

Secret Filming on Irish Salmon Farms - July 2019

Briefing by Scottish Salmon Watch on filming inside Mowi Ireland salmon farms in Donegal (5-6 July 2019).

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Summary:

Secret filming inside salmon farms in Donegal has uncovered nauseating video footage of dead farmed salmon floating on the surface of Mowi Ireland's [lice-infested](#) salmon farm at Anny Point in Lough Swilly.



The farmed salmon were belly up in the water with what appeared to be their guts hanging out.

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🔒 Fanad #18 Swilly dead fish guts 6 July 2019 GOPR1307

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Next to the dead (and diseased) farmed salmon, wild fish were seen swimming just outside the cage in Lough Swilly (an [important area for wild fish including wild salmon](#)).



Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#), who took the video footage with a Go Pro camera whilst filming at [Norwegian-owned Mowi Ireland](#) said:

“Irish salmon farming is dead in the water. If consumers could see the filthy feedlots farmed salmon are crammed into they would not buy ‘healthy’ Irish salmon. Salmon farms are threatening wild fish via the spread of infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses. Seeing wild fish swimming so close to carcasses of dead farmed salmon is heartbreaking. The Irish Government must conduct immediate unannounced inspections of salmon farms across Ireland to assess the scale of disease, lice and mortality problems.”



Read more and watch videos on secret filming inside salmon farms via: [Salmonwatch Launched in Scotland](#) and [Biosecurity Precautions for Filming Salmon Farms](#)

Mowi Ireland (formerly Marine Harvest) has a [history of lice problems](#) - including in [Lough Swilly and Mulroy Bay in Donegal](#).

Lough Swilly - Anny Point (Saturday 6 July 2019)

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🔒 Fanad #24 Swilly Anny Point montage 6
July 2019 GOPR1315 NOT YET RATED

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Following reports of lice-infestation at Mowi Ireland's salmon farm at Anny Point in Lough Swilly, I kayaked out from Whitestrands Beach (south of Portsalon) ca. 5am on Saturday 6 July 2019. Cloudy conditions and poor light made it not ideal for filming. [Biosecurity precautions including disinfection of equipment](#) was carried out prior to and after filming.



🔒 Fanad #24b Swilly biosecurity after filming & dumping 6 July 2019 GOPR1314

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🔒 Fanad #13 Swilly intro 6 July 2019 GOPR1302

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Once at the site, some farmed salmon were seen leaping - a sign of lice infestation [according to a scientific paper published in 2018](#).



Lice data [published by the Irish Government](#) indicated that this site had high levels of infestation.

I suspected the salmon farming company (Mowi Ireland) was guilty of breaching the [Animal Health And Welfare Act 2013](#) - specifically in relation to Section 10 (Prohibition on Spreading Disease), Section 11 (Duty to Protect Animal Welfare) and Section 12 (Prohibition on Animal Cruelty). Read more on welfare problems on salmon farms [online here](#) and [online here](#).

The video footage shows biofouling of the cages (confirmed on a visit later that morning to Mowi's land-base where net washing and biofouled waste was in evidence - video [online here](#)).

Better video editing & viewing software is required to capture images of lice infestation.



Further filming inside the cage (only one cage was filmed - the outside corner one of fifteen) was conducted with a Go Pro camera.



🔒 Fanad #14 Swilly underwater 6 July 2019 GOPR1303

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Further filming at greater depths and lighter conditions is required to fully assess the disease status of the salmon but the [lice data published by the Irish Government](#) indicates current lice problems at the Anny Point salmon farm.



Another video segment (the camera was upside down so editing is required) shows the farmed salmon swimming around the cage (it is understood that ca. 350,000 farmed salmon were on site during filming).



The image shows a screenshot of a Vimeo video player. The video content displays several farmed salmon swimming in a tank. The player interface includes the Vimeo logo, navigation menus (Manage videos, Watch, Features, Stock, Upgrade), a search bar, and a video progress bar with a play button and a timestamp of 02:58. On the right side of the video player, there are icons for a clock, a list, and a share arrow. Below the video player, the video title is displayed: "Fanad #15 Swilly underwater #2 6 July 2019 GOPR1304". To the right of the title, there is a small box containing the text "This column is only visible to you" and a link "See all video stats".

Fanad #15 Swilly underwater #2 6 July 2019 GOPR1304

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There was no criminal damage to the cages - with the top net easily lifted up and replaced exactly how it was found after filming.



Here's farmed salmon faeces floating in the cage (i.e. the fish are swimming in their own shit).



So-called 'cleaner fish' (wild caught or farmed wrasse) are seen swimming alongside the farmed salmon.



Read more about welfare abuse of cleaner fish on salmon farms via:

[Cleaner fish welfare on Scotland's salmon farms](#)

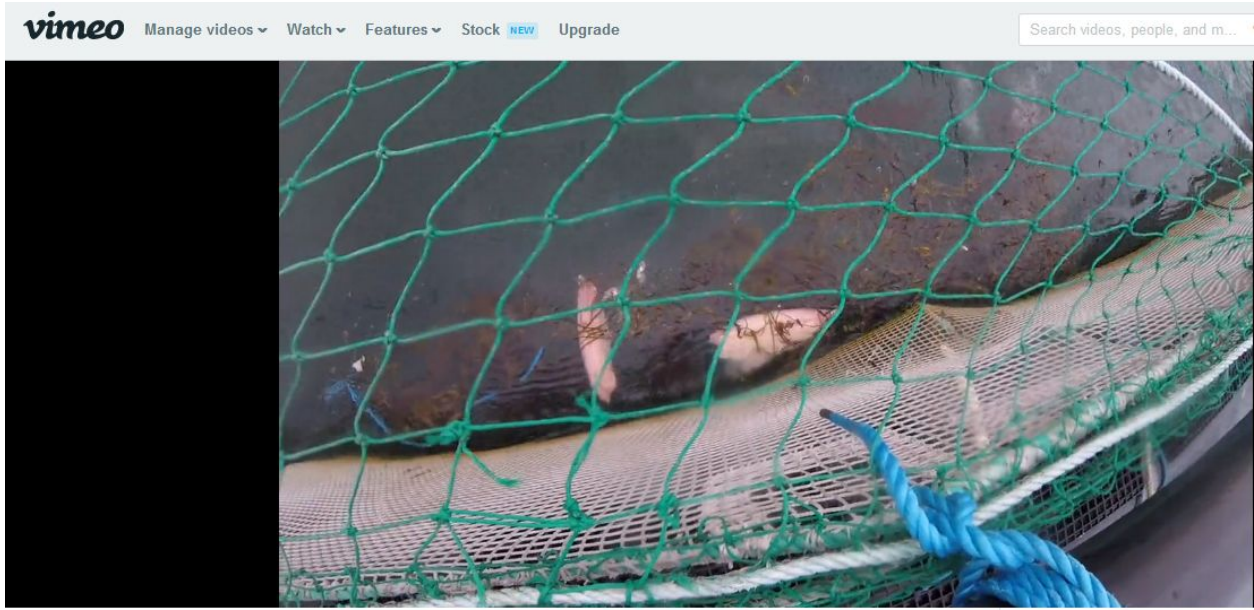
[Fish that eat lice off farmed salmon suffer, says report](#)

