Cohen Inquiry, we've gained a far better understanding of the plight of the still-revered Fraser sockeye.

A veritable army of experts produced mountains of depressing evidence that the once magnificent sockeye resource has been, and still is being, victimized by thermal stress, habitat loss, pollution, over-fishing, native and introduced pathogens, short-sightedness, conflicted government mandates, and a host of other indignities.

Those who study resource management will tell you the abuses heaped on sockeye are but one more example of a remarkably robust pattern of what they ominously call "resource management pathology." In other words, our resource management policies and practices have harmed and are still harming the very resource they purportedly protect.

It's another Canadian example, British Columbia's own Atlantic cod story. The steep, two-decade decline in Fraser River sockeye means not just that there are fewer fish to catch, but that the intricately linked web of economic, cultural, social and "spiritual" services normally delivered by healthy populations of Fraser sockeye has been severely ravaged. We shouldn't need to be told that our overall well-being and happiness have been affected by the loss of services provided by salmon.

So, can we turn the ship around — for both sockeye and our well-being? Answering this vital question hinges on the official findings of Justice Cohen — now promised by the end of October — and, more importantly, on how government responds to the \$26 million inquiry it announced with fanfare almost three years ago.

There's certainly no shortage of positive actions the federal government could and should take. It could start by putting the needs of the public's wild salmon resource ahead of the wishes of the salmon farmers by transitioning the industry to closed-containment systems and

controlling pathogen threats. It could toughen habitat protection laws and encourage rather than smother unbiased science.

But history, recent events and expert opinions suggest government response will be tepid. Government food inspection officials testifying at the Cohen Inquiry were more concerned about protecting trade than protecting wild sockeye.

One government scientist bravely testified she felt threatened and muzzled. And even before receiving Cohen's final report and recommendations, the federal government shamelessly gutted the federal fisheries and environmental assessment acts.

Accordingly, the public has good reason to suspect its own federal government will undermine Canada's long-term well-being by continuing to undervalue the nation's ecosystems and the precious services they provide.

The ultimate legacy of the Cohen Inquiry may yet be an officially sanctioned unmasking of a long and vigorous ideology that ultimately leads to yet more homegrown loss.

Still, we should forgive those who endured the process and waded through the evidence (see Cohen Inquiry Highlights at www.watershed-watch.org), for clinging to the hope that Justice Cohen's report may yet prompt positive change.

Maybe the report will help people understand that human well-being is less about GDP than about sustaining renewable resources, and that extracting and exploiting resources as quickly as possible, and being otherwise heedless of the full value of the Earth's ecosystem services are surefire ways to reduce our individual and collective well-being — no matter what defenders of the status quo claim. With its still-rich-though-now-fragile resources, and with enlightened resource management, Canada could still legitimately become the planet's happiest country.

Craig Orr is executive director and Pete Broomhall an editor and adviser to Watershed Watch Salmon Society, a participant in the Cohen Sockeye Inquiry.

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Opinion/Op-Ed/Opinion+Sockeye+success+spiritual+health/7352631/story.html>

TV2, 5 October 2012



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Se hva forskerne fant i oppdrettslaksen

[Translation via Google]

See what the researchers found in farmed salmon

For the first time it is found roundworms in Norwegian farmed salmon



Robert Reinlund
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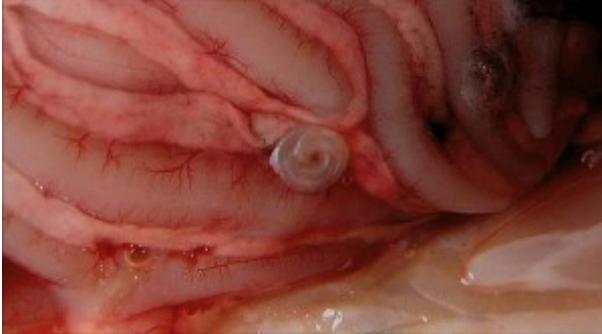


Asbjørn Leirvåg
alr@tv2.no

Roundworms, also goes by the name of nematodes, tiny invertebrate larvae that live in the intestines and muscles of fish. It has previously been shown that people may be sick of this parasite. But despite the disturbing discovery made by the experts at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Fisheries believes that Norwegian salmon sushi is still safe to eat.

- It was a pretty sensational and unexpected discoveries. It was uncomfortable, says Professor Trygve Poppe if found.

He headed a group of veterinary students when they chance discovered roundworm on Norwegian farmed salmon.



May cause inflammation

Round worm was found in salmon should be discarded. However, it has grown up in the same farm as salmon going to include sushi. Nematodes can only get them by eating unprocessed raw fish - like sushi.

This picture shows roundworm in one of the examined fish's innards. Photo: NVI

Poppe believes this gives reason to find the highest seriousness.

- That's because nematodes have the potential to cause disease in humans in the form of inflammation of both the stomach, intestines and peritoneum, he explains.

This is well known in sushi-loving Japan, where thousands each year become seriously ill from the parasite. Freezing Treatment will kill the round worm. Nevertheless, the FSA still allow salmon served raw.

- In spite of these findings, the risk is so low that we possibly do not see any danger to people's health by continuing to eat farmed salmon and trout that are not frozen, says department head Fride Andersen FSA.

ALSO READ: Salmon is blamed for hundreds of salmonella cases

Having not only pellets

She and her colleagues base this assessment on the Norwegian salmon that arrive at the fish counter only eaten pellets. But:

- The basis for saying that they only eat pellets are not right. We see that they eat anything else, says section Tor Atle Mo at NVI to TV 2

He conducted a more extensive study of school rundormfunn.

- The fish eat crustaceans as obvious as can be infected with nematodes, says Mo.

The discovery was made in Marine Harvest's facilities.

- The discoveries made on fish that we do not use. We have tested many of the fish that go into food production. We cannot find it on the fish, says director Ragnar Joensen in Marine Harvest Norway.

Watch video report via: <http://www.tv2.no/nyheter/innenriks/se-hva-forskerne-fant-i-oppdrettslaksen-3892994.html>

E24, 5 October 2012



TILBAKEKALLES: Hundrevis skal ha blitt syke etter å ha spist norsk røkelaks solgt i USA og Nederland. Saken har vakt oppmerksomhet verden over.

FRANK PERRY/SKJERMDUMPAFP/E24

[Translation via Google]

Provides Greek factory blamed for salmonella in "Norwegian Salmon"

Hundreds of people in the U.S. and Europe have become ill after eating what is Norwegian smoked salmon. Now, a Greek default blame.

U.S. authorities believe that between 50 and 85 cases of the disease in the U.S. can be linked to the actual fish. Their Dutch colleagues will also have received hundreds of similar messages, officials said.

According to the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment is the smittespredende salmon track the company Fopp, and their "Foppa Norwegian Smoked Salmon Slices" - apparently slices of smoked salmon from Norway.

Unknown manufacturer

However, there is a Greek default that gets "blamed".

- We are investigating the matter, and it has been circled for a single production line at a factory in Greece. We can not say anything about what caused the infection, says Fopp spokesman Bart de Vries said.

Read also: Mackerel Smell pulls down Norwegian fish

E24 has been in contact with the company, who did not want to comment on the manufacturer supplying the salmon.

Stavanger Aftenblad wrote in 2002 that Marine Harvest signed a further agreement with the Dutch company. They would not comment on the case, referring to the Seafood Council.

- We do not know anything more about who produced salmon involved or what country it comes from, says Seafood Council marketing director Egil Ove Sundheim Aftenposten.

Stir

The recent salmonella outbreak has been featured in major media worldwide. The British broadcaster BBC, Asian and American news website ABC, CBS and Fox News are among those who have covered the case.

The U.S. media citing national health authorities who report troubling concern many messages in all 27 states.

The current fish sold through the international chain Costco, which is the fifth highest in the groceries in the USA. They offer the product under its own brand "Kirkland". According to Costco Vice President Craig Wilson, the fish was removed from store shelves until the investigation is complete.

Provides fever, diarrhea and vomiting

Both U.S. and Dutch authorities stressed that studies of the spread of diseases is in its early stages.

It is not excluded that the number of infections may increase. According to de Vries created Fopp earlier this week a dedicated helpline. The first two days they received concerned calls from 1,400 people. 350 of them reported salmonella-like symptoms.

- Those affected by the bacteria may have symptoms such as fever, vomiting and diarrhea, says de Vries.

Also read: Parasites found in Norwegian farmed salmon

According to the Norwegian health informatics is salmonella one of the most common causes of infectious gastrointestinal infection in Norway. The over 2000 different subtypes may cause acute infection in the intestinal tract and in some cases, typhoid fever, and sepsis.

In 2009, it reported 1234 cases of the disease in Norway. Most Norwegians are infected while traveling abroad.

<http://e24.no/gir-gresk-fabrikk-skylden-for-salmonella-i-norsk-laks/20282816>

Also in Fiskaren via "[Fant salmonella i ”norsk røkelaks”](#)" (Salmonella Found in Norwegian Smoked Salmon)

Read more details on Russian health authorities detecting salmonella in Norwegian farmed salmon in August 2012: "[Salmonella i norsk laks](#)"

Aftenposten, 5 October 2012



Laks i kjempetanker kan true norsk eksport

I Danmark, Canada, USA og Kina starter selskaper nå å produsere laks i enorme tanker på land. - Norge har låst seg fast i sjøbasert oppdrett, sier professor.

Anbefal 73 personer anbefaler dette. Bli den første blant vennene.

Norsk lakseeksport

[Translation via Google]

Salmon in giant tanks can threaten the Norwegian export

In Denmark, Canada, USA and China starting companies now producing salmon in huge tanks on land. - Norway has locked onto the sea-based aquaculture, says professor.

When Danish Long Sand salmon in the spring selling the first salmon, it is marketed as environmentally friendly and free of louse problem that has plagued Norwegian farmers.

- It is completely insane to see this plant in full scale. It's almost hard to believe that we've got it, Thue Holm says, and laughs.

He stands outside the 3,400 square meter production hall of the Long Sand Salmon in Hvide Sande on the Danish west coast. Inside the building workers in the process of adding the final touches. In ten days, the first fish swimming around in the huge saltwater tanks that fill the hall. In March, the first salmon on schedule ready for the world's dinner tables.

- This is the largest facility in the world where the lakseoppdretten takes place on land. I strongly believe that we will succeed with this project. If it goes well, we will increase production in Denmark on Long Sand Salmon and gradually expand to the U.S. Atlantic Sapphire, says Holm.

He is the project coordinator and owner of Long Sand Salmon and director of the Norwegian company Atlantic Sapphire.

Power and more expensive fish

It is not only the Danes are in the process of salmon production in the country. In the United States, Canada and China now produces salmon that have never been to sea. In Norway, the fish spend some time on land, but when it has evolved to withstand salt water, put it in cages in the sea. The big excitement is how much more expensive salmon is when the entire production takes place on land.

- Current Expenditures our boosted expenses. We need to cool the water and keep it in circulation - it avoids the ocean. Taken together, this 2-3 pounds per. pounds, says Holm.

Read also: Norwegian salmon is blamed for salmonella outbreak: Hundreds have reportedly been infected with salmonella in the Netherlands and the USA.

