

## Biosecurity Breaches - West Strome



220301 West  
Strome Fish Mortality Part 2



SEA.REF.1 VHWP

Part 3 Marine Proc

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 01 March 2022 16:15

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED),

Please find attached the Fish Mortality Plan for West Strome, reviewed with the site staff following the breach in biosecurity.

I also attach the VHWP Part 2 & 3 document, which contains detail of third party contractors that may be used during event mortality – I have highlighted the relevant sections.

Please let me know if this is satisfactory to cover off the non-conformance.

Warm Regards

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

[shop.scottishsalmon.com](http://shop.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED)@gov.scot <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 March 2022 13:00

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED),

Thanks for keeping me updated. I'll look forward to receiving the information on improvements that have been made to procedures. Please give me a call if you need to discuss.

Cheers

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 01 March 2022 08:59

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED)

I must apologise, this had fallen off my radar slightly. I have just had a catch up with the site guys so have some detail on what has been improved with regards to mortality removal, so I will get that written up today and hopefully sent over to you later this afternoon, or tomorrow.

Warm Regards

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(REDACTED)

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(REDACTED)

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[shop.scottishsalmon.com](http://shop.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED)@gov.scot <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 28 February 2022 09:16

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** FW: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED),

Information in relation to the requirements of the attached warning letter, issued in December 2021, is due today. If you anticipate difficulties in supplying this information please let me know.

Regards

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED)(MARLAB)

**Sent:** 22 December 2021 10:18

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED),

Please see the attached warning letter regarding the breach of biosecurity at West Strome during mortality removal procedures. If you have any queries please let me know.

Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

Mob:(REDACTED)

FAX: +44 (0)131 244 0944

e: [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>



Breach of  
Authorisation Warn

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 15 March 2022 10:42

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED)

Thanks for sending the update through. Please find attached a letter confirming that the breach of authorisation issue detailed in the warning letter of 22 December 2021 has been resolved.

Regards  
(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com)>

**Sent:** 09 March 2022 16:04

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED)

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

We have reviewed our mortality removal SOP (see attached), to include securing of the brailer net to the uplift pipe – with the newer system that have hard pipes at the top, it is possible to secure directly to the pipe, otherwise we advise securing to the handrail to prevent the net popping off during discharge. The highlighted section is largely the reviewed bit.

I've also reattached the Fish Mortality Plan, which now states that an SSC member of staff would supervise the external contractors – i.e. someone trained and competent would go on the vessel for the day and assist with the mort collection task.

Please let me know if there is anything else that needs to be covered.

Thanks

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

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**From:** [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 02 March 2022 15:48

**To:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED)

Thank you for providing the response in relation to the biosecurity of mortality removal at West Strome. The improvements being made in providing upgraded equipment, training for staff and contractors, and efforts to increase the list of approved contractors for mortality removal and disposal are very much appreciated.

One of the issues involved the use of unsecured brail nets which were not always in the appropriate position to collect – it does highlight that there may be some loss of biosecurity was in use. It would be appreciated if the procedure in place for the use of the air LIFTUP system for mortality removal was detailed/clarified or a reference to an SOP was provided. Particularly in relation to the collection and transfer of mortality material to the holding bins and preventing the potential discharge of mortality material without appropriate containment. It may also be helpful to consider and document the supervision that will be in place for contractors who are involved during an event mortality.

I look forward to receiving any further details on the use of the air LIFTUP system to prevent discharge of mortalities, if you have any queries please let me know.

Regards  
(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2022 16:15  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED)

Please find attached the Fish Mortality Plan for West Strome, reviewed with the site staff following the breach in biosecurity.

I also attach the VHWP Part 2 & 3 document, which contains detail of third party contractors that may be used during event mortality – I have highlighted the relevant sections.

Please let me know if this is satisfactory to cover off the non-conformance.