There's evidence of lice infestation including a 'death crown' visible from the surface (but not captured on camera):



[Note that the underwater video footage appears upside down - editing is required to turn the right way up!]

Moving over the other side of the cage two dead farmed salmon were found floating belly up on the surface.



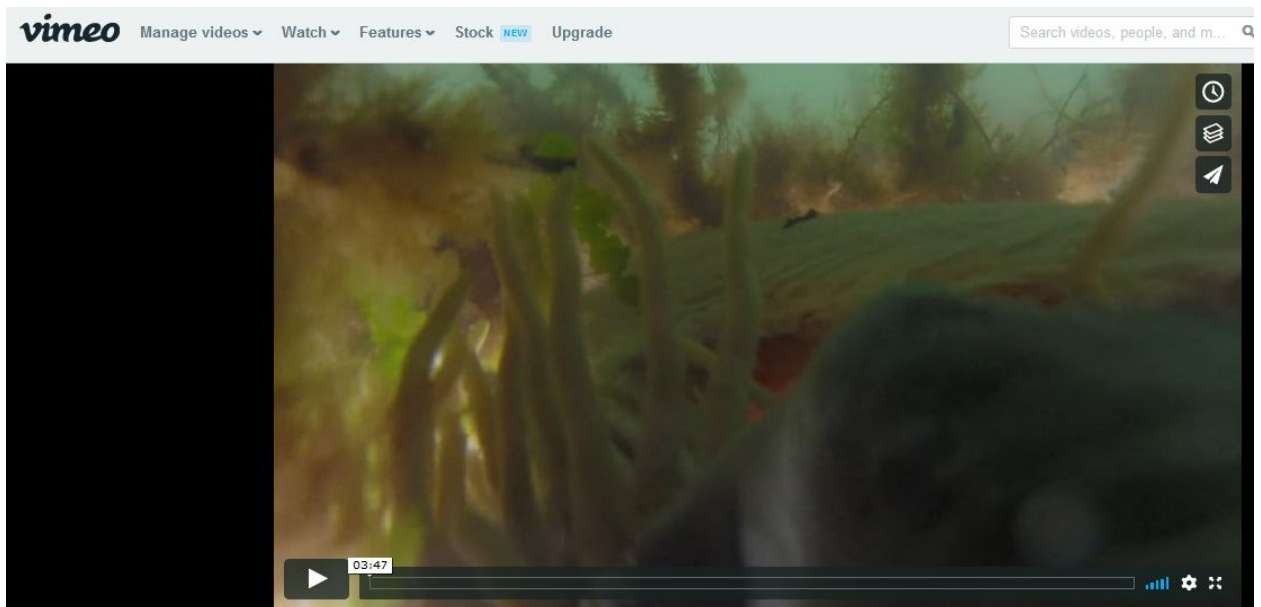
🔒 Fanad #17 Swilly dead fish floating 6
July 2019 GOPR1306

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Skinless Irish salmon anyone?



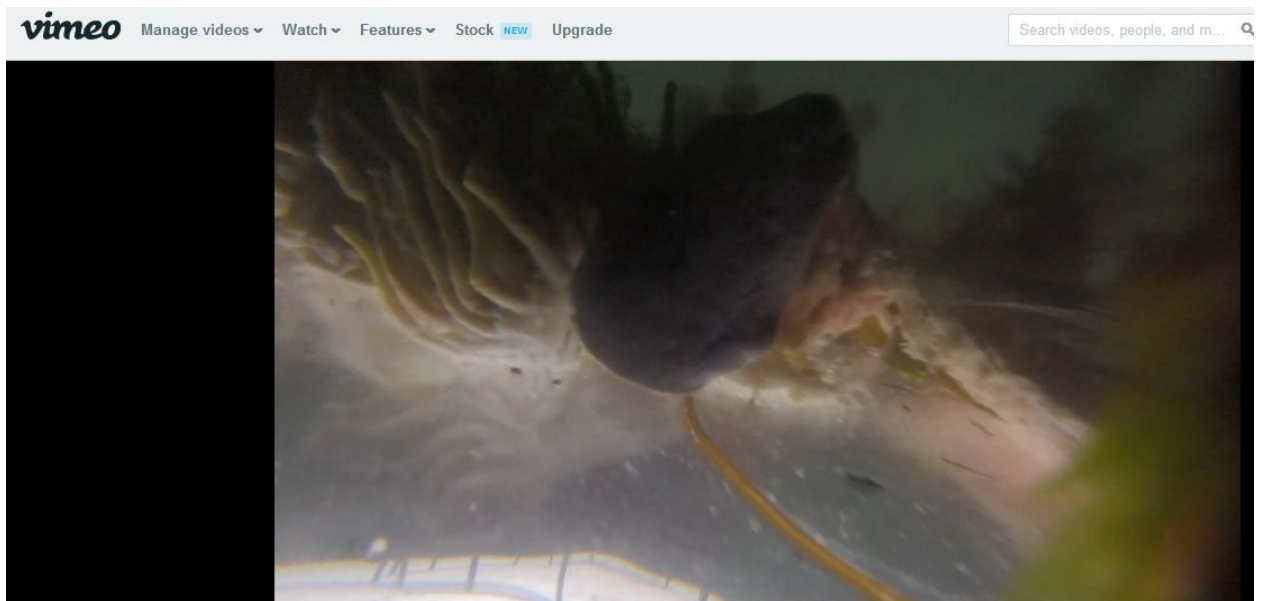
Further video footage shows what looks like the guts of the salmon hanging out.



