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THE SUNDAY TIMES

SCOTLAND

Salmon industry toxins soar by 1,000%

Mark Macaskill

THE use of toxic chemicals to fight sea lice on Scottish salmon farms has soared by almost 1,000% in the past decade, according to official data that has sparked fresh criticism of the billion-pound industry.

From 2006 to 2016, farmed salmon production increased by 35% while the use of chemicals to control flesh-eating lice rose 932%.

They included compounds that have been linked to reduced fertility in wild salmon and mortality in shellfish such as lobsters.

Critics of salmon farming said this weekend that the growing use of chemicals to fight sea lice, a parasite that kills millions of farmed fish every year, raises serious questions about the industry's environmental impact.

It has rekindled calls for some of Britain's leading supermarkets to ban the sale of farmed salmon from parts of Scotland where "rampant" sea lice infestations pose a threat to the survival of wild salmon and sea trout.

"Scottish salmon farming is fighting a losing battle against chemically resistant sea lice," said Don Staniford of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture. "The drugs don't work any more. Sadly, Scotland's lobsters and other shellfish are collateral damage in the salmon farming industry's war on sea lice."

Analysis of data held by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa), show that Scottish salmon farms used 45kg of

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Rebecca Richardson, left, and Jade Quayle, both 25, welcome in the new year in Edinburgh last night. Armed police were on patrol at celebrations in cities across Europe amid fears of a terrorist attack **Report, pages 2-3**

Isis plotting chemical attack on UK

Watch for the enemy within, says minister

Tim Shipman
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE terrorist group Isis is plotting to carry out "mass casualty" chemical weapons attacks against Britain, the minister responsible for national security has warned.

Ben Wallace said Isis had used chemical weapons in Syria and Iraq and intelligence chiefs believe it has an "aspiration" to use them on home soil. In an interview with The Sunday Times, Wallace said security chiefs had recently carried out exercises to deal with what he called the country's "worst fear".

Speaking after the US imposed sanctions on Russia for seeking to influence the presidential election result, Wallace warned that terrorist groups, Russian agents and cyber-criminals had all launched a concerted campaign to recruit "traitors" in government, the military and leading businesses.

"There are traitors. We have to be on our guard for the enemy within," Wallace said.

"The insider threat, as we would call it, is real and it can be exploited and there are people trying to do that as we speak. If it's hard to get in the front door, then what you try and do is get someone on the inside."

Wallace revealed his concerns as he urged the public to report suspi-

cious behaviour to help identify "the enemy within", including jihadists, foreign agents and colleagues corrupted by organised crime gangs.

In the interview Wallace also said: ■ A resurgent al-Qaeda is once again regarded as a threat that the intelligence services take "incredibly seriously" ■ Our "greatest vulnerability" is to cyber-attacks, and the range and frequency of attacks by Britain's enemies is "quite breathtaking" ■ Big companies and banks are not taking the threat seriously enough.

The risk of an Isis chemical attack in Britain was noted last month by a Europol report, but this is the first time a minister has highlighted the threat. The alert comes as it emerged that as many as 200 jihadists may have returned to Britain with terrorist intentions.

While no specific chemical plot has been identified, Wallace said: "The ambition of IS [Islamic State] or Daesh is definitely mass-casualty attacks. They want to harm as many people as possible and terrorise as many people as possible."

"They have no moral objection to using chemical weapons against populations, and if they could, they would in this country. The casualty figures that could be involved would be everybody's worst fear."

"We have certainly seen reports of them using it in Syria and Iraq [and] we have certainly seen aspirations for it in Europe."

Wallace said the security services and the police carried out exercises to deal with terrorist attacks by lone wolves and marauding gunmen as well as mass-casualty attacks. He oversaw one exercise by the fire service in northwest England to deal with chemical decontamination after an attack.

Other major exercises included a simulated attack on Canary Wharf in east London – part of Operation Strong Tower – on a conference venue in Birmingham and on the Trafford Centre shopping arcade in Manchester.

As proof of Isis's chemical attack ambitions, Wallace pointed to the arrest in February of an Isis cell in Morocco: "Moroccan authorities dismantled a cell involving chemical weapons. They recovered toxic chemical and biological substances and a large stock of fertiliser. The substances found could have been used to produce homemade explosives and could have been transformed into a deadly toxin."

Security sources have told The Sunday Times that Isis has used sulphur mustard gas in Syria. British intelligence believes the group is able to produce the gas itself and has experimented with biological

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Corbyn salute for strike chief

Mark Hookham and James Lyons

JEREMY CORBYN led a standing ovation to a hard-left union boss who is leading rail strikes that are bringing misery to millions, a leaked video revealed this weekend.

The Labour leader urged activists to "stand together in honour" of Toshi McDonald, the president of Aslef, the train drivers' union, during a party for his supporters, known as "Corbynistas".

The Christmas party was held on

December 21 – just days after a series of strikes by Aslef that shut down the entire Southern rail network and caused commuter misery across East and West Sussex and Surrey.

Aslef, along with the RMT union, is planning another six-day drivers' strike starting on January 9, which will cause even more chaos, leaving stations and platforms deserted for an entire working week.

Corbyn's support for McDonald, who has his own name tattooed on his knuckles and has described the

Labour leader as "the Messiah", is likely to infuriate passengers.

Commuters have endured nine months of disruption during a dispute between rail unions and Govia Thameslink Railway, which runs Southern.

The incident at Conway Hall in central London demonstrates the close links between the Labour leadership and Aslef, which has given more than £165,000 to the party since January 2015, including £20,000 to Corbyn's two leadership campaigns.

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FOREIGN AID BOSSES NET PAYOUTS OF UP TO £11M EACH

Investigation, page 15

Our Christmas appeal tops £1m

Hazel Shearing

DONATIONS to The Sunday Times Christmas Appeal for children trapped in war zones have passed £1m after a £100,000 contribution by the comedian Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher, his actress wife.

Readers have generously given more than £560,000 in individual donations to this year's appeal, which supports Save the Children's work in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Their contributions have been boosted by substantial corporate donations.

The money given by Baron Cohen, 45, and Fisher, 40, will help to fund a maternity hospital and seven health clinics in an area of Syria that has provided a much-needed refuge to thousands of families who have fled the relentless bombardment of the northern city of Aleppo by government forces.

Readers can still contribute to the appeal. As little as £5 will buy a winter coat to protect a Syrian child from the country's bitter winter.

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