Warm Regards

**(REDACTED)**  
(REDACTED)  
Unit 1, Smithy Lane  
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Tel: (REDACTED)  
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**From:** [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2022 13:00  
**To:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

Hi (REDACTED),

Thanks for keeping me updated. I'll look forward to receiving the information on improvements that have been made to procedures. Please give me a call if you need to discuss.

Cheers  
(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <[\(REDACTED\)@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com)>  
**Sent:** 01 March 2022 08:59

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

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**From:** [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 28 February 2022 09:16

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Regards

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)

**Sent:** 22 December 2021 10:18

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**Subject:** Warning Letter for Breach of Biosecurity during Mortality Removal at West Strome (FS1342)

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Please see the attached warning letter regarding the breach of biosecurity at West Strome during mortality removal procedures. If you have any queries please let me know.

Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

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e: [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>



BIO.WKI.17 Removal and Movement of MStrome Fish Mortalit 220301 West

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

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Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

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w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>



Breach of  
Authorisation Warn

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**Sent:** 22 December 2021 10:17

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e: [\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 09:29

**To:** (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Morning all

Please see below follow up from (REDACTED).

Would the following be suffice? Happy for any advice or suggestions

*“Dear (REDACTED)*

*The FHI are undertaking investigations at The Scottish Salmon Company West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron. A site inspection has been conducted and the case information will be published in due course in line with our publication procedures.*

*Duty Inspector”*

Thanks  
(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)  
Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

e: [MS.fishhealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.fishhealth@gov.scot)  
w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 17 September 2021 08:51  
**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

APHA does not provide details or reply in any material way.

Have FHI visited West Strome salmon farm to inspect the lice-infested fish?

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 8:34 AM <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)> wrote:

Dear (REDACTED)

Thank you for your email requesting an update on the welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company's West of Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron.

I note you have addressed this enquiry to APHA who are responsible for investigating complaints about the welfare of farmed fish in Scotland. It will be for them to respond as appropriate.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

e: [MS.fishhealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.fishhealth@gov.scot)

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 16 September 2021 12:31  
**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>; [APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk); SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <[enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)>; SCD Wildlife Crime <[SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk)>  
**Cc:** Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <[Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot)>; Evans M (Mairi), MSP <[Mairi.Evans.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mairi.Evans.msp@parliament.scot)>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <[Directormarinescotland@gov.scot](mailto:Directormarinescotland@gov.scot)>; Scottish Ministers <[Scottish\\_Ministers@gov.scot](mailto:Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot)>; Burgess A (Ariane), MSP <[Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot)>; Ruskell M (Mark), MSP <[Mark.Ruskell.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mark.Ruskell.msp@parliament.scot)>; Beamish C (Claudia), MSP

<[Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot)>; MSP <[Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot)>; Mountain E (Edward), MSP <[Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot)>; Finnie J (John), MSP <[John.Finnie.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:John.Finnie.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Subject:** Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Do you have an update on any welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company's West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron?

In view of the urgency of the health and welfare situation, Scottish Salmon Watch filed a welfare complaint immediately after filming via:

.....

From: MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

Sent: 16 September 2021 13:45

To: (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; Warwick (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

Cc: (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Hi folks,

Please see the email below, do we need to respond to Don? If so would this suffice:

'Thank you for your enquiry, there is an ongoing investigation at the West Strome fish farm, a report will be issued in due course.'

Any advice welcome.

(REDACTED)

**From:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 11:18

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Hi

Please see further correspondence regarding West Strome.

Would you like me to respond with the same line that it will be published in due course?

Thanks  
(REDACTED)  
(REDACTED)Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)  
S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500  
e: [MS.fishhealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.fishhealth@gov.scot)  
w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 17 September 2021 11:03  
**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Simple question: have you visited West Strome salmon farm since 6 September 2021?

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 10:14 AM <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)> wrote:

Dear (REDACTED)

Information on any surveillance undertaken will be published in due course.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

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**Sent:** 17 September 2021 09:58  
**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Re: Update on welfare inspection at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron?

Have you visited West Strome salmon farm since 6 September?

On Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 9:52 AM <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)> wrote:



Subject: RE: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

I've (REDACTED) to review and follow up with the company.

Thanks

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Marine Scotland | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

Mobile: (REDACTED)

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

From: (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 September 2021 10:52

To: MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED)<(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

I think SSC need to improve their biosecurity during mortality removal.

(REDACTED)

Fish Health Inspectorate Technical Manager

Marine Scotland - Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

e: (REDACTED)@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

From: MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 September 2021 10:33

To: (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)  
(MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED)  
(Neil) (MARLAB) (REDACTED) @gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>;  
(REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

FYI

From: (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>

Sent: 10 September 2021 10:28

To: SCD Wildlife Crime <SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; MS FishHealth  
<MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <enquiries@apha.gov.uk>;  
APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Subject: Re: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

Further to Scottish Salmon Watch's welfare complaint re. Loch Carron, here's video footage of the mort clean up operation in Loch Carron this week:

.....

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)

**Sent:** 10 September 2021 12:22

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <[\(REDACTED\)@gov.scot](mailto:(REDACTED)@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

Hi sorry I'm currently in a remote inspection with Wester Ross but will try to view before meeting with TSSC later.

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)  
**Sent:** 11 October 2021 17:10  
**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi (REDACTED),

Here's the response. We can discuss and provide any further response.

Cheers

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>  
**Sent:** 08 October 2021 10:33  
**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

Apologies for the delay – comment below.

The footage, without commentary, is inconclusive of biosecurity risk. We are glad to see adherence to our diligent procedures to recover mortalities. Fish should not be spilled from the brail net and we are reviewing net construction with our main net supplier to prevent spillage in the future.

We are also looking into de-watering systems which will link directly from the pen mortality removal system onto the boat, delivering mortality directly into the holding container on deck. This negates the need for a crane to be involved in the process.

Warm Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 10:07

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi,

I managed to get it, thanks. I will follow up with comment in due course.

Thanks

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 10:09

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** RE: Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

Sorry about that. I'll have to consult others to find out what the issue is.

Thanks

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 09:31

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

I am not able to open this file/link? I get an error saying its not supported.

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED)@gov.scot <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 01 October 2021 09:29

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Subject:** Biosecurity breach at West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

We have received a link to a video in relation to the breach of biosecurity at West Strome when mortalities were being removed by the LiftUp system. The link is:

(REDACTED)

The stated discharge of mortalities to open water doesn't seem to be too obvious, but the description of the unsecured brail net losing position and a member of staff collecting fish to be placed in the brail can be viewed. If you have any problems in accessing the footage let me know.

TSSC are authorised to operate as an APB at the site registered as West Strome on the basis that the operation will not lead to an unacceptable risk of spreading disease and that the APB will follow good biosecurity practice in the operation of the site.

We would welcome any further comment in relation to this operation, whilst consideration is given to any follow up action.

Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

Mob:(REDACTED)

FAX: (REDACTED)

e:\_(REDACTED)@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>

**Sent:** 04 October 2021 16:33

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: West Strome

Official

Good afternoon (REDACTED)

Seeking confirmation re any further action by SEPA or referral to another organisation. Will advise asap.

Regards,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED), m: (REDACTED), e: (REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk, [web: www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

Official

**From:** (REDACTED)@gov.scot <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 01 October 2021 11:58  
**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

This is very disappointing with regard to the biosecurity of operations at the site and the FHI will contact the company to obtain any further view. We will keep you up to date with any further correspondence.

We will consider this issue from a fish health perspective in relation to the authorisation granted to the company to operate under regulation 6 of the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

Will Sepa be considering any further action in relation to the appropriate disposal of animal by-products? Or does this fall to the local authority?

Regards

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 September 2021 16:56  
**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: West Strome

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

(REDACTED)

SEPA has been provided with a 3<sup>rd</sup> video regarding the West Strome fish farm site: (REDACTED) (a strange looking link but it is correct). The complainant advised “*Yes, This is the vid of salmon going directly in to the sea at strome lochcarron, cheers*”. The video appears to start a short time after their

stated observation and does not show an occurrence of overpumping salmon into the sea, but does indicate a worker moving a salmon from the sea and placing it into the net.

