

Video Evidence of Feed Pollution into Kinglas Water (Loch Fyne) on 6 August 2023 – effluent from Cooke Aquaculture’s Cairndow Hatchery or Bakkafrost’s processing plant?

Don Staniford of \$camon \$cotland and the Real Salmon Farming Resistance filmed at Cairndow on Loch Fyne on Sunday 6 August 2023 – video evidence of feed pollution via an effluent pipe spewing discharges into Kinglas Water was filmed near Cooke Aquaculture’s Cairndow Hatchery and Bakkafrost’s Cairndow processing plant on the Ardkinglas Estate:



The video footage shot on Sunday 6 August 2023 details above clearly shows feed pellets – and potentially viruses, pathogens, bacteria, infectious diseases and other pollutants – coming out of the effluent pipe and settling on the riverbed of Kinglas Water and then into Loch Fyne:



Such is the volume of feed pellets that you can pick up the squishy gunk with your hand:



Video footage was shot of Cooke Aquaculture's Cairndow Hatchery which is understood to be the source of the effluent pollution into Kinglas Water which flows into Loch Fyne:



The video includes a man in a green hoodie following and filming our visit:



Video footage was shot upstream of the effluent pipe into Kinglas Water:



Video footage was shot near Bakkafrost's Cairndow processing plant - where the man in a green hoodie (who claimed he did not work for Bakkafrost) started filming:



The man in the green hoodie followed on foot and in a black Audi car:



For locational purposes here is video footage showing the public entrance to the Ardkinglas Estate, the start of the Gruffalo woodland trail and the black Audi car:



Background:

Cooke Aquaculture's Cairndow Hatchery was [inspected by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate in December 2021](#):

Case No:	2021-0554	Date of visit:	02/12/2021
Time spent on site:	2.5 hours	Main Inspector:	
Site No:	FS0323	Site Name:	Cairndow Hatchery
Business No:	FB0235	Business Name:	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd

Additional Case Information:

Eggs going into 18 tanks today. Eggs arrived from Iceland last night and being laid down today.

Morts ensiled - waste removed by Hazco to either Energen Biogas or Scottish Water Deerdykes anaerobic digestion plants.

Import of eggs from Iceland - certificate checked - ICE GJ 36/21 - dated 26/11/2021 - arrived 01/12/2021.

Also checked ICE GJ 09/21, ICE GJ 02/21 