

Press Update – 28 September 2012

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

“Judgment Day”/“Salmon Sludge Fouls Hearing”/“Students Oppose Farms”

Please find enclosed a press update (web-links are embedded in the headlines and the articles are available in full below) including:

“[Legacy](#)” (Wild Game Fish Conservation International, October)

“[Judgment Day in Salmon Farming Kills Lawsuit: Norwegian Government-Owned Cermaq Vs. Don Staniford](#)” (GAAIA, 28 September)

“[Salmon farm seabed sludge fouls hearing](#)” (Marlborough Express, 28 September)

“[Residents upset by the stench](#)” (The Coaster, 28 September)

“[Big ask for stakeholders](#)” (Marlborough Express, 28 September)

“[Salmon farms 'threat to iwi's mana'](#)” (Marlborough Express, 28 September)

“[Salmon disease hits Orkney farms](#)” (BBC News, 28 September)

“[Salmon industry advocates health risk reduction](#)” (FIS, 28 September)

“[Organic Farmed Salmon Equally as Good as Farmed Salmon](#)” (The Fish Site, 28 September)

“[Salmon commission must end open-net pens](#)” (The Daily News, 27 September)

“[Salmon Farm Rejected/Gometra Fish Farm Plan Goes to Local Public Hearing](#)”/“[Argyll and Bute Turn Down Ardmeanach Salmon Farm](#)” (The Oban Times/Salmon Factory, 27 September)

“[Passionate pleas from farm opponents](#)” (Marlborough Express, 27 September)

“[Too many farms in the Sounds](#)” (Marlborough Express, 27 September)

“[Affect on cod 'not acceptable'](#)” (Marlborough Express, 27 September)

“[Puchi: 'I prefer Chile producing 600 000 tonnes than 1 million'](#)” (Fish Farming Xpert, 27 September)

“[Decrease in organic salmon production](#)” (Fish Farming Xpert, 27 September)

“[Wild-salmon advocate in B.C. side steps inquiry into poor sockeye returns](#)”/“[Volunteer group will monitor, test wild fish along B.C. coast](#)”/“[B.C. salmon advocate side steps 'Mr. DFO': Alexandra Morton to create a private sector 'Department of Wild Salmon'](#)”” (The Canadian Press/Vancouver Sun/Times Colonist/CBC News, 26 September)

[“Alexandra Morton’s Heartland Institute”](#) (Salmon Farm Science, 26 September)

[“Judge gets extension”](#) (The Province, 26 September)

[“Students oppose salmon farms”](#) (Marlborough Express, 26 September)

[“Public voice their opposition”](#) (Marlborough Express, 26 September)

[“Te Atiawa to continue support for salmon farm expansion”](#) (Radio New Zealand, 26 September)

[“No fish farms: Mikhail Lermontov pilot”](#) (NZ City, 26 September)

[“No-one mentioned the liner”](#) (Marlborough Express, 26 September)

[“Outward Bound takes stand”](#) (Marlborough Express, 26 September)

[“King Salmon 'a poor employer'”](#) (Marlborough Express, 26 September)

[“Trust members divided on salmon farm expansion”](#) (Radio New Zealand, 26 September)

[“Jefferson County OKs fish-farming permitting process”](#) (Peninsula Daily News, 26 September)

[“New Zealand's King-Sized Salmon Problem”](#) (Green Around the Gills, 25 September)

[“Salmon run collapse report given extension: Justice Bruce Cohen now has until Oct. 29 to file report/“Commissioner examining collapse of B.C. salmon run gets extra month for report”](#) (The Canadian Press/Global TV, 25 September)

[“Cohen Commission to submit final report by October 29, 2012”](#) (Cohen Commission, 25 September)

[“Aquaculture Week message is upbeat”](#) (Campbell River Mirror, 25 September)

[“GE salmon producer complains of delays”](#) (Fish News EU, 25 September)

[“Salmon prices still falling”](#) (FIS, 25 September)

[“Wild salmon inquiry nearing completion”](#) (Fish Farming Xpert, 25 September)

[“Iwi members hold high hopes for hearings”](#) (Radio New Zealand, 25 September)

[“New route for floating protest”](#) (Marlborough Express, 25 September)

[“Fears of damage to a 'special place”](#) (Marlborough Express, 25 September)

[“Social scientist offers opinion”](#) (Marlborough Express, 25 September)

[“Homeowners 'not warned of fish farm plan'”](#) (Marlborough Express, 25 September)

[“Shooting targets”](#) (The Scotsman, 25 September)

[“The perfect salmon”](#) (Fish Farming Xpert, 25 September)

[“Cohen report out this week”](#) (Mission City Record, 24 September)

[“Investing in Chile’s Region 12”](#) (Intrafish, 24 September)

[“Getting A More Svelte Salmon To Your Dinner Plate”](#) (NPR, 24 September)

[“New Research Shows ISA Virus Infects Salmon from Within”](#) (The Fish Site, 24 September)

[“Fishing for a better salmon farm”](#) (The Fish Site, 24 September)

[“Seals shot in salmon sanction”](#) (Deadline News, 23 September)

[“Opposition building to new salmon feedlot near Tofino”](#) (Friends of Clayoquot Sound, September)

Including from [The Vancouver Sun](#) (25 September) reporting on yet another extension for the Cohen Commission’s final report:

“Just hours after the Cohen Commission announced Tuesday it had received yet another extension to submit its written findings, Alexandra Morton said she has already set up her own volunteer group to test and monitor wild salmon along the coast. Morton has dubbed it the [Department of Wild Salmon](#), a private sector organization.

"I'm not going to waste my time and energy praying and hoping and begging Mr. DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) to do something right," she said. "It's never going to happen. DFO is downsizing and my thought is: 'Right on. Bye, bye. Step out of the way. Step away from the fish. We can deal with this.'"

From GAAIA (28 September) on the [‘Salmon Farming Kills’](#) lawsuit:

“If successful, the injunction would outlaw bumper stickers like ‘Friends Don’t Let Friends Eat Farmed Salmon’ and ‘Wild Salmon Don’t Do Drugs’ and truthful statements corroborated by peer-reviewed science such as ‘Salmon Farming Spreads Disease’ and ‘Salmon Farming Kills Wild Baby Salmon’”

From the [Marlborough Express](#) (26 September) reporting on the salmon farming inquiry in New Zealand:

“Peter Martin, of Christchurch, told the board that opposing King Salmon plans felt like playing in a social rugby team pitted against the All Blacks.”

From the [Marlborough Express](#) (28 September):

“Submitters opposing fish-farming expansion in the Marlborough Sounds yesterday illustrated their argument with stinking sludge from beneath salmon farms. Pelorus Sound teenager Leona Plaisier, of Tui Nature Reserve, handed the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry samples dredged from the edge of a New Zealand King Salmon farm at Waihinau Bay and from its previous site at Forsyth Bay.....Commissioners Edward Ellison and Michael Briggs, who said they were agricultural types, lifted the lid on the containers. Windows were opened during the lunch-break to empty the room of the sulphurous stench.”

From [The Coaster](#) (28 September) on dead farmed salmon causing a stink in Eastern Canada:

“The wastewater, which drained from one or more leaky containers, reeked, emitting a foul, disgusting smell which lingered for days, much to the chagrin of the residents. Brian Roberts who worked at a nearby grocery store was one of many who were disgusted by the odor. “It was terrible,” he said. “During such warm weather we had to close all the windows in the store to keep the smell out. Customers came in asking what in the name of God was causing all the stink. Someone should be held accountable for this.”

From [The Marlborough Express](#) (26 September) on student opposition:

“On a 10-point scale, 10 being very strongly against, the students unanimously agreed they were a “definite 10”. The salmon farms would have a detrimental effect on the local tourism industry and economy, Ruby said. She labelled the sustainability of the expansion as questionable, “educated guesswork”.

Year 13 student Alice Elliott said the beauty of the Sounds would be tarnished with “ugly” industrial salmon farm structures. And it was her generation that would wear the effects. “With the increase in salmon farming, the Marlborough Sounds as we know them will change irrevocably,” she said.

Year 12 student Danielle Pope said the application would undo the work of her age group's parents and grandparents in helping establish a prohibited zone to protect areas in the Sounds from marine farming. “It will effectively destroy everything we, the community, have worked for,” she said. “Money can't buy our Sounds back.”

From the [Marlborough Express](#) (27 September) on “well reasoned and heartfelt” public opposition:

“[King Salmon lawyer James] Gardner-Hopkins states that in this process weight of numbers does not matter, only the quality of our submissions. Yet weight of numbers is exactly how democracy is supposed to work, and no-one checks the quality of our votes” Ms Parr said.

Mr Easton said granting the King Salmon application would open the door to further application and change. He said he and his wife objected to the growth of a form of “battery fish” type farming where the animals concerned were confined in very tight conditions. “We can hear caged cows scream; we can see the piteous plight of battery hens; but what is happening to battery fish is hidden beneath the surface.”

Mr Staniford said the “take-home message” from his organisation was to learn the lessons from around the world - Norway, Chile and Scotland. “My view and many others is that the

Marlborough Sounds is a pristine place and no place for salmon farming, let alone eight or nine more farms."

Read more via "[New Zealand's King-Sized Salmon Problem](#)"

From Bonny Glambeck at [Friends of Clayoquot Sound](#) (September):

"Wild salmon are the lifeblood of Clayoquot Sound's ecology, culture, and economy. But we are at a crossroads. A new salmon feedlot site near Tofino is awaiting approval. Due to public pressure and now a legal challenge, this permit has been postponed. But we may only have weeks to make a difference. [Please sign our petition and share it with your network](#). Every time someone signs, Premier Clark and federal Fisheries Minister Ashfield will receive an email. Add your voice. Together we can keep Plover Point wild for the salmon!"

From the [Campbell River Mirror](#) (25 September):

"The hard work is starting to pay off," BC Salmon Farmers Association (BCSFA) executive director Mary Ellen Walling said. "The industry has really matured. There is a real commitment to work collaboratively and we are finding ways to communicate that we truly care (about the environment.)"

On a tour of the Marine Harvest Okisollo farm off the northern tip of Quadra Island BCSFA communications manager Colleen Dane said: "A couple of years ago ... you would hear a lot more about whether we should be doing this job and if we should be doing aquaculture in British Columbia. I find more and more the conversations we are having now with the public is not whether we should be doing aquaculture, but how we can make sure we are doing it in the most responsible way."

From Elena Edwards in [The Daily News](#) (27 September):

"If there is to be any justice for wild salmon, Cohen's report will have to include the recommendation that all open-net salmon farms be removed from the migratory paths of wild salmon immediately followed by the cessation of leasing out the sea floor to the industry. Beyond that, the protection of wild salmon and salmon habitat must come first."

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

gofundme The easy way to raise money online. [Help](#) [Sign Up](#) [Donate](#)

Salmon Disease Testing

Salmon Disease Testing Fund

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

Gift Log #	First & Last Name	Location	Amount (USD)	Completed By	Has a message
0000000001	John	Spokane, WA	\$10.00	John	
0000000002	John	Spokane, WA	\$10.00	John	
0000000003	John	Spokane, WA	\$10.00	John	
0000000004	John	Spokane, WA	\$10.00	John	
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0000000010	John	Spokane, WA	\$10.00	John	

Created by **Alexandra Morton**
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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

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DONATE!

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

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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

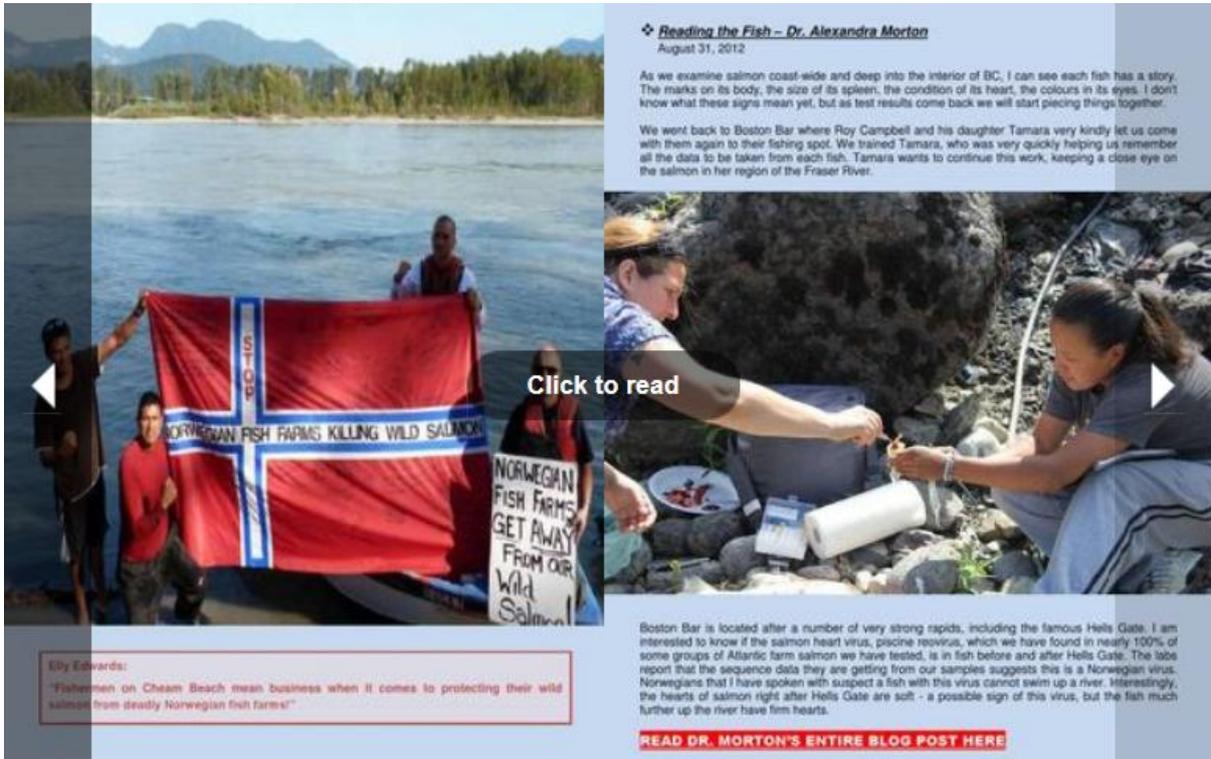
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Best fishes,

Don

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



Reading the Fish – Dr. Alexandra Morton
August 31, 2012

As we examine salmon coast-wide and deep into the interior of BC, I can see each fish has a story. The marks on its body, the size of its spleen, the condition of its heart, the colours in its eyes. I don't know what these signs mean yet, but as test results come back we will start piecing things together.

We went back to Boston Bar where Roy Campbell and his daughter Tamara very kindly let us come with them again to their fishing spot. We trained Tamara, who was very quickly helping us remember all the data to be taken from each fish. Tamara wants to continue this work, keeping a close eye on the salmon in her region of the Fraser River.

Click to read

Edy Edwards:
"Fishermen on Cheam Beach mean business when it comes to protecting their wild salmon from deadly Norwegian fish farms!"

Boston Bar is located after a number of very strong rapids, including the famous Hells Gate. I am interested to know if the salmon heart virus, piscine reovirus, which we have found in nearly 100% of some groups of Atlantic farm salmon we have tested, is in fish before and after Hells Gate. The lab report that the sequence data they are getting from our samples suggests this is a Norwegian virus. Norwegians that I have spoken with suspect a fish with this virus cannot swim up a river. Interestingly, the hearts of salmon right after Hells Gate are soft - a possible sign of this virus, but the fish much further up the river have firm hearts.