Any access issues or questions, let me or Stuart know,

Regards,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED), m: (REDACTED), e: (REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk, [web: www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

**From:** (REDACTED) (REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 15:47

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: West Strome

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

Hi (REDACTED)

I've tried to get more information directly from the complainant but not yet received any response.

SEPA hasn't been provided with any footage that shows this happening.

If I get any more then I'll get back to you.

(REDACTED)

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

**From:** (REDACTED)@gov.scot <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 September 2021 15:23

**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: West Strome

Hi (REDACTED)

I've queried the company and the (REDACTED) has discussed with staff and external contractors. They have stated that they are unaware of any fish being

discharged directly to open water from the Uplift mortality removal system. The morts were being removed by discharging from the Uplift into the brail net attached to the hydraulics of the workboat. The only breach of mortality containment that staff have acknowledged is that observed falling from the brail net during the lift.

The company have expressed concern at the allegation and would welcome any footage which shows that this occurred. They have also asked that if there is more evidence could this be used to identify the orientation of the pen involved to help them in any sea bed survey or follow up actions as this clearly is not acceptable. Has this footage been made available by the complainant?

Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

Mob:(REDACTED)

FAX: +44 (0)131 244 0944

e:\_(REDACTED)@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@sepa.org.uk>

**Sent:** 14 September 2021 10:47

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** West Strome

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

Hi (REDACTED)

further to our discussion this is the text that came into us regarding the mortality incident at West Strome:

*I returned on my own on the 8th of September 2021 and all the salmon were gone from some of the cages. They were busy with a lice boat, a well boat and a mort boat, in my view to cover up the hellish state this farm was in. I have film of salmon falling from the crane net lift where they were pumping out many tons of salmon from the cages. The air lift pipe at one stage was pumping fish directly in to the sea although workers were fast to try and minimise how many morts went to the sea bed especially as I was filming it. This is not acceptable.*

Regards

(REDACTED)

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)  
**Sent:** 14 September 2021 17:56  
**To:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>  
**Subject:** RE: week 35 lice & mortality data

Hi (REDACTED)

Thanks for the info. We have recently been informed that there may have also been an issue with the lift-up system at the west strome site. Where fish were discharged from the lift up mortality removal system without having a collection vessel in place. This is alleged to have occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> September with fish being discharged to open water before site staff attempted to gather the fish.

If you could please check if there has been an issue and provide any information that would be very much appreciated. If there is any ROV footage of the seabed around the cages that would also be helpful in either refuting the allegation or to help TSSC ascertain if remedial work or improvements to equipment and training are required, that would also be helpful.

Regards

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

Mob:(REDACTED)

FAX: +44 (0)131 244 0944

e:\_(REDACTED)@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 13 September 2021 13:52

**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>; (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** week 35 lice & mortality data

Hi DI,

Please find week 35 lice & mortality data.

(REDACTED) – thanks for your time on Friday. Please see a brief statement below regarding the mortality removal at West Strome last week. I have been in touch with the (REDACTED) this morning, and mortality seems to have reduced mostly. Cages 10 & 11 are still elevated, and we may take these out through harvest.

“On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, the West Strome site (FS1342) was utilising the support vessel (MV Naomi Jennifer) to assist in mortality removal. The boat crane was being operated to lift a brailer net from the cage side to lidded bins on the deck of the boat, which is an additional method of mortality removal, where ‘event mortality’ (mortality above site capacity to remove manually) is being experienced. During this procedure, the crane operator swung the brailer net over the front end of the Naomi Jennifer, subsequently catching the base of the brailer net on the metal work of the boat. This resulted in the brailer net discharging a single fish into the sea. The mortality immediately sunk,

and so was not able to be recovered. As the brailer net was swung in closer to the boat, more fish carcasses are observed falling from the net, however these fish were dropped on to the deck of the boat, and were recovered and disposed of into the containers onboard. All equipment was checked prior to its use, and found to be in good condition. As soon as the mortality was properly disposed of, the torn net was repaired.