🔒 Fanad #18 Swilly dead fish guts 6 July 2019 GOPR1307

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🔒 Fanad #18 Swilly dead fish guts 6 July 2019 GOPR1307

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Further footage shows the dead (and presumably diseased) farmed salmon floating on the surface of Mowi's Anny Point salmon farm in Lough Swilly.

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04:06

🔒 Fanad #19 Swilly dead fish disgusting 6 July 2019 GOPR1308

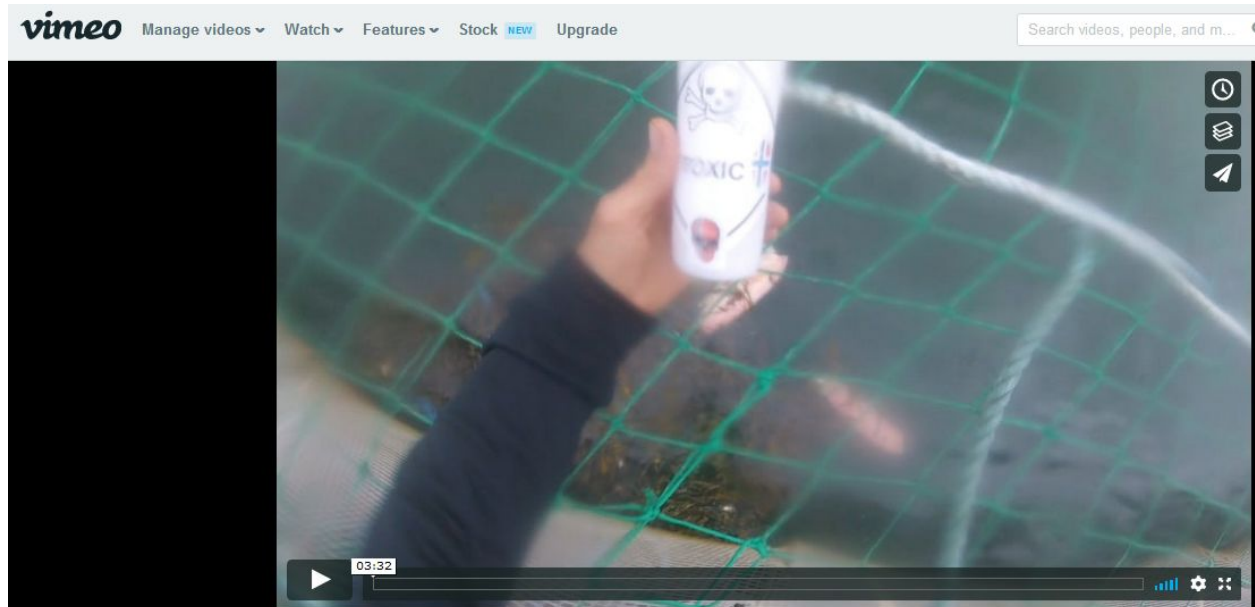
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The image shows a screenshot of a Vimeo video player. The video content is a close-up shot of a person's hand holding a dead fish inside a fishing net. The fish is dark and appears to be dead. The video player interface includes a search bar at the top, navigation icons on the right, and a progress bar at the bottom. The video title is 'Fanad #19 Swilly dead fish disgusting 6 July 2019 GOPR1308'. There is a lock icon next to the title, indicating it is a private video. A small box on the right side of the player contains the text 'This column is only visible to you' and a link to 'See all video stats'.

Any viruses, pathogens and bacteria are free to contaminate the tens of thousands of other farmed salmon swimming on the farm (along with passing wild fish). Mowi advocates “good husbandry practices and biosecurity standards” in their [2018 Integrated Annual Report](#) published in 2019 (p55) but this is clearly poor farm management and a disease risk.



Scottish Salmon Watch is calling on the Irish and Scottish Government's to test the waters in and around salmon farms for infectious diseases, pathogens, viruses and toxic chemicals.