READ DR. MORTON'S ENTIRE BLOG POST HERE

Mutant and diseased Atlantic salmon reared in open pen feedlots and sold in BC markets and restaurants – disgusting, inhumane and disastrous for wild Pacific salmon, their ecosystems, cultures and economies!

Alexandra Morton's Flight for BC's Iconic Salmon
August 31, 2012

Her crusade is "fueled by love." Second in a series on **People's Order of BC** winners voted by Tye readers.



Click to read

Amissa Reed:
"Farmed Salmon Feedlot Mutant.
Sold in your local SuperStore and Costco."

Amissa Reed:
"Farm Salmon Feedlot mutant. Not only deformed but possibly a carrier of Piscine Reovirus or ISA, two of the viruses we have found in farmed Atlantic Salmon. You can buy one of these guys at Superstore or the fish from it anyway at Costco!"

Amissa Reed:
"If farm salmon could really talk and tell us all the diseases they suffer and spread - and not just look like they are talking because they are grossly deformed but still somehow make it to the grocery stores anyway..."

"We don't realize that we as individual human beings on this planet have the power." (Alexandra Morton)

Every year of her youth in Lakeville, Connecticut, Dr. Alexandra Morton watched *The Wizard of Oz* with her four siblings. Every time, she was terrified, watching as Dorothy went through so many struggles. But at the end, there was always relief. Dorothy realized she had possessed the power to fix her problem every step of the way; all she had to do was click those slippers...

Now, as a biologist living in Echo Bay, British Columbia, Alex sees *The Wizard of Oz* as a keen parallel to our current situation with local salmon farming practices, which appear to be depleting sockeye in the Fraser River and serving as a breeding ground for lice, viruses and bacteria in our waters. "The *Wizard of Oz* is really poignant because, although we've been going down a destructive path, biologists have enormous knowledge of how our planet works and can provide alternatives to farming," she says. "We have the power to put those alternatives into effect."

For example, getting fish farms out of the ocean and introducing hydroponic alternatives that don't interfere with wildlife and make better use of the ocean protein that feeds farm salmon. "Wild salmon have proven to be resilient," says Alex. "We should find ways of working within their natural habits to figure out how we can bring them back to abundance, while safely farming fish without altering the wild salmon. The sooner we start working with these natural systems, the better."

READ ENTIRE THE TYE ARTICLE HERE

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 28 September 2012

28 September 2012

**Judgment Day in Salmon Farming Kills Lawsuit
- Norwegian Government-Owned Cermaq Vs. Don Staniford**

Madame Justice Elaine Adair's judgment will be available from 10.30am (Pacific Standard Time) today (Friday 28 September) via the Supreme Court of British Columbia – [online here](#)



If Cermaq's lawsuit and [injunction](#) are successful, over fifty statements will be deemed illegal and "any person", "servants" or "agents" will be ordered to remove the 'Defamatory Words' from the internet:

- (a) "Salmon Farming Kills"
- (b) "Salmon Farming Kills Communities"
- (c) "Salmon Farming Spreads Disease"
- (d) "Salmon Farming Seriously Damages Health"
- (e) "Salmon Farming Kills Wild Baby Salmon"



Read more background via “[Norway’s Injunction Kills Free Speech!](#)” and “[Gagging the Truth Becomes Mainstream](#)”

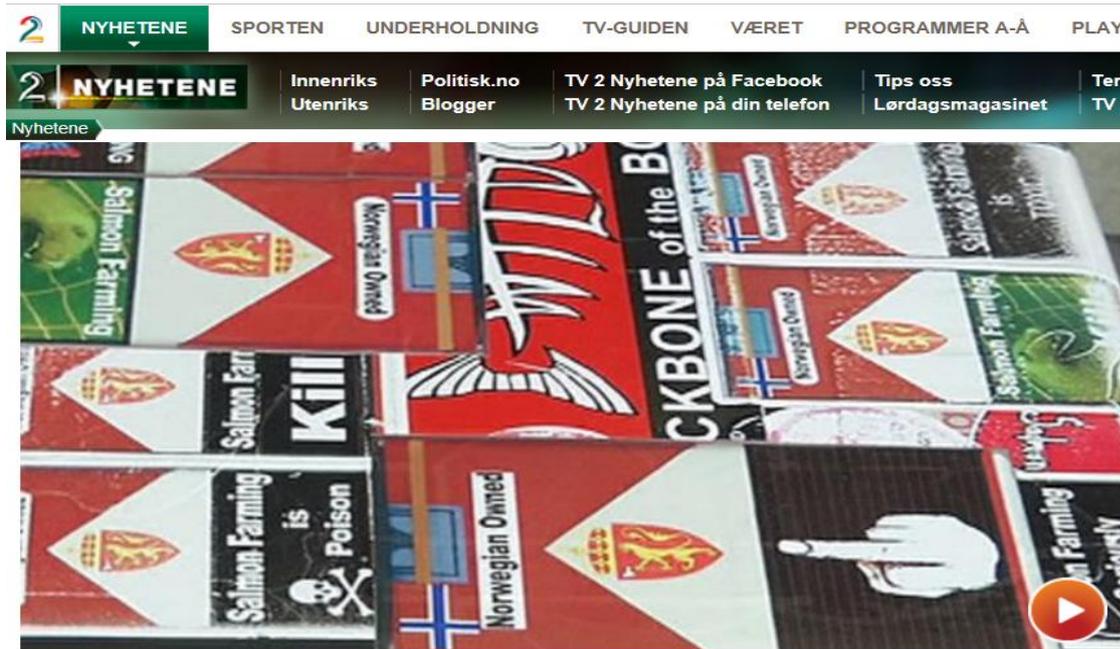
Read Cermaq's 'Amended Notice of Civil Claim' - [online here](#)

“If successful, the injunction would outlaw bumper stickers like ‘Friends Don’t Let Friends Eat Farmed Salmon’ and ‘Wild Salmon Don’t Do Drugs’ and truthful statements corroborated by peer-reviewed science such as ‘Salmon Farming Spreads Disease’ and ‘Salmon Farming Kills Wild Baby Salmon’,” [said](#) Don Staniford following the 20-day trial in February. “It’s a sad but simple fact that Norwegian-owned salmon farming kills all over the globe: whether it is the killing of sea lions in British Columbia; the deaths of workers in Chile; the slaughter of seals in Scotland or the devastation of wild salmon at home in Norway.”



“Norway now rivals China in its abuse of freedom of speech and the Draconian measures sought to suppress dissent,” [continued](#) Staniford. “The Norwegian Government, via their [state ownership of Cermaq](#), is abusing the Canadian courts to muzzle global criticism of Norwegian-owned salmon farming. Norway’s reputation as a champion of free speech now lies in the gutter along with the Nobel Peace Prize it awarded in 2010 to the Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. Shame on Norway, shame on Cermaq!”

Watch Norway’s TV2 reporting on the lawsuit – [online here](#) and [online here](#)



Speaking after the end of the 20-day trial, David Sutherland (legal counsel for Don Staniford) [said](#):

“We need to create a separate cause of action, which does not have the adverse presumptions of defamation that protect the reputations of individual people but forces the corporation to, in fact, prove the sorts of damages and other criteria that are involved in the court of injurious falsehood.”

Watch via The Straight's: ['Media lawyer for Don Staniford calls for changes in the way corporations can sue for loss of reputation'](#)

On the first day of the trial (16 January 2012), a police officer and officer from the Canadian Border Services Agency visited the court to inform Mr. Staniford he would be deported. Following the trial, Mr. Staniford was deported from Canada and moved immediately to Norway to “[slay the dragon in its own lair](#)”.

“Staniford began his journey back to Europe in the same over-the-top theatrical style that inflamed his targets: He arrived at Vancouver International Airport clad in an orange Guantanamo Bay-like jump suit and fake, rubber chains,” [reported](#) Global TV (5 March).

“The Canadian government chose to intimidate me on day one of my court case by turning up at the courtroom in a very public and calculated display of police force, yet, when deporting me, they were embarrassed by the orange jumpsuit and chose to whisk me out of public sight,” said Staniford in an interview with [The Times Colonist](#) (1 March).



Read more via [“Don Staniford: Salmon Farming Critic Removed from Canada”](#) and [“Bad Boy Salmon Activists Teaming Up in Norway”](#)

For more details visit [online here](#)

<http://salmonfarmingkills.com/press-releases>

Marlborough Express, 28 September 2012

Salmon farm seabed sludge fouls hearing

Penny Wardle



Nine thousand and counting: Leona Plaisier of Pelorus Sound collects signatures at Market Place last night against salmon-farming expansion. The 17-year-old made a submission to the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry earlier in the day

Submitters opposing fish-farming expansion in the Marlborough Sounds yesterday illustrated their argument with stinking sludge from beneath salmon farms.

Pelorus Sound teenager Leona Plaisier, of Tui Nature Reserve, handed the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry samples dredged from the edge of a New Zealand King Salmon farm at Waihinu Bay and from its previous site at Forsyth Bay.

A third sample was taken from a proposed farm site at Tapipi in Pelorus Sound.

Commissioners Edward Ellison and Michael Briggs, who said they were agricultural types, lifted the lid on the containers.

Windows were opened during the lunch-break to empty the room of the sulphurous stench.

The board is in the fifth week of a hearing at the Marlborough Civic Theatre in Blenheim to decide whether King Salmon should be permitted to build nine new salmon farms in the Sounds.

Miss Plaisier and her brother Liam made a dredge from an old kitchen sink to collect the samples.

"It astounded me how rotten the sea-floor had become at Forsyth Bay and Waihinu and to see the stench-free Tapipi sample," Miss Plaisier said.

She gave the board a petition against the salmon farms which she had organised, which at that point had been signed by 8420 people. By last night that had reached 9535, with a target of 10,000.

Submitter David Lloyd of Fairhall, near Blenheim, brought along his own bucket of sludge collected from the edge of Ruakaka Farm in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Mr Lloyd said salmon was promoted as a clean, green product which would be the saviour of New Zealand. However, these were "built fish", bred to grow fast on animal byproducts, poultry oil from the rendering industry and pigment to make them pink, he said.

Marketing had built the image of King Salmon but once the public found they were the marine equivalent of an [intensively feed] "meat chicken" there could be a problem, he said.

Mr Lloyd, who once owned a business which made animal feed from meat industry by-products, said there was a big difference in intensively farming chickens on land and salmon in the sea. Every 36 to 42 days machinery removed the toxic urine and faeces from beneath chicken farms, but salmon farm waste accumulated on the seabed. "What you smelled in that bucket is what's at the bottom of these farms," he said.

Board chairman Judge Gordon Whiting said Miss Plaisier's submission brought equity between generations into focus. He told her father Brian Plaisier, who also gave evidence yesterday, that "your future land and (the) organisation you have built over the years is in good hands."

The board would benefit from Mr Lloyd's experience and good Kiwi common sense, Judge Whiting said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7741687/Salmon-farm-seabed-sludge-fouls-hearing>

The Coaster, 28 September 2012

Residents upset by the stench

[Wesley Harris](#)

Contractors will have to be more careful!



Wesley Harris photo

Still obvious a week later in Hermitage is the residue from a spill from a truck taking dead salmon to a facility for proper disposal.

The incident caused a stink, both literally and figuratively.

Towards the end of the first week in September a truck carrying a load of morts (dead salmon) from one of the aquaculture companies in the Hermitage area left a trail of wastewater from the ferry wharf in Hermitage up through the harbour. The morts were likely being taken to the waste disposal site in Norris Arm where they would properly be disposed of – a common occurrence, one not likely noticed by many people.

Not on this occasion, however! The wastewater, which drained from one or more leaky containers, reeked, emitting a foul, disgusting smell which lingered for days, much to the chagrin of the residents. Brian Roberts who worked at a nearby grocery store was one of many who were disgusted by the odor. “It was terrible,” he said. “During such warm weather we had to close all the windows in the store to keep the smell out . Customers came in asking what in the name of God was causing all the stink. Someone should be held accountable for this.”

Mayor Douglas Rose of Hermitage-Sandyville expressed his concern. “I know that the morts have to be brought in and trucked to the super dump,” he said, “but whoever is contracted to do this work will have to be certain that the containers are sealed and are watertight. That is the way this work is supposed to be done. We don’t want a repeat of this terrible incident; the contractors will have to be more careful.”

A week later the residue from the spill is still noticeable on the main road in Hermitage.

<http://www.thecoaster.ca/News/2012-09-28/article-3085391/Residents-upset-by-the-stench/1>

Marlborough Express, 28 September 2012

'Big ask for stakeholders'

Economic think-tank principal Wendy McGuinness does not believe nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds would be good for New Zealand.

The McGuinness Institute founder and chief executive said her submission against an application by New Zealand King Salmon to develop new farms was triggered by it being treated as a matter of national significance.

By claiming national significance King Salmon was asking the public to be stakeholders, she said. If benefits were uncertain, risks increased and it became a big ask for New Zealanders to sign off.

The more she learned about the application the more concerned she became, Ms McGuinness told the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry considering the expansion application.

She was especially critical of economic analysis by James Fairgray, of Market Economics Ltd, who she said created models using outdated data and did not make sense.

Ms McGuinness also said:

Internationally, it was unusual to have nine sites considered under one application

Demand was overstated when for every two salmon sold now, there would be three by 2020

Prices were well below the \$13,000 a tonne quoted, and falling

Economic analysis included a processing plant which might or might not be built in Picton. If that was removed, benefits were halved.

She said King Salmon investor Direct Capital tended to exit projects in 10 years, meaning its share could be sold by 2018.

The company is 51 per cent owned by the Tiong Group, 42 per cent by Direct Capital and 7 per cent by King Salmon management and directors.

If the board were to approve the farms, Ms McGuinness asked that the consents last for 15 years.

Among conditions she suggested New Zealand ownership stays above 51 per cent and employment is at least 80 per cent of projections for each farm and the processing plant.

If they were not met, the farms should close, she said.

An advisory board should be established, she suggested, including representatives of conservation groups, Sounds businesses and King Salmon.

Ms McGuinness has made a separate submission against the application as the owner of a 17ha property on Arapawa Island where she is removing pines and planting native trees.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7741940/Big-ask-for-stakeholders>

Marlborough Express, 28 September 2012

Salmon farms 'threat to iwi's mana'

Penny Wardle

Five new salmon farms in Pelorus Sound would threaten fish and birds and reduce the mana of Ngati Koata iwi, an iwi representative says.

Ngati Koata representative Roma Hippolite was speaking in Blenheim yesterday at the Environmental Protection Authority hearing to consider an application by New Zealand King Salmon to build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

Pelorus Sound was the rohe (territory) of his iwi, he told the board of inquiry which will make the decision.

Mr Hippolite said as an iwi of the moana (sea) his people were expected to provide kaimoana (seafood) to show their hospitality. Any loss of this ability would reduce mana, he said.

Pollution from salmon farms would impact the mauri (spirit) of the sea.

Proposed farms would threaten breeding and feeding grounds of king shags, which were a taonga (treasure) for Ngati Koata with connections back to the explorer Kupe who discovered the islands of New Zealand, Mr Hippolite said.

A captain in Kupe's waka had a pet shag which turned to stone and became the reef at French Pass near d'Urville Island.

King Salmon had either not read the Ngati Koata Iwi Management Plan or ignored its requirement for consultation, he said.

This was despite the plan being available at the Marlborough District Council.

On July 12 this year King Salmon met Ngati Koata as well as Ngati Tama and Te Atiawa representatives and lots of questions were asked, he said.

"Iwi members present made it clear they did not think this should be considered as consultation as we were not scientists," he said.

