

RSPCA Assured Seal Killers! (23 November 2015)

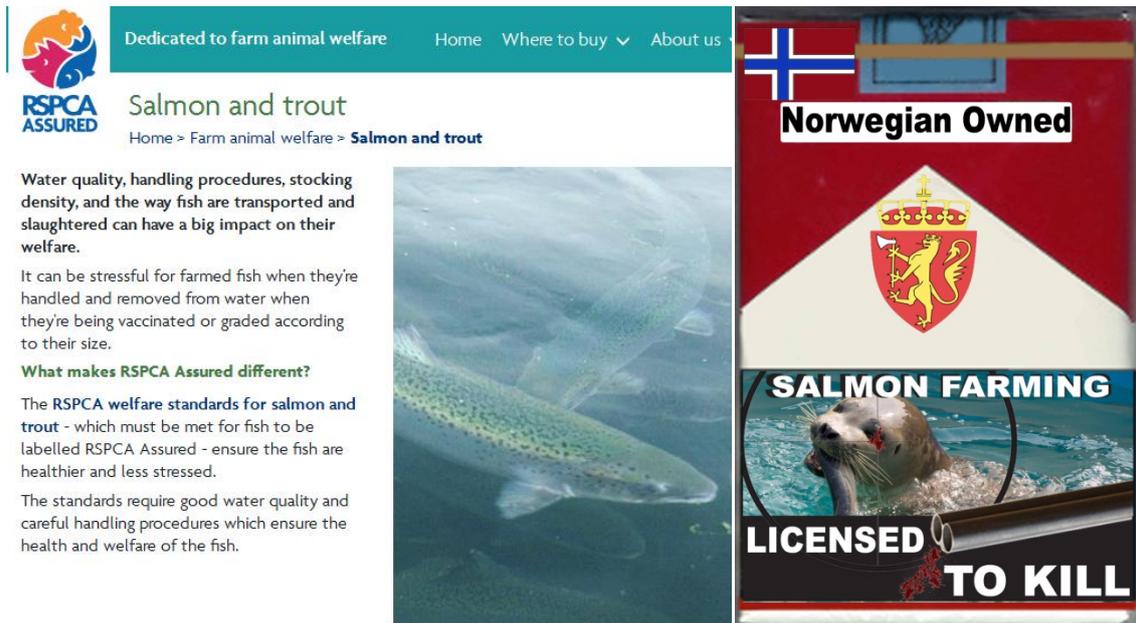


Buyer beware - the next time you're in a supermarket and see the [RSPCA Assured](#) logo you can be assured that seals were killed for your 'welfare-friendly' farmed salmon:



Buying RSPCA Assured salmon is sadly a sure-fire way of supporting the killing of seals in Scotland. As John Robins of [Save Our Seals Fund](#) wrote in July 2012:

"When you buy Scottish farmed salmon, even RSPCA endorsed Scottish farmed salmon, you pay for bullets to shoot seals."



The image shows a screenshot of the RSPCA website on the left and a protest sign on the right. The website header includes the RSPCA logo and navigation links: "Dedicated to farm animal welfare", "Home", "Where to buy", and "About us". The page title is "Salmon and trout" with a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Farm animal welfare > Salmon and trout". The main text discusses water quality, handling procedures, and stocking density, and includes a section titled "What makes RSPCA Assured different?". The protest sign on the right features the Norwegian flag, the text "Norwegian Owned", the coat of arms of the Scottish Government, and a photograph of a seal with the text "SALMON FARMING LICENSED TO KILL".

The Herald newspaper [reported](#) in October 2015 that the number of seals killed by salmon farms had risen 20%:

heraldscotland

The Herald **sundayherald**

Protests planned as number of seals killed in Scots salmon farms rises by 20 per cent



Protest as number of seals killed in Scots salmon farming rises



Martin Williams, Senior News Reporter / Friday 30 October 2015 / News

Follow @williamsmt 4,873 followers

ANIMAL rights protesters are calling for a boycott of Scottish salmon as new figures show that the number of seals killed for salmon farming in the first half of the year has risen by 20 per cent.