Average cost per. kg harvested salmon delivered to Oslo last year was around 23 million, according to brokerage ABG Sundal Collier.

- We will never be able to compete in production with the most efficient Norwegian plants, but we have an advantage of lower transportation costs because we are closer to markets in Europe, he said.

Lice-free marketing

Norwegian Per Heggelund has just started to sell land based salmon produced in Seattle on the U.S. west coast through company Sweet Spring Salmon. While the Danes produce Atlantic salmon like the one we have in Norway, produces Heggelund Pacific salmon (coho) in freshwater tanks some distance from the coast.

- I think we're going to see that salmon farming in increasingly produced in the onshore facilities near major markets. Although it is more expensive than farmed salmon in Norwegian fjords, we save a lot on transportation costs. To fly salmon from Norway to the U.S. costs 7-8 million per. pounds, says Heggelund.

He will market their fish as sustainable and lice-free.

- In the U.S., Norwegian salmon a pretty bad reputation because of the lack of sustainable farming technology. We expect to be able to charge a price that is 20-25 percent higher than what producers receive for farmed Atlantic salmon in the U.S., says Heggelund.

"In the U.S., Norwegian salmon is a pretty bad reputation. Per Heggelund, salmon breeder, USA

Long Sand Salmon also believe they can get a higher price by marketing salmon as an environmentally friendly alternative.

- One of the main competitive advantages of land-based facilities is the absence of disease problems. If we detect lice in one of the tanks, we can simply pump it full of fresh water for a few days. Then the lice die immediately, while the fish will do fine, says Holm.

- Monopoly challenged

Plant in Denmark will initially produce 1,000 tonnes a year, while the resort to Heggelund in the U.S. now produces around 500 tonnes. In comparison, Norway produced last year over a million tons of salmon.

- To build up a large, land-based industry will take years, and it will at least go 10-20 years before Norwegian farmers need to be nervous. But there is no doubt that the present monopoly on salmon production based on traditional Mære technology, will be challenged in the future, says Heggelund.

- No competitive advantage lasts forever

- I have worked quite a lot with the economy in land-based facilities, and I am constantly amazed at how cheap you can produce salmon on land. I think we see the outlines of a new trend, says Professor Torbjorn Trondsen at the Norwegian College of Fishery Science.

He admits that more salmon on land means that Norway will become less dominant in the global salmon production than today.

- The trend shows that no competitive advantage lasts forever. An Israeli company has developed facilities with 100 percent recycled. This means in principle that one does not even need access to water to make salmon, says Trondsen.

Together with Professor Victor Øiestad to research company Akvaplan-niva, he has developed an economic model for land-based salmon farming. It shows that it may be possible to produce salmon even more cost effective than the land plants that exist today.

- By creating a system with grooves in floors can produce as much fish in a much smaller industrial buildings. In addition to improved resource utilization, the salmon will be given the opportunity to swim far more than in today's farms, and it provides better quality of life and quality of the meat, according Øiestad.

Both he and Trondsen think Norway should be more active in the development of onshore and use the new technology throughout the world to maintain its current strong position in salmon farming.

- Norway has locked onto sea-farming, and I wish you were more in the forefront in the development of aquaculture in the country. In this area, the Danish leader, said Trondsen.

Fear not for the industry

- Due to strong currents and deep fjords, Norway's coast extremely well suited to produce salmon in open systems in the ocean. This is a huge competitive advantage that does not go away, says Are Kvistad, Communications Director of the Fishery and Aquaculture Industry Research Fund.

He believes the land-based plants will survive, but do not fear them.

- They do not pose a threat to Norwegian exports, and it is Utopian to imagine that the salmon production is in closed systems on land. It requires large amounts of energy and vast areas of land, said Kvistad.

He believes louse problem in the Norwegian industry is about to get under control.

- In most plants in most regions have relatively good control. Besides, it happens much positive in research that can make the problem even less in the future.

<http://www.aftenposten.no/okonomi/Laks-i-kjempetanker-kan-true-norsk-eksport-7009058.html>

Intrafish, 5 October 2012

Cermaq takes \$9 million hit on disease outbreaks in Q3

Oslo-listed salmon farming company reports losses on disease outbreaks at farms in Canada and Finnmark.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 04 October 2012 07:30 PM

Updated: 05 October 2012 07:53 AM

Cermaq's third quarter results will reflect hits from outbreaks at its farms in Canada and Finnmark in the third quarter.

It will take a loss of \$5.4 million (NOK 31 million / €4.2 million) for the IHN outbreak at site in Millar, Canada, run by its subsidiary Mainstream Canada. The outbreak affected 1 million fish at an average weight of .4 kilograms. Although Cermaq has filed a request for financial compensation, it is uncertain whether it will receive it.

In Finnmark, pancreas disease affected 740,000 fish at an average weight of .75 kilos, costing the company \$3.5 million (NOK20 million / €2.7 million), which will be charged to group accounts in the third quarter of 2012 as well.

Mainstream Canada also had a high level of algae blooms in the third quarter, causing a mortality increase that will result in about \$878,100 (€674,200 / NOK5 million) in losses in the third quarter as well.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1356886.ece>

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Read also [“Cermaq’s 3Q takes \\$9 million hit”](#) and [“Cermaq ASA \(CEQ\): Financial impact on biological incidents in Mainstream Canada and Norway”](#)

The Scotsman, 5 October 2012

Activists call for Fisheries Bill to help wild waters

New legislation provides the chance to reform Scotland’s fish farming industry, environmental campaigners have said.

The Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill should send a message to fish farmers that growth in the sector “must not come at the expense of the environment”, the Scottish Wildlife Trust said.

The Scottish Government hopes legislation just introduced to Holyrood will help the industry develop in a sustainable way.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said: “Scotland is home to economically significant aquaculture and freshwater fisheries sectors.

“They are critical to the economies of many remote and rural communities, as well as making important contributions to the wider Scottish economy. Farmed salmon is now recognised as our most valuable food export, and wild salmon and trout fishing is a key tourism draw.”

The bill, if passed, will introduce legal measures for fish farm operators, including a requirement for them to meet technical equipment standards. It aims to safeguard the shellfish industry by ensuring waters continue to be protected from pollution.

Alex Kinninmonth of the Scottish Wildlife Trust said: “This bill could be incredibly important for maintaining and improving the quality of Scotland’s coastal waters and rivers, which support iconic species such as Atlantic salmon and sea trout.”

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/activists-call-for-fisheries-bill-to-help-wild-waters-1-2563893>

Intrafish, 5 October 2012



Could Foppen's flop cost it the Costco contract?

Dutch smoker's Costco contract is sizeable. Who it goes to next -- or if Foppen can hold onto it -- remains to be seen.

 Jeanine Stewart

Published: 05 October 2012 07:17 AM

Updated: 05 October 2012 07:58 AM

Foppen, a 94-year-old seafood exporter from the Netherlands, stands to lose a lot of money if it loses its smoked salmon contract with Costco in the wake of [this week's salmon recall](#).



Last year's exports of smoked salmon from the Netherlands into the United States were valued at \$25 million (€19.2 million) and volume of 1.3 million kilos, according to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) statistics. While it's not a certainty that all that volume comes from Foppen and ends up at Costco, smoked salmon industry sources told **IntraFish** the overwhelming majority is.

What's more, the contract was growing -- from its humble beginnings in 2004, when Foppen took the contract over from Marine Harvest -- to what looked to be a record level. Based on the first seven months of shipments, around \$40 million (€30.7 million) worth of smoked salmon exports would have been shipped from the Netherlands to the United States this year.

Considering Foppen has halted production, it won't reach its sales potential this year. But sources told **IntraFish** Foppen is likely to keep some or even all of the contract with Costco. No salmon smokers in the United States are large enough to fill the void, a source told **IntraFish**. They are too "small, inefficient and expensive," the source said.

In addition to size, Foppen has quality and — quite ironically — sanitation on its side, Jonathan Brown, founder of the MacKnight Food Group in the United States and owner of UK.-based Grants Smoked Foods, told **IntraFish**.

"I've visited their factories, and they had the best hygiene I'd ever seen," Brown said.

MacKnight supplies specialized smoked salmon products to Costco's Mexican division and its US Northeast Division, but he does not see this as an opportunity to grow his own piece of the Costco pie.

"I think Foppen is an excellent company, I think the products are outstanding, and I would be very surprised if they don't work this out with Costco," Brown said.

Opinions are split on that point among industry members. Some US companies have been approached for additional volumes in some Costco regions to fill in during the period while Foppen investigates the salmonella problem, sources told **IntraFish**.

Long-term, one source said Morpol would be the only company that has the ability to fill the contract, though others have pointed toward Marine Harvest, and toward Chilean producers.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1356887.ece>

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EcoWatch, 5 October 2012

Do You Want to Eat Genetically Engineered Salmon?

By [Tim Schwab](#)



AquaBounty Technologies has made a desperate plea to President Obama, apparently enlisting [a tiny battalion of biotech advocates](#) to pressure the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve the company's main product, genetically engineered (GE) salmon, which has been stuck in the approval process for two years.

AquaBounty represents the biotech industry's avant-garde, as its fish would be the first ever GE animal to enter the food supply anywhere in the world. Biotech corporations have tremendous interest in this regulatory approval, and the main trade group (the Biotechnology Industry Organization, which is supported by groups like AquaBounty, Monsanto and Syngenta) [spent \\$8 million last year lobbying](#) on issues like GE salmon.

But consumers have made clear their feelings in several polls, repeatedly and overwhelmingly indicating [they don't want to eat GE salmon](#). And if GE salmon is eventually approved by the FDA, consumers want it labeled so they can choose to avoid it. Food & Water Watch personally delivered more than 170,000 letters from consumers to the FDA, expressing widespread opposition to GE salmon.

By contrast, AquaBounty was only able to muster about 50 names for its sign-on letter—most of them closely tied to industry, which desperately wants FDA to deregulate GE animals. The letter accuses the FDA of letting politics get in the way of what should be an independent, scientific assessment of the safety and efficacy of a biological product. In a [subsequent article](#) in the *Los Angeles Times*, the biotech promoters suggest that secret government forces are intentionally stalling GE salmon's approval.

Let's be clear: if there's politics at play with GE salmon, it is coming from the biotech industry, which spent [\\$572 million dollars in campaign contributions](#) and lobbying Congress over the last decade, trying to influence rules and regulations.

Signers of the AquaBounty letter include corporate reps from Bumble Bee Foods, and biotech firms Arborgen, Recombinetics, Prometheus, Hematech and 5AM ventures. Also on the list were a number of academics, including University of California Professor (and [former](#)

[Monsanto employee](#)) Alison Van Eenennaam, whose name is on several of the company's patents. Van Eenennaam's academic research and future career opportunities could benefit enormously from the approval of GE salmon. Another signatory, Penn State Professor Terry Etherton, previously teamed up with Monsanto scientists on [a Monsanto-funded study](#) determining that controversial growth hormones produced by the company are safe.

The signatories also include the CEO of the Council for Agriculture and Science in Technology. While this sounds like a solid, independent organization, its [board representatives](#) include Monsanto, Syngenta and Dupont. Similarly, the [American Society of Animal Science](#) represents a sizable "corporate sustaining membership," including Elanco Animal Health, Archer Daniels Midland and Pfizer. And, by the way, the American Society of Animal Science is a [member of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology](#).