Questioned by board commissioner Edward Ellison, Mr Hippolite agreed if more time had been given, iwi would have had a better understanding of the proposals and their effect on the water column from the sea surface to the sea floor.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7741984/Salmon-farms-threat-to-iwis-mana>

BBC News, 28 September 2012

Salmon disease hits Orkney farms

An infectious salmon disease has struck some of Orkney's fish farms.

A Scottish government spokesman said that the Fish Health Inspectorate had received reports of increased farmed fish mortalities on farms in Orkney.

Amoebic Gill Disease is reported to be causing mortality at sites around the coastline.

It is understood that a treatment was being applied to the affected stock and the dead fish were being removed from cages.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-19754810>

Fisheries Information Service, 28 September 2012



Salmon harvest. (Photo: SIGES)

Salmon industry advocates health risk reduction



Friday, September 28, 2012, 23:10 (GMT + 9)

All companies producing salmon and trout grouped in the [Association of Salmon Industry AG of Chile](#) (SalmonChile), the [Association of Coho Salmon and Trout](#) (Acotruch) and the Association of Salmon and Trout Producers from Magallanes developed a joint proposal to reduce the health risk.

The document, which was delivered to the head of the [Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) (Subpesca), Pablo Galilea, suggests placing restrictions on the number of salmon specimens in farms according to their performance.

As reported by *Aqua*, this is a first step before the implementation of the Density Rules, based on the carrying capacity of the water bodies of the Regions X, XI and XII, and on the health risk of each production unit [risk score].

The initiative specifies that "the industry is concerned about the evolution of some health indicators, in a context of increasing production and where a number of measures designed to prevent and control future health crises have not been fully implemented."

Therefore, the signatories call on the government to act urgently so as to protect the health asset, "which is the basis of salmon farming."

In addition, the government is asked to "take immediate measures, which do not require major policy changes and are adopted as part of the exercise of the powers that the [National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service](#) (Sernapesca) and Subpesca have."

SalmonChile president, Maria Eugenia Wagner, stressed that "this broad agreement of all the salmon industry first seeks to protect the health asset of the entire sector."

"A major concern is that there is a deterioration in the health status as production has increased, which should be controlled promptly and efficiently," explained Wagner.

Meanwhile, Julio Traub, Acotruch president said they consider "the urgent need for a standard that facilitates the simple control or punishment of those actors or concessions that have shown a poor health performance."

"This agreement reflects an important milestone of unity and joint efforts towards the sustainability of the sector," he stated.

Furthermore, in April 2013 it is expected that the final report, which was issued by the law firm Claro y Asociados on the Chilean salmon farming situation after the crisis caused by the outbreak of the infectious salmon anemia (ISA) virus taking place in 2007, is handed in.

In 2010, the Association of Banks, the [Chilean Production Development Corporation](#) (Corfo) and salmon companies contributed USD 1 million and created a health consortium to closely monitor the ISA crisis evolution in the salmon industry. While this consortium sent regular reports on the health status, the final text will also include the compliance with sanitary measures and their effects, apart from reports on the effectiveness of vaccines, which have been made in conjunction with Sernapesca and Subpesca, *Diario Financiero* reported.

Related article:

[- Salmon companies seek to renegotiate loans](#)

By Analia Murias
editorial@fis.com
www.fis.com

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=28&id=55741&l=e&spcial=&ndb=1%20target=>

The Fish Site, 28 September 2012

Organic Farmed Salmon Equally as Good as Farmed Salmon



NORWAY - A small portion of farmed salmon comes from organic farms. Now new research from Nofima is showing that this fish has the same quality as conventional farmed salmon.

Of the 65 new production licenses which were awarded in 2009, five were earmarked for organic production. It is a political goal that 15 per cent of food production and consumption in 2020 will be organic.

Fish welfare is at the center of organic salmon farming and there are stringent requirements for density in the cages. Breeders of organic salmon should also, as far as possible, avoid medication and vaccination of salmon.

Since the scope of organic farming up to now has been so limited, there is little research on this. But now one of the first studies on organic salmon suggests that the quality of the fish is just as good in normal farmed salmon.

"We have measured the colour, fatty acid composition and texture, both with instruments and with a professional taste panel," says Magnus Åsli, Nofima.

"The results showed that the taste of organic and conventional salmon were approximately equal. The organic fish were generally slightly redder, and the texture was just as good as normal farmed salmon."

Organic salmon also had a slightly different fatty acid composition.

Other fatty acids

"The organic fish had more omega 3," says Mr Åsli.

"This fish gets more ingredients from marine sources, while the ordinary salmon get more food with higher levels of plant ingredients. This also means that the organic fish has a more pronounced fish flavour."

"But the long, unsaturated fatty acids are also more unstable and turn rancid more quickly, which can lead to organic fish having a shorter shelf life."

"This is something Mr Åsli and colleagues would like to look into in the future. They will also examine the quality of various products made from organic and conventional salmon."

"In this study we analysed fresh and vacuum packed fillets that were cooked in a water bath. But we would also like to examine the raw salmon and further processed products such as smoked or salted salmon," he says.

The research was funded by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry Research Fund (FHF).

TheFishSite News Desk

© [Nofima](#) (formerly Fiskeriforskning)

Salmon commission must end open-net pens

This week a final report is expected from Justice Bruce Cohen that may seal the fate of wild Pacific Sockeye salmon in B.C.

After months of hearing reports and testimony from expert witnesses, DFO employees, First Nations and non governmental organizations, Cohen has had since December to weigh through the vast evidence of impacts to wild salmon.

Originally expected to make his final report in June, it was postponed to Sept. 30 after evidence showed infectious salmon anemia virus to be present in wild salmon stocks, thereby reopening the commission in December for three additional days to examine potential impacts of ISA on wild salmon. Those three days only further exposed the extent to which the Canadian government has failed to protect wild salmon, right down to ignoring scientific evidence that clearly showed the threat of viruses introduced into Pacific waters.

If there is to be any justice for wild salmon, Cohen's report will have to include the recommendation that all open-net salmon farms be removed from the migratory paths of wild salmon immediately followed by the cessation of leasing out the sea floor to the industry. Beyond that, the protection of wild salmon and salmon habitat must come first.

Whether Cohen's recommendations will have any sway on the Harper government's current agenda is unlikely, but we can only hope that his report will not cater to the very things that put wild salmon at risk.

Elena Edwards

Vancouver

<http://www.canada.com/Salmon+commission+must+open+pens/7309165/story.html>

The Oban Times, 27 September 2012

Gometra fish farm plan goes to local public hearing

PLANS to build a 16 cage fish farm at Gometra, Mull, will go to a local public hearing, with planners recommended to approve the proposal.

The Scottish Salmon Company's proposal has attracted 25 objections and a petition, Save Staffa Archipelago, gathered more than 1,000 signatures. However, 42 letters of support were also sent to the local authority backing the plan for the site with a combined total biomass of 2,000 tonnes.

While there has been some concern from local residents, senior planning officer Richard Kerr said there had been no objections from statutory consultees. Mr Kerr said that Mull Community Council had initially objected, then changed to a neutral stance, before finally moving to support the fish farm.

Iona Community Council objected to the plan following its own public meeting.

Councillors unanimously voted to convene a local hearing, the date of which is to be confirmed.



AN APPLICATION to construct a fish farm in the south of Mull has been rejected at a recent planning committee meeting.

The application, by The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), was to build an Atlantic salmon comprising 14 100m-circumference cages in Loch Scridain.

But Richard Kerr, principal planning officer for the council said there had been widespread local objection to the plans and only a 'small number' of supporters.

At the meeting last Wednesday, concerns were raised by planners about the impact the new fish farm would have visually on the loch.

Others at the meeting argued the plans should go ahead due to the proposed economic benefit to the area but the application was rejected by eight votes to five.



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

Read more via:

Argyll and Bute Turn Down Ardmeanach Salmon Farm, 19th September 2012

Decision

The Committee agreed to refuse the application for planning permission for the following reasons:-

1. The proposal involves the installation of a series of large scale fish cages and an associated service/feed barge in a location close inshore to the southern coast of the Ardmeanach peninsula, the basalt landscape of which forms an imposing and dramatic backdrop to Loch Scridain as viewed from the waters of the loch and from the important route via the Ross of Mull to the nationally important tourist destination of Iona. It also stands below and would be experienced from successive points, and at relatively close quarters from, the important coastal footpath from Tioran via the National Trust land at Burg to the 'Fossil Tree' at the head of the peninsula, on the route of which it is also overlooked from, and impinges inappropriately upon, the setting of the scheduled monument Dun Bhurg. The footpath from Tioran to Burg is a proposed core path which has received no objections through the core path planning process and represents an important coastal route on Mull. This part of Ardmeanach is largely undeveloped and is only accessible on foot, where it is visited specifically by persons wishing to experience its scenic qualities and its natural and historic environment attributes along with the associated drama of this exceptional stretch of coastline. It is included within an 'Area of Panoramic Quality', a landscape designation of regional importance, having regard to both the views which are available across and along the length of the loch and to the islands offshore, which represent important assets to the tourism economy of Mull. The introduction of marine development on the scale proposed would, by virtue of its physical presence in the landscape and lighting and activity associated with its operation, impinge upon the very characteristics of the receiving environment which give rise to its special qualities, which are derived from a combination of its landscape character, its resident wildlife and its historic associations. Such uncharacteristic and inappropriately situated development would therefore fail to safeguard the natural environment and the important role which this plays in the tourism economy of the island, and would not represent a sustainable form of development. The proposal would also contribute to the extent of aquaculture within the loch (currently three shellfish farms plus a shore base) and would give rise to additional cumulative impact with those developments when viewed from the Ardmeanach coastal footpath, and from those locations on the Ross of Mull

where the site could be seen in combination with existing mussel lines, which would contribute to the impression of aquaculture being a significant characteristic of Loch Scridain. The foregoing shortcomings would conflict with Structure Plan policy STRAT SI 1 and STRAT DC 8 and Local Plan Policies LP ENV 10 and LP AQUA 1 which seek to secure sustainable forms of development which safeguard designated landscape assets of regional importance from uncharacteristic and inappropriate forms of development.

2. Scottish Planning Policy confirms that potential conflict with other marine users is a legitimate material consideration in the assessment of aquaculture applications. The development is proposed to occupy around 40 hectares along the coastal shelf of Loch

Scridain which forms part of the traditional fishing ground currently worked by a number of local commercial inshore fishing boats. Fishing organisations and boat owners consider that exclusion from this area by virtue of the presence of fish farming equipment and associated boat activity would, cumulatively in combination with existing shellfish operations elsewhere within the loch, prejudice the ongoing viability of inshore fishing in Loch Scridain, in circumstances where small vessels would not lend themselves to working alternative more distant fishing grounds. This would be to the detriment of established resource based employment in Loch Scridain and would be contrary to Local Plan Policy LP AQUA 1 which requires that consideration being given to navigational interests in the assessment of aquaculture developments in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts to the detriment of those interests.

(Reference: Report by Head of Planning and Regulatory Services dated 24 August 2012, submitted)

<http://www.salmonfactory.com/ab-20120919.html>

Marlborough Express, 27 September 2012

Passionate pleas from farm opponents

Cathie Bell

“Well-reasoned and heartfelt” submissions from people in Blenheim yesterday showed just how difficult the job of the Environmental Protection Authority's board of inquiry was, board chairman Judge Gordon Whiting said.

The board heard submissions yesterday opposing and supporting NZ King Salmon's application to set up nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

Judge Whiting said this part of the hearing was very important to hear from "people who lived and worked and recreated in the Sounds".

"It is important for us to get that perspective."

Appearing yesterday were Sounds landowners Trevor Easton, speaking on behalf of himself and wife Jennie Easton, Alison Parr, Chris Wilson and Peter Vavasour, who all opposed the application.

Also speaking in opposition was Don Staniford, from Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, who appeared by video link from Spain.

The only person to speak in favour of the submission was Brian Dawson, representing the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Dawson said that, given the country's pressing financial needs, we must look positively on opportunities to deliver economic growth.

"King Salmon is presenting us with such an opportunity."

The Marlborough Sounds were located within the district, but were of significance to the whole of New Zealand, he said.

"The Sounds lend themselves not only to recreation for locals and tourism, but also marine farming.

"The Sounds are already home to 2800 hectares of mussel farms and five salmon farms. Given the needs of the country and how ideal the Sounds are for marine farming, then the locals must step back and understand the greater good."

King Salmon were a proven operator with a long track record, Mr Dawson said.

"The EPA is not being asked to give approval to an unproven operator or support a type of activity new to the Sounds. The EPA is simply being asked to agree to the expansion of an already successful and proven operation."

Ms Parr said criticism of opponents' evidence as "emotive" was wrong: "Being in the Marlborough Sounds is an emotional experience, and may well account for the concerted and determined level of opposition to King Salmon's plans."

She said King Salmon's experts had said the effects of the proposal would be minor, but there were over 800 submissions saying that wasn't so.

"Some of those submissions are from groups representing many others, for example Sustain our Sounds represents over a thousand people. So in real terms there are thousands telling the board that their opinion is that the effects are major.

King Salmon lawyer James] Gardner-Hopkins states that in this process weight of numbers does not matter, only the quality of our submissions. Yet weight of numbers is exactly how democracy is supposed to work, and no-one checks the quality of our votes" Ms Parr said.

Mr Easton said granting the King Salmon application would open the door to further application and change.

He said he and his wife objected to the growth of a form of "battery fish" type farming where the animals concerned were confined in very tight conditions. "We can hear caged cows scream; we can see the piteous plight of battery hens; but what is happening to battery fish hidden beneath the surface."

However, if King Salmon were successful in gaining "one, some or all of the sites they applied for", Mr Easton asked that the consents be limited to that company alone to use. "Trading, selling, leasing, or second licensing of the sites should not be permitted," he said.

"If successful, it is that applicant, King Salmon, which will have convinced this board that they are suitably responsible, informed, equipped, and environmentally sensitive to establish and run more salmon farms safely and without any significant environmental effect. Any other salmon farming concern which was able to use any consents King Salmon may win will not have had to undergo the rigorous scrutiny and examination we hope this board will apply to this application."

Mr Wilson said the application should be rejected purely on planning grounds. The zoning that prohibited marine farming in the areas of the Sounds where King Salmon wanted to set up farms should be kept in place, he said.

"To clog my backyard up with more farms causing pollution, visual eyesores, and damaging my favourite scallop and fishing spots would be terrible. It risks for me the rare and special nature of the paradise we have."

He said he was not opposed to aquaculture, and had been a mussel farmer himself, but to overturn the Marlborough District Council's plan for the Sounds in this way was "unacceptable".

Mr Vavasour's submission said the King Salmon proposal would destroy the natural beauty and character of the Sounds. As it was the first case heard by EPA about coastal areas, it would create legal history and precedents. He supported the council's opposition to the application and support of its district plan.

Mr Staniford said the "take-home message" from his organisation was to learn the lessons from around the world - Norway, Chile and Scotland. "My view and many others is that the Marlborough Sounds is a pristine place and no place for salmon farming, let alone eight or nine more farms."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7735932/Passionate-pleas-from-farm-opponents>

Marlborough Express, 27 September 2012

'Too many farms in the Sounds'

Cathie Bell

The precautionary approach in the Resource Management Act should be used to decline an application to set up more salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds, well-known landscape photographer and environmentalist Craig Potton said yesterday.

Mr Potton told the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry hearing the NZ King Salmon application to set up nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds that he was "adamantly opposed" to any more marine space being allocated to farming, including King Salmon's application.

The Marlborough Sounds had wonderful biodiversity, and that was underestimated by planners, he said. "Too many coves and too much water space is taken over by private industrial use."