Campaigners are to launch new protests on Friday as new official figures show that salmon farming has been responsible for the shooting of 49 seals in the first half of this year. That's eight more than the same period last year, according to campaigners.

"I am pleased to support those campaigning for an end to seal deaths," said [Alison Johnstone, Member of the Scottish Parliament](#), who joined a protest outside M&S last month. "People buying farmed salmon in Scotland will be appalled to learn that there is no requirement on salmon producers to have nets to deter seals. If those making vast profits from salmon sales aren't prepared to invest in this preventative measure, they cannot claim that shooting a seal is a last resort. It is a lazy, greedy response that contradicts the image the producers and our supermarkets seek to promote and it has to stop."



Read more via "[M&S Caught in Cross-Fire Over Seal-Killing on Scottish Salmon Farms](#)"

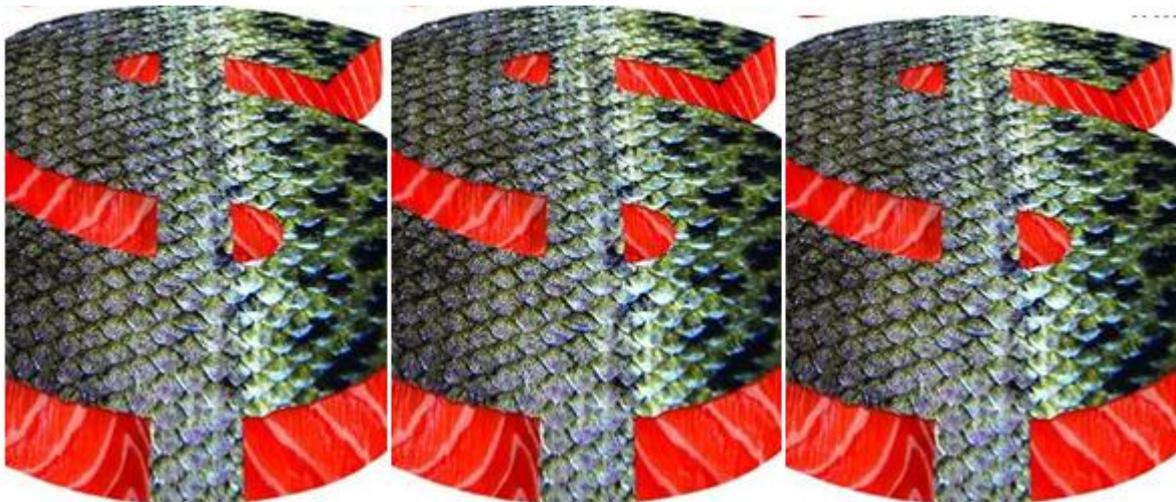
To raise the public profile of this shameful issue, the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) will be organising a protest outside the [RSPCA's head office](#) in Horsham, West Sussex, on 10 December (more details available [online here](#)).



Given RSPCA Assured's 'shoot-to-kill' policy on salmon farms, the RSPCA should be renamed the Royal Seal Culling Association!



The R\$PCA sacrificed protection for profit a long time ago. It is understood that each salmon farm certified under the R\$PCA Assured scheme pays several thousand pounds therefore raking in hundreds of thousands of pounds for the R\$PCA!



Ker-ching - that's the sounds of the RSPCA's cash register as dozens of Scottish salmon farms have rushed to be certified as 'welfare-friendly' since 2002. In fact, over 70% of Scottish farmed salmon is now certified as "welfare-friendly" via the RSPCA Assured scheme

(formerly Freedom Food). Since there were 260 salmon farms in 2014 (the latest [government survey available](#)) that could mean over 180 RSPCA Assured salmon farms in Scotland.



The RSPCA admitted on [ITV News](#) in October 2015 that they advocate a shoot-to-kill policy:



ITV News also [reported](#) in October 2015:

The RSPCA defended its new standards, which continue to permit the salmon industry to shoot seals.

Jeremy Cooper, chief executive of RSPCA Assured, explained its position:



That's infuriated John Robins from the Saves Our Seals campaign group. He told me that he has fought ten years to get the RSPCA to join calls for a ban on killing seals.