Beyond this tiny echo chamber of corporate power that lavishes Congress with money to influence rules and regulations, where, indeed, are the politics? And where, in fact, is the science?

The only available science we have about GE salmon shows a fish prone to deformities and unimpressive growth rates. GE salmon also contains 40 percent higher levels of a growth hormone linked to cancer and a great potential to induce allergic reactions in consumers. Independent scientists with tremendous expertise related to GE fish—and no financial interest in the outcome—have [come out on the record against it](#).

Salmon growers have called the fish a dud, while consumers say they don't want their children eating it. If the FDA needs a cue on what direction to take with GE salmon, it shouldn't be looking to a letter written by investors, industry reps and academics who stand to gain financially from the decision.

Visit EcoWatch's [GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM](#) page for more related news on this topic.

<http://ecowatch.org/2012/genetically-engineered-salmon/>

Fisheries Information Service, 5 October 2012



BAP certified two NZ salmon farms. (Photo: Mt Cook Alpine Salmon/BAP/FIS)

BAP certifies its first two salmon farms in Australasia

NEW ZEALAND

Friday, October 05, 2012, 00:30 (GMT + 9)

The [Best Aquaculture Practices](#) (BAP) programme this week certified two [Mt Cook Alpine Salmon Ltd](#) farms located in the Mackenzie Basin area near Twizel, New Zealand. These are the first BAP-certified salmon farms in Australasia.

"The [Global Aquaculture Alliance](#) (GAA) is proud to include Mt Cook in the growing number of certified salmon producers," BAP VP of Market Development Peter Redmond said.

"Mt Cook is a truly world-class operation with a staff that is dedicated to doing the right thing in a sustainable way. Our hope is that achieving BAP certification will further endorse what was already a very environmentally friendly operation and help drive their growth into the future," he continued.

The unique Mt Cook Alpine Salmon facilities are the highest salmon farms in the world. They raise fish in canals that carry glacial water from mountain lakes to hydroelectric stations.

These farms' isolated location lets the salmon grow in an environment free of diseases and chemical contaminants – these salmon have been produced in net pens at low rearing densities since 1992 and are not treated with vaccines or antibiotics at any life stage.

"Not only is this a tremendous achievement for Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, but it is also a significant moment for New Zealand aquaculture in general," Mount Cook Chairman the Right Honorable J B Bolger ONZ said.

Jeff Sedacca, president of the Shrimp and Aquaculture Division of Maine, US-based National Fish and Seafood, Mt Cook Alpine Salmon's key worldwide distributor, said the certifications demonstrate Mt Cook's commitment to leadership and sustainability in the aquaculture

industry.

"The quality of the salmon -- and being able to drink the water after it passes through the farms -- truly set Mt Cook Alpine Salmon apart from any other aquaculture operations in the world," Sedacca said.

BAP certification is based on the international BAP standards developed by the GAA. Organised in 1997, the non-profit NGO developed the BAP certification standards and encourages the use of responsible aquaculture practices by coordinating the development of BAP certification standards for hatcheries, farms, processing facilities and feed mills, requiring biodiversity protection, effluent limits, worker safety and strict controls on chemical use.

The certification process includes site inspections and thorough audits by third-party certification bodies. Auditors from the Ireland-based [Global Trust](#) performed the BAP audits in New Zealand.

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=55881&ndb=1&df=0>

Marlborough Express, 5 October 2012

‘We will defend our rights’

Penny Wardle

A member of the famous 1973 Marlborough Ranfurly Shield-winning rugby team against Canterbury in 1973 spoke to the Environmental Protection Authority hearing at the Waikawa Marae, Picton, yesterday.

Bosun Huntley said he could not believe King Salmon had the cheek to apply for not just one but two sites side-by-side at Ruaomoko, one of the most popular customary and recreational fishing sites in Queen Charlotte Sound.

His Te Atiawa iwi had applied for a maitaitai (protected fishing ground) which took in Ruaomoko, at the entrance to Tory Channel from Queen Charlotte Sound, but was turned down by the Government in late 2010.

"I find it disconcerting that New Zealand King Salmon, with the help of the Government, is pushing to put a salmon farm there," Mr Huntley said.

Ngamahau in Tory Channel was hard to beat for fishing and diving and he would hate to see the corals, sponges and hydroid trees there smothered in fish tutae (faeces), Mr Huntley told the authority board of inquiry considering whether King Salmon should be permitted to build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

South of Ngamahau was Deep Bay, home to the best cockle bed in New Zealand, he said. If a fish farm was built here, nitrogen could concentrate and kill the cockles because a bar across the bay meant it did not flush well.

Mr Huntley promised to grant commissioner Edward Ellison's wish for a feed of cockles before the hearing was finished.

Mussels and scallops were prolific at Port Gore where King Salmon planned to build its Papatua farm and this was possibly a fish-seeding area for Queen Charlotte Sound, he said.

Despite King Salmon claiming they consulted widely, he was one of the most experienced customary and commercial fishermen in the area but heard nothing, Mr Huntley said.

He knew of three sites better than those applied for with less environmental impact and fewer problems for home-owners.

King Salmon decision-makers must have assumed that because iwi stood to gain from a 20 per cent fisheries allocation as part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement, they would support the application, Mr Huntley said.

"They believed putea [money] would outweigh our role as kaitiaki [caretakers]," he said.

"They are wrong. We will jealously defend our traditional rights, our sites of significance, our kai moana gathering areas . . . and customs as tangatawhenua [people of the land]."

King Salmon consulted solely with iwi organisations with vested interests in aquaculture but not land-owning whanau in the Sounds, he said. Mr Huntley implored the commissioners to look at the Takutai Moana Act, the Treaty of Waitangi and indigenous rights under international law when making its decision.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7773610/We-will-defend-our-rights>

The Fish Site, 5 October 2012

Funding Advances Important Reporting Work by BC's Salmon Farmers

CANADA - Information on BC's salmon farmers will be available more easily to federal regulators, thanks to a funding grant from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The C\$49,865 total, funded through the Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Programme will update the BC Salmon Farmers Association's Fish Health Database so that farmers can more easily share information with the federal government's record-keeping programme.

"Our fish health monitoring requirements are extensive and our database is comprehensive – having the two easier to connect will increase efficiency, ensure accuracy and guarantee the most up-to-date information," said Mary Ellen Walling, Executive Director of the BCSFA.

Salmon farmers in BC are regularly collecting data from their farms – both about the fish they are carefully raising and the environment where they operate. Much of that data is reported to the DFO as part of the license requirements. Having staff be able to easily extract information and automatically submit it to DFO will reduce the repetition of reporting in both of these systems.

“Aquaculture is an important driver in Canada and offers great opportunity – we’re happy that DFO recognises that potential with programmes like this which encourages continuous improvement by all in our farming community,” said Ms Walling.

The project is underway and is expected to be complete by the end of 2013. It is the second phase of an database update project that has been underway since 2011.

The BCSFA also congratulates the other recipients of AIMAP Funding – and in particular, the projects involving our members. Sable Fish Canada received \$213,188 to develop a new transportation system for sablefish, and PR Aqua is a key partner in the Taste of B.C. project in Nanaimo, which received C\$450,000 for the development of a land-based steelhead farm.

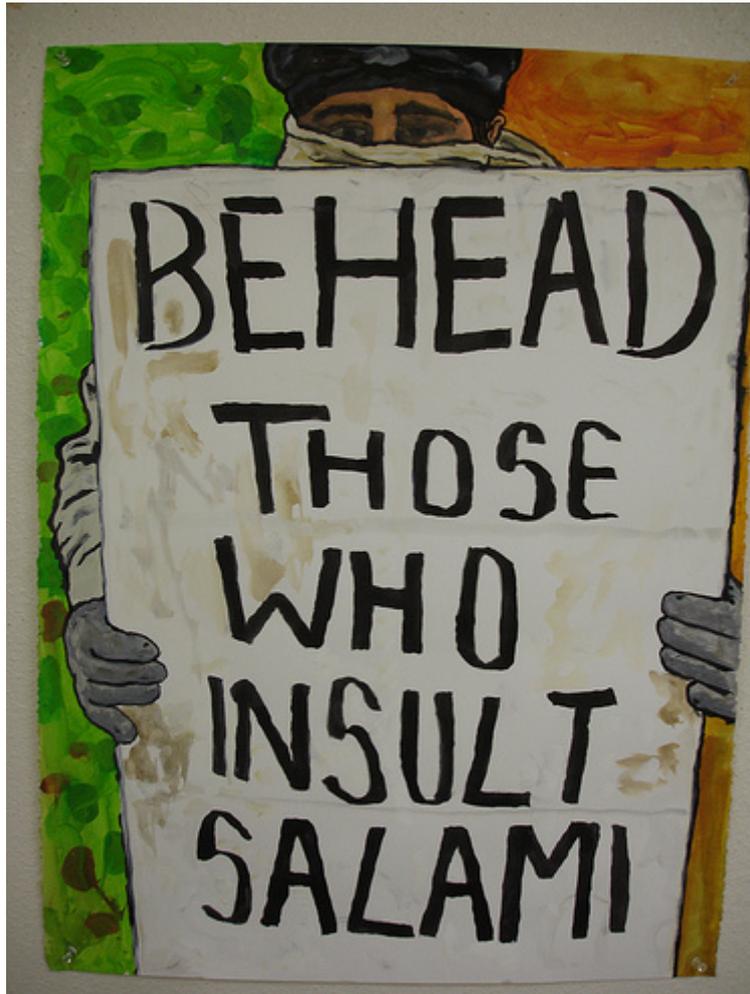
The BCSFA represents salmon farm companies and those who supply services and supplies to the industry. Salmon-farming provides for 6,000 direct and indirect jobs while contributing C\$800-million to the provincial economy each year.

For more information visit www.salmonfarmers.org

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18429/funding-advances-important-reporting-work-by-bcs-salmon-farmers>

Salmon Farm Science, 5 October 2012

Wise words from Carl Sagan



Zealots who devote their lives to a cause don't want to admit they are wrong or even consider opposing points of view, because they would then have to admit they have wasted part of their lives on something that's not true. So instead, they turn to violence, or in the case of anti-salmon farming zealots, they turn to shrill, personal attacks, juvenile and puerile attempts to get attention and refuse to admit they might not have all the facts.

We wanted to share this great quote from Carl Sagan which is in his book "Cosmos."

"One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. it is simply too painful to acknowledge — even to ourselves — that we've been so credulous. (So the old bamboozles tend to persist as the new bamboozles rise.)"

We read something recently which sounds a lot like Sagan. It is a comment in the judgment by Justice Elaine Adair in the defamation case Mainstream Canada brought against Don Staniford.

*Mr. Staniford seems incapable of conceding he might be wrong on some things. He is devoted to a cause where salmon farming is thoroughly bad, with no possibility of redemption, and must be eradicated. **To concede that salmon farming might have some value would mean that Mr. Staniford has wasted a good part of his adult life.** He believes his own press, even when contradicted by other, contemporaneous documents.*

When we as human beings are confronted with information that contradicts what we believe to be true, we have two options. We can take a serious look at it, and if necessary, reconsider our opinions. Or, we can ignore it and cling even harder to our beliefs.

