



West Strome, Lochcarron: 22Q3 Site Specific Fish Mortality Plan

Reviewed: 9.03.2022 (REDACTED)

Background Mortalities

All moribund and mortality fish are removed from pens daily where it is safe to do so, but weekly as a minimum, by the use of an air LIFTUP system. All mortality material is carefully transferred to lidded holding bins and transferred to the site shorebase. Whole carcasses are collected into sealed skips and routinely removed by Billy Bowie, a third party contractor. In normal circumstances, mortalities are usually transported to Dundas Biogas for further processing, however the destination of the waste is determined by the removal contractor. A list of other processing sites can be found in the VHWP Part 2 & 3.

Event Mortality

Where event mortality occurs, which is usually defined as greater than 100T per week, or a volume which is above the capacity of the site deal remove or store, additional steps will be taken.

The West Strome site has purchased and has in store several new brail nets specifically for the task of increased mortality removal. These brailers are made with stronger nylon and have stainless steel rings, designed to take additional weight. If event mortality occurs these would be used across the farm, and then disposed of at the end of the event and replaced, to minimise the risk of used equipment malfunctioning when needed.

When brail nets are used for mortality collection, the nets will be secure either to the hard pipe at the top of the uplift system, or the handrail to prevent slippage when lifting morts. Brail nets will not be filled to more than the capacity of the collection bins.

Further equipment is being explored, including the same brail nets with gun/cod-end attachment for easier discharge of mortalities into bins. In order to make brail nets stronger, the netting used will be off-cuts off Seal Pro cage nets.

Due to a breach in biosecurity during the event mortality in the 20S0 cycle, training has been delivered to site staff on appropriate mortality removal, via a Toolbox Talk, which has been signed off and will be registered in staff training records. Specifically this includes the avoidance of swinging full brail nets over open water, rather keeping the net over the cage until ready for discharge, thereby minimising the risk of mortalities being released outside of the cage area. Any external contractors that will assist in mortality removal at the site will be required to read and understand this Toolbox Talk before beginning mortality removal operations at the farm. An SSC member of staff will supervise the operations undertaken by



external parties – this member of staff will be trained and competent in mortality removal operations.

The West Strome site will increase the number of mortality bins available, not only for West Strome, but for nearby Torridon and Portree, ensuring that bin capacity is not a limiting factor in removing morts swiftly. These will be stored in the West Strome shorebase.

Third party contractors will be hired in to assist with the removal/disposal/processing of event mortality – see list in the VHWP Part 2 & 3. SSC is in the process of contracting ScanBio (Inverness) into the list of third party contractors, as a disposal site and/or skip supplier located nearby to the area.

SSC has additional mortality storage and processing capacity in the Bakkaness vessel, which removes via Uplift into tanks for maceration and ensiling. The vessel has a 900T tank capacity for the storage of ensiled waste.

Finally, SSC will continue to explore novel mortality removal techniques, including the dewatering of mortalities directly into bins or skips, where the appropriate supporting vessel is available to enable this procedure.

References

BIO.WKI.17 Removal & Movement of Fish Mortalities