Mr Potton said he wasn't adamantly opposed to mussel or salmon farms as such, but there were already too many in the Marlborough Sounds.

"If King Salmon wish to expand, it would be reasonable to ask them to buy out mussel farms in the outer Sounds, so they don't have to expand the coverage in marine space."

When researching books and television programmes on the Marlborough Sounds, he realised how little was known about the ecology of the area, so the precautionary approach in the Resource Management Act should be used.

The Marlborough Sounds were second only to Fiordland in terms of international standing, Mr Potton said, and Fiordland was too distant and foreboding to be as accessible.

"The application should be declined."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7735930/Too-many-farms-in-the-Sounds>

Marlborough Express, 27 September 2012

Affect on cod 'not acceptable'

Cathie Bell

Setting up new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds would have significant negative impacts on wild fish stocks, especially blue cod, TasFish president Martyn Barlow said yesterday.

TasFish, the Tasman and Sounds Recreational Fishers Association, made one of several submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry hearing in Blenheim yesterday.

The board is considering an application by NZ King Salmon to set up nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds, including eight in areas where marine farming has been banned.

Mr Barlow said blue cod stocks already had "abundance and recruitment issues" and recreational fishers were targeted by government rules that banned fishing at certain times of the year to boost fish numbers.

Mr Barlow noted that two King Salmon expert witnesses had said blue cod abundance and productivity would be put under significant environmental pressures if the application was approved.

They promoted excluding recreational fishers from all the farms or within 100 metres of the farm structures because of those effects.

"We are not prepared to accept additional rules and regulations on top of those already in place just because of the effect King Salmon will have farming in areas not designated for aquaculture. This is unacceptable to recreational fishers and the wider community."

The "private and exclusive occupation of public space" King Salmon wanted for 35 years on the scale proposed in its application would be accompanied by environmental degradation on marine eco-systems, "like nothing we have seen in New Zealand before", he said.

"The impacts on wild fish stocks could be catastrophic for not only the recreational fishing sector but . . . future generations."

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7735931/Affect-on-cod-not-acceptable>

Fish Farming Xpert, 27 September 2012

Puchi: "I prefer Chile producing 600 000 tonnes than 1 million"



Chile: Víctor Hugo Puchi, president of AquaChile (photo), said that if the Chilean salmon industry wants to become more sustainable, the sector should reduce some production capacity in order to produce in a safer way.

[Christian Pérez](#)

Mr Puchi said "I prefer Chile with 600 000 tonnes that we can handle well and in a safe way than with 750 000 or 1 million tonnes that might be a higher risk. Besides, we should have the chance of increase our production as long as we show that the new production model works. This is the safer way to produce and it would demonstrate that we have learned from the crisis."

According to the Chilean newspaper La Tercera, Mr Puchi also believes that the Chilean salmon industry should be composed by shorter number of players. Currently, there are 29 companies producing salmon in Chile while he thinks that "if there were just 6 or 7 company groups that would be an enormous progress. The path to follow is to join forces and work together." In that sense, he added that this is not the best time for acquisitions. Instead, he considers that mergers are the solution.

Regarding prices and in comparison to the Norwegian salmon, Mr Puchi commented that Chileans are selling at a lower price. He said that "to a certain degree, we have some commercial clutter, because when you sell in a hurry, you sale at a bad price in any given business".

Today, the focus of Empresas AquaChile is not set on producing the same volume levels they had prior to the ISA crisis (around 110 000 tonnes per year). "More than about the volume, we are concerned about doing things right," he said. "We have confidence on our recovery, the price of the Chilean salmon will tend to rise, approaching the price of Norwegian salmon, and the price of salmon in the whole world," he concluded.

http://www.fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=95889

Fish Farming Xpert, 27 September 2012

Decrease in organic salmon production

UK: There was a significant reduction in organic salmon production in Scotland last year compared to 2010, the recently published [Scottish Fish Farms Annual Production Survey 2011](#) reveals.

Siri Elise Dybdal

Of the 252 seawater cage sites recorded as being active in Atlantic salmon production in 2011 in Scotland, ten were certified as organic producing 3,104 tonnes. This is the second year that data on organic production has been reported.

In 2010, of the 247 seawater cage sites recorded as being active in Atlantic salmon production, 14 sites were certified as organic and the recorded production was 6,122 tonnes. This means there has been a drop in tonnage of 3018 tons – nearly half of the production in one year, and there were four less sites producing organic salmon in 2011.

http://www.fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=95888

The Canadian Press/The Vancouver Sun/Times Colonist/CBC News, 26 September 2012

Wild-salmon advocate in B.C. side steps inquiry into poor sockeye returns

By Keven Drews



Marine biologist Alexandra Morton, shown holding a fake salmon

Photograph by: Larry Wright , THE RECORD

VANCOUVER - One of British Columbia's most vocal advocates for the preservation of wild salmon says she's not waiting to find out from a government inquiry why the Fraser River sockeye run crashed in 2009.

Just hours after the Cohen Commission announced Tuesday it had received yet another extension to submit its written findings, Alexandra Morton said she has already set up her own volunteer group to test and monitor wild salmon along the coast.

Morton has dubbed it the [Department of Wild Salmon](#), a private sector organization.



Alexandra Morton says her planned organization will test salmon for viruses. ([CBC](#))

"I'm not going to waste my time and energy praying and hoping and begging Mr. DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) to do something right," she said.

"It's never going to happen. DFO is downsizing and my thought is: 'Right on. Bye, bye. Step out of the way. Step away from the fish. We can deal with this.'"

Morton said she made her decision while reading through commission documents and over issues like the importation of salmon eggs, and also because she said she's not allowed to present fish samples to DFO for testing.

She said her organization includes First Nations, fisheries managers, stream keepers and commercial fishermen, said Morton. They will be taught how to take biological samples from salmon so they can be tested for diseases.

Eventually, she hopes to have her own lab, which Morton estimated would cost as much as \$20 million over 10 years.

"What I see in DFO is a lot of really wonderful people who would like to do the right thing, but they can't," she said.



Alexandra Morton: "Step away from the fish. We can deal with this."

Photograph by: Ian Smith, Vancouver Sun , The Canadian Press

Last June, three scientists from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., published a letter in the journal, "Science," that was critical of cutbacks at eco-toxicology labs and an aquatic research facility run by the federal government.

One estimate pegged the cuts to as much as \$79.3 million over the next three years.

The Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River was formed by the federal government in November 2009 to investigate and report on the reasons for the fish's decline.

That previous summer, about 10 million fish were expected to return to B.C.'s rivers and streams, but only one million actually showed up.

Justice Bruce Cohen, who was appointed to lead the inquiry, was asked to make recommendations for improving the fishery's sustainability.

At the time, the federal government set a May 1, 2011 deadline for Cohen to submit his final report.

The inquiry began in August 2010 and ended in December 2011. It heard from 160 witnesses and compiled 14,000 pages of transcripts and 2,100 exhibits.

Deadlines were extended to June 30, 2012, then Sept. 30, 2012, and on Tuesday, the commission announced it had been given another extension until Oct. 29, 2010.

Cohen's report must also be submitted in both official languages.

"Given the length and complexity of his report, the commissioner requested the extension to complete the writing, translation, and production of the report," stated a posting on the inquiry's website.

Despite Morton's skepticism, others remain confident something good will come out of the inquiry.

Bob Jackson is the regional executive vice-president for the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which represents Fisheries workers and made submissions at the inquiry. Jackson said his organization is confident the inquiry needs the extra time to do its work.

"It's a very complex process. Many, many many pages of documents," he said.

Jackson said he welcomes the report and hopes Cohen will recommend more funding for DFO.

"It's quite obvious, DFO needs more funding. I mean, salmon in B.C., as you're probably aware, are probably the most iconic symbols."

More on This Story

- [Wild B.C. salmon test positive for 'lethal' virus linked to fish farms](#)
- [Ottawa silences scientist over West Coast salmon study](#)

- [Wild salmon deaths linked to sea lice at fish farms: study](#)
- [Salmon virus in B.C. for decades, say biologists](#)

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/commissioner-examining-collapse-of-bc-salmon-run-gets-extra-month-for-report--171233321.html>

Also reported via:

[“B.C. wild-salmon advocate side-steps sockeye inquiry to start her own”](#) (Vancouver Sun)

[“Salmon advocate bypasses inquiry into sockeye run: Volunteer group will monitor, test wild fish along B.C. coast”](#) (Times Colonist)

Salmon Farm Science, 26 September 2012

Alexandra Morton’s Heartland Institute

We were glad to see that Alexandra Morton [took our idle musings seriously](#) and is now sampling wild salmon in earnest.

In fact, [she’s so serious about it she wants to start her own lab because she doesn’t trust the evil government-sponsored labs.](#)

We think this is fantastic.

If people want to give Alexandra Morton the \$20 million she wants to set up a lab of her own, hey, it’s their money.

And who knows, some good data may actually come out of this. That is, if the army of brainwashed salmon farm-hating cultists she is enlisting can be trusted to take proper scientific samples, document everything properly, follow a proper chain of custody and ensure samples are not contaminated, and that sample sizes are meaningful (i.e. one fish from some spawning back-channel hardly provides any useful information indicative of any trends).

We hope this will be the case, but of course, we are skeptical. If this initiative actually goes anywhere, this will likely end up more like the [Heartland Institute](#), a pseudoscience organization set up to deny climate change, deny effects of tobacco smoke, and promote other junk science. Sure, there’s scientific data there, but it’s highly selective, exists in a vacuum and can’t be scrutinized by outsiders. Kind of like what Morton is doing with her salmon sampling results, when she claims to have found viruses but won’t publish her data.



Billboard sponsored by the Heartland Institute in May 2012. Heartland Institute president Joe Bast said the ad was "rigorously accurate".

Perhaps Alexandra Morton's "Department of Wild Salmon" could learn a thing or two from the Heartland Institute, and run billboards like this, suggesting that BAD PEOPLE support SALMON FARMING. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A BAD PERSON, DO YOU?

For an explanation of why this is bad, please see our earlier post ["Signs of a crank: recognizing pseudoscience."](#)

Actually, maybe this will be more like homeopathic institutions, which [get a lot of money from well-meaning people to promote complete gibberish](#). And there is unfortunately no lack of people lining up to place their belief in junk science.

Meanwhile, the real scientists will keep working, and the data will tell the story as time marches on. And we're confident the data will show, as it does now, that salmon farms pose little environmental risk, and are absolutely what we should be doing to help reduce our consumption of traditional resource-intensive protein (beef) to more sustainable protein (salmon and other farmed seafood).

<http://salmonfarmscience.com/2012/09/26/alexandra-mortons-heartland-institute/>

The Province, 26 September 2012

Judge gets extension

The judge leading the inquiry into the collapse of the 2009 sockeye salmon run on the Fraser River has been given another extension to submit his final report. Justice Bruce Cohen now has until Oct. 29.

The commission said Cohen asked for more time because of the amount and complexity of the material that resulted from the lengthy inquiry.

It began in August 2010 and ended in December 2011 after 10 million fish were expected but only one million actually returned to the river.

<http://www.theprovince.com/Judge+gets+extension/7300199/story.html>

Marlborough Express, 26 September 2012

Students oppose salmon farms

Sonia Beal



Derek Flynn

Student action: Marlborough Girls' College environment prefect Ruby McIntosh, front, with EnviroCouncil members at the Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim yesterday: from left, Rheana McNabb, Alex Brown, Emma McIntyre, Jess Single, Alice Elliott, Sheena Overend, Brooke Battersby, Rachel Spencer and Danielle Pope

Marlborough Girls' College's EnviroCouncil members are against New Zealand King Salmon's application to expand in the Marlborough Sounds.

Ten year 12 and 13 students presented their submission yesterday to the Environmental Protection Authority hearing considering whether King Salmon should be granted a plan change and resource consents to develop nine new fish farms in the Sounds.

Year 13 environmental prefect and EnviroCouncil member Ruby McIntosh said they had been reading, researching and building their knowledge for the submission since April. Members had met once a week to pool their ideas, discuss, draft and write the submission.

Students had also sat in on a hearing session to get an idea of how to present their submission.

All felt very strongly about the issue, she said.

On a 10-point scale, 10 being very strongly against, the students unanimously agreed they were a "definite 10".

The salmon farms would have a detrimental effect on the local tourism industry and economy, Ruby said. She labelled the sustainability of the expansion as questionable, "educated guesswork".

Year 13 student Alice Elliott said the beauty of the Sounds would be tarnished with "ugly" industrial salmon farm structures. And it was her generation that would wear the effects.

"With the increase in salmon farming, the Marlborough Sounds as we know them will change irrevocably," she said.

Year 12 student Danielle Pope said the application would undo the work of her age group's parents and grandparents in helping establish a prohibited zone to protect areas in the Sounds from marine farming. "It will effectively destroy everything we, the community, have worked for," she said.

"Money can't buy our Sounds back."

Judge Gordon Whiting, who heads the board of inquiry that will decide whether New Zealand King Salmon can develop the farms, said the students' contribution was appreciated.

"Intergenerational equity is an important part of resource management. So often the views of your generation are not heard."

Marlborough Girls' College science teacher and EnviroCouncil liaison Ally Jerram, who was at the hearing, said she was proud of the students' efforts and commitment. Apart from proofing their work and making the odd spelling correction, she had kept her distance from the students' undertaking.

Overall, the students hope to play a part in preventing the salmon farm expansion. They also enjoyed the chance to voice their opinions on the topical issue, especially as there was no teacher's marking schedule involved.

"It was nice to know we were speaking without being graded for once," said year 13 student Alice Elliott.

About 30 girls make up the school's EnviroCouncil. Organising paper recycling and preparing a submission to the board of trustees asking for consultation before trees are removed from school grounds were among the group's projects.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7730344/Students-oppose-salmon-farms>

Marlborough Express, 26 September 2012

Public voice their opposition

Penny Wardle

The Marlborough Sounds is our place and we are the experts living here, Blenheim woman Ally Jerram said at an Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim yesterday.

Mrs Jerram was speaking to the board of inquiry considering an application by New Zealand King Salmon to develop nine new salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

The Wisheart Room at the Floor Pride Marlborough Civic Theatre was short on lawyers and long on members of the public making and listening to statements yesterday.

King Salmon lawyer James Gardner-Hopkins had asked the board to give less weight to lay people than scientific experts, Mrs Jerram said. However, submitters were experts on the mauri (spirit) of the Sounds, the sense of place and historic heritage.

If the board agreed to allow salmon farms in a prohibited area, the community would be disenfranchised at the expense of businesses with lots of money, she said.

More applications would follow if King Salmon was successful and the council might not have the stamina and budget to oppose them.

Board commissioner Michael Briggs had asked whether only wealthy people enjoyed the Sounds, Mrs Jerram said. But submitters were not the elite and wealthy.

Salmon farming was based on fouling the seabed then abandoning it, she said. Scientific models used to predict environmental impacts were as good as the data fed in and if King Salmon got it wrong, it would have 35 years to make a mess of marine ecosystems.

Peter Martin, of Christchurch, told the board that opposing King Salmon plans felt like playing in a social rugby team pitted against the All Blacks.

King Salmon had cast doubt on submitters' understanding of evidence, facts and information on environmental effects, Mr Martin said on behalf of 10 others from throughout the South Island. But it was the company that might not understand environmental effects of adding many tonnes of waste into the Marlborough Sounds.

The days were long gone of pretending the sea had a never-ending capacity to soak up and carry away rubbish, he said.

This was a proposal of national significance yet many Kiwis did not know about it or lacked the time and money to take an interest, Mr Martin said. They relied on the board of inquiry to represent their concerns.