The problem with option two is that as time goes on, and if we are confronted with more and more information which contradicts our beliefs, we must cling even harder and more defiantly to what we want to believe.

Such is the case with Staniford, and several other people we have encountered who passionately hate salmon farming.

There is no way to say this without sounding arrogant, so we will just say it. We are not blinded by our beliefs in salmon farming and are constantly considering new information. Every claim an anti-salmon farming activist makes, we investigate it and evaluate it and are open to the possibility that someday, someone may present new information which will completely change our minds.

There is always a little doubt in our minds. So we constantly follow the science, and see where it leads us.

That is normal and healthy for any critical thinker. You must be open to question your beliefs, and reconsider your opinions.

Staniford and his friends are not critical thinkers. They are zealots, fingers in ears, clinging to decade-old information and a word picture of a salmon farming industry which, if it ever existed, has long since moved on to more environmentally sound practices.

Their contributions to the global discussion about salmon farming, and aquaculture, are of no use to anyone. They have been bamboozled, and are no longer interested in finding out the truth.

Unless they are willing to acknowledge that they may be wrong, and that they may not have all the facts, their views are irrelevant, one-sided points of religious dogma and have no value in the global discussions about aquaculture.

<http://salmonfarmscience.com/2012/10/05/wise-words-from-carl-sagan/>

The Daily News, 4 October 2012

Salmon farm activist acquitted of defamation

By D.C. Reid

My guess is the average sport fisher does not know who Don Staniford is. And I venture that Staniford doesn't know the difference between a bull head and a bull trout, or even how to catch a salmon. But the roughly 300,000 licensed sport fishers in B.C. owe him their gratitude. That is because he has been fearless in his opposition to in-ocean fish farms, particularly in B.C., Scotland, Norway and other countries.

Staniford's approach to criticizing the industry that has in recent months had well-reported disease problems in B.C., Washington, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, is flamboyant in the extreme and sometimes foolhardy. His approach lies somewhere between Monty Python and Darth Vader, with the Energizer Bunny supplying manic energy to his 24-hour a day activism.

Mainstream Canada sued him for defamation in February 2012. Judge Adair has just released her findings. I have excised five pages of relevant clauses from her ruling and you may find it on my blog, www.fishfarmnews.blogspot.com, which also contains the link to her 71-page ruling - really worth reading in its entirety.

Mainstream's reasons are summarized in Clause 10: "Mainstream claims that, in their natural and ordinary meaning, Mr. Staniford's statements, in context, meant and were understood to mean that Mainstream's business and products kill people, and that Mainstream is knowingly marketing a carcinogenic product that causes illness, death and harm. Mainstream says that the "sting" arising from Mr. Staniford's publications is that farmed salmon - like smoking - causes cancer, and that the salmon farming industry is as odious and dishonest as the tobacco industry."

Pretty damning stuff. And Judge Adair roasts Staniford's character: "[his] value judgments . . . [are] prejudiced, exaggerated and obstinate [171]." And, [from 174]: "Mr. Staniford's judgements have no balance because balance does not exist in Mr. Staniford's world when it comes to salmon farming. He has dedicated himself to eradicating it." She also found that his comments were defamatory [118], and that they applied to Mainstream [141].

But at the end, Adair excused Staniford of defamation on the grounds that he believed what he was saying was true. Having read a lot of what he has written, I ignore his inflammatory approach and follow-up his links to the science. They are on the money.

My opinion is that, sadly, the top four problems for 10 species of salmonids are: fish farms, DFO, run of river power and global warming. The last we can do little about quickly, but the other three can be addressed today with policy decisions. The Cohen Commission into Fraser sockeye collapse reconvened in December 2011 to assess whether fish farm diseases kill wild salmon. Its report is due by Oct. 30.

I'll let you know what it says. Sport fishers should pat Staniford on the back - he has withstood being sued three times over the past decade by fish farms, though never successfully - because his bottom line is to stand with wild salmon in B.C. In fairness, I don't see that fish farms need to be eradicated - they need to be on land where their density-related disease amplification affects no other fish or species. I have found more than 8,000 actual on-

land farms around the world, so there is no technological or economic impediment. We need wild salmon and so do 37 species of our wild animals like bears and eagles.

" Contact D.C. Reid at dcreid@catchsalmonbc.com. More information is also available at catchsalmonbc.com and dcreid.ca

<http://www.canada.com/sports/Salmon+farm+activist+acquitted+defamation/7344488/story.html>

Read more details via: <http://www.fishfarmnews.blogspot.ca/2012/09/don-staniford-acquitted-of-defaming.html>

The Westerly News, 4 October 2012



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Mainstream defamation suit dismissed by BC Supreme Court

Anti salmon farming activist Don Staniford (right) poses outside court with his lawyer David Sutherland. On Friday, the Supreme Court of British Columbia dismissed a defamation case against Staniford. The case was launched by Mainstream Canada.

Photo submitted

BY JON DEWALD, WESTERLY NEWS

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has dismissed a defamation case launched by Mainstream Canada against anti salmon farming activist Don Staniford.

Justice Elaine Adair's ruling, which came down Friday, found that while Staniford's statements were defamatory, they fell under fair comment, and no damages would be awarded to the plaintiff.

The trial began on January 16 this year and concluded on February 10. In a media release, Mainstream says

Despite the ruling, Jensen says Mainstream believes launching the suit was the right thing to do.

"We took this action to protect our employees and the company from further malicious attacks."

In an phone call to the *Westerly News*, Staniford says he is extremely pleased about the decision and says it has galvanized his global campaign against salmon farming companies.

"This judgment is a victory for free speech," says Staniford who is with the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture. "Justice has been served as Cermaq has been slapped right back in the face."

Cermaq is the Norwegian based parent company of Mainstream Canada.

Mainstream defamation suit dismissed by BC Supreme Court

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Justice Elaine Adair's ruling, which came down Friday, found that while Staniford's statements were defamatory, they fell under fair comment, and no damages would be awarded to the plaintiff.

The trial began on January 16 this year and concluded on February 10. In a media release, Mainstream says it initiated the case "in response to a prolonged and malicious attack on the reputation of the company and its employees."



Anti salmon farming activist Don Staniford (right) poses outside court with his lawyer David Sutherland. On Friday, the Supreme Court of British Columbia dismissed a defamation case against Staniford. The case was launched by Mainstream Canada.

Photograph by : submitted

Staniford's anti salmon farming campaign, which prompted the suit, used slogans and graphics similar to those found on cigarette packages.

Mainstream is disappointed with the decision. "The judge ruled that the activist's statements were defamatory and malicious and not based on fact, but because he truly believed them, our claim was dismissed," says Laurie Jensen, Mainstream Canada's communications and corporate sustainability manager in a media release following the ruling. "We believe that people who say defamatory and malicious things should be held accountable."

Despite the ruling, Jensen says Mainstream believes launching the suit was the right thing to do. "We took this action to protect our employees and the company from further malicious attacks."

In an phone call to the Westerly News, Staniford says he is extremely pleased about the decision and says it has galvanized his global campaign against salmon farming companies.

"This judgment is a victory for free speech," says Staniford who is with the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture. "Justice has been served as Cermaq has been slapped right back in the face."

Cermaq is the Norwegian based parent company of Mainstream Canada. Staniford called the defamation case an attempt by the Norwegian government "to abuse the Canadian courts to muzzle fair and honest criticism of Norwegian-owned salmon farming."

Following the end of the trail, Staniford was deported from Canada and given an exclusion order for one year after overstaying his visa. While he is unable to return to the country until March 1, 2013, Staniford says he will be back.

"I plan to come into Canada with Kurt Oddekalv, head of the Green Warriors of Norway," says Staniford. "We'll be doing a lecture tour and a series of public meetings around B.C. in March and April of 2013."

reporter@westerlynews.ca

<http://www2.canada.com/westerly/story.html?id=684f93be-aebb-4bf1-8715-3cfaa9c051b4>

Aftenposten, 4 October 2012

Norsk laks får skylden for salmonellautbrudd



Røkelaks fra en fabrikk i Nederland er kilden til et salmonellautbrudd. I USA har fabrikkene solgt produkter merket som norsk røkelaks, og noen kunder sier de er blitt syke etter å ha spist den. **FOTO: SIGNE DONS**

Flere hundre skal ha blitt salmonellasmittet i Nederland og USA. Smitten stammer fra en nederlandsk fabrikk, og enkelte av de involverte produktene er merket som norsk røkelaks.

AV:[carl alfreddahl](#)

- [Salmonella funnet i svensk kjøttdeig](#)
- [Fant salmonella hos Levanger-svin](#)

Minst 200 i Nederland og 100 i USA skal ha blitt syke etter å ha spist laks fra en nederlandsk fabrikant, ifølge [nederlandske helsemyndigheter](#)¹ (RIVM).

Men myndighetene understreker at det virkelige tallet sannsynligvis er langt høyere, siden mange ikke oppsøker lege etter å ha blitt syke.

Ifølge [BBC](#)² mener Hareld Wychgel i RIVM at det foreløpige antallet smittede kan være «toppen av isfjellet».

- Det reelle antallet smittede er sannsynligvis mye høyere, sier han.

Mulig sammenheng

Noen av lakseproduktene i USA som kan være involverte, er solgt som norsk røkelaks, men foredlet i Nederland, ifølge den amerikanske nyhetskanalen [ABC](#)³. Produktene, som ble trukket fra markedet, stammer fra den nederlandske fabrikanten Foppen.

Amerikanske helsemyndigheter har den siste tiden registrert 85 tilfeller av den samme salmonellatypen i 27 stater. Det første ble registrert 1. juli. Vanligvis, uten et slikt utbrudd, ligger tallet på rundt 30.

- Vi undersøker nå en mulig sammenheng mellom tilfellene i USA og dem i Nederland, sier Lola Russell, ifølge [Huffington Post](#)⁴.

Trekker alle produkter

Det nederlandske [Mat- og forbrukertrygghetstilsynet NVWA](#)⁵ advarer folk mot å spise lakseprodukter fra Foppen etter å ha funnet salmonella i en rekke produkter.

- Smittede røkelaksprodukter fra den nederlandske fabrikanten Foppen er årsaken til salmonellautbruddet i Nederland. Selskapet leverer laks til et stort antall fiskematfabrikker, supermarkeder, grossister og fiskehandlere. NVWA har trukket alle røkelaksprodukter fra denne produsenten fra markedet, skrev [tilsynet](#)⁶ onsdag.

Salmonella finnes i mer enn 2500 varianter, og den aktuelle typen i dette tilfellet er Salmonella Thompson.

Butikkjeden Costco, som solgte lakseproduktene med norsk navn i USA, trakk umiddelbart alle produktene fra sine hyller da de fikk telefon om salmonellafunn i Nederland.

Craig Wilson i butikkjedens mattrygghetsavdeling sier til nyhetsbyrået [AP](#)⁷ at deres egne tester av produktene ikke fant salmonella. Han sier også at butikkene ikke direkte har fått noen henvendelser om syke kunder.