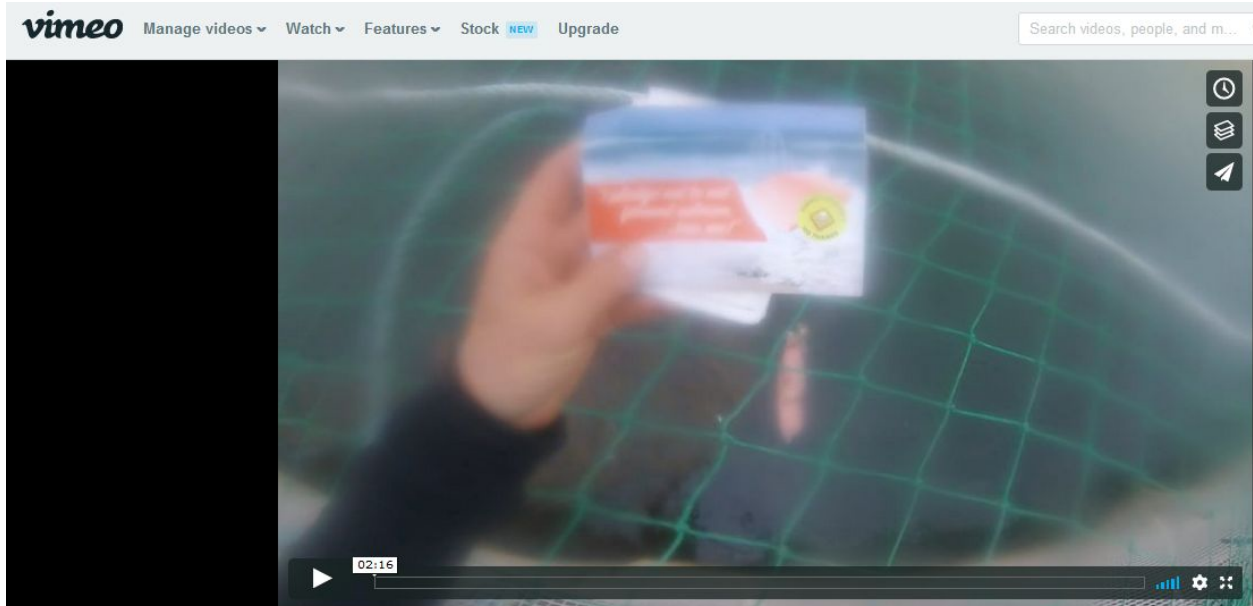


🔒 Fanad #20 Swilly toxic dead fish 6 July
2019 GOPR1309

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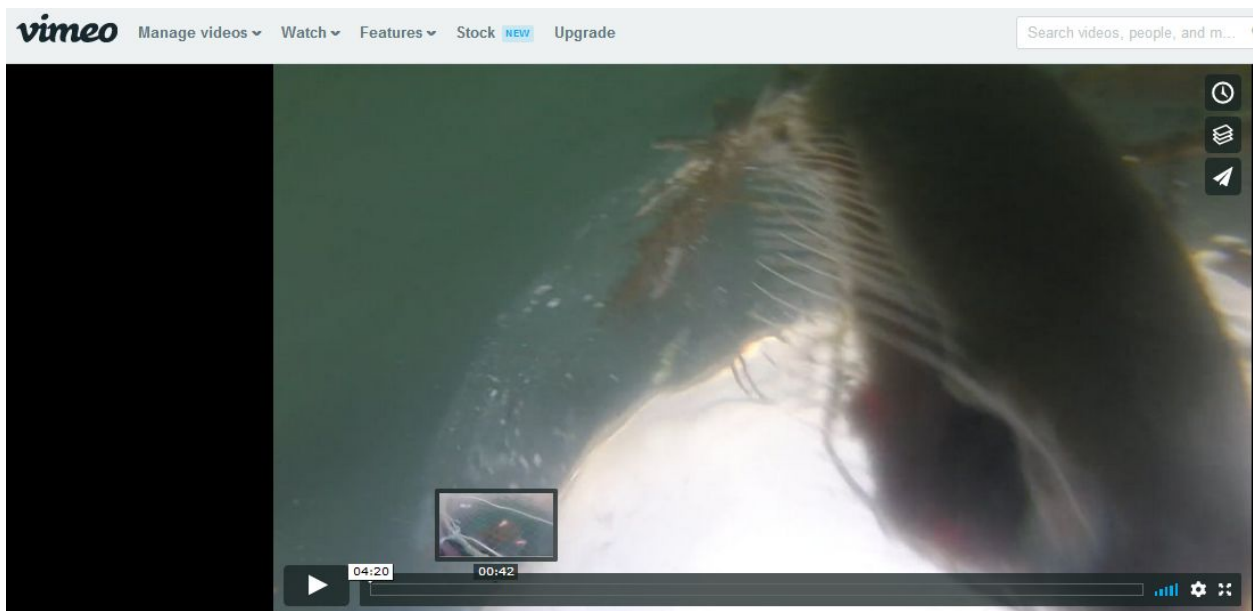
Take the [pledge not to eat farmed salmon](#) from Mowi Ireland as well as other companies and countries.



🔒 Fanad #21 Swilly dead fish pledge 6
.July 2019 GOPR1310

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Here's more [video footage of the two dead salmon floating on the surface.](#)



🔒 Fanad #22 Swilly dead fish guts 6 July
2019 GOPR1311

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With the guts hanging out like alien worms.



As I stood filming the dead farmed salmon I noticed wild fish swimming right next to the cage - just a few feet outside the salmon farm.

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A screenshot of a Vimeo video player. The video shows a large school of wild fish swimming in clear blue water. The fish are silvery and appear to be moving in a coordinated pattern. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 03:30, and various control icons like volume, settings, and full screen.

🔒 Fanad #23 Swilly wild fish just outside cage 6 July 2019 GOPR1312

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What species of wild fish are these?



We know from other filming inside salmon farms that wild herring, saithe, pollock and even wild salmon farm have been trapped inside salmon farms.

Read more via [Salmonwatch Launched in Scotland](#)

Including:

In August 2018, Scottish Salmon Watch [filmed wild fish \(believed to be saithe, pollock or herring\)](#) inside a salmon farm at Scallastle Bay on the Isle of Mull.



In 2017, Sea Shepherd Society [captured video footage](#) of wild herring trapped inside salmon farms.