Marlborough Sounds bach and boat owners Ken and Richard Ham, of Blenheim, said the King Salmon application was a "kick in the teeth" for people who were working to fix mistakes in the Sounds by pest eradication, planting native species, poisoning pine trees and breeding native birds.

Tennyson Inlet bach owner June Harney, of Christchurch, agreed enough damage had been done through timber milling and it was time to enhance the Sounds for future enjoyment of New Zealanders and overseas visitors.

Laurence Etheredge and Grace Libassi, who manage a Conservation Department campground and their own sailing charter business at French Pass, said governments were fixated on growth but global opinion increasingly prioritised other values.

Proposed farms at Kaitapeha and Ruaomoko would be visible as their yacht, the Steadfast, sailed from Picton to Ship Cove. Sailing around Cape Jackson they would pass the Papatua farm in Port Gore and entering the Waitata Reach of Pelorus Sound, the cages and barns of five farms would be visible.

Havelock resident Barbara Jurgensen said salmon farming might make money for the company but could lose money for tourism businesses

Environmental scientist Don Miller said King Salmon experts failed to consider climate change. If the proposed farms were built they could damage the existing salmon industry, the mussel industry and the environment.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7730347/Public-voice-their-opposition>

Radio New Zealand, 26 September 2012

Te Atiawa to continue support for salmon farm expansion

The chair of a large iwi in Marlborough Sounds says it will not change its stance in supporting a company's salmon farm expansion plans, despite some opposition from its members.

New Zealand King Salmon wants to build nine more farms in addition to the five already operating, and a faction of the Te Atiawa iwi is not backing the plan.

Te Atiawa Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust has about 3500 iwi members.

Last weekend a hui was held, and the majority of about 40 members present voted against supporting the salmon farm proposal, because of on-going environmental concerns, particularly on the pristine Queen Charlotte Sounds area.

But Te Atiawa chairperson Glenice Paine says under the proposed conditions, it would have some input into the management of the farms if they are approved.

She says the board is satisfied that the effect on the environment will be minimal compared to the economic benefits to the iwi group, including employment.

The salmon farm proposal, is before an Environmental Protection Authority hearing, which finishes early next month.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/116735/te-atiawa-to-continue-support-for-salmon-farm-expansion>

NZ City, 26 September 2012

No fish farms: Mikhail Lermontov pilot

The man blamed for the sinking of the Russian cruise liner the Mikhail Lermontov has spoken out against more salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

The pilot who was at the helm of the Mikhail Lermontov when it sank in the Marlborough Sounds has made a rare public statement, not about the sinking but against a proposed salmon farm in the sounds.

Former Marlborough harbourmaster Don Jamieson, who has never spoken publicly of the 26-year-old sinking, gave evidence on Tuesday to a hearing on King Salmon's proposed new fish farms, speaking about the risk of them breaking free and drifting into shipping channels, the Marlborough Express reports.

Mr Jamieson, who lives in Picton, said he had mixed feelings about more salmon farms.

"I can see there are commercial benefits, but overall I think there is enough salmon farming."

He was asked if he had been warned off from being too vigorous in his opposition for fears the sinking would be raised, but refused to comment.

Mr Jamieson also refused to speak to the Marlborough Express after he gave evidence.

The Baltic Shipping Company's 20,000-tonne cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov hit rocks off Cape Jackson on February 16, 1986, and sank in deep water.

Its 738 passengers, most of them Australian, were rescued but a Russian refrigeration engineer disappeared.

The sinking and the subsequent handling of the investigation always has been treated as a curiosity because while Mr Jamison was blamed, no formal inquiry was carried out and no charges laid.

Mr Jamieson has refused to say why he took the ship through a narrow passage, which was too shallow for the ship.

<http://home.nzcity.co.nz/news/article.aspx?id=154841&fm=newsmain%2Cnrhl>

Marlborough Express, 26 September 2012

No-one mentioned the liner

Cathie Bell

It was the elephant in the room; no-one at the Environmental Protection Authority board of inquiry hearing yesterday said anything about the sinking of Russian cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov.

The ship sank off Port Gore in the Cook Strait 25 years ago while being piloted by Don Jamison, who was Marlborough harbourmaster at the time.

Mr Jamison made a rare public appearance yesterday to make a submission opposing development of more salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

His original submission raised concerns about navigation in the Sounds, particularly with the interisland ferries in Tory Channel, but his evidence was more general, covering the potential risk of a salmon farm breaking free of its moorings and drifting into shipping lanes in the channel.

King Salmon lawyers questioned several aspects of his evidence, but did not raise the sinking of the cruise liner after it took an unusual line inside rocks at Cape Jackson. Lawyer Derek Nolan stuck to questioning Mr Jamison about salmon farm engineering and mooring requirements.

He has never spoken publicly about the sinking and he declined to comment on anything to do with the Mikhail Lermontov when approached by the Marlborough Express yesterday.

Mr Jamison said his feelings about the application were mixed. "I can see there are commercial benefits, but overall I think there is enough salmon farming."

He said he didn't want to comment about what had prompted him to go public on it, given his reluctance to be in the public eye.

Mr Jamison agreed his submission had changed from firm opposition originally to a more neutral approach, but said that was because he had "changed the perspective" he was looking at the application from.

"I realised my initial evidence was through the eyes of a harbourmaster. Personally, as a mariner, it's not a problem navigation-wise. That was the main change."

Asked if he had been warned off being too vigorous in opposition for fear someone would raise the sinking of the Mikhail Lermontov under his watch, he declined to comment. "I don't think anyone did say it would be raised in cross-examination. I don't want to comment on that."

Carrying 740 passengers and crew on 16 February 1986, the Mikhail Lermontov grounded on rocks and then sank after trying to pass between Cape Jackson and an outlying lighthouse. Rescue ships were on hand quickly, despite dreadful weather conditions, and all but one engineer were rescued.

It has never been explained why Mr Jamison had tried to take the Mikhail Lermontov through a narrow passage where the water was too shallow for the size of the ship.

His only explanation was that he was suffering from mental and physical exhaustion after working 80 hours a week for four months.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7730348/No-one-mentioned-the-liner>

Marlborough Express, 26 September 2012

Outward Bound takes stand

Salmon farms at the entry to Tory Channel from Queen Charlotte Sound would sit in the open channel like a smudge on a blank page, said Anakiwa Outward Bound school director Rob McLean in Blenheim yesterday.

The school opposed the Ruaomoko and Kaitapeha farms, Mr McLean told the Environmental Protection Authority hearing that is considering New Zealand King Salmon expansion plans.

If they were built, the farms would be permanent, indelible and a strong industrial reminder in the middle of an area where each year about 1800 Outward Bound students spent about three days at sea.

Protected water with no aquaculture was hard to find in New Zealand, especially the South Island, Mr McLean said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7730346/Outward-Bound-takes-stand>

Marlborough Express, 26 September 2012

King Salmon 'a poor employer'

Penny Wardle

Marlborough Sounds property owner Marcia Rowe yesterday asked New Zealand King Salmon to submit its annual leave conditions to the board of inquiry hearing evidence on its application for consent to develop nine new fish farms in the region.

Ms Rowe believed part of the reason for a community reaction against the expansion plan was a perception King Salmon was a poor employer, especially on its farms.

The company did not look after or pay staff well and its practice of requiring workers to take their annual leave during time off was appalling and illegal, she said.

Part of the King Salmon application was a promise to create further employment but this should not be on the basis of poor employment practices, Ms Rowe said. Problems which existed now could compound if the company expanded.

King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne had asked for a meeting to talk through improvements the company had made but this did not happen, she said.

Ms Rowe, who has a house at Otanerau Bay on Arapawa Island, said she had been over-exposed to a local anaesthetic solution when grading smolt at one of the company's salmon farms 20 years ago. As a result, all her dental work had to be done without local anaesthetic except extractions, which were done in hospital under a general anaesthetic.

The company undermined her claims by saying she had not complained of symptoms and was just trying to make trouble, Ms Rowe said. However, she regularly complained of light-headedness and numbness around her mouth.

This made compensation through ACC difficult although eventually her claim was successful, Ms Rowe said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7730553/King-Salmon-a-poor-employer>

Radio New Zealand, 26 September 2012

Trust members divided on salmon farm expansion

A large iwi group in the Marlborough Sounds is maintaining support for a major salmon farm development despite disapproval from a faction of its members.

New Zealand King Salmon wants to expand by building nine more farms in addition to its five existing operations.

Te Atiawa Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust member Rita Powick says most members do not approve the continued support of the expansion.

Five of the eight iwi in the region support the application which is before an Environmental Protection Authority hearing.

Ms Powick says about 40 members were at a last weekend and were disappointed in the trust's stance, which she says is based on commercial interests in the salmon farms.

Even if the farms are not approved, some iwi members will not be comfortable knowing Te Atiawa supported the proposal, she says.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/rural/116668/trust-members-divided-on-salmon-farm-expansion>

Peninsula Daily News, 26 September 2012

Jefferson County OKs fish-farming permitting process

By Charlie Bermant

PORT TOWNSEND — Jefferson County commissioners have approved sending a letter to the state Department of Ecology saying they will allow fish-farming facilities off Jefferson County under a conditional-use permit process.

The move, decided Monday afternoon, clears the way to complete a shoreline management program update that was sent to the state in November 2010.

Ecology approved most of it in February 2011 except for a proposed ban on fin-fish aquaculture, which raises species such as Atlantic salmon in pens.

The state ruled that the county did not have the authority to forbid net pens but in July offered three possible solutions.

The county chose a conditional-use permitting process in which each application would go before a hearing examiner and be subject to a public hearing.

“I’m OK with it because it allows us to finalize our shoreline management plan,” Commissioner Phil Johnson, the most vocal on the panel in opposing net pen aquaculture, said Tuesday.

“I will find it very difficult to award a conditional-use permit,” Johnson said, “but I’m willing to listen to any argument.”

Johnson said he still “has a lot of questions” about the safety of the process, which holds large numbers of fish in a contained area for breeding purposes.

One of his biggest concerns is the dye used to give Atlantic salmon an orange hue, he said.

The county has not received any permit application for the construction of a net pen facility off Jefferson County shoreline, Department of Community Development Director Carl Smith said, though such farms are legal in the county now.

The closest in-water net pen fish farms are run by American Gold Seafoods, which has fish pens in Port Angeles and on Bainbridge Island, as well as on Cypress and Hope islands, and two hatcheries near Rochester.

A key issue is the potential spread of parasites and pollutants, according to County Administrator Philip Morley.

The fear is that parasites and pollutants from farms could affect wild fish.

Smith said some of the criteria likely to be included in a draft list for a conditional-use permit are:

- A fish farm could not be closer than 1,500 feet from shore.
- A fish farm would be prohibited in areas where the mean current velocity is less than 0.1 knot because current is needed to disperse feed or other pollutants.
- Feed would have to be in pellet, not liquid, form.
- Only chemicals approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration would be allowed.
- Fish farms would have to be a minimum distance from the mouth of any body of fresh water, such as rivers or creeks, where wild fish spawn.
- The proposed fish farm would have to be shown not to impede existing vessel traffic and would have to be a minimum distance from any recreational shellfish beaches as well as from docks and marinas.

Ecology had asked that the county give notice of its intended path toward completing the shoreline master program by Oct. 1, Morley said.

Jefferson County Reporter Charlie Bermant can be reached at 360-385-2335 or at charlie.bermant@peninsuladailynews.com.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120926/news/309269990/jefferson-county-oks-fish-farming-permitting-process>

Green Around the Gills, 25 September 2012

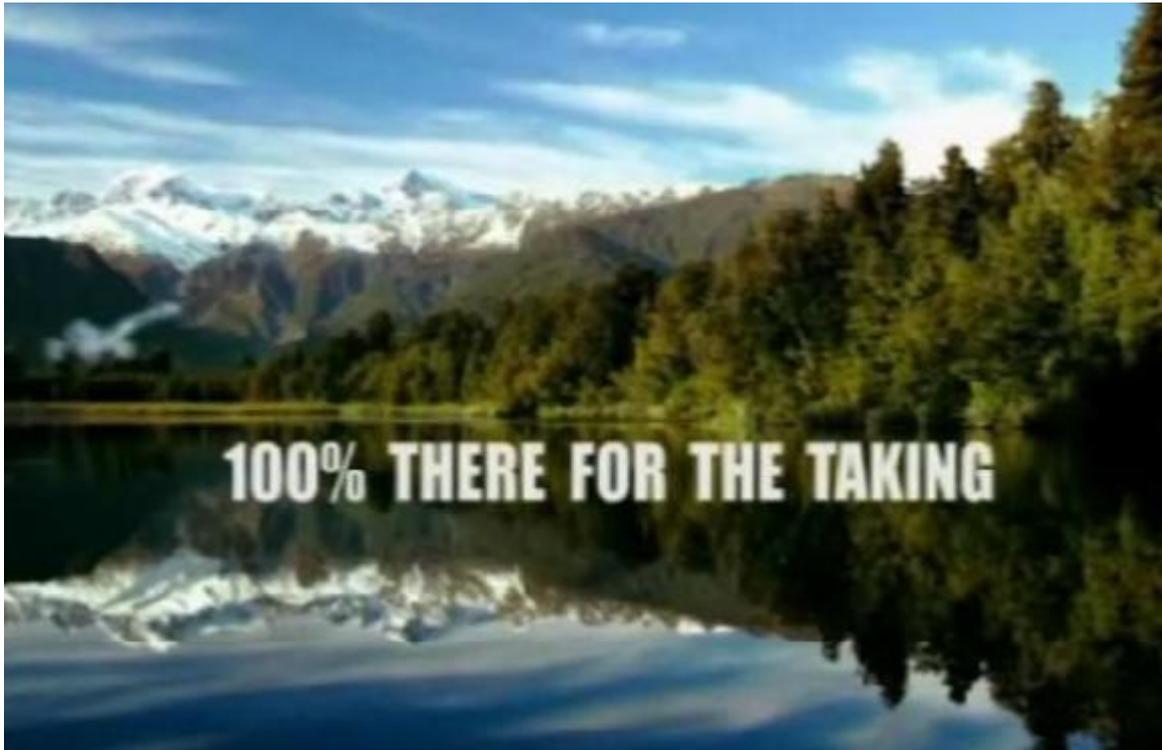
New Zealand's King-Sized Salmon Problem



The [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#) (GAAIA) will testify to New Zealand's salmon farming industry tomorrow (26 September) via a conference call from Europe - read a summary of Don Staniford's submission [online here](#).

"GAAIA believes that further expansion of salmon farming in the Marlborough Sounds will inevitably trigger waste pollution, benthic contamination, toxic algal blooms as well as the spread of infectious diseases and mass mortality events," wrote Don Staniford in GAAIA's [formal objection](#) filed in April 2012. "If the history of salmon farming tells us anything at all it is the fact that overproduction causes problems wherever salmon farms operate. New Zealand ignores the global warnings at its peril."

"Permitting salmon farming expansion is an open invitation for disaster and would jeopardise New Zealand's green and clean image abroad. Sanctioning even one new farm (let alone nine farms) in the Marlborough Sounds would be 100% irresponsible."