Laks fra fire land

Laksen som inngår i Foppens produksjon, kommer fra Skotland, Argentina, Alaska og Norge.

Den nederlandske produsenten Foppen har trukket tilbake sine produkter fra det nederlandske markedet. Ingen av disse er direkte merket med norsk opprinnelse, men to av produktene er merket som skotsk laks. Det utelukker imidlertid ikke at norsk laks kan være brukt i produktene.

To av Foppens fabrikker med 150 ansatte ligger i Harderwijk i Nederland. En tredje fabrikk med 150 ansatte ligger i Hellas.

- Undersøkelser er igangsatt og har så langt vist at problemet stammer fra fabrikken i Hellas, sier en representant for Foppen til [AP](#)⁸.

Ifølge nederlandske helsemyndigheter selges ikke Foppens produkter i noen særlig grad utenfor Nederland og USA.

Foppen opprettet et telefonnummer som kunder kunne ringe. I løpet av de to første dagene kom det inn 1400 samtaler, og 350 av disse kunne vise til symptomer som stemmer overens med salmonellasmitte.

Marine Harvest var leverandør

[Stavanger Aftenblad](#)⁹ skrev i 2002 om at den norske oppdretts-giganten Marine Harvest, hvor John Fredriksen er største eier, hadde inngått langsiktige kontrakter med selskapet Foppen i Nederland.

Kommunikasjonssjef Marte H. Grindaker i Marine Harvest vil hverken bekrefte eller avkrefte om Marine Harvest fortsatt leverer laks til Foppen.

- Vi kommenterer ikke på den saken i det hele tatt, sier hun til Aftenposten.no og henviser til bransjeforeningen Norsk Sjømatråd.

Egil Ove Sundheim, sjømatrådets direktør for markedsinformasjon, sier til Aftenposten.no at de ikke har informasjon som knytter dette til norsk laks.

- Vi er kjent med at det er salmonellautbrudd i USA og Nederland, der man har valgt å trekke tilbake endel lakseprodukter. Det kan komme både fra villaks og oppdrettslaks. Vi vet ikke noe mer om hvem som har levert laksen som er involvert, eller hvilket land det kommer fra, sier han.

Ikke fra levende laks

Han understreker at levende laks i utgangspunktet ikke er bærer av salmonella.

- Salmonella vil ikke overleve i den temperaturen som laks vokser opp og lever i. Så i den grad salmonella er knyttet til lakseprodukter, må bakterien komme fra produksjonen, ikke fra oppdretten.

- Men smitten kan ha kommet fra et slakteri i Norge?

- Det vet vi ikke, sier Sundheim.

<http://www.aftenposten.no/okonomi/Norsk-laks-far-skylden-for-salmonellautbrudd-7008542.html>

NTB/Nettavisen, 4 October 2012

Laks får skylden for hundrevis av salmonellatilfeller

Oslo (NTB): Flere hundre mennesker skal ha blitt salmonellasmittet etter å ha spist laks fra en nederlandsk fabrikant som importerer oppdrettslaks fra Norge, Skottland, Argentina og USA.



Ifølge den nederlandske helsemyndigheten RIVM er minst 200 personer i Nederland og 100 i USA blitt syke etter å ha spist laks fra fabrikanten Foppen, skriver Aftenposten.

Laksen som Foppen bruker i sin produksjon, er importert fra Norge, Skottland, Argentina og Alaska. Noen av produktene er blitt solgt som norsk røykelaks, men foredlet ved Foppen, melder ABC.

Produsenten Foppen opplyser på sine nettsider at selskapet har trukket tilbake produktene fra markedet. Det kommer ikke fram av produktoversikten hvor laksen kommer fra, bortsett fra to produkter som er merket som skotsk laks. Ingen er merket med norsk opprinnelse, men det betyr ikke at norsk laks ikke kan ha blitt brukt.

Foppen har to fabrikker i Nederland, og en tredje fabrikk i Hellas.

I 2002 skrev Stavanger Aftenblad at John Fredriksen-kontrollerte Marine Harvest hadde inngått langsiktige kontrakter med Foppen. Kommunikasjonssjef Marte H. Grindaker vil verken bekrefte eller avkrefte om selskapet leverer laks til Foppen. Hun henviser til Norsk sjømatråd. Der opplyser direktør for markedsinformasjon, Egil Ove Sundheim, at man foreløpig ikke har informasjon som knytter saken til norsk laks. (©NTB)

<http://www.nettavisen.no/nyheter/article3486115.ece>

Intrafish, 4 October 2012



Video: Costco salmon made me sick

Texas woman ends up in hospital after eating tainted Foppen fish.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 04 October 2012 03:16 PM

Updated: 04 October 2012 02:43 PM

An Austin woman had to be rushed to the emergency room after she says she ate smoked salmon from Costco.

Michelle Lewis bought Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon from Costco, and she says it made her sick.

"It was horrible. I didn't know what was wrong with me," said Lewis.

Click here to read article and view video – [online here](#)

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1356874.ece>

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Salmon Farming Kills, 4 October 2012

Sicko Salmon - ABC News on "Horrible" Norwegian Farmed Salmon

Austin woman says Costco smoked salmon made her sick



The horror show that is Norwegian salmon farming scared the living daylights out of consumers in the United States on [prime time TV](#) last night (3 October).

Michelle Lewis bought Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon from Costco, and she says it made her sick reported [ABC News](#) as US consumers tucked into their TV dinners.

Austin woman says Costco smoked salmon made her sick



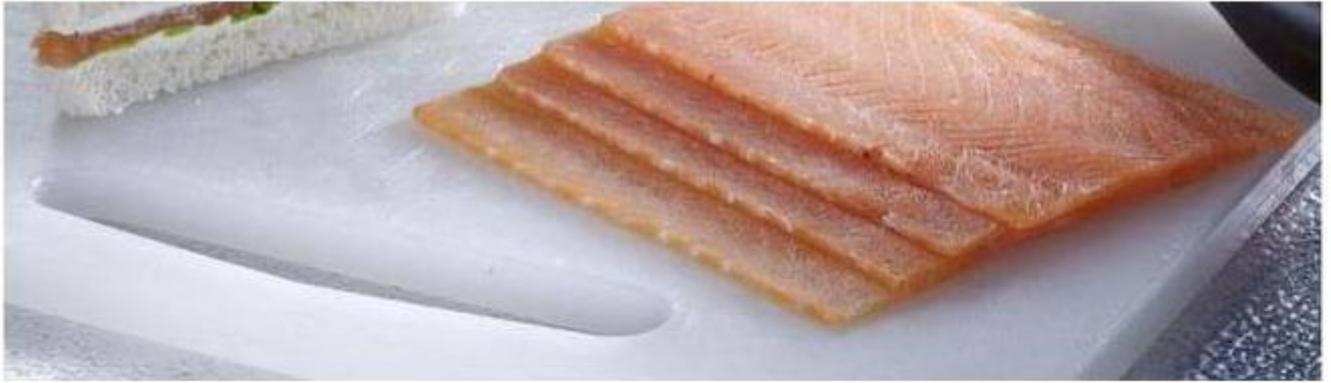
"It was horrible. I didn't know what was wrong with me," said Lewis. After several doctors checked her out, she had an ultrasound, an X-ray and a CT scan, Lewis was diagnosed with a rare colon problem caused by bacteria. She was treated with anti-nausea medicine, pain pills and antibiotics. "I feel much better. Last week I felt like death warmed over," said Lewis.

Austin woman says Costco smoked salmon made her sick



Watch the ABC news TV report [online here](#)

On Monday (1 October), the Norwegian trade press publication [Intrafish](#) revealed that 90% of the salmonella-contaminated salmon was farmed:



Costco supplier recalls batch of smoked salmon in Netherlands

Dutch processor Foppen -- which supplies Costco in the United States -- saw 100,000 packages of its smoked salmon products recalled from retail shelves following reports of salmonella.

 Rijuta Dey

Published: 01 October 2012 04:35 PM

Updated: 01 October 2012 07:03 PM

Dutch seafood processor Foppen Eel & Zalm, headquartered in Harderwijk, saw 100,000 packages of its smoked salmon products recalled after reports of it being infected with salmonella emerged.

"Of the affected salmon, 90 percent was farmed," admitted a spokesperson for [Foppen](#) (the Dutch processor at the centre of the salmonella outbreak).

The Norwegian financial press ([Hegnar Online](#)) also cited "Norwegian salmon" in an article published yesterday (3 October) in Norway.



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Foto: Scanpix

Over 200 salmonellaforgiftet av laks

Det antas at over 200 mennesker i Nederland har blitt salmonellaforgiftet etter å ha spist røkelaks.

Artikkel av: Eline Hvamstad (HegnarOnline - 03.10.12 10:46)

Rundt 200 personer, og trolig flere, har blitt salmonellaforgiftet i Nederland. Smitten er antatt å komme fra røkelaks fra det nederlandske selskapet Foppen. Det melder AP, Intrafish.com og andre medier tirsdag kveld og onsdag, ifølge TDN Finans.

Foppen leverer blant annet varer til supermarkedkjeden Costco, opplyser nyhetsbyrået.

Selskapet har nå trukket tilbake 100.000 pakninger røyket laks i Nederland, USA og inntil fem andre land, sier en Foppentalsperson til Intrafish.com. Ifølge nettstedet er det blant annet norsk laks som er brukt som råmateriale.

Foppen sier at det ikke har blitt påvist salmonella i deres produkter, men at de trekker tilbake produktene for å være proaktiv.

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  13 personer anbefaler dette. Bli den første blant vennene.

 Tips en venn  Skriv ut



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However, the mainstream media have shamefully not reported on the provenance of the salmonella-contaminated salmon. [Foppen](#), the Dutch processor embroiled in the salmon scandal, has refused to answer questions on the issue.

From: Recall [<mailto:recall@foppensalmon.com>]
Sent: 04 October 2012 08:01
To: 'salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: Salmon - what % is farmed; what % from Norway?

Dear Costco member,

We thank you for your feedback and we will respond as soon as possible to your email.

Foppen Salmon

Op deze e-mail is onze disclaimer van toepassing. Deze is te vinden op: www.foppensalingenzalm.nl/#/disclaimer

"Until Foppen comes clean and reveals the source of the contaminated salmon, consumers should surely avoid farmed salmon like the plague," said Don Staniford of [GAAIA](#).

"Norwegian farmed salmon leaves a nasty taste in the mouth and quite literally makes people sick. Consumers around the world should follow [Russia](#) and [China](#) in boycotting farmed Norwegian salmon. Norwegian salmon farming is enough to make you scream!"

Read article in full via: <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/blog/sicko-salmon-abc-news-horrible-norwegian-farmed-salmon>

Food Safety News, 4 October 2012

Costco Recalls Smoked Salmon Sold to Quarter of a Million Customers

Of two brands recalled, only one has been linked to European outbreak

By [Gretchen Goetz](#)

Costco Wholesale – the only U.S. carrier of the European smoked salmon that’s been linked to hundreds of Salmonella illnesses in the Netherlands – issued a recall of the fish Monday, using its automated system to call the nearly 250,000 U.S. consumers who had purchased the product over the past month.