He says it is unacceptable that not every salmon producer has installed anti-predator nets, which are a non-lethal alternative to the shootings.

ITV News also [reported](#) in October 2015 that the salmon farming industry could well afford to pay for anti-predator nets (rather than bullets):

"The [Seal Protection Action Group](#) believes the solutions now exist to end seal shooting and an industry worth an estimated £1 billion needs to embrace and most importantly pay for them."



The price of 'seal-friendly' salmon is estimated at £1 million per salmon farm. For example, Shetland News [reported](#) in September 2015 that it cost £40,000 per cage to install 'Eco-Nets':

Last year Grieg Seafood Hjaltland, which employs over 200 people and produces over 60 per cent of Shetland salmon, started investing around £2 million to stop grey seals breaching its anti-predator nets.

The company has installed 26 extra-strong 'Econets' around the cages at its three Wadbister sites, including Laxfirth, at a cost of more than £40,000 each.

Shetland News [reported](#) in January 2014:



A promotional shot of an Econet from aquaculture technology firm Akva.

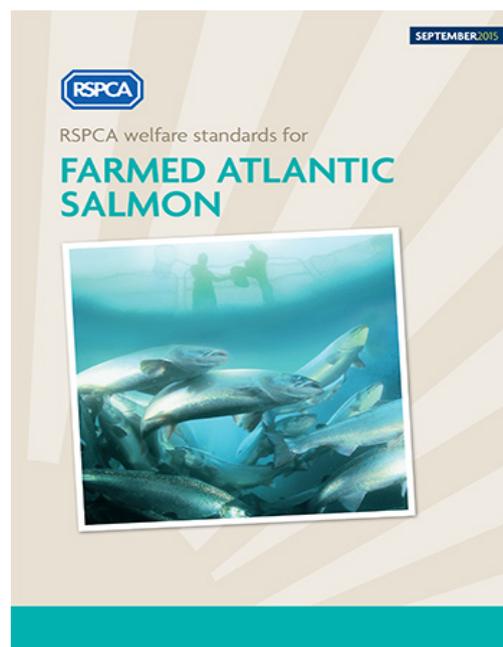
Now Hjaltland Seafarms is installing new extra-strong 'Econets' on 26 of their cages at three sites in the Wadbister area, where they have the biggest problem with seal attacks.

The tough plastic fencing-style nets create a rigid barrier around the salmon cages that the seals should not be able to penetrate. But at £40,000 each, this year's investment alone comes to more than £1 million.

Hjaltland has set aside a further £1 million to be spent on anti-seal nets next year, but with around 200 cages to protect it is also investigating the slightly cheaper option of HDPE (high density polyethylene) netting - not as strong as Econets but still tougher than the usual nylon that is used.

Read more via "[Drive to end seal shooting in Shetland](#)"

For more details on the [RSPCA's welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon](#) (September 2015) please read [online here](#)



Here's the relevant [sections of the RSPCA's standards](#) sanctioning seal-killing:

HP 7.14 The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer that all of the procedures leading up to the point of last resort have been mobilised.

i The repeated shooting of seals without having deployed all of the measures leading to a last resort scenario, will result in the site being suspended from the scheme pending further investigation.

- HP 7.15** There must be positive identification that a seal is causing the problem of fish mortality, or is the cause of compromised fish welfare.
- HP 7.16 *** The humane dispatch of any seal must only be undertaken as a last resort in order to protect the welfare of the fish and where all non-lethal methods have failed to do so.
- HP 7.17 *** Before the humane culling of seals as a last resort can be considered, the following must have been implemented:
- a) nets are adequately tensioned
 - b) top nets secured to deny ingress by predators into the enclosure
 - c) dead fish have been regularly removed
 - d) where appropriate, ADDs/ASDs have been mobilised and are working properly
 - e) predator nets/curtains/screens have been deployed where it is appropriate to do so.
- HP 7.18 *** The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer, that all of the steps leading up to a last resort scenario have been implemented.
- HP 7.19 *** Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal as a last resort, the following records must be kept:
- a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task
 - b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register
 - c) details of any animal that has been shot, including:
 - i) the species
 - ii) the time and date of dispatch
 - iii) the location
 - iv) the reason for the shooting
 - v) the number of fish killed before resorting to a lethal method
 - vi) the number of fish on site.