To avoid a similar situation from occurring in the future, procedures for mortality removal have been reviewed - all equipment to be used for these purposes, particularly equipment that is not used routinely, must be checked prior to commencing for any signs of damage and actions taken to repair must be recorded. In advance of lifting heavy loads, the surrounding area should be assessed for any potential snag areas that should be avoided.”

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Thanks

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@scottishsalmon.com>

**Sent:** 15 September 2021 08:53

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** West strome mortality

Hi (REDACTED), tried to give you a call regarding the allegation of mortalities being spilt into the sea. Could you give me a ring when you get this? I am out on site till this afternoon.

Thanks

(REDACTED)

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

(REDACTED)

Unit 1, Smithy Lane

Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA

Tel: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**From:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB)

**Sent:** 10 September 2021 17:37

**To:** (REDACTED)@SEPA.org.uk

**Subject:** West Strome Links

Hi (REDACTED)

(REDACTED) has asked me to send you the links for the footage provided by (REDACTED) in relation to the mortality issue at West Strome. There are multiple links in the attached email but those sent on the 10<sup>th</sup> contain the issue with regards to animal by-product removal/disposal.

I spoke with the company today regarding this breach of biosecurity from our fish health perspective. The company informed me that they lost one mortality in the sea whilst the others landed on the boat (recovered) and the brail net was subsequently repaired. I have requested a written statement as to the situation and the improvements that were put in place, including a timeframe.

We have been experiencing problems with some links in these emails not being accessible unless the viewer registers on the Vimeo website. Hopefully the links will work for yourself. If you require any further info let me know.

Regards

(REDACTED)

**(REDACTED)**

Technical Manager - Fish Health Inspectorate

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375, Victoria Road | Aberdeen AB11 9DB

Tel: (REDACTED)

S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

Mob:(REDACTED)

FAX: +44 (0)131 244 0944

e:\_(REDACTED)@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

**From:** (REDACTED) <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 10 September 2021 10:28

**To:** SCD Wildlife Crime <SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk>; MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <enquiries@apha.gov.uk>; APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk

**Subject:** Re: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

Further to Scottish Salmon Watch's welfare complaint re. Loch Carron, here's video footage of the mort clean up operation in Loch Carron this week:

<https://vimeo.com/601256103/47d3ecd79b>

<https://vimeo.com/601301302/d81e443abd>

Local sources report intense boat activity as The Scottish Salmon Company are clearing out morts - the work boats are operating well into the evening:



Have inspectors visited the crime scene yet or are you going to wait until all the diseased dead bodies are buried?

Best fishes,

(REDACTED)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **(REDACTED)** <(REDACTED)@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 9:22 AM

Subject: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

To: SCD Wildlife Crime <SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk>, <MS.fishhealth@gov.scot>, SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <enquiries@apha.gov.uk>, <APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk>

Please consider this a formal complaint for breaches of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) (Section 19: [Unnecessary Suffering](#); and Section 24: [Ensuring Welfare of Animals](#)) by The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Carron yesterday (6 September 2021).

The video evidence - compiled here as photographic snapshots - speaks for itself and is damning, disturbing and shocking in equal measure: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/photos-at-the-scottish-salmon-company-strome-salmon-farm-in-loch-carron-on-6-sept-2021.pdf>

Scottish Salmon Watch filmed inside the Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (there are two salmon farms: the one at Strome is fallow and the one at West Strome is the one in question here) from 6.30am to 8am - I am still having trouble accessing the Scotland's Aquaculture web-site as I am still in the field so I cannot give a grid reference but it comes up as:

<http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk> > site\_details\_record ▾