The recalled smoked salmon was sold across the United States under two brands: Foppen and Kirkland Signature. Both products were manufactured by Foppen, a Netherlands-based company. The Foppen-branded fish was processed at a plant in Greece, while the Kirkland Signature-branded fish came from a plant in the Netherlands, according to Craig Wilson, Costco’s director of food safety.

So far only the Foppen smoked salmon from the Greek facility has tested positive for Salmonella, Wilson told **Food Safety News**. The Kirkland Signature fish was recalled out of extra precaution, he says.

Both Dutch health officials and Foppen itself are continuing to test samples of the recalled smoked salmon. So far, only those produced on one processing line – “Line 1” – in the Greek facility have tested positive, says Wilson.



It’s unclear whether fish processed on that line was exported to the United States.

[The Salmonella] appears to have been isolated at this point from one line, and not the line that produced the stuff that was exported,” says Wilson.

The company's [recall notice](#) for the U.S., issued on Monday reads:

This information is intended for U.S. buyers of Foppen Norwegian Smoked Salmon Slices 12 Oz and Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon 2 x 12 Oz.

As of now there are no health problems reported to Costco nor the manufacturer Foppen regarding salmonella by customers on products sold at Costco. Also there have been no positive testings for salmonella on the above mentioned products.

Final test results are expected to be available Friday, according to Wilson.

Since the shelf life of Foppen's smoked salmon is 26 days, Costco notified customers who had purchased salmon in the 26 days preceding the recall. Smoked salmon sales spike during this time, says Wilson, because is a traditional dish over the Jewish high holidays, which took place during this time period in September.

There has been speculation that a recent increase in Salmonella Thompson infections in the U.S. may be linked to the imported smoked salmon; however U.S. officials have not yet determined whether any of these illnesses were indeed connected to imported Foppen salmon.

This information may not be available for some time, as Dutch health officials have not yet provided the DNA pattern of the strain causing illnesses, says Wilson.

While Costco received no reports of adverse health effects from customers before it issued the recall of its smoked salmon, it did receive calls reporting illnesses after the recall was enacted.

"Since we've called, we've gotten some anecdotal illnesses, but no confirmation of illness at this point," says Wilson.

As **Food Safety News** [reported](#) Wednesday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recorded an uptick in Salmonella Thompson illnesses since last month. Health officials usually note about 30 reported cases of this strain of Salmonella during this time frame, but this year 85 were reported. CDC spokesperson Lola Russell said epidemiologists have not yet identified a common food source.

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/10/costco-recalls-smoked-salmon-sold-to-quarter-of-a-million-customers/>

Fisheries Information Service, 4 October 2012



Research is being carried out to ensure smoked salmon is not infected with salmonella.
(Photo: Stock File/FIS)

Costco pulls salmonella-tainted salmon from shelves



Thursday, October 04, 2012, 04:20 (GMT + 9)

The salmon processed by [Foppen](#) in the US was pulled from shelves and its sale was blocked by [Costco Wholesale Corp](#) after the news that smoked salmon containing *salmonella* bacteria had sickened hundreds of people in the Netherlands and the US, causing recalls overseas and locally.

The smoked salmon was sold under the Foppen name as well as the Kirkland brand, Costco's store-brand name. Specifically, the products are Foppen Norwegian Smoked Salmon Slices 12 Oz and Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon 2 x 12 Oz.

Customers who had purchased the items were called by CostCo to notify them of the recall, said Craig Wilson, VP of food safety at Costco. And he added that the calls were followed up with a letter.

In addition, Wilson said Costco's independent testing of the smoked salmon hasn't yet turned up any positive results for salmonella and also informed that the company had not received any reports of illnesses.

Furthermore, a representative for the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said the agency was investigating the cases but had not confirmed any illnesses.

Foppen is also studying the cause of the outbreak and has halted all production of smoked salmon until the analysis is completed.

"The investigation into the cause is under way and has been narrowed down to one production line at one factory (in Greece)," stated Foppen spokesperson Bart de Vries. "We can't yet say what the cause of the infection was."

Meanwhile, Costco in Taiwan has pulled the salmon in question from its shelves as well, even though there have been no allegations of *salmonella* poisoning in Taiwan, CNA reports.

Related article:

- [Hundreds of people hit by salmonella from infected salmon](#)

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

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=4&id=55863&l=e&special=&ndb=1%20target=>

KVUE, 4 October 2012

Hundreds sickened by Costco smoked salmon



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by KVUE.com

Posted on October 4, 2012 at 9:56 AM

About 1,400 people have been receiving calls from Costco about smoked salmon possibly tainted with salmonella. Hundreds of people have been sickened by this in the Netherlands, and now there's fear hundreds more here in the U.S.

A representative for the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control Prevention, Lola Russell, says the federal agency has 85 recorded cases of the same strain from 27 states starting from July 1. Without an outbreak, she said the average number of such cases over that time would be about 30. Ten people have been hospitalized with no deaths.

<http://www.kens5.com/news/172658961.html>

Marlborough Express, 4 October 2012

Passionate pleas at fish farm hearing

Penny Wardle

Maori lore clashed with economic development at the New Zealand King Salmon hearing at the Waikawa Marae near Picton yesterday.

The Te Atiawa iwi based at Waikawa Marae reversed its opposition to the King Salmon application to the Environmental Protection Authority to establish nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds, after reaching a commercially sensitive agreement with the company. The Waikawa Marae Trust remains opposed, especially to four sites in and near Tory Channel.

Te Atiawa Trust chairwoman Glenice Paine said a lot was said at the hearing about how passionate people opposing the application felt. However, five out of 10 trustees were born and bred in Waikawa, knew their customary food-gathering areas and participated in customary practices.

Underpinning the board's support for King Salmon were conditions which ensured that as kaitiaki (caretakers), Te Atiawa would know immediately if things went awry, Mrs Paine said.

Te Atiawa lawyer Kathy Ertel said many meetings had been held at the marae so the iwi voice could be heard.

Proposed farms should cause less damage than fast ferries of the past, commercial fish-catching, development including the marina at Waikawa and the freezing works and deep water port at Shakespeare Bay, Ms Ertel said.

Tina Looms asked the authority board of inquiry which is considering whether King Salmon can build its farms, to ensure they heard the voice of Te Atiawa who had been ignored and misrepresented.

"I don't deny the creation of financial wealth has a place but I reel in despair at the cost to Te Atiawa," Mrs Looms said.

Buna Riwaka doubted the ability of King Salmon to contain fish waste, paints and anti-fouling at existing farms let alone those applied for.

His tupuna (ancestors) would expect him to make a stand for the protection of fisheries guaranteed under the Treaty of Waitangi, Mr Riwaka said.

Paia Riwaka-Herbert said King Salmon owned several farms in the Sounds and made good profits from them. To apply for more space was an act of insatiable greed.

Antony Bunt, who spent 17 years as chairman of Te Atiawa's Totaranui fishing committee, found it ironic to be opposing aquaculture development.

However, Tory Channel was prime space for aquaculture and if Te Atiawa could not get the same quality of real estate it did not want to be fobbed off with a cheque, Mr Bunt said.

With grandson Max at his side, Harry Love said Te Atiawa took their role as kaitiaki (guardians) of the Sounds seriously.

In 2011 Mr Love helped dive for 48 sacks of kina for the tangi of former governor-general Sir Paul Reeves. Sharing kai like this gave the iwi pleasure and pride and he wanted his

grandson to have the same opportunity, he said. "It's a pity too many of our people are getting involved in the corporate world because it is corrupting our values," he said.

Alan Riwaka said it was hard for him to talk about traditional food-gathering areas in a public setting like the hearing. However, this was necessary because in the past such areas had been destroyed for developments.

The hearing of the King Salmon application continues at the marae today and tomorrow, after running for almost six weeks in Blenheim.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7767322/Passionate-pleas-at-fish-farm-hearing>

Marlborough Express, 4 October 2012

Iwi slates poor cultural approach at hearing

Penny Wardle

New Zealand King Salmon treatment of iwi bordered on offensive, given their attachment to places where it plans to build fish farms, said lawyer Tom Bennion at the Waikawa Marae, Picton yesterday.

It was hard to think of a culturally worse approach than the one taken by King Salmon, said Mr Bennion representing the Tahuaroa-Watson whanau at the Environmental Protection Authority hearing to consider an application by King Salmon for nine new farm sites in the Marlborough Sounds.

The several hundred whanau members object strongly to farms at Papatua in the outer Marlborough Sounds and Kaitapeha, Ngamahau and Ruaomoko in and near Tory Channel.

King Salmon selected optimum sites for salmon farming without first finding their importance to iwi, Mr Bennion told the authority board of inquiry deciding whether King Salmon should be permitted to build the farms. The company treated iwi as potential competitors by not telling them where it planned to build its farms before lodging its application. The Tahuaroa-Watson whanau had not seen the agreement Te Atiawa reached with King Salmon when it withdrew opposition to its application, Mr Bennion said.

Whanau member John Norton said he did not want the chosen sites commercialised and industrialised.

Trevor Tahuaroa-Watson said the King Salmon application was contrary to the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People.

Whanau member Laura Bowdler said she was worried that if granted, the King Salmon application could lead to a goldrush of applications for water space in areas where aquaculture was prohibited.

The Tahuaroa-Watson whanau was less worried about money than preserving the right to ensure the moana (sea) was kept healthy, Arthur Huntley told the board

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7767323/Iwi-slates-poor-cultural-approach-at-hearing>

BBC News, 4 October 2012

Scotland's fish farming faces stricter controls



The bill promises to support fish farms while protecting fish stocks

Related Stories

[Scotland's salmon farm dilemma](#)
[Fish farms 'are polluting' lochs](#)

Scotland's fish farming industry could face stricter regulation through new legislation. Holyrood's Environment Minister Paul Wheelhouse believed the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill would support farms and protect fish stocks.

Plans include tougher sanctions on fish farmers and increased scrutiny by environment agency Sepa.

The bill will now start its passage through the Scottish Parliament and is likely to become law next year.

There have been concerns for some time that lochs and rivers were being polluted by salmon farms.

A report this year published by the Salmon and Trout Association claimed juvenile sea lice from fish farms had been found on wild salmon and sea trout.

It also stated that nearly 13% of sea-bed residue samples from fish farms were higher than the environmental standard allowed.

The Scottish government hopes the bill will ensure that both wild and farmed fish continue to be managed properly without harming fishing on the country's rivers and lochs.

The proposals include:
new legal measures for fish farm operators

increased scrutiny of the industry by Sepa inspectors
stricter regulation
and fines of up to £10,000 for non compliance

Welcoming the introduction of the bill, Mr Wheelhouse said both wild and farmed fish stocks were vital to rural communities and the wider Scottish economy.

He added: "I believe we now have a forward thinking bill which achieves a balance between supporting fish farming and freshwater fisheries to thrive, while putting in place the legislative step to ensure our precious marine environment continues to be protected."

Scotland is the key producer of farmed salmon in the EU with an estimated value of £585m. In terms of tourism, Scottish lochs and rivers support one of the largest wild salmon populations in Europe with rod catches reaching almost 90,000 last year, the sixth highest year on record.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-19829553>

IC Scotland, 4 October 2012

Law 'can reform fisheries industry'

New legislation provides the chance to reform Scotland's fish farming industry, environmental campaigners have said.

The Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill should send a clear message to fish farmers that growth in the sector "must not come at the expense of the environment", the Scottish Wildlife Trust said.

The Scottish Government hopes the legislation just introduced to Holyrood will help the industry develop in a sustainable way.

Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said: "I believe we now have a forward-thinking Bill which achieves a balance between supporting fish farming and freshwater fisheries to thrive, while putting in place the legislative steps to ensure Scotland's precious marine environment continues to be protected, something which is recognised as key in the interest of all stakeholders.

"Scotland is home to economically significant aquaculture and freshwater fisheries sectors. They are critical to the economies of many remote and rural communities, as well as making important contributions to the wider Scottish economy.

"Farmed salmon is now recognised as our most valuable food

export, and wild salmon and trout fishing is a key tourism draw."

The Bill, if passed, will introduce legal measures for fish farm operators, including a requirement for them to meet technical equipment standards. It aims to safeguard the shellfish industry by ensuring waters continue to be protected from pollution.

Alex Kinninmonth, of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "This Bill could be incredibly important for maintaining and improving the quality of Scotland's coastal waters and rivers which support iconic species such as Atlantic salmon and sea trout.

"It's in everyone's interest to protect the long-term health of our coastal waters and rivers, as Scottish farmed fish has been built and promoted around the high quality of our natural environment. We want this Bill to achieve a better outcome for wildlife and the environment. This is our chance to foster a successful, sustainable Scottish fish farming industry.

"This Bill should send a clear message that industry growth must not come at the expense of the environment and the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be following it closely to make sure the legislation lives up to its aims."

http://icscotland.icnetwork.co.uk/news/scottish/tm_headline=law-can-reform-fisheries-industry%26method=full%26objectid=31966427%26siteid=50141-name_page.html#story_continue

ABC News/KVUE News, 3 October 2012

Austin woman says Costco smoked salmon made her sick



by JADE MINGUS / KVUE NEWS and photojournalist JOHN FISHER

[Bio](#) | [Email](#) | Follow: [@JadeM_KVUE](#)

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- [Costco smoked salmon sickens hundredsadd to reading list](#)

AUSTIN -- An Austin woman had to be rushed to the emergency room after she says she ate smoked salmon from Costco.

Michelle Lewis bought Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon from Costco, and she says it made her sick.

"It was horrible. I didn't know what was wrong with me," said Lewis.

After several doctors checked her out, she had an ultrasound, an X-ray and a CT scan, Lewis was diagnosed with a rare colon problem caused by bacteria. She was treated with anti-nausea medicine, pain pills and antibiotics.

"I feel much better. Last week I felt like death warmed over," said Lewis.



The smoked salmon Lewis ate is now linked to salmonella issues. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are investigating 85 salmonella cases in the United States. There are hundreds of cases of the illness in the Netherlands.

No deaths have been reported, but at least 10 people have gone to the hospital in the U.S. alone.

"Aside from growing my own food and catching my own salmon, which I doubt is going to happen, I have to put my trust in these big companies that they are going to keep me and my family safe," Lewis said.

Costco removed Kirkland Signature Norwegian Imported Smoked Salmon and Foppen Norwegian Smoked Salmon Slices from its shelves late Monday. The products are made by a Dutch company who is now investigating the cause of the outbreak.

Costco called customers this week who purchased the smoked salmon products and is also sending them a letter.

Anyone who bought contaminated salmon can take it back to Costco for a full refund.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/editors-pick/Austin-woman-says-salmonella-contaminated-smoked-salmon-made-her-sick-172552301.html>

Intrafish, 3 October 2012

FDA, CDC advise consumers not to eat Foppen smoked salmon

US officials have yet to detect bacteria in the product but are taking precautions based on its recall in the Netherlands. Meanwhile, they work to determine the cause of a multi-state salmonella outbreak.

 Jeanine Stewart

Published: 03 October 2012 09:29 PM

Updated: 03 October 2012 10:47 PM

The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) has 85 cases of salmonella in the United States on its books since July 1, well over the average of 30 for this time period. The disease has hit 27 states and resulted in 10 hospitalizations, CDC Spokeswoman Lola Russell told **IntraFish**.



Yet unclear is how many, if any, cases originated from the Foppen brand of smoked salmon that Costco removed from its shelves this week over salmonella concerns, the CDC said.

"However, consumers who may have purchased Foppen smoked salmon products should not eat these products and should discard any remaining product due to the recall," FDA spokesperson Sebastian Cianci told **IntraFish**.

The CDC and FDA are collaborating on a multistate investigation into the cause of the infections of salmonella thompson, a common salmonella strain, and so far, the cause is unknown. That is the same strain identified as the cause of the Foppen brand's infections.

The FDA has not issued an official recall of Foppen salmon products because the investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1356835.ece>

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

The Fish Site, 3 October 2012

Call for appeals board transparency

IRELAND - An environmental group has called on Simon Coveney, the marine minister, to provide information of the Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board's activities on their website.

In a letter to the Minister, the group claims that 'Modern EU legislation requires 'active and systematic dissemination' of environmental information held by public bodies, in 'particular by means of computer telecommunication and/or electronic technology' [Access to Information on the Environment, Article 7].

It was announced last week that an appeal under sections 40 and 41 of the Fisheries Act by Friends of the Irish Environment, along with local residents, fishermen and marine associations, had successfully overturned the Minister's December 2011 decision to grant permission to a 2005 Dunmanus Bay Mussels development application.

FIE said that the organization believed the decision, which cited the 'poor flushing rate' and the 'large amount of organic and inorganic waste material' meant that 'the decision on the proposed Bantry Bay expansion of fishing farming by Marine Harvest must also now be refused on the same grounds.'

Director Caroline Lewis said the quashing of the license supported its own organization's arguments 'word for word'. The ruling said that the development could "have a significant impact on other users including wild fisheries, natural habitat, and flora and fauna populations" while the "marine habitat could potentially be degraded".

The Board also noted the applicant's failure to respond to a request for further information.

However, the Director said FIE had been unable to see the Inspector's Report on this case. "The Board's telephone appears to be on permanent answering machine, messages are left unanswered and our emails ignored," Ms Lewis said.

"We have now found that the Board's website has ceased functional operation in 2006 with the list of Board Members out of date, decisions and inspectors Reports not posted to the site, and the last determinations and annual report available from 2006. An Bord Pleanála, who rule on projects on the land, provide a full and transparent website to assist individuals and groups by publicizing every decision and Report and providing a search engine to facilitate public participation."

"The proposed Galway Bay fish farm – the first of three planned – will in itself alone exceed the current national production. It has as its applicant the Minister's own Agency, BIM. There is no doubt that the Minister in these circumstances will give permission and the only place for meaningful intervention will be at the appeal level," she said.

"These are big infrastructure projects that can not be dealt with unless there is full transparency at every stage. Based on the budget for Galway Bay, the three proposed units under the Minister's plan will cost over €200m." The state has already supported Galway Bay salmon farm application by its agency BIM through grant aid of more than €2m.

In its appeal against the Dunmanus Bay decision, the group wrote that "By licensing significant areas to private businesses/industries common access rights will be denied to the wider community against their wishes and only the most rigorously justified developments should be permitted and only after the public has been given the fullest opportunity to protect their rights."

FIE has now written to the Minister requesting that he update the website to provide the same service as the planning authority appeals process before he grants any further aquaculture licenses, including the proposed Bantry Bay and Galway Bay salmon farms.

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18406/call-for-appeals-board-transparency>

Seafood Source, 3 October 2012

First salmon farm commits to ASC



AquaChile has entered into the certification program offered by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), making it the first salmon company in the world to be certified under the organization's salmon standards that ensure sustainable farming practices.

AquaChile has started a detailed revision of its processes and is evaluating the adjustments needed to achieve certification.

Chile's biggest producer and exporter of salmonids and a key supplier for the Asian, European and Latin American markets, AquaChile will follow ASC's standards to certify all of its Atlantic salmon farm sites.

"These are one of the most demanding standards that exist and they seek to deepen the sustainability initiatives in our industry. The fact that our company has agreed to work on achieving this certification means that an important amount of effort and resources will be allocated for this purpose. However, we are convinced that this is the right way to advance toward having a more harmonious aquaculture and a way for different groups of interest to appreciate and understand the industry," said Alfonso Márquez de la Plata, AquaChile CEO.

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=17977>

Read more via "[The Abominable Salmon Council: Buyer Beware!](#)"

Fish & Fly, 3 October 2012

Salmon activist wins defamation case



Don Staniford (l) plans to keep on campaigning - photo from salmonaresacred.org

A Canadian Supreme Court has upheld the right of anti-salmon farm activist Don Staniford to make defamatory remarks when speaking out in protest against Norwegian-owned salmon farms operating in Canada whose products he claims are dangerous to public health.

Back in January we reported a news story about Don Staniford as he was due to go to court - <http://www.fishandfly.com/news/3110-nasf-norway-supports-salmon-activist.html>

This current victory story has now been reported on widely in the Canadian (see excerpts below) and international conservation press and followed closely by the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) who through their USA and Norwegian arms helped to fund Staniford's legal defence.

The Vancouver Sun:

"In an emailed statement of response Friday, Staniford maintained his attack on the industry at full volume: "This judgment is a victory for free speech....The Norwegian Government's malicious attempt to abuse the Canadian courts to muzzle fair and honest criticism of Norwegian-owned salmon farming has back-fired spectacularly. Cermaq should now go back to Norway taking their disease-ridden salmon feedlots with them." The judgment described Mainstream as the second largest producer of farmed salmon in B.C. and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cermaq, a Norwegian company and a world leader in salmon production owned 43.5 per cent by the Norwegian government."

The Ottawa Citizen:

"Supreme Court of B.C. Justice Elaine Adair has dismissed a defamation case launched by salmon-farming company Mainstream Canada against Staniford. The Norwegian-owned company had taken the activist to court over a 2011 campaign that included images of cigarette-like packages and statements such as "Salmon Farming Kills Like Smoking."

CBC News:

"Staniford said he'll return to Canada as soon as he's allowed on March 1, 2013, and is planning a lecture tour around B.C. with Kurt Oddekalv, the leader of the Green Warriors"

"I am over the proverbial moon and feel extremely vindicated," he said. "All along I knew that Cermaq (was) whistling in the dark." "This is a victory not just for Don Staniford against Mainstream Canada. This is a victory for environmental campaigners, social-justice campaigners across the world."

In the judgment, Justice Elaine Adair wrote: *"Although I have concluded that Mr. Staniford's statements are defamatory of Mainstream, I have concluded that he should succeed on his defence of fair comment."*

"I have found that he was actuated by express malice towards Mainstream. However, I have found that he had an honest belief in the statements he made, and injuring Mainstream because of spite or animosity was not his dominant purpose in publishing the words in issue."

This is unlikely to be the end of the matter as in an emailed statement of response, Staniford maintained his attack on the industry at full volume: "This judgment is a victory for free speech....The Norwegian Government's malicious attempt to abuse the Canadian courts to muzzle fair and honest criticism of Norwegian-owned salmon farming has back-fired spectacularly. Cermaq should now go back to Norway taking their disease-ridden salmon feedlots with them."