- HP 7.19.1*** In the case of members of the Freedom Food scheme, all the details in HP 7.19 relating to seal shootings must be reported to the Freedom Food office, within 72 hours.
- HP 7.20** All attempts must be made to recover the body of the animal that has been shot and it must be recorded as to whether or not the body was recovered.
- HP 7.21** Any carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with the law.
- HP 7.22** Seals must not be shot outside the Crown Estate lease area.
- HP 7.23** After every shooting incident, a review of all predator exclusion procedures must be undertaken and records kept of such reviews.

In June 2015, the RSPCA made "[key changes](#)" but maintained their shoot-to-kill policy on seals:

June 2015

Key¹ changes to the RSPCA welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon

As part of the on-going process of reviewing the welfare standards, they have now been amended and updated, and include the addition of new standards and guidance. All the amendments to the current version of the [RSPCA welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon](#), dated October 2012, were sent to Freedom Food members on 9th June 2015 and these changes will come into force on 9th September 2015, unless otherwise stated by a standard. This document provides further information on the rationale underpinning the decision/s for making key amendments to the standards.

Husbandry Practices		
Current standard	New/Amended standard	Reason for change and further information
	New standard HP 7.16 The humane dispatch of any seal must only be undertaken as a last resort in order to protect the welfare of the fish and where all non-lethal methods have failed to do so.	It was felt to be necessary to make the previous information box into a standard, so that the last resort scenario is explicit within the main body of the document.
	New standard HP 7.17 Before the humane culling of seals as a last resort can be considered, the following must have been implemented: a) nets are adequately tensioned b) top nets secured to deny ingress by predators into the enclosure c) dead fish have been regularly removed d) where appropriate, ADDs/ASDs have been mobilised and are working properly e) predator nets/curtains/screens have been deployed where it is appropriate to do so.	This has now been elevated into a standard, from its previous status as an information box. This defines the last resort scenario, so that there can be no doubt as to what it means.
	New standard HP 7.18 The producer must be able to demonstrate to the Freedom Food Assessor or the RSPCA Farm Livestock Officer, that all of the steps leading up to a last resort scenario have been implemented.	This will provide verification that all of the steps have been taken.

<p>Current standard HP 6.16 Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal, the following records must be kept:</p> <p>a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task</p> <p>b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register</p> <p>c) details of any animal that has been shot, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the species • the time and date of dispatch • the location • the reason for the shooting. 	<p>Amended standard HP 7.19 Where it becomes necessary to humanely dispatch a seal as a last resort, the following records must be kept:</p> <p>a) names of all persons with valid firearms certificates who are deemed competent to perform the task</p> <p>b) details of any bullets used and returned in the ammunition register</p> <p>c) details of any animal that has been shot, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the species ii) the time and date of dispatch iii) the location iv) the reason for the shooting v) the number of fish killed before resorting to a lethal method vi) the number of fish on site. 	<p>The fish are never mentioned in many of the reports which appear about seal shooting. The addition of including the number of fish involved in seal attacks helps to provide important information regarding the facts surrounding this issue.</p>
	<p>New Standard HP 7.19.1 In the case of members of the Freedom Food scheme, all the details in HP 7.19 relating to seal shootings must be reported to the Freedom Food office, within 72 hours.</p>	<p>This used to be a voluntary requirement. It is now mandatory and will help to ensure that information relating to this important issue is provided to the scheme in a consistent and timely manner.</p>

Download as a PDF [online here](#)

The trigger-happy stance of the RSPCA is unsurprising given the make-up of their [technical advisory group](#) which includes a who's who of salmon farming's biggest seal killers:

RSPCA farmed salmon standards technical advisory groups

Members of the RSPCA Salmon (Freshwater) Standards Technical Advisory Group (**FW**) and RSPCA Salmon (Seawater) Standards Technical Advisory Group (**SW**) are selected on the basis of the specific expertise they bring to the groups in different areas of farmed salmon care. Members include:

- John Avizienius (RSPCA farmed salmon specialist) **FW and SW**
- Alasdair MacDonald (Scottish Salmon) **FW**
- Andy Young (Cooke Aquaculture) **FW and SW**
- Chris Findlay (Fish Vet Group) **FW and SW**
- Dave Danson (Landcatch) **FW**
- David Cockerill (Marine Harvest) **SW**
- David Roadknight (Lochduart) **FW**
- George Whyte (Kintail Hatchery) **FW**
- Gilpin Bradley (Wester Ross Salmon) **FW and SW**
- Grant Cumming (Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd) **SW**
- Hugh Murray (Migdale Smolt Ltd) **FW**
- Hugh Richards (Wester Ross Salmon) **FW and SW**
- Ian Armstrong (Partners in Welfare) **FW and SW**
- John Barrington (Scottish Sea Farms) **FW and SW**
- John Richmond (Marine Harvest Scotland) **FW**
- Jon Walden (Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd) **FW**
- Kim Thomas (Scottish Salmon) **FW and SW**
- Michelle Johnson (Cooke Aquaculture) **FW and SW**
- Nick Joy (Lochduart) **FW and SW**
- Paul ArmstrongWilson (Solway Transport) **FW**
- Paul Irving (Meridian Salmon) **FW**
- Rob Murray (Howietoun) **FW**
- A technical/field operations representative of Freedom Food Ltd **FW and SW**
- A representative of RSPCA field staff (Farm Livestock Officers) who monitor Freedom Food scheme members **FW and SW**

In fact, [data obtained via Freedom of Information](#) reveals that nearly 700 seals have been killed by salmon farmers in Scotland since official statistics were first collected in 2011. An exclusive analysis by GAAIA of all the data made available by the Scottish Government (i.e. for the [first six months of 2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#) and [2011](#)) reveals that Scottish Seafarms (who exclusively supply Marks & Spencer) are Scotland's worst serial killers with 150 dead seals followed by Grieg Seafood Hjaltdland (136 seals killed), the Scottish Salmon Company (128 seals killed) and Marine Harvest (76 seals killed).



During the first six months of 2015, 54 seals have already been killed by salmon farms in Scotland (up from 41 during the same period in 2014). Marine Harvest (15 dead seals), the Scottish Salmon Company (12 dead seals) and Scottish Seafarms (12 dead seals) are the worst offenders during 2015.



Read more via "[Stop shooting seals for salmon meals!](#)" and "[Cecil the Seal Killers Named & Shamed in Scotland - Call for Boycott of 'Seal Unfriendly' Scottish Salmon](#)"

Fish Farmer magazine [reported](#) in March 2014 that the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) "who confirmed the current 70% estimate also expects that this figure will continue to rise over the coming years."



The salmon industry is so important to Scotland and I have been saying for years that good welfare practice inevitably results in a superior product that simply tastes better. So it's great news to hear that 70% of the Scottish Salmon farming industry is now part of the Freedom Food scheme

Nick Nairn, Chef

Bob Waller of RSPCA Assured claimed: "We believe it is because we have clearly shown that farming to RSPCA welfare standards makes good business – as well as good welfare – sense....Success for us, of course, means more animals benefiting from higher welfare standards."

He also claimed that there was "more Freedom Food labelled smoked and fresh salmon available than ever before in UK supermarkets including the Co-operative, Somerfield, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco."

Read more via "[RSPCA Assured](#)"

A report by the Food Ethics Council and Heather Pickett - "[Farm Animal Welfare: Past, Present and Future](#)" - published in September 2014 claimed:

"One of the scheme's greatest successes is farmed salmon where over 70% of UK production meets RSPCA welfare standards, having launched as recently as 2002."

THE FOOD ETHICS COUNCIL AND HEATHER PICKETT

Farm Animal Welfare Past, Present and Future



A REVIEW OF FARM ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE UK • SEPTEMBER 2014
COMMISSIONED BY THE RSPCA'S FREEDOM FOOD SCHEME TO MARK ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrity Chef Jamie Oliver has blood on his hands for [promoting](#) the RSPCA's seal-unfriendly farmed salmon via adverts for Sainsbury's and Marine Harvest:

SAINSBURY'S LAUNCH FREEDOM FOOD SALMON

Sainsbury's, who currently sell 27 per cent of all the salmon bought in the UK, has significantly increased its range of salmon sourced from Freedom Food approved farms, with the logo now on products in stores nationwide.