### This website uses cookies - Scotland's Aquaculture | Site Details

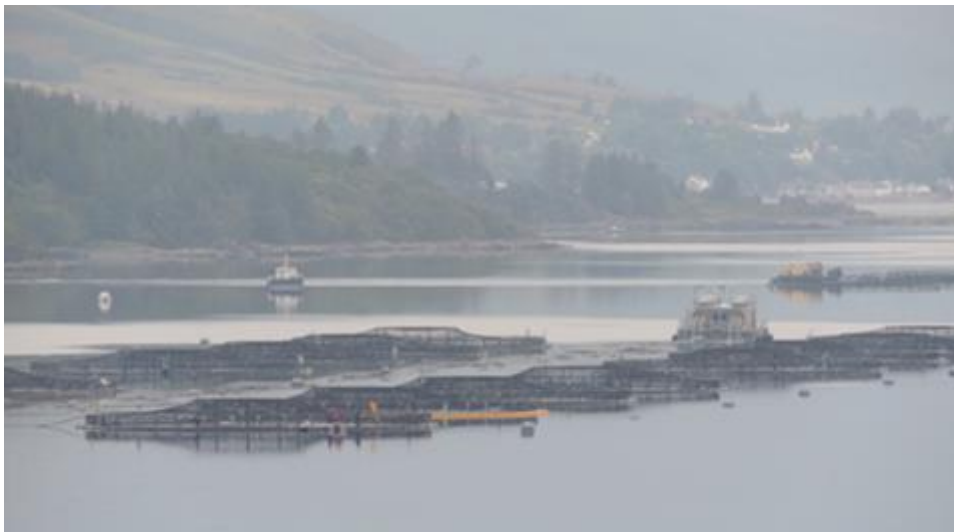
Site Name, **Strome**. Address, Dunosdale Lochcarron ... Operator, The **Scottish Salmon Company** ... Production reported to Marine Scotland within last 3 years?

<http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk> > data > fish\_farms\_... ▾

### Fish Farms Monthly Biomass & Treatment - Scotland's ...

December, 2020, WSTR1, **West Strome**, CAR/L/1100544/V4, The **Scottish Salmon Company** Ltd, 0, More. November, 2020, WSTR1, **West Strome**, CAR/L/1100544/V4 ...

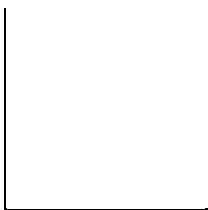
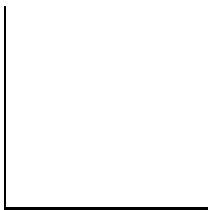
In this photo (shot from Stromeferry) the cage we filmed at is the first one on the outside of Loch Carron - i.e. the furthest West and on the South side of the two rows of cages. It has a yellow marker - X marks the spot:

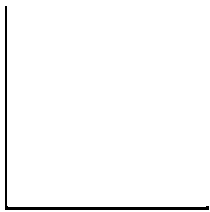
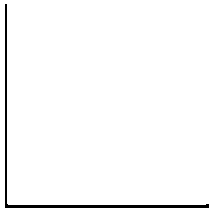
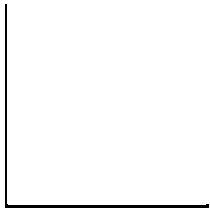
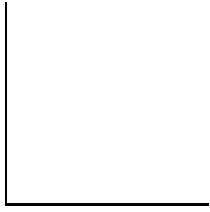
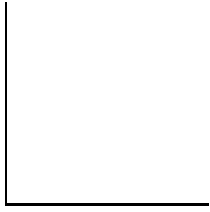
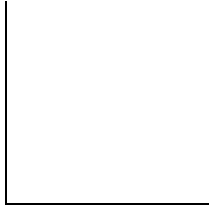
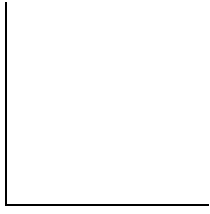