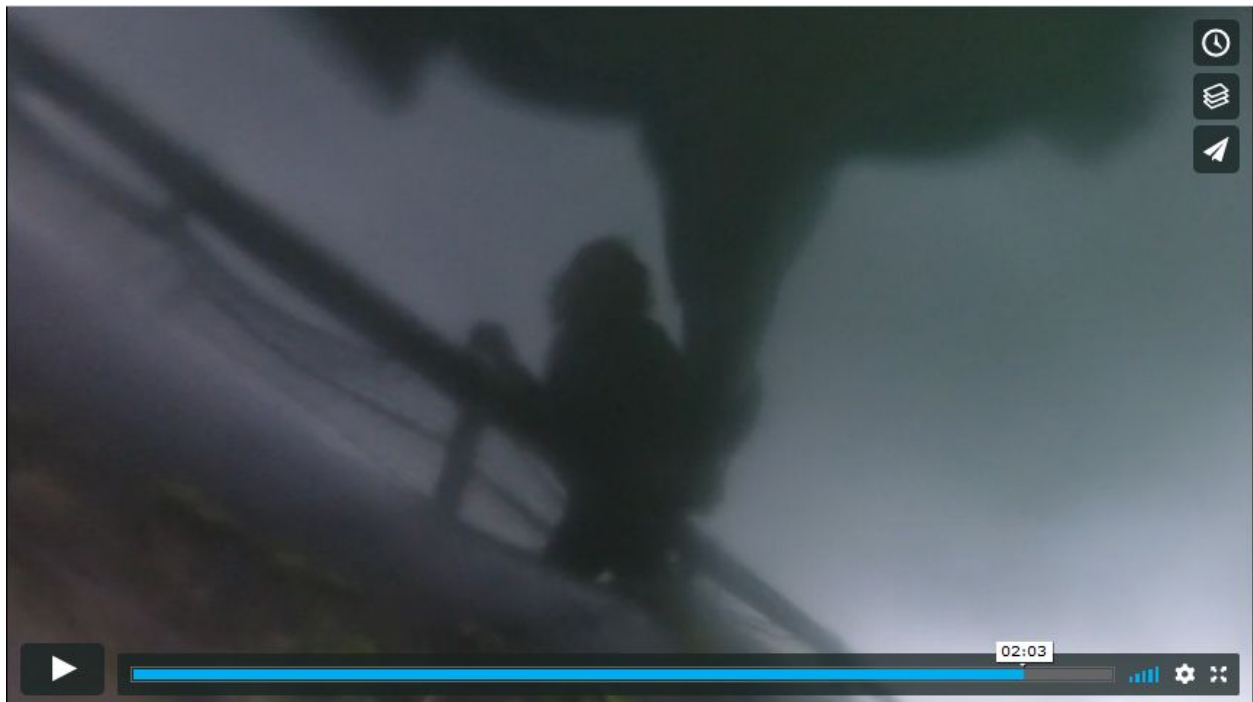
Read more via:

[Wild Fish Trapped - Incidental Catch in the Salmon Farming Industry](#)
[Conservationists raise alarm over wild fish killed inside B.C. salmon farms](#)

In June 2019, Sea Shepherd Society [filmed wild salmon trapped inside a salmon farm](#) for the first time in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.




Scottish Salmon Watch encourages further filming to shine a light on the murky world of salmon farming in Ireland - and around the world.



Our filming in Ireland has quite literally just scratched the surface - the filming took place early in the morning and late at night in poor light conditions, with far from state of the art camera equipment (our Go Pro cost £200 and the 3.5 metre telescopic pole was £8.50p), the footage is of the top 10% of the farm (mortalities are understood to sink to the bottom and lie perhaps 20-30 metres below) and took place in just one cage over a period of 45 minutes.

Here's [video footage from diver David Ainsely shot under a Mowi Scotland salmon farm](#).



The screenshot shows a Vimeo video player interface. The video title is "01376001.MOV The bottom of cages in a salmon farm - many dead salmon". The video content shows a close-up view of a salmon cage net, which is a large, orange, diamond-shaped mesh structure. Inside the cage, numerous dead salmon are visible, lying on the bottom. The water is dark and murky. The Vimeo player includes a search bar at the top right, navigation links like "Manage videos", "Watch", "Features", "Stock", and "Upgrade", and a "More from David Ainsley" section with an "Autoplay next video" option.

This footage was [broadcast by BBC Panorama in May 2019](#).

Read more and watch videos on secret filming inside salmon farms via: [Salmonwatch Launched in Scotland](#)

Here's further footage shot on 6 July 2019 at Mowi Ireland's Anny Point land-base.



🔒 Fanad #27 Swilly Mowi land base Net Washing 6 July GOPR1318 NOT YET RATED

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🔒 Fanad #25 Swilly Mowi land base visit 6 July 2019 GOPR1316

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🔒 Fanad #26 Swilly Mowi land base private property & disgusting smell 6 July 2019 GOPR1317

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A [DAFM inspection report for Anny Point in November 2018](#) cited an exceedance of the biomass limit in both 2016 and 2017 (more MED Marine Fish Inspection reports [online here](#)).

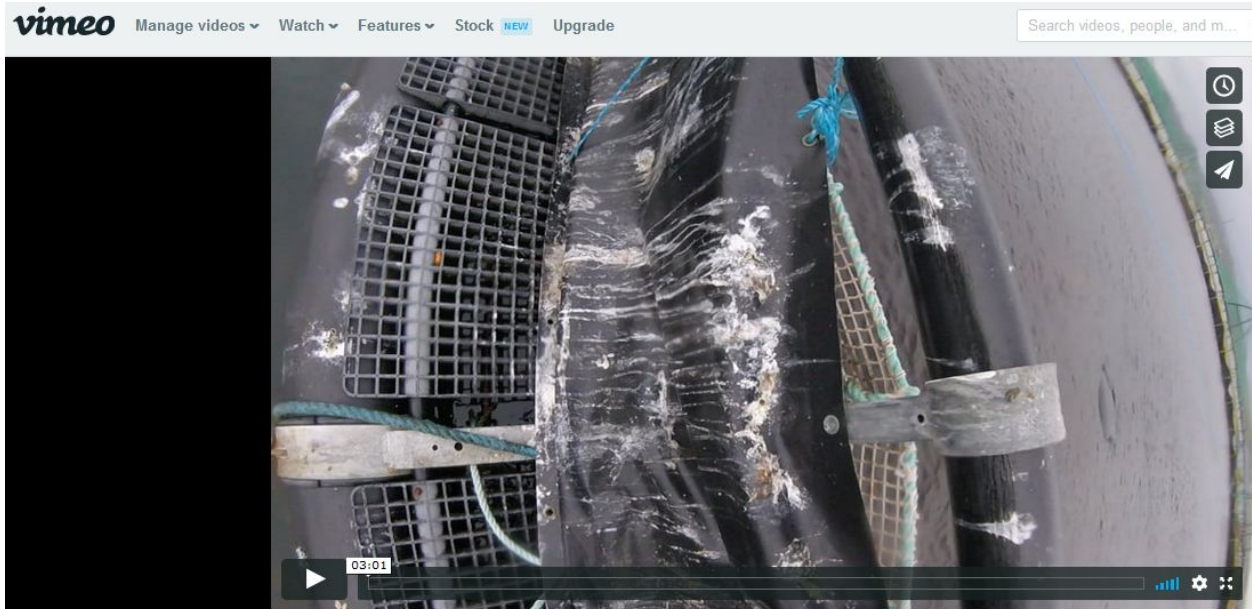
Mulroy Bay - Glinsk (Friday 5 July 2019)

Weather conditions were rainy, windy and overcast - far from ideal for filming. There were nine cars counted at the site during the afternoon but at 6.30pm the site was deserted. The paddle out was short and the site was accessible.