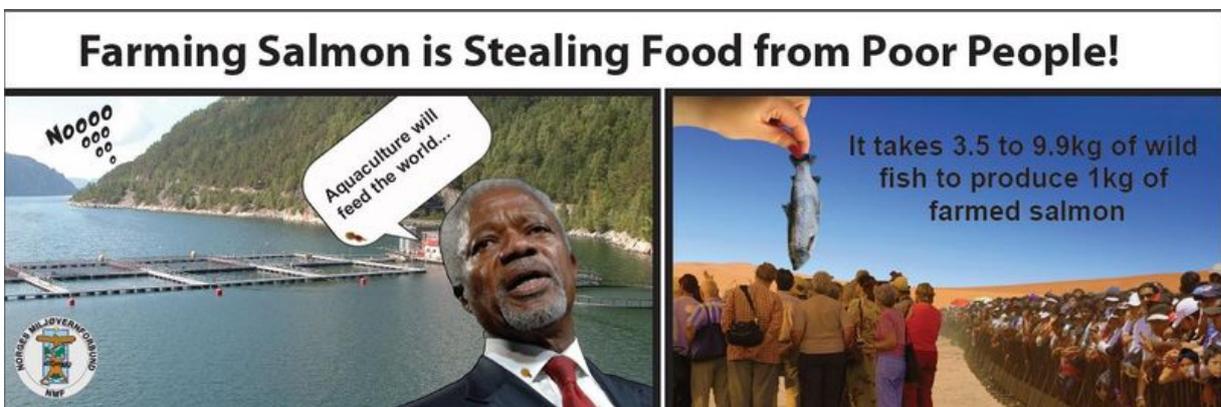
"Does '100% Pure' New Zealand seriously intend on promoting the pollution from salmon farming as a tourist attraction and natural wonder of the world?"



"King Salmon [claims](#) that: "Fish farming is a highly efficient use of marine space, taking pressure off wild fish, which are currently being exploited beyond sustainable limits." Yet it fails to mention the fact that the farming of salmon drains our oceans and leads to a net loss of marine resources (read more via '[Raising Tigers of the Sea](#)')."



"In June 2012, I participated in a protest with the Green Warriors of Norway outside a conference in Norway attended by King Salmon's chief executive Grant Rosewarne (and Kofi Annan)," added Staniford in his [objection](#). "In a letter published in [The Marlborough Express](#) (20 June), Mr. Rosewarne claimed: "Opponents continue to promote the myth that it takes many kilograms of wild fish to produce one kilogram of salmon when in fact salmon farms produce more marine protein and oil than their fish consume."



"However, it is a fact that it takes anywhere between three and ten tonnes of wild fish to produce one tonne of farmed salmon (read the letter to Kofi Annan [online here](#)). "Promoting salmon aquaculture as a solution to the world food crisis is socially and environmentally irresponsible," [said](#) Kurt Oddekalv. "Farming salmon is stealing precious protein from the mouths of hungry people in Africa and South America. Salmon farmers are modern day pirates of the seven seas."



"In view of the all King Salmon's bullshit it is not surprising to read in [The Marlborough Express](#) (25 April) that: "Sustain Our Sounds will complain to the Commerce Commission that New Zealand King Salmon is breaching the Fair Trading Act by misleading the public ahead of its application for more farming space in the Marlborough Sounds."

"In conclusion, here's what GAAIA thinks about [claims](#) by King Salmon regarding a "strong sense of environmental responsibility" and aim to "lead the world in sustainable, renewable, farmed King salmon resource management" (one for each of the eight new salmon farms proposed):



Read GAAIA's objection filed in April 2012 against King Salmon's plans to expand in the Marlborough Sounds in New Zealand - [online here](#)

Read GAAIA's previous blog 'New Zealand's King-Sized Salmon Problem' (30 April 2012) - [online here](#)

Read GAAIA's press release (26 September): "[Staniford Testifies to Salmon Inquiry in New Zealand](#)"

Don Staniford visited King Salmon's operations in the Marlborough Sounds back in 2003 and was alarmed even then at the scale of their operations (read more online [here](#) and [here](#)). The New Zealand Herald dubbed Mr. Staniford "[the fish farm bogeyman](#)".

Read more via "[British Activist Rubbishes Wild Fish Farming](#)" (New Zealand Herald, 29 September 2003)



Don Staniford is an award-winning [campaigner](#) and [author](#). He is author of '[A Small Fish in a Big Pond](#)' (2002), '[The Five Fundamental Flaws of Sea Cage Fish Farming](#)' (2002), '[Closing the Net](#)' (2003), '[Silent Spring of the Sea](#)' (2004), '[Fish Farmageddon: The Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse](#)' (2011) and the forthcoming '[Smoke on the Water, Cancer on the Coast](#)'.

<http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2012/09/new-zealands-king-sized-salmon-problem.html>

The Canadian Press/Global TV, 25 September 2012

Salmon run collapse report given extension/Commissioner examining collapse of B.C. salmon run gets extra month for report

Justice Bruce Cohen now has until Oct. 29 to file report

VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) - The judge leading the inquiry into the collapse of the 2009 sockeye salmon run on the Fraser River has been given another extension to submit his final report.

In a posting on its website, the commission says that **Justice Bruce Cohen** now has until Oct. 29 to file the report.

The commission says Cohen asked for more time because of the amount and complexity of the material that resulted from the lengthy inquiry.

It began in August 2010 and ended in December 2011 after 10 million fish were expected but only one million actually returned to the river.

According to the commission's website, Cohen has had previous deadlines of June 30 and Sept. 30 to submit his report.

The commission has said 160 witnesses testified at the evidentiary hearings portion of the inquiry, resulting in 14,000 pages of transcripts and 2,100 exhibits.

<http://www.news1130.com/news/local/article/405496--salmon-run-collapse-report-given-extension> and
<http://www.globaltvbc.com/commissioner+examining+collapse+of+bc+salmon+run+gets+extra+month+for+report/6442722196/story.html>

Cohen Commission, 25 September 2012

Cohen Commission to submit final report by October 29, 2012

(Vancouver) The Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River has been granted an additional one month extension by the Governor General in Council to complete its work. The commission's Terms of Reference are now revised to call for the final report to be submitted on or before October 29, 2012.

The Commissioner's final report must be submitted in both official languages at the same time. Given the length and complexity of his report, the Commissioner requested the extension to complete the writing, translation and production of the report.

About the Cohen Commission

The Cohen Commission (www.cohencommission.ca) was established on November 5, 2009 with the appointment of the Honourable Bruce Cohen as Commissioner. Under its Terms of Reference, the commission held hearings to investigate and report on the decline of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River. Based on his findings, the Commissioner will make recommendations for improving the future sustainability of the sockeye salmon fishery in the Fraser River, including, as required, any changes to the policies, practices and procedures of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in relation to the management of the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery.

-30-

Media Contact:

Carla S. Shore
Communications Director
Cohen Commission of Inquiry
Phone: 604-658-3646
Cell: 604-329-0975
Email: carla.shore@cohencommission.ca

<http://www.cohencommission.ca/en/NewsReleases/CommissionGrantedExtension3.php>

Here's the letter sent by the Cohen Commission:



September 25, 2012

Via Email

Dear Participants:

Re: Extension of Time for the Final Report

On August 29, 2012, Commissioner Cohen wrote to the prime minister to request a further extension of time to October 29, 2012 for the submission of his final report. I have been advised that Governor in Council has now granted that extension and amended the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

The Commissioner requested the extension to provide time to complete the production of his final report in both English and French. The different parts of the English report are now at various stages of the editing, proofreading, design and layout process. The translation of the English version into French is well underway and both versions will be ready for submission to the Governor in Council on or before October 29, 2012.

Please find enclosed the commission's news release advising the public of the extension.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Baker', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Wendy Baker, Q.C.
Commission Counsel

Campbell River Mirror, 25 September 2012

Aquaculture Week message is upbeat

By Brian Kieran - Campbell River Mirror



BC Salmon Farmers Association communications manager Colleen Dane, centre, takes Mayor Walter Jakeway, left, and North Island Liberal candidate Nick Facey on a tour at the Marine Harvest Okisollo Farm.

Aquaculture Awareness Week in Campbell River concluded last week with a fish farm tour in Okisollo Channel and a message that salmon farmers have matured and the public “conversation” about the merits of the industry has improved.

“The hard work is starting to pay off,” BC Salmon Farmers Association (BCSFA) executive director Mary Ellen Walling said. “The industry has really matured. There is a real commitment to work collaboratively and we are finding ways to communicate that we truly care (about the environment.)”

Walling said a good example of how far the sector has evolved in the past decade is its handling of the IHN virus outbreak this year compared to a similar event several years ago.

“It was like night and day.” she said. “The industry’s response this time was immediate. Bio-security protocols were in place immediately and testing was ramped up. We managed it effectively.”

On a tour of the Marine Harvest Okisollo farm off the northern tip of Quadra Island BCSFA communications manager Colleen Dane said: “A couple of years ago ... you would hear a lot more about whether we should be doing this job and if we should be doing aquaculture in British Columbia. I find more and more the conversations we are having now with the public is not whether we should be doing aquaculture, but how we can make sure we are doing it in the most responsible way.”

Dane said that is a good thing because there is a pressing need to provide protein to a growing global population and “there are a limited number of wild fish out there and if we

want to continue to protect them we need to be able to provide sea food in another way and aquaculture really is the future.”

Mayor Walter Jakeway, who participated in the tour, said: “It’s great to see an industry that’s doing well and has so much potential to grow. We just have to let the bureaucrats get out of the way and let the salmon farmers get on with it.”

Liberal candidate Nick Facey, also on the tour, said: “One of the neat things to see is how low impact these facilities are. It is incredible to see their efficiency, their cleanliness and the sheer volume of salmon they are able to produce. We saw 10 pens with about 60,000 fish in each. That’s more than 500,000 fish (at the Okisollo farm). That’s absolutely incredible and it’s a industry we have to grow in B.C.”

Dane said she is hoping that visitors to farms like Okisollo appreciate “how much care we take when we are farming out there so when they come back and they talk about the economic benefits that the industry provides to these communities they can also feel very confident that it is not at the sacrifice of the environment, that we are doing both very well.”

The economic realities of the sector and its growth potential were a key theme at the association’s AGM. Dr. Roslyn Kunin, Director of the British Columbia Office of the Canada West Foundation, reported that finfish production in B.C. enjoyed annual growth of 10.8 per cent through the 1990s, but less than one per cent annual growth from 2001 to 2010.

The economist also noted that if current growth levels persist the industry will be producing less than 80,000 tonnes of salmon annually by 2020, an increase of only about 10,000 tonnes in eight years. If the industry could grow at the pace of its counterparts in Norway or Chile that harvest could be between 120,000 and 140,000 tonnes annually by 2020.

Currently, salmon farming supports 6,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributes \$800 million to the provincial economy annually.

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/community/171234661.html>

Fish News EU, 25 September 2012

GE salmon producer complains of delays

THE company behind the genetically modified AquaAdvantage salmon – which was widely dubbed “frankenfish” by the mainstream media – has issued a statement accusing the US government of unjustifiable delays in licencing its product.

Ron Stotish, Chief Executive Officer of AquaBounty, said today that: “It has been two years since the public hearings in September 2010 where the FDA stated that our AquaAdvantage Salmon was safe as food, safe to the fish and safe to the environment. In May 2012, we were encouraged when the FDA Commissioner was quoted as saying that they would very soon publish the Environmental Assessment (EA) – the final key event prior to the granting of approval of our application. Four months later, the EA has not yet been published.

“The Company has not been provided any update on the status of the application by the FDA. As previously reported, AquaBounty has received acceptance letters for all of the major technical sections of its application. We therefore believe that reasons other than the science-based evaluation of the application are impeding its approval. We are frustrated and disappointed in the delay, and we feel that the FDA and the US administration have a responsibility to inform us why they have not yet released the EA and moved forward our application.

“We continue to pursue all avenues and remain confident that, were approval to be received, the market potential for this product and AquaBounty’s other biotechnology-based solutions would be substantial.”

http://www.fishnewseu.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9016:ge-salmon-producer-complains-of-delays&catid=46:world&Itemid=56

Read more via AquaBounty press release [online here](#)

Fisheries Information Service, 25 September 2012



The salmon price drop overshadows the increases in production and sales recorded by several Chilean salmon firms. (Photo: Stock File)

Salmon prices still falling



CHILE

Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 23:10 (GMT + 9)

Chilean salmon companies estimate they lost between USD 0.19 and USD 1.59 per kilogram of salmon sold in the second quarter of this year, as a result of higher feed costs, lower prices and increased specimen mortality rate.

And some analysts estimate that this negative balance will be maintained between July and September due to harvest issues.

In the financial reports provided to its investors, the companies of the sector indicated that during the first half of the year, salmon prices fell by 35 per cent, the newspaper *El Mercurio* reported.

According to Andres Galarce, an EuroAmerica analyst of the salmon industry, another influential factor was the increased mortality rate registered in the salmon industry because of the high temperatures occurring in early 2012: mortality rates ranged between 6 per cent and 35 per cent during the first semester, depending on the species.

In addition, some companies reported lower harvest weights than those which had been planned.

Galarce explains that the effect of the mortality rate on the results of the salmon firms is even greater when the costs are high, since the firms are required to reflect all the historical investment made, such as on the fish feed.

And he forecasts that the losses per sold kilogram will be observed during the third quarter.

So far, the product that had the highest level of mortality rate was the trout, with an average rate of 16 per cent. Atlantic salmon recorded rates were around 10 per cent and Pacific salmon rates were about 6 per cent.

This data comes from the companies that reported their results to Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros (SVS): [AquaChile](#), [Blumar](#), [Multiexport](#), [Invertec Pesquera Mar de Chiloé](#) (Invermar), [Camanchaca SA](#) and [Australis](#).

An article published by *Diario Financiero* states that the falls in international placement values have accumulated a decrease of 17 per cent per shipped volume in the first seven months of 2012 and an average of 28.2 per cent in July 2011/2012. And it stresses that these results overshadow the increases in production and in sales of the businesses and sharpen the contrast between this reality and the expectations the industry had after overcoming the crisis caused by the infectious salmon anemia virus (ISA).

Several sources consulted by this newspaper have questioned the projections made when the industry consolidated its post ISA virus recovery.

In this regard, they recall that in 2010 and 2011, "many investors relied on assumptions that were too aggressive, with a significant percentage of the industry estimates relying on indicators such as EBITDA/tonne at USD 1,500 levels, which were similar to the price peak prior to the health crisis."

According to these sources, the forecasts should have followed a conservative projection of around USD 1,000 per tonne.

Related article:

- [Salmon price recovery expected](#)

By Analia Murias
editorial@fis.com
www.fis.com

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=&day=25&id=55632&l=e&special=&ndb=1%20target=>

Fish Farming Xpert, 25 September 2012

Wild salmon inquiry nearing completion

Canada: Environmental groups in British Columbia have already placed their bets on the findings of a commission established to look into the wild fluctuations of returning sockeye salmon to the Fraser River- unfortunately, they may be missing the boat

Opinion

Odd Grydeland

Many of the British Columbia-based environmental groups- of which there are hundreds- have already made public statements to the fact that they consider the province's relatively small salmon farming industry to be the main cause for an unexpected low return of sockeye salmon to the Fraser River in 2009, which caused a public inquiry to be conducted by Judge Bruce Cohen. In many cases, scant attention is placed on issues that likely will be of far greater importance to the well-being of sockeye salmon than the salmon farming industry, and the Watershed Watch Salmon Society (WWSS)- headed by its Executive Director Craig Orr- is typical of these organizations- none of who gave credit to the salmon farming industry for the huge sockeye run in the following year, when a hundred year record was broken.