The range includes products from their value 'Basics' brand, right through to their premium 'Taste the

Difference' brand. Twelve thousand tonnes of Sainsbury's salmon is now being reared on farms inspected by Freedom Food to strict RSPCA welfare standards.

Justin King, Sainsbury's chief executive, says: "We sell the most salmon out of any retailer in the UK by some way, so focusing on this will make a significant difference. It will be market leading because it addresses

issues such as unsustainable feed and how the fish are reared. Plus it's regionally sourced and healthy. Many customers wanting all of this on a budget can buy our new 'Basics Sustainably Sourced Salmon' without having to worry about how the fish was sourced."

The salmon is sourced via Young's Seafood entirely from dedicated Scottish farms, owned by Freedom Food member, Marine Harvest Scotland.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, comments: "All the Marine Harvest Scotland sites that supply Sainsbury's have achieved Freedom Food certification and in just eight months. This is a tribute to both the standards already being achieved by the Marine Harvest farming teams and to their readiness and positive attitudes. It also reflects the constructive approach of the Freedom Food team."

Freedom Food estimates that nearly 50% of the Scottish salmon industry is now covered by the scheme, accounting for over 95 million fish.



Photography: Marine Harvest

Marine Harvest Scotland site



Photography: Sainsbury's/AMV

To coincide with the salmon launch, Jamie Oliver fronts a new Sainsbury's TV advertising campaign promoting Freedom Food labelled salmon. Premiered on 11 June, the ad will be featured in several peak time slots across a wide selection of TV channels including ITV, Channel 4, Five, ITV2 and E 4.

RSPCA Assured even [promote on their web-site](#) a recipe for baked salmon by Rosie Curtis of Marine Harvest (omitting to mention the fact that Marine Harvest kills seals).



Baked salmon portions with cucumber, dill and yoghurt

Home > Get involved > Recipes > Baked salmon portions with cucumber, dill and yoghurt by Rosie Curtis

1 of 2 pages



Description

Rosie Curtis, a producer of RSPCA Assured salmon for Marine Harvest, devised this lovely salmon recipe for summer suppers.

Preparation time: **40 minutes**

Cooking time: **10 minutes**

Serves: **4**

Ingredients

¼ cucumber, grated
100ml sour cream
100ml plain yoghurt
2 tsp fresh dill, chopped,
plus extra sprigs for garnish (optional)
juice of ½ a Fairtrade lemon
salt and Fairtrade white pepper
25g butter
drizzle of oil
4 RSPCA Assured salmon portions,
skin on

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas 4.

Place the cucumber in a sieve over a bowl and leave to drain for 30 minutes. Press down with the back of a tablespoon to squeeze out excess water. Pat dry the grated cucumber with kitchen paper.

In a small bowl, stir together the cucumber, sour cream, yoghurt, dill, 1 tbsp lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Melt the butter and oil in a frying pan. Add the salmon skin-side down, season with salt and pepper and squeeze over a little lemon juice. Cook for 2-3 minutes, then gently turn the salmon over and cook for a further 1-2 minutes. Squeeze over a little more lemon juice and taste to check the seasoning. Place in the oven and bake for 3-4 minutes or until just cooked through.

Yet the RSPCA is reluctant to divulge details of which farms are certified via the RSPCA Assured (formerly Freedom Food) scheme. Freedom Food's General Manager Clive Brazier told GAAIA in January 2015:

"Approximately 70 per cent of farmed Scottish Salmon is produced under Freedom Food. You will appreciate that due to data protection, we are unable to provide you with a list of Freedom Food approved salmon members. The number of seals shot on our farms, as a last resort, has significantly reduced over the last seven years and continues to do so year on year. We are unable to disclose the figures as they are submitted to us by our members, in confidence, for the benefit of developing the scheme."