🔒 Fanad #2 Glinsk intro 5 July 2019 GOPR1288

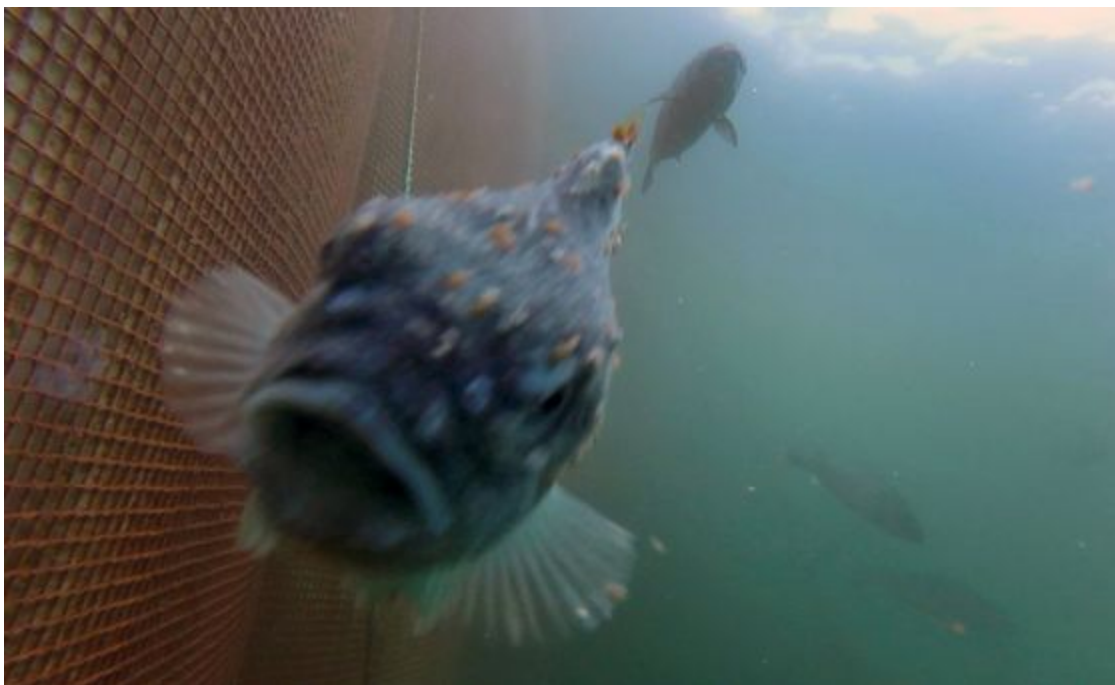
It appeared from surveillance from the road above the site earlier in the day that there was activity taking place - with a chemical treatment or smolt entry judged to be possibilities. Upon arriving at the salmon farm it was suspected that a ['lice skirt'](#) was being added around the cage (the white in the photo appears to have been guano).



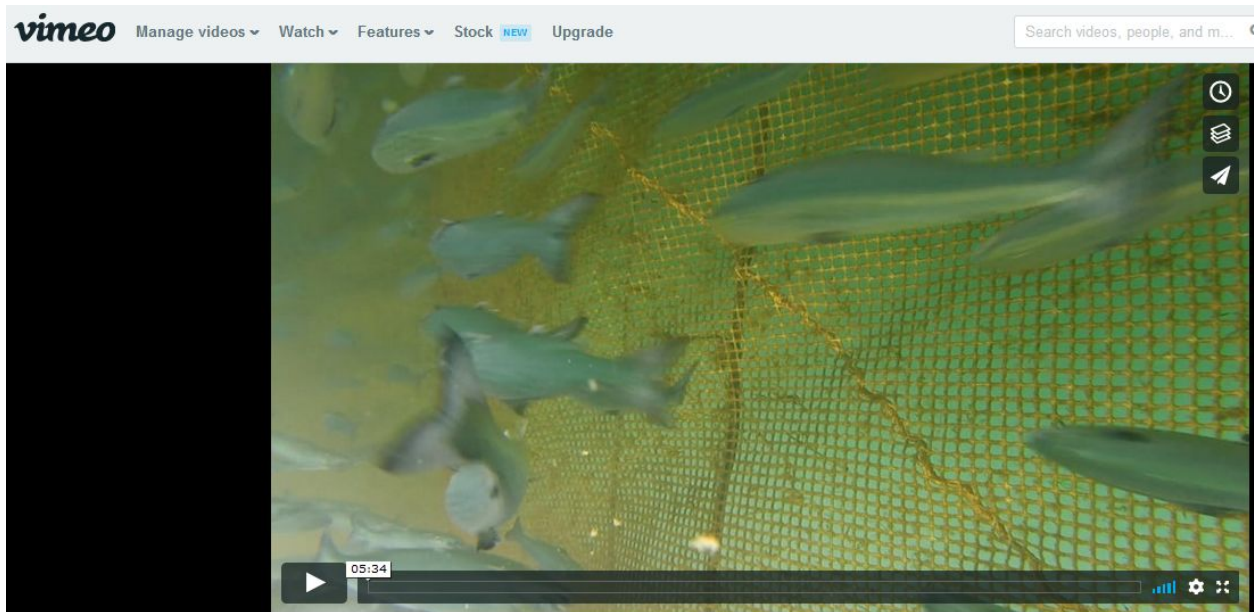
🔒 Fanad #3 Glinsk at cage intro before inside filming 5 July 2019 GOPR1289

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In August 2018, Scottish Salmon Watch filmed lice infestation of cleaner fish (lumpsuckers) and farmed salmon at a farm operated by Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Spelve on the Isle of Mull (read more via [“Dirty Secrets Lurking Under Scottish Salmon's Lice Skirt”](#)).