Largely due to the mountain of documents piled on Judge Cohen's desk by environmental groups, it now appears that the final report will be delayed by another month beyond its already extended deadline of September 30. And the self-proclaimed "experts" from the WWSS are already offering their opinion to whatever the Cohen Commission will come out with- needless to say, it will be a spin focused on the ills of salmon farming- the only issue given serious space on the organization's web site. But there is another source of information where reasonable people may want to check out before drawing conclusions about the interaction between wild and farmed salmon. The "Salmon Farm Science" blog suggests that "*It seems that only poor, agenda-driven science attacking salmon farms gets mass media attention. We will show there is a lot more to the story, and the science.*" In a recent posting, a suggestion was made that people should "*Do your own research on the Cohen Commission*";

The "Watershed Watch" environmental group has announced today that because of their "broad interest in salmon conservation" they have put together a "Synopsis of Key Evidence from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Fraser River Sockeye" to aid people in understanding the evidence presented at the commission. Watershed Watch and several other environmental groups were part of the "Conservation Coalition" which did little more than hammer on salmon farming throughout the commission.

So not surprisingly, their 70-page synopsis contains 31 pages of aquaculture-related evidence and quotes from the hearings, versus 21 pages for EVERYTHING ELSE. Commercial and recreational fishing? One page. Climate change? Not even one page. Pulp mills, gravel extraction, aboriginal fisheries and logging? Barely three pages for all of them. And even in the 21 pages of “other” they still manage to throw in aquaculture-related comments and evidence.

If they're trying to hide how much they hate aquaculture, and believe it's responsible for the Fraser sockeye decline, they're not doing a good job. If you are really interested in the evidence presented at the commission, do yourself a favour. Don't read someone else's opinion or skewed version of events, not even ours. Go read the transcripts for yourself. Use “Ctrl-F” to search for keywords you are interested in. Read it in context. Get the big picture. [All the transcripts are available here](#). Pick a date in the calendar, the transcript will show up below along with all the exhibits presented that day. And don't take our word for it, look for yourself.

http://www.fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=95862

More details via “[Do your own research on Cohen Commission](#)”

Radio New Zealand, 25 September 2012

Iwi members hold high hopes for hearings

Some iwi in the Marlborough Sounds expect hearings to be held on a marae next week into a big salmon farm expansion will strengthen the case for opponents.

New Zealand King Salmon wants to expand by building nine more farms on top of its five existing operations.

The company's application is being heard by the Environmental Protection Authority, with hearings for the past month at the Civic Centre in Blenheim.

The expansion bid attracted 800 submissions in opposition and 400 in support.

Waikawa Marae chairperson Rita Powick says three days of hearings have been set down for the marae next week and the content of those submissions could enhance the case to halt the salmon company's plans.

She says the authority will get to hear the iwi's customary concerns in a context that supports their culture.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/116636/iwi-members-hold-high-hopes-for-hearings>

Marlborough Express, 25 September 2012

New route for floating protest

Jared Nicoll

Organisers have changed plans for the floating protest on Saturday against New Zealand King Salmon's expansion plans.

Peter Beech, chairman of Guardians of the Sounds which is organising the protest, said boats will head out from Waikawa Bay to the company's salmon farm at Ruakaka Bay for a short protest at 11am before going across to proposed farm sites at Kaitapeha and Rua o Moko at the entrance to Tory Channel.

Guardians expect up to 100 boats to take part. The protest, against King Salmon's application to build nine more fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds, originally planned to visit two farms in Tory Channel and finish at a proposed site at Ngamahu Bay.

Guardians met representatives from police, the harbourmaster, Marlborough Coastguard, Marlborough Radio, Port Marlborough, Waikawa Marae and KiwiRail in Picton on Friday as well as several fishermen and divers.

Mr Beech said the meeting discussed ferry schedules, the affect of spring tides on the large number of boats involved and other factors and collectively decided the protest aims could be achieved by holding it at Ruakaka Bay rather than in Tory Channel.

A spokesman for the harbourmaster said the office would send their harbour patrol boat out to ensure safety.

Police launch Lady Elizabeth IV will also be on the water. Sergeant Kris Payne, of Picton police, said police and the harbourmaster would monitor the protest to ensure it went safely. They were not involved in the protest.

Protesters will assemble at the Waikawa Marae and march to Waikawa Bay foreshore at 9am. The flotilla would gather in Ruakaka Bay at 11am.

NZ King Salmon chief executive Grant Rosewarne said yesterday the company had no issue with the protest so long as it was peaceful.

However, he labelled it a "sideshow" to the serious business of developing the business in Marlborough.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7724812/New-route-for-floating-protest>

Marlborough Express, 25 September 2012

Fears of damage to a 'special place'

Penny Wardle



Grove Arm of Queen Charlotte Sound

A couple with long-standing connections to the Marlborough Sounds say it was a special place being degraded by human activity.

Keith Sharp told the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) hearing in Blenheim yesterday that his wife Jan's family had owned property in the Grove Arm of Queen Charlotte Sound for 92 years. She had visited Grove Arm for 70 years and he had joined her for 50 years.

"I have noticed the deterioration and am convinced the environmental damage continues to escalate," Mr Sharp said.

He was convinced the wider Sounds was suffering and would be further degraded by more marine farms.

The authority board of inquiry is considering an application by New Zealand King Salmon to build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds. Mr Sharp said the best way for the board to prevent more environmental damage was to decline both the plan change and related resource consents King Salmon had applied for.

Once done, damage was hard to reverse, he said. Fast ferries had been withdrawn in 2002 yet pipi, cockles, seahorses and garfish had not yet returned to their bay.

Should the board decide to permit the application in full or part, Mr Sharp asked its members to ensure any impact on the Sounds was at the minor end.

His requests included:

- Require ongoing monitoring beyond farm boundaries.
- Ensure an independent body had power to act before any damage was permanent.

- Require grey-water waste from fish farms to be pumped ashore and released on to land or treated along with sewage.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7725262/Fears-of-damage-to-a-special-place>

Marlborough Express, 25 September 2012

Social scientist offers opinion

Penny Wardle

Social scientist Peter Phillips struggles to find anything positive about salmon farms in submissions for and against an application by New Zealand King Salmon to expand its business in the Marlborough Sounds.

Dr Phillips said his study of submissions for the Marlborough District Council was an effort to understand effects of proposed new salmon farms, not a head count.

Submitters identified extra jobs as the sole benefit of the expansion, Dr Phillips told the Environmental Protection Authority board hearing in Blenheim on Friday. However, promised employment figures were small compared with the many negative impacts identified.

These included no longer being able to buy a property in the Sounds with confidence it was in an area where aquaculture was prohibited.

King Salmon experts James Baines and Dave Bamford had worked hard to find other positives including, beach cleanups, the availability of farm staff to help out in marine emergencies and industrial tourism opportunities, Dr Phillips said.

However, in his opinion, the farms would have an overall negative effect, especially on eco-tourism in the Waitata Reach of Pelorus Sound, where King Salmon planned to site five farms.

Submissions showed effects on Maori were overlooked, Dr Phillips said. King Salmon experts made contacts but did not effectively treat the issues raised.

"There was a Bermuda triangle between experts and that is one thing that disappeared into it," he said.

Dr Phillips, questioned by board commissioner Michael Briggs, said he was not surprised that roughly one third of submissions supported the application.

There was a lot of promotion around the application, he said.

King Salmon lawyer Derek Nolan said of 49 submissions Dr Phillips referenced, only one supported the application and his quotes were selective.

The submitters looked favourably on the placement of a fish farm on a favourite fishing ground as good for fish.

However, this was quoted as a negative.

Dr Phillips also told the hearing:

- 8000 people live in the Marlborough Sounds
- The population doubles in the summer
- Each year more than 1 million ferry passengers pass within 500m of the proposed Ngamahau and Ruaomoko sites in Tory Channel
- 13 per cent of Sounds population is Maori compared with 10 per cent in district
- 17 per cent work in agriculture, fishing and forestry compared with 7 per cent nationally
- King Salmon employs fewer than 100 people in Marlborough

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7720725/Social-scientist-offers-opinion>

Marlborough Express, 25 September 2012

Homeowners 'not warned of fish farm plan'

Penny Wardle

Martin and Clare Pinder are angry New Zealand King Salmon ignored signs they were building a home near Deep Bay in Tory Channel.

Mr Pinder told the Environmental Protection Authority hearing in Blenheim they might not have built their house if they knew King Salmon planned to site a fish farm nearby, or would have delayed building until they knew more detail.

"All our views take in Tory Channel, including a large part of the Ngamahau farm," he told the board of inquiry considering the King Salmon application to build nine new fish farms in the Marlborough Sounds.

"We were not given the chance to modify our build despite activity on site being very evident."

The Pinders bought their farm early in 2010 and cleared the building site in March that year, which included removing 150 pine trees.

King Salmon started selecting sites in early 2010 and told the couple in November about their plans for a farm at Ngamahau.

Mrs Pinder said in evidence yesterday that the company claimed their house was a big surprise.

"It was very obvious we were doing something and the two 25,000-litre water tanks were a dead giveaway," she said.

Mrs Pinder asked for the board to remove a statement from evidence by King Salmon landscape expert Frank Boffa that the visual amenity of their home would remain high if the Ngamahau farm was built.

As a qualified landscape architect, she found it extraordinary that Mr Boffa looked only at the visual values of the Sounds.

He had overlooked effects of lighting, noise, birds, seals, smells and industrial activity as well as the intrusion of a large manmade structure into an outstanding natural environment.

The Pinders said the Ngamahau farm could endanger boaties in a busy, narrow shipping lane where accidents happened in all sorts of weather and tidal conditions.

Illustrating the point, that morning their boat lost power and they had to be towed to Picton to give evidence at the hearing.

Ngamahau was one of the only beaches on the sheltered side of Arapawa Island, Mr Pinder said.

The hearing began its fifth week in Blenheim yesterday. It is scheduled to run for 10 weeks.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/7725261/Homeowners-not-warned-of-fish-farm-plan>

The Scotsman, 25 September 2012

Shooting targets

Julia Horton highlights another aspect of secret Scotland in her article on the refusal of government department Marine Scotland to identify sites where licensed seal shooting takes place ("Seal cull kept secret after fears protesters will target marksmen", 24 September).

My Freedom of Information request for details of when and how many seals have been shot by specific area was refused.

I did not ask for the names of those doing the shooting, just when and where. I already have details and photographs of some of the people doing the shooting.

What I want to do is compare eyewitness accounts of shootings against official returns made by the shooters to the Scottish Government, which does not monitor seal shooting and takes as fact the numbers recorded in the returns made by the people doing the shooting.

Sadly, as we know from the audit of politicians' expenses sheets, not everyone is honest.

In a situation as controversial and sensitive as this, it would make sense for the government to monitor closely the shooting using either Marine Scotland employees or by paying the SSPCA to provide independent inspectors.

Until it does that, it is abusing its powers by refusing to release the information needed to check the accuracy of at least some of the figures they quote as “official” for the numbers of seals being shot and killed by fishery and aquacultural interests.

John F Robins

Save Our Seals Fund

Dumbarton

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/letters/shooting-targets-1-2544296>

Fish Farming Xpert, 25 September 2012

The perfect salmon

UK: Scottish scientists are homing in on the elusive genes that could create the perfect salmon and revolutionise aquaculture.

Experts at Landcatch Natural Selection, based in Argyll, and their research partners, are aiming to be the first in the world to locate the genes that determine how susceptible individual Atlantic salmon are to certain diseases.

It is another pioneering advance from Landcatch who in 2007 were the first aquaculture company to be involved in work to pinpoint a gene influencing Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) which poses a major threat to Atlantic salmon.

The work accelerates the pace of progress and will help breeders and researchers examine traits in individual fish and better understand their general survivability, omega-3 level and grilising– or maturing – rates.

This involves a cutting-edge genomic selection tool – the SNP Chip – a glass slide used to analyse variations in DNA sequences, or Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), which act as biological markers and help scientists locate a range of genes associated with disease.

There are many millions of these variations in every species, and these can be used as milestones on the DNA map. Scientists, who previously examined only five markers for one salmon gene, can now interrogate hundreds of thousands of markers for 20,000-30,000 genes.

In essence, Landcatch can discover more information on one fish than was previously available on thousands. This level of breeding expertise would normally take many decades to reach, but Landcatch will do it in just two.

The work to find the gene is being undertaken with a number of commercial and academic partners, including Edinburgh University, Roslin Institute, Stirling Institute of Aquaculture and Glasgow University, with support from the UK Technology Strategy Board.

Landcatch general manager Neil Manchester added: “The missing genes are like our Holy Grail and finding them will have widespread positive implications. Breeding fish that are

resistant to lice and disease will be an incredible achievement and a major commercial breakthrough for aquaculture and efforts to fight the war on hunger.”

http://www.fishfarmingxpert.com/index.php?page_id=76&article_id=95869

Mission City Record, 24 September 2012

Cohen report out this week

Editor, The Record:

This week a final report is expected from Justice Bruce Cohen that may seal the fate of wild Pacific sockeye salmon in B.C.

After months of hearing reports and testimony from expert witnesses, DFO employees, First Nations and non-governmental organizations, Justice Cohen has had since December 2011 to weigh through the vast evidence of impacts to wild salmon.

Originally expected to make his final report in June of 2012, it was postponed to Sept. 30 after evidence showed infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAv) to be present in wild salmon stocks, thereby reopening the commission in December of 2011 for three additional days to examine potential impacts of ISAv on wild salmon.

Those three days only further exposed the extent to which the Canadian government has failed to protect wild salmon, right down to ignoring scientific evidence that clearly showed the threat of viruses introduced into Pacific waters.

If there is to be any justice for wild salmon, Justice Cohen's report will have to include the recommendation that all open-net salmon farms be removed from the migratory paths of wild salmon immediately followed by the cessation of leasing out the sea floor to the industry. Beyond that, the protection of wild salmon and salmon habitat must come first.

Whether Justice Cohen's recommendations will have any sway on the Harper government's current agenda is unlikely, but we can only hope that his report will not cater to the very things that put wild salmon at risk.

Elena Edwards, Wild Salmon First

Mission

<http://www.missioncityrecord.com/opinion/letters/171017681.html>

Intrafish, 24 September 2012



(Foto: Bent-Are Jensen)

Investing in Chile's Region 12

Cermaq's feed division is not only investing in Norway's northernmost region, it is also venturing furthest south in Chile.

 Bent-Are Jensen

Published: 24 September 2012 03:12 PM

Updated: 24 September 2012 02:35 PM

In December 2011, the first Atlantic smolt were released in Chile's southernmost province, Region 12.

Up until now Mainstream has had around 60 percent of its Chilean production concentrated in Region 10 and around 40 percent in Region 11.

Until the ISA crisis, Norwegian Mainstream had most of its salmon production in Chile. This year, its operations in Chile are back up to former heights, with slaughter volume of 54,000 metric tons (whole fish equivalents) thereby exceeding Norway by a few thousand metric tons.

Mainstream is a North Norwegian company, with production in Nordland and Finnmark.

Mainstream CEO Geir Molvik says Chile's extremity has several advantages. The farms lie in brackish water areas with salt content of just 20 per 1,000, which is unfavorable for salmon lice.

The waters in Region 12 are also colder than further north. This could mean the bacterial disease salmon rickettsial syndrome would not find conditions favorable here either.

"We will endeavor operating with a predator network in order to save on costs," said Molvik.

There are no sea lions in Region 12, in contrast to the two neighboring provinces in the north where sea lions constitute a problem.

"We already have production licenses in Region 12. That provides us with the opportunity for organic growth. The spread of production over several salmonids species and regions also means spreading the level of risk," said Molvik.

<http://www.intrafish.com/global/news/article1356332.ece>

Associated Articles

- Cermaq hungry for more profits
- Cermaq, Cultivos Marinos talking merger again?
- Mainstream confirms PD outbreak

NPR, 24 September 2012

Getting A More Svelte Salmon To Your Dinner Plate

by GRETCHEN CUDA KROEN



Robert F. Bukaty/AP

An Atlantic salmon leaps while swimming inside a farm pen near Eastport, Maine. Studies show farm-raised fish, like people, benefit from exercise.