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 29 January 2015 15:57
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: E Mail Contact

Dear Don,

Thank you for your emails of the 15 and 16 January that were passed onto me.

Approximately 70 per cent of farmed Scottish Salmon is produced under Freedom Food. You will appreciate that due to data protection, we are unable to provide you with a list of Freedom Food approved salmon members.

The number of seals shot on our farms, as a last resort, has significantly reduced over the last seven years and continues to do so year on year. We are unable to disclose the figures as they are submitted to us by our members, in confidence, for the benefit of developing the scheme.

Of course the killing of one seal is still one too many and we are working towards getting this figure down to zero.

Kind regards

Clive Brazier

General Manager www.freedomfood.co.uk

Freedom Food is the RSPCA's farm assurance and food labelling scheme dedicated to farm animal welfare.
www.freedomfood.co.uk

Freedom Food told GAAIA in February 2015 that "the issue of culling seals.....is a welfare dilemma and we share your concerns":

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 04 February 2015 12:47
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Re: # Seals Killed at RSPCA/Freedom Food certified salmon farms in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Dear Don,

Thank you for your email.

We are one hundred percent committed to improving the welfare of both seals and salmon. The issue of culling seals - as a last resort to protect the welfare of farmed salmon - is a welfare dilemma and we share your concerns.

Whilst we do not yet have the answer, to what is a very complex issue, please be assured that we are working with the salmon farming industry and the Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group to find further ways to reduce the number of seals that are shot.

As stated previously, numbers have already been reducing but the killing of one seal is still one too many and we want to get this figure to zero.

We fully respect your cause but are unable to help any further with your enquiries at this time.

Kind regards

Clive Brazier

In reply to a [letter sent by GAAIA in August 2015](#), Freedom Food stated in September 2015:

"In your letter you call for a 'ceasefire' which suggests that seals are being routinely shot. However, as you know, this is not the case. The RSPCA's welfare standards only allow seals to be shot as a last resort when all available preventative measures to protect the salmon have been exhausted. If you are suggesting that farms should not be allowed to shoot a seal as a last resort, unfortunately the RSPCA is not currently in a position to make this requirement in its standards."

From: Clive Brazier [mailto:clive.brazier@freedomfood.co.uk]
Sent: 11 September 2015 10:17
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Letter to RSPCA Assured/Freedom Food

Dear Mr Staniford,

Thank you for your email.

I have made the chairman of the Freedom Food board aware of your letter. The board is fully aware of all the implications surrounding the shooting of seals and it is regularly discussed at meetings.

In your letter you call for a 'ceasefire' which suggests that seals are being routinely shot. However, as you know, this is not the case. The RSPCA's welfare standards only allow seals to be shot as a last resort when all available preventative measures to protect the salmon have been exhausted.

If you are suggesting that farms should not be allowed to shoot a seal as a last resort, unfortunately the RSPCA is not currently in a position to make this requirement in its standards. Based on experience of working on this issue, it would be detrimental to the welfare of farmed salmon - many thousands of which suffer and die following seal attacks.

However, as stated in all previous correspondence with you on this issue, the RSPCA and Freedom Food are fully committed to improving the welfare of both seals and salmon. The issue of culling seals - as a last resort to protect the welfare of farmed salmon - is a difficult welfare dilemma that we are working to resolve and we share your view that securing a further reduction in the numbers of seals killed should be vigorously pursued.

As such - and once again as explained previously - whilst we don't yet have all of the answers to what is a very complex issue, we are working with the salmon farming industry and the stakeholders of the *Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group* to find ways which continue to reduce the number of seals being shot.

The number that are shot as a last resort has already significantly reduced following our engagement with the industry. However the killing of one seal is still one too many and we - together with members of the *Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group* and the salmon farming industry - are working towards the position where it will not be necessary to shoot any seals.

In our experience, and based on the objective evidence to date, continuing to engage and work together to build on the very significant progress we have already helped to achieve is the best way of reaching this goal.