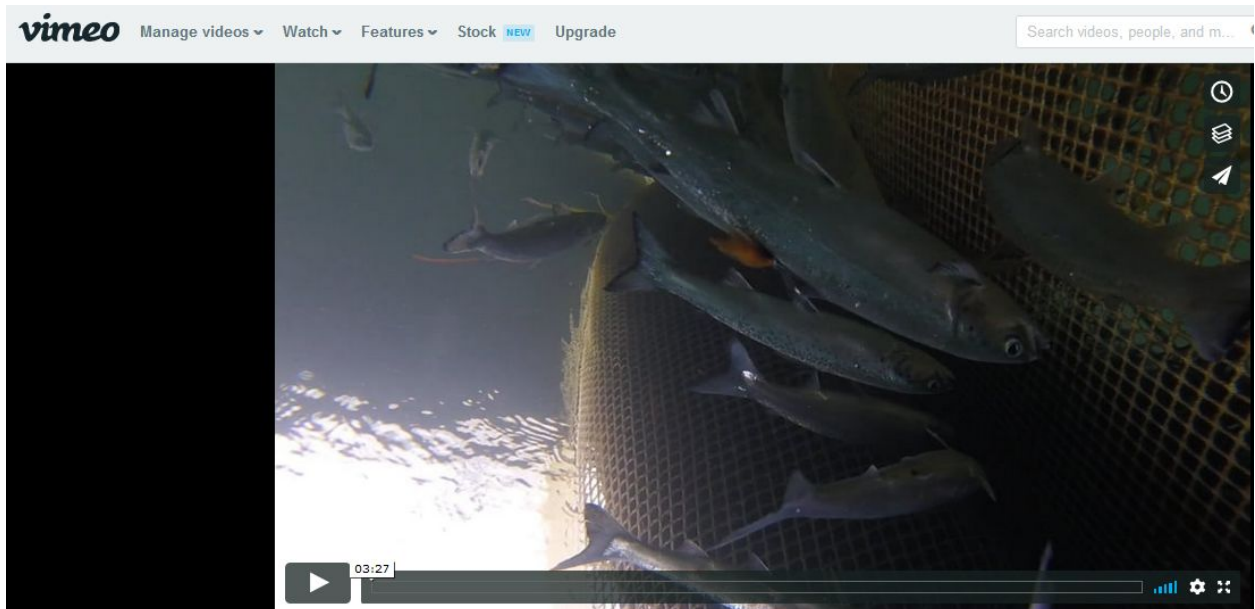
Underwater video footage showed small farmed salmon (it certainly looked like the first year of production).



🔒 Fanad #4 Glink underwater 5 July 2019 GOPR1291

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🔒 Fanad #5 Glink underwater 5 July 2019 GOPR1292

This column is only visible to you

[See all video stats](#)



 Fanad #6 Glinsk underwater 5 July
2019 GOPR1293

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[Note that the underwater video footage appears upside down - editing is required to turn the right way up!]

Here's a video shot after the filming at the Glinsk salmon farm:

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The video player shows a scene with a building and a sign. The sign has the word 'MOWI' on it. The building is yellow and has a blue sign on it. The scene is outdoors, near a body of water, and there are trees in the background. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar showing 02:40, and various control icons like volume, settings, and full screen.

🔒 Fanad #7 Glinsk post filming in front of Mowi sign 5 July 2019 GOPR1294

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And another at Mowi's land-base near the Millstone "organic" salmon farm.



🔒 Fanad #8 Millstone organic 5 July 2019 GOPR1295

Scottish Salmon Watch also visited [Mowi Ireland's head office and processing plant at Rinmore](#) near Fanad Head on 5 & 6 July 2019 - here's video reports including footage of toxic chemicals.



🔒 Fanad #10 Rinmore perimeter electrical fence 5 July 2019 GOPR1298 NOT YET RATED

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🔒 Fanad #11 Rinmore chemicals 5 July 2019 GOPR1299

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🔒 Fanad #12 Rinmore organic mort bins 5 July 2019 GOPR1300

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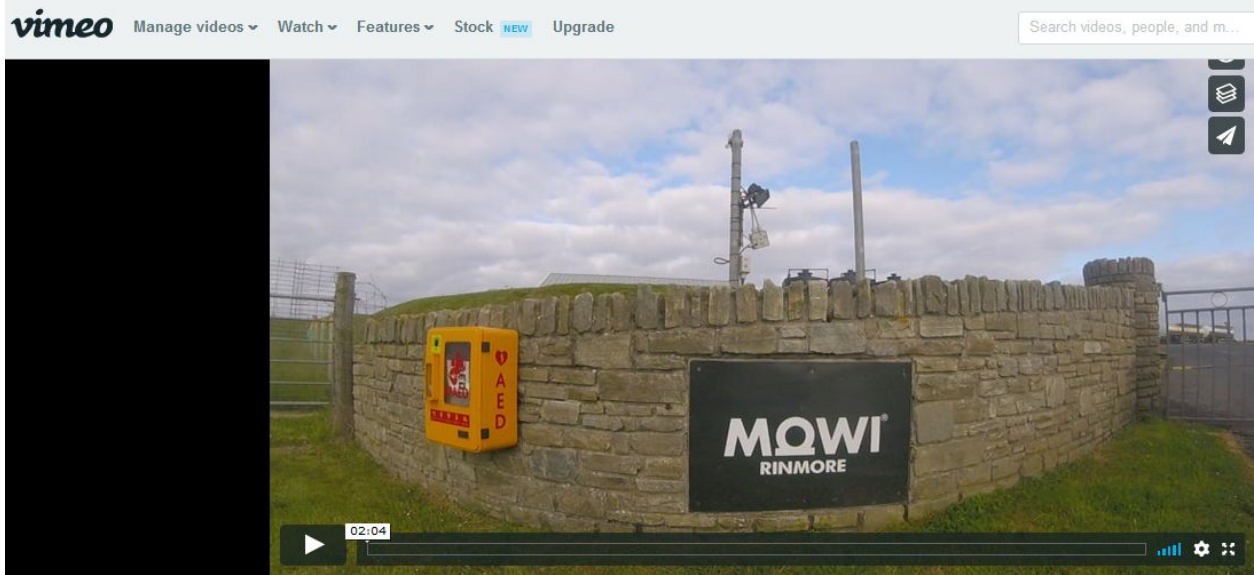
[See all video stats](#)