<http://www.fishandfly.com/news/3235-salmon-activist-wins-defamation-case.html>

Port Townsend Leader, 3 October 2012

Commissioners told to include net-pens in Shoreline Management Plan update

Tristan Hiegler
reporter

In a move they aren't necessarily happy about, the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners has moved ahead with including salmon net-pens in their Shoreline Master Plan update.

"It's just wrong to me. It's an industry that has a terrible record," Commissioner Phil Johnson said in an interview of the Sept. 24 decision.

Johnson, who is running for re-election in District 1 against former Port Townsend mayor Geoff Masci, submitted a moratorium on Atlantic salmon fish farms to the governor's office in February.

Commissioner David Sullivan confirmed in an interview with the *Leader* he was also worried about the potential health risks net-pens pose to native salmon.

"In the net-pins, it's kind of an incubator for viruses," Sullivan said.

He added the waste and parasites from the farmed fish can cause problems for native fish.

The board has drafted a letter outlining plans to pursue, including conditional-use permits for net-pens in the SMP. The letter is in response to an Aug. 31 message from Ted Sturdevant, director of the state Department of Ecology.

“If you pursue something, that doesn’t mean you’re going to enact it,” Sullivan said.

Paula Ehlers, a manager with the DOE’s Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program, said the net-pen issue is the last requirement to bring the Jefferson County SMP update into line with state regulations.

In a written statement submitted to the *Leader*, Ehlers wrote that the DOE considered current aquaculture research and the data from other agencies when formulating its decision on net-pens.

“Our department is not providing its opinion nor giving our support for marine net pen aquaculture. We are enforcing the law to ensure that water-dependent uses are not outright prohibited,” Ehlers wrote. “Current science does not indicate that a net pen ban is warranted.”

Sullivan said conditional use permits allow the county to set the conditions net-pen operators must meet to have net-pens in county waters.

“The conditional-use permit process gives local governments the ability to evaluate proposals for water-dependent uses – including marine net pen aquaculture, ensure proposals comply with local shoreline master program requirements and set conditions for approval and denial of proposals,” Ehlers wrote. “Conditional use permits also give Ecology the opportunity to review these local decisions to make sure they comply with the state Shoreline Management Act.”

Johnson said he has additional questions for the DOE and that he will continue to pursue options that keep net-pens out of Jefferson County.

“I’m really unhappy of course with the position I’ve been put in,” Johnson said. “I didn’t feel as though I was making a final decision.”

<http://www.ptleader.com/main.asp?SectionID=36&SubSectionID=55&ArticleID=32233>

Marlborough Express, 3 October 2012

Green MP says salmon farm has history of mistakes

Penny Wardle

The latest evidence of the "cowboy antics" of New Zealand King Salmon can be seen in the Pelorus River near Havelock, Green MP Steffan Browning told an Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim yesterday.

Mr Browning showed the hearing photographs of salmon farm pontoons floating in the Pelorus River, visible from the causeway west of Havelock. There were broken pieces of equipment on the river bank and a large hole where something had been buried.

King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne later told the Marlborough Express that old steel pontoons from its Forsyth and Waihinau Farms had been towed up the river from Pelorus Sound where they were being dismantled for sale as scrap metal. This was with permission from the Department of Conservation and Marlborough District Council.

The hole nearby was unrelated and King Salmon staff did not know why it had been dug, Mr Rosewarne said.

Mr Browning told the hearing that King Salmon had a history of making mistakes, stopping when pulled up, then calling on its PR machine to regain favour. For example, the company moved a fish farm from Forsyth Bay to Waihinau when the site became toxic.

Truck and trailer-loads of dead fish had been removed from Waihinau this year and he did not accept claims the company did not know what caused the deaths.

In its application, the company overlooked combined effects of its proposed new farms and 19 sites already consented for salmon farms, including two under appeal, Mr Browning said. The company operated six farms and was resting two sites.

In the last 10 years the area of marine farms in the Sounds had increased by 45 per cent, Mr Browning said.

In 2002, 571 sites gained consents for marine farming, with the consents covering 2710 ha. In 2012, 576 farms had consents covering 4212 ha. Growth was mostly due to expansion of existing farms.

Mr Browning said if the board went down the track of saying the Marlborough Sounds Resource Management Plan had "done its dash", it had to be asked when marine industry growth would stop.

There was a lack of research into the effects of marine farming in the Sounds and science commissioned for marine farming applications was not independent, Mr Browning said.

For example, he had seen a scientist "delve and dodge" at a marine farming hearing, rather than repeat information given to the Marine Farming Association two weeks earlier.

Government was pushing to extend aquaculture rather than looking at its effects, he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7761918/Green-MP-says-salmon-firm-has-history-of-mistakes>

Seafood Source, 2 October 2012

Will salmon farming ever stop having a hard time?

By *Nicki Holmyard*, *SeafoodSource* contributing editor



The proposed Aquaculture and Freshwater Fisheries Bill in Scotland is causing a measure of disquiet amongst salmon farmers, not the least because in its present form it will bring in more stringent controls to an already heavily regulated industry. However it appears that criticism from the recreational fishing lobby has gained the ear of policy makers and could

lead to a potential stifling of future development.

Speaking at the recent Humber Seafood Summit, Scott Landsburgh chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers Organization (SSPO) explained that production of salmon in Scotland has increased year-on-year over the past three years, with more than 154,000 metric tons (MT) grown in 2011. Overall the industry is worth more than GBP 500 million.

Landsburgh argued that growth of the industry could be carried out in a sustainable manner and that an increase of more than 25 percent was achievable by 2020. He believes for too long the industry has been misunderstood, with criticisms lacking robust scientific evidence to back them up.

He pointed out that new operating and reporting restrictions, liability rules and fixed penalties for infringements likely to be included in the draft bill, would all have a negative effect. On top of that, ill-informed activists continue to slam the industry, when Scotland should be celebrating the fact that farmed salmon is the country's largest food export, with more than 95,000 MT exported in 2011 to 64 countries around the world.

“Scottish salmon is selling particularly well in emerging markets. Exports to the Far East have gone up by 894 percent from 682 MT to 6,779 MT, and those to the Middle East have risen by 17 percent from 1,340 MT to 1,562 MT,” he said. “FAO acknowledges that worldwide aquaculture production will need to double by 2030 to meet growing demand for protein, yet it is getting increasingly difficult to make this happen.”

Using selective data, the angling lobby constantly shout about the environmental impacts of salmon farms, but Landsburgh argues that any impacts are local and temporary.

“Salmon farming is an energy-efficient way of producing meat, particularly when compared to the farming of land-based animals, and only uses about 150 hectares of sea, which is roughly one quarter of the area taken up by a large sheep farm. We are working with the Carbon Trust to produce a best practice guide to promote energy efficiency and further reduce the environmental footprint, but at present it is a lot less than the beef and pork industries,” he said.

Fish From, a new Scottish company, says that closed containment is the answer to more environmentally friendly salmon farming, and is currently working on plans for three onshore sites and the development of Fish From kit farms to sell around the world.

According to Andrew Robertson, one of the main benefits is that fresh fish can be available 7 days per week, all year round, and on the market within hours of harvest. It also comes with impeccable environmental credentials, and will be farmed in a controlled environment

protected from harmful pathogens and parasites, with no consequent need for chemical solutions.

Controversially, the Fish From systems will grow salmon entirely in fresh water, and Robertson cites the work undertaken by The Freshwater Institute in Shepherdstown, West Virginia as the inspiration for his company. "Their scientists have proven that salmon can be grown from egg to market size in fresh water and that a very high quality product is the end result. Along with chefs and restaurateurs, we have tasted ten-pound fish from their system, and it received very favorable reactions from everyone," he said.

"The concept also appeals to government, industry and conservation-minded consumers, and interest in the kits has already come from Romania, New Zealand and North America."

Robertson explained that the systems will recycle 99.8 percent of the water, use fish food from sustainable resources, and treat effluent to negate any environmental impact.

We see Fish From as part of the solution to feeding the world in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way," he said.

We shall watch developments with interest!

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=17948>

Common Sense Canadian, 2 October 2012

Salmon Activist Don Staniford Wins Big Victory in Defamation Case Over Norwegian Aquaculture Giant

[Read this story from CBC.ca](#) on anti-salmon farming activist Don Staniford's recent victory in the BC Supreme Court in a defamation case brought against him by Norwegian salmon farming giant Cermaq-Mainstream for a controversial campaign that equated the industry's practices with Big Tobacco. (Sept. 28, 2012)

An anti-salmon-farming activist has won another victory against the global aquaculture industry, but also has been harshly criticized by a B.C. Supreme Court justice

Justice Elaine Adair has dismissed a defamation case launched by the salmon-farming company Mainstream Canada against Don Staniford over a 2011 campaign that included images of cigarette-like packages and statements such as "Salmon Farming Kills Like Smoking."

In her ruling published Friday, Adair said while the statements were defamatory and Staniford was motivated by malice, the activist honestly believed in what he was saying and animosity wasn't his dominant purpose.

The ruling left officials at Mainstream Canada, a subsidiary of the Norwegian company Cermaq, disappointed.

But the British-born Staniford, who was removed from Canada this past February for overstaying a visitor's permit, was in a celebratory mood.

"I am over the proverbial moon and feel extremely vindicated," he said during a phone interview from Spain. "All along I knew that Cermaq [was] whistling in the dark."

"This is a victory not just for Don Staniford against Mainstream Canada. This is a victory for environmental campaigners, social-justice campaigners across the world."

Laurie Jensen, a spokeswoman for Mainstream Canada, said the company will be reviewing the ruling, noting it's too early to say if it will appeal, and she defended the court action, saying it was the right thing to do.

"What we're seeing is a character of a person," she said. "And because, you know, he's not found legally responsible doesn't mean that, you know, he's getting away with things."

She said Adair's ruling supports many of the company's allegations, but she's disappointed the judge dismissed the court action over fair comment, a ruling she called "outrageous."

The court action was not the first faced by Staniford.

His first legal threat came from a Scottish salmon-farming company in 2001 but that never went to trial. He also won a new trial that has yet to happen after appealing a defamation victory by B.C.'s Creative Salmon Company in 2007.

The latest defamation case was launched by Mainstream Canada based on a Jan. 31, 2011 Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture campaign.

Court documents state a news release sent to media included four mock-cigarette packages, all modelled after the Marlboro brand, containing statements like, "Salmon Farming Kills," "Salmon Farming is Poison," "Salmon Farming is Toxic," and "Salmon Farming Seriously Damages Health."

Images also appeared on the global alliance's website.

Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/09/28/bc-anti-salmon-farming-activist-ruling.html>

<http://thecanadian.org/hot-links/item/1734-salmon-activist-don-staniford-wins-big-victory-in-defamation-case-over-norwegian-aquaculture-giant>

Read also in The Common Sense Canadian:

["Salmon Activist Don Staniford Has Left the Country...Continues Battle in Norway"](#)

["Bad Boy Salmon Activists Teaming Up in Norway"](#)

["Salmon Activist Draws Outpouring of Public Cash for Legal Battle"](#)

["Salmon Activist Don Staniford Squares Off With Norwegian Fish Farmer in Court"](#)

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

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

So long and thanks for all the fish!

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