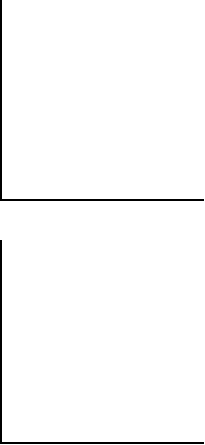
We launched at 6.15am at first light yesterday (6 September 2021) from North Strome pier - just below Strome Castle and where there used to be a ferry service to Stromeferry - but launching in Stromeferry would be easier for any inspection visit:



After conducting the [Scottish Government and industry-advised biosecurity and disinfectant protocols](#), the Go Pro filming inside the cages revealed shocking video evidence of welfare abuse. Note that at the start of filming ca. 6.30am it was somewhat cloudy and the visibility was poor but we could still see white lesions and clear welfare problems - we stayed filming for ca. 90 minutes until ca. 8am when the Norwegian-registered Ronjafisk well boat came into the loch (local complaints have meant that big boats cannot operate due to noise pollution until 8am). As the early morning progressed the light lifted and some of the footage shot nearer 8am than 7am is more illuminating than other footage - but it all shows endemic and systemic welfare abuse at a population level in the whole cage (and remember that we're only filming in the top 1 metre of the cage - I would encourage filming inside the cages at greater depths). Here's some of the photos (download in full [online here](#)):







A PDF file of all the photos (apologies for the quality but I am still on fieldwork and dealing without high tech video editing and photo software) has been uploaded and is available [online here](#)

Video footage should be available soon and I will email later this week. Filming with a Go Pro camera on a telescopic pole or with an underwater drone or with a diver inside the cages is advised to ground-truth the video footage shot by Scottish Salmon Watch. We only filmed in one cage but suspect welfare abuse across the site. It seems - from the well boat traffic - that the West Strome salmon farm may have received farmed salmon from other sites. Scottish Salmon Watch suspects that The Scottish Salmon Company is using Loch Carron as a triage unit - a hospital for sick salmon.

Certainly, judging by the video footage, the Loch Carron salmon farm is a welfare nightmare with heaven knows what infectious diseases, pathogens, viruses and bacteria. Testing of farmed salmon inside the cages and post mortem testing of fresh mortalities at the bottom of the cages is recommended to gauge the level of viral and disease problems.

ADDs - the OTAQ seal fence - was observed on the cage we filmed at and the red light was on but we heard no obvious ADD sound underwater. When questioned ca. 8.30am before we left the farm, one of the salmon farm workers claimed they had an EPS licence to use ADDs but it had not been triggered in over 100 days and seal predation was not a problem.

Please provide a receipt for this welfare complaint. I would urge a visit ASAP - certainly this week as it seems that the workers on site are busy burying the dead bodies. Locals have complained about the stench coming from the Strome land-base and increased activity - commensurate with a mass mortality and disease outbreak - has been reported in recent weeks.

When I was told not to film by the Scottish Salmon Company yesterday (a manager came out in a work boat and followed me in my kayak) ca. 8.30am I told the workers that Scottish Salmon Watch would be filing a welfare complaint. The farmed salmon at the West Strome salmon farm operated

by The Scottish Salmon Company are clearly suffering - this is cruelty and welfare abuse at its very worst. This is population welfare abuse - not just a few fish but every fish we could see was a 'whitehead' or 'meathead' and infested with lice as well as displaying clear welfare problems such as 'death crowns', lesions, open sores, mouth rot, fin damage and tail damage.

Thanks,

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

**From:** Allan C (Charles) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 September 2021 10:43

**To:** (REDACTED) (MARLAB) <(REDACTED)@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Welfare Complaint Vs West Strome salmon farm in Loch Carron (The Scottish Salmon Company)

(REDACTED)

This footage is worth reviewing, regarding security of the mort recovery operation – it does highlight that there may be some loss of biosecurity – could you arrange for the arrangements to be checked with the company?

I had a long conversation with the (REDACTED) last night, the loss has been significant, both from primary impact and subsequent controlled removal of additional stocks.

Happy to discuss.

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

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