An email from the RSPCA's acting Chief Executive David Canavan in November 2015 stated:

From: Melissa Moremon [mailto:melissa.moremon@rspca.org.uk]
Sent: 05 November 2015 15:36
To: salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com
Subject: Demonstration at the RSPCA

Dear Mr Staniford

I understand that you intend to demonstrate at the RSPCA on Thursday 10th December on the issue of seals and salmon farming. As an alternative, you may wish to consider meeting with me in my office to discuss the issues.

However if you do decide to proceed with the demonstration, whilst I accept your right to demonstrate on this issue and put across your views, I am letting you know that this must be done on the public pavement adjacent to the RSPCA property as you will not be allowed on to demonstrate on our property.

Yours sincerely

David Canavan
Acting Chief Executive

Melissa Moremon
Executive Assistant to David Canavan
Chief Executive

Tel: 0300 123 0102

As of 23 November 2015, the RSPCA has still refused to issue a public statement supporting a cease-fire and a meeting with the acting Chief Executive may not take place:

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 18 November 2015 15:12
To: 'Melissa Moremon'
Subject: RE: Demonstration at the RSPCA

Thanks.

It's extremely disappointing that the RSPCA policy still sanctions the killing of seals. Will you re-consider the RSPCA's shoot-to-kill position?

We've already booked travel down to Horsham on 11 December so will be coming then. Since we live in Scotland and will be heading back North on 12 December we will not be available to meet on 14 December.

Would it be possible to meet someone else from the board?

Don

From: Melissa Moremon [mailto:melissa.moremon@rspca.org.uk]
Sent: 18 November 2015 14:20
To: Don Staniford
Subject: Re: Demonstration at the RSPCA

EMAIL FROM DAVID CANAVAN

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your reply to my email of 5 November.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss your concerns. The position of the RSPCA was set out in a letter from my colleague Clive Brazier which was sent out to you on 11 September and this would of course form the basis of our discussion.

Unfortunately I am out of the office on 10 December but would be delighted to meet with you on 14 December if this is convenient for you.

Kind regards

David Canavan

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 09 November 2015 14:08
To: 'Melissa Moremon'
Subject: RE: Demonstration at the RSPCA

David,

Thanks for your reply.

Would you be available to meet at 11am on 10 December?

Would you be willing to issue a joint public statement re. a cease-fire ending the killing of seals at RSPCA Assured salmon farms?

Don

GAAIA [wrote](#) to the RSPCA on 23 November 2015 re-iterating the question:

Will the RSPCA finally pledge to stop certifying seal-killing salmon farms?



Download the letter in full as a PDF [online here](#)

The RSPCA's shoot-to-kill policy runs counter to public opinion with an opinion poll conducted in October 2015 by Metro [reporting](#) 87% of people against the killing of seals:

METRO

NEWS... BUT NOT AS
66.2M SHARES

HOME NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE MORE

UK WORLD WEIRD TECH

RSPCA upsets people by saying seal shooting is okay



Ashritha Nagesh for Metro.co.uk Sunday 11 Oct 2015 12:04 pm

f t g+ ✉ 796



Fish farmers are allowed to shoot seals (Picture: AFP/Getty Images)

The RSPCA is under fire for allowing fish farmers to shoot seals.



A [petition](#) calling on the RSPCA to stop the killing of seals on salmon farms now has over 2,700 signatures:

change.org

Start a petition Browse Search

Don Staniford

Petitioning RSPCA and 1 other

RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish Seals.

 **Katie Nethercoat** Beverley, United Kingdom



Share this petition

2,723 supporters

2,277 needed to reach 5,000

 Share on Facebook

Add a personal message (optional)



RSPCA, SPCA: RSPCA: End your support for the killing of Scottish Seals.

Please sign and share [online here!](#)

Download blog as a PDF online via <http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2015/11/rspca-assured-seal-killers-.html>

Read more via:

["RSPCA upsets people by saying seal shooting is okay"](#)

["RSPCA attacked for its policy on seal shooting"](#)

["RSPCA: Seals should be shot as an 'absolute last resort' to protect salmon"](#)

["Killing seals to protect salmon - the welfare dilemma"](#)

["IFAW: People will be 'shocked' by Scotland seal shooting"](#)

["Peta: 'No justification for shooting' seals"](#)

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Don Staniford (Director of GAAIA), 23 November 2015



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