🔒 Fanad #29 Rinmore entrance 6 July 2019 GOPR1320

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🔒 Fanad #30 Rinmore security gate 6 July 2019 GOPR1321

This column is only visible to you
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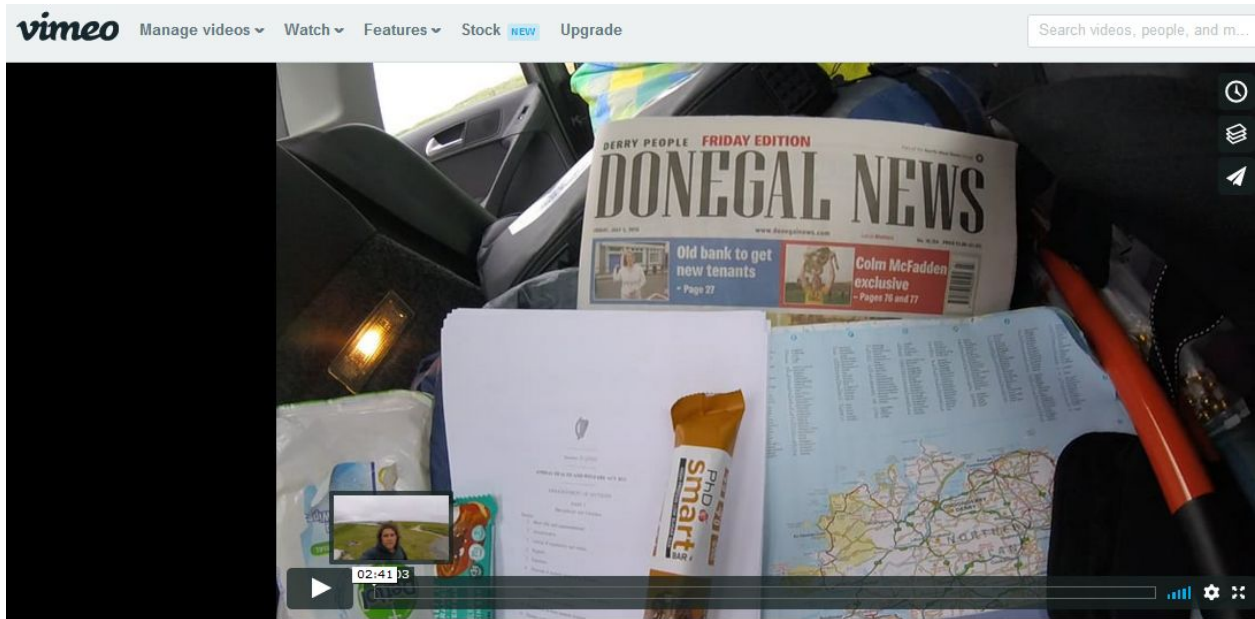
Scottish Salmon Watch also filmed at Mowi Ireland's hatchery and broodstock unit at Kindrum - the [source of imports of eggs to salmon farms in Scotland](#) (including to [The Scottish Salmon Company](#)).



🔒 Fanad #31 Kindrum 6 July 2019 GOPR1322

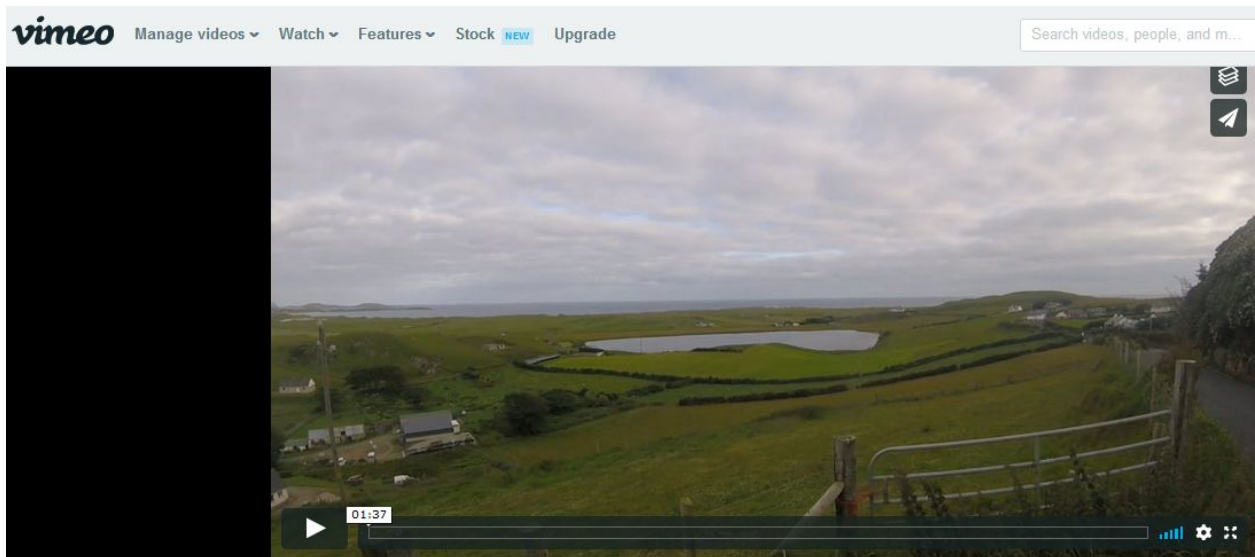
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Further video reports from Don Staniford on location in Ireland are available [online here](#)



🔒 Fanad #1 intro 5 July 2019 GOPR1287

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🔒 Fanad #28 Mowi overview of Rinmore 6 July 2019 GOPR1319

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A bio of Don Staniford is available [online here](#)