When it comes to farm raised fish, it doesn't pay to let them be lazy. Fish like wild salmon, tuna and eel are built for the vigorous swimming required during migration.

These fish are "uniquely adapted to a physiology of high levels of exercise performance," says Tony Farrell, who studies fish physiology in the University of British Columbia Zoology department. "Therefore when we put them in constrained environments and remove predators, the consequences are they become a little more like couch potatoes."

When these fish are raised on farms in captivity, they are prone to a variety of health problems – everything from heart disease to viral infections — kind of like human couch potatoes. And, just like with humans, getting more active seems to make a big difference in their health.

There's at least 50 years of research on the physiological benefits of exercise to fish, demonstrating that when fish are good swimmers, they have better cardiovascular fitness, a stronger immune system and are less prone to disease and physical deformities than their sedentary brethren. Yet very few fish farms use exercise as a way to improve the quantity and quality of their product. New research and a new book, *Swimming Physiology of Fish: Towards Using Exercise to Farm a Fit Fish in Sustainable Aquaculture*, are trying to persuade the commercial fish farmer to give it a try.

Harald Takle, a senior research scientist at the Norwegian Institute of Food Research (NOFIMA) says fish farms often lose as much as twenty percent of their salmon when they are transferred from fresh-water holding tanks to ocean cages. Part of the reason, he thinks, is that they are simply out of shape. He has been conducting research on the ideal exercise regimen to equip young salmon (called smolts) with the stamina to withstand the rigors of the ocean environment.

In captivity, Takle says the smolts are kept in tanks that maintain a continuous flow of water designed to keep the tanks clean. The fish swim constantly against the artificial current, but little attention has been paid to optimizing the speed of the current to challenge the fish, and give them a good work out. "So the question was, 'What is the optimal speed they should be swimming at?'" says Takle.

In a study published last year, Takle and his colleagues reported that the optimal speed is 0.8 to 1.2 body lengths per second. Less than that, and the smolts are too sedentary, more than that, and they are over-stressed. The study was funded by The Research Council of Norway's HAVBRUK programme and the Norwegian Seafood Research Fund.

To test how this exercise routine improved overall fish health, the researchers exposed the fish to a common salmon virus and monitored their survival. The survival rates of the exercise-conditioned fish were 13 percent higher than the "couch potatoes" used as controls. What's more, the fish in the exercise group showed better growth, better swimming fitness, and genetic tests revealed the activation of genes known to be involved in the immune response and disease resistance.

Tackle estimates that in many cases, farmed fish are swimming at only half the pace they should be. Research in other labs has looked at the effects of exercise on aggression, different types of training routines, turbulence, diet and the use of robotic fish as swim "trainers."

Farmed fish currently make up nearly half of all fish consumed, and the industry is growing rapidly. While it produces a fairly cheap source of protein, disease, waste and a decreasing supply of traditional fish feed remain problems yet to be fully solved.

Increasing survival rates even just a few percent by exercising fish not only creates a healthier environment for them, but it may translate into billions of dollars for fish farms.

Fish exercise may aid the fish farming industry financially, Farrell says, but there's another lesson as well. "Exercise, in a world that is sedentary, is beneficial—even in fish."

So what does that mean to what you get on your dinner plate? Some experts suggest that bigger, stronger, and healthier fish may also produce changes in color, texture or overall appearance that make a more attractive meal to the consumer. But there's no evidence yet that the nutritional content is affected.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/09/24/161681318/getting-a-more-svelte-salmon-to-your-dinner-plate>

The Fish Site, 24 September 2012



New Research Shows ISA Virus Infects Salmon from Within

NORWAY - New findings on the interaction between an influenza-related virus and the host provide a significant contribution to understanding disease mechanisms behind the serious fish disease Infectious salmon anemia (ISA).

The severity of ISA is emphasised by the fact that it is the only disease of farmed Atlantic salmon listed by the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). Typically, an ISA outbreak starts in one cage and spreads over weeks and months to neighbouring

cages. If nothing is done to limit the spread of infection large numbers of fish can be lost.

But, how exactly does salmon get ISA? And why do rainbowtrout, a close relative of Atlantic salmon, not get the disease, even though they may carry the virus? Many questions are unanswered. Researchers at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute and the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science have made important new discoveries, providing essential contribution towards understanding the interaction between Atlantic salmon and the virus, and how this interaction is leading to ISA.

The findings are so interesting that they got published in the prestigious *Journal of Virology*, and may prove to be interesting in regards of influenza research in general.

"Our approach in this work has been that if we understand more of what is happening in the fish, we might be able to identify factors in the host and in the virus that are important for the development of the disease," says senior researcher Knut Falk. He is leading the research project that is part of the doctoral work of PhD-student Maria Aamelfot.

We examined ISA-diseased fish and studied which tissues and cells that become infected with the virus. Then, by using a novel method we determined to which tissues and cells the virus has a potential to attach to on healthy fish. The idea was to see what happened in the diseased fish, and then compare this with what happens at the molecular level when the fish becomes infected, says Ms Aamelfot.

"For a virus to be able to infect a cell, it first needs to recognize the cell. We found that the ISA virus recognises very specific cells in Atlantic salmon, endothelial cells. These are the cells that line the luminal surface of blood vessels and the rest of the circulatory system, including the heart," adds Mr Falk.

A prerequisite for a virus to be able to infect a cell is that the cell has specific structures (receptors) on the surface. Various viruses often use different receptors and the virus binding to these is very specific receptors- like lock and key. The researchers have managed to show that the ISA virus receptor covers the inside the blood vessels of Atlantic salmon. It is the first time anyone has visualised this receptor in tissue sections, and shown the cell specific expression, says Ms Aamelfot.

The researchers have devised a new method to detect the receptor or "lock" on the cells, using the virus as a probe or "key". The method is based on making a virus preparation which contains the "keys", and then to see where in healthy fish the key finds its lock.

They found that endothelial cells and red blood cells almost exclusively had the specific "lock" for this virus.

By comparing this expression pattern with the cells found infected in diseased fish, they found a good resemblance. The cells that were found to be infected were the same type of cells that expressed the virus receptor. At the same time, the researchers also noted other cell types which were not infected during the process. "These results give new information and insights and is an important piece of the puzzle to understand the disease," says Ms Aamelfot.

Ms Aamelfot explains that the endothelial cells that line blood vessels have a specialised surface. "We showed that new virus particles are released from this surface, which then goes straight into the bloodstream. This is different from a number of other viral infections where the virus penetrates deeper into the tissue around the blood vessels.

"When the virus is in the blood vessels, they will attach to the red blood cells. The red blood cells have virus receptors on the surface however after attachment the virus remains on the surface of the cells, and the virus is unable to multiply within them. This passive binding to the surface is an important additional findings," she points out. It indicated that the red blood cells can spread the virus in the blood stream.

Virus coated red blood cells that circulate in the blood vessels can cause problems for the blood circulation. "In normal blood vessels, the surface is smooth and the blood flows freely, without any obstacles. We believe that virus on the surface of red blood cells prevent them from floating freely and that this contributes to the characteristic circulatory disturbances commonly seen in salmon with ISA," adds Mr Falk.

"The salmon with ISA get anemic, and their blood flow is altered. Moreover, the results indicate that the cell membrane of the red blood cells is damaged due to virus binding. We believe this is very important for the development of the disease and this is something we want to work on in the future."

Ms Aamelfot explains that the endothelial cells have several important functions, both with regards to blood circulation, but also related to the defense against infections. "The endothelial cell surface is covered by a "cloud" of sugar chains that both protects the cells and participates in communication between cells. In our research, we showed for the first time that the tissue distribution of a particular sugar molecule is found at the outermost end of this sugar cloud, a sialic acid-species important for good blood flow and protection," says Ms Aamelfot. She compares this sugar coat with the paint on a car. Just like your car can rust if the paintwork gets scratched, the defense mechanisms may be impaired if the sugar team gets "hurt".

Mr Falk says that the results are of great importance for research on ISA. "When we have turned more pieces in this puzzle, we will understand more of what happens with this disease. Disease caused by other influenza viruses is important in many species including human, so this is an important research area." Mr Falk is sure that the findings related to ISA will increase the understanding of the disease progression in other types of influenza infection, especially those that attack the endothelium.

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18327/new-research-shows-isa-virus-infects-salmon-from-within>

The Fish Site, 24 September 2012

Fishing for a better salmon farm

NEW ZEALAND - Community representatives, business leaders and NZ King Salmon staff have been pooling their collective brainpower in the quest to design a better fish farm.

They are taking part in a series of prototyping sessions facilitated by NZ Trade & Enterprise and designed to result in more efficient salmon farming practices. Together with a range of key stakeholders, NZ King Salmon has identified strategic goals to facilitate both business growth and community connection.

The challenge has been put to experts in fish farming and engineering, community representatives and the media who came together in Waikawa September 10 to work on the identified areas for development.

NZ King Salmon general manager of aquaculture Mark Preece says the focus has been on three key factors.

“We have looked at ways to improve our standards of stress-free handling of fish, how to make farms more aesthetically appealing and how to better protect against seals and birds. Better fish farms must also meet our strategic objectives such as waste management and intelligent design-led solutions for future needs.

“It’s a progression of our ongoing intellectual property programme developed during 25 years of farming in Marlborough,” Mr Preece says. “We have always raised the bar for the industry and New Zealand King Salmon has an industry-wide reputation for developing innovative farm solutions and IP. An example is our ability to grow and process salmon year round and to a quality and size.

“Plus, the independent environmental organisation, the Global Aquaculture Performance Index ranked NZ salmon farming practices number one out of 22 countries.”

Mr Preece says the prototyping programme so far has resulted in “a wealth of ideas” and the next step would be to assign tasks to various groups for further research and development.

“The groups are tasked with developing the concepts and testing them to see if they are workable and add value to the business, the environment and the community,” Mr Preece says.

“An example might be how we can further improve our harvesting process – not just in commercial terms but also in achieving a stress-free harvest for the fish. The less the stress, the better the quality of the fillets.”

Mr Preece says the prototyping sessions are ongoing and any resulting innovations will be introduced only after exhaustive modelling and testing.

Community input into the sessions is welcomed. Community members can register their interest in taking part in the next session by emailing Sue Stevens at Sue.Stevens@kingsalmon.co.nz

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18302/fishing-for-a-better-salmon-farm>

Deadline News, 23 September 2012

Seals shot in salmon sanction

THE number of seals shot by “government licensed killers” on Scottish fish farms can finally be revealed.

The Scottish Government has released figures through a Freedom Of Information request that shows 310 seals have been shot across eight fish-farms who hold a shooting permit.

But the government has withheld the names of the individual farms for fear of causing an uprising amongst animal welfare groups.



Seals are being killed by salmon fish farms

But campaigners claim there is no need for even one animal to be shot as they can be kept away from stock with high-tension nets.

Since the start of 2011 eight companies were granted permission to kill seals who eat salmon from underwater cages – but it was understood that killing was a last resort.

There are four companies who have shot more than 50 seals since 2011 – they are The Scottish Salmon Co. (75), Hjaltland Seafarms (65), Scottish Seafarms (54) and Meridian Salmon Group (52).

Fish company Marine Harvest shot 43 of the marine mammals since last year and three other companies Loch Duart, Dawnfresh Farming and Bound Skerries Seafoods shot 10, 7 and 4 respectively.

Along with the figures the government said: “In the past, fringe animal rights groups have targeted individuals implicated either directly or indirectly in shooting seals with verbal abuse, hate mail unpleasant and noxious parcels, physical intimidation, assault and have also caused property damage.”

But David Scott from Sea Shepherd UK said that while a campaigner would go to in order to stop the killing of seals the accusations made by officials is untrue.

He said: “This is blatant scaremongering with zero corroborative evidence and is a gross insult to an organisation which has never harmed a single person in its 35 year history.

“No representative of Sea Shepherd would ever permit harm to any person, no matter how vile their actions.

“I would willingly put myself between a government licensed killer and his intended victim, especially if that was a pregnant or nursing seal.

“I would do no harm to the rifleman, nor would I break any laws in doing so – but I would protect the seal.”

Sea Shepherd is known for its strong campaigns against animal killing, such as using their boats to try and block Japanese whalers.

Non-lethal

Its founder Paul Watson is also on the international wanted list after skipping bail in Germany to avoid the “bogus” charges of Japan.

Don Staniford from the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture said that the individual farms should be named and shamed.

Mr Staniford said: “The Scottish Government should be ashamed of itself for shielding Scotland’s foreign-owned salmon farms from public scrutiny.”

John Robins, secretary of the Save Our Seals Fund also said the public had a right to know of the seal shooting sites so that the numbers could be checked.

The Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation pointed out that there were more than 120,000 seals in the country’s waters.

The SSPO also said that millions of pounds has been invested in non-lethal methods of keeping seals out.

AN SSPO spokesman said: “Farmers are legally required to protect the welfare of their salmon. As one rogue seal can kill thousands of fish, removal by anglers, netsmen and farmers is permitted as a last resort strictly under license by the Scottish Government.”

A Scottish Government spokesman said they would not disclose the information “due to the risks of individual fisheries or farms, or their employees, being identified and becoming the target of action by interest groups.”

<http://www.deadlinenews.co.uk/2012/09/23/seals-shot-in-salmon-sanction/>

More details via “[The Killing Farms](#)”

Friends of Clayoquot Sound, September 2012

Opposition building to new salmon feedlot near Tofino



Summer is winding down in the Clayoquot Sound UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Days are growing shorter, but the weather is clear and sunny, the nights star-filled. It's the time of year when wild salmon return to their natal rivers, where more than two hundred other species also depend on the sustenance provided by the spawning fish. The salmon, who have grown to full size in the open Pacific, bring marine-based nitrogen into the rainforest, feeding the ancient cedars in a crucial ecological process known as the "nitrogen pump".

Clayoquot Sound's backcountry is a series of seven large intact rainforest river valleys, which have never known the roar of industry. But wild salmon in the region are in serious trouble. Despite the abundance of pristine habitat, Clayoquot's salmon runs are in dramatic decline, with some runs now being counted in the tens, rather than in the tens of thousands.

Many factors impact salmon survival, including open net-cage salmon farming. It's an impact that Clayoquot Sound's salmon endure close to home, where tiny smolts must swim past a gauntlet of 20 farm sites on their journey to the open ocean. They might be attracted into the pens by lights on the farm and be eaten by the ravenous farmed Atlantic salmon, or be sucked up as by-catch during harvesting. Or they might make it past the farms but contract a heavy load of deadly sea lice—a parasite that nature would not normally expose them to until they are adults. Or they may be bathed in a soup of viruses and other pathogens from the crowded farm pens. No wild salmon population anywhere in the world has thrived in close proximity to open net-cage salmon farms.

Wild salmon are the lifeblood of Clayoquot Sound's ecology, culture, and economy. But we are at a crossroads. A new salmon feedlot site near Tofino is awaiting approval. Due to public pressure and now a legal challenge, this permit has been postponed. But we may only have weeks to make a difference. [Please sign our petition and share it with your network.](#) Every time someone signs, Premier Clark and federal Fisheries Minister Ashfield will receive an email. Add your voice. Together we can keep Plover Point wild for the salmon!

Bonny Glambeck
Campaigns Director
Friends of Clayoquot Sound

<http://focs.ca/2012/09/opposition-buildin-to-new-salmon-feedlot-near-tofino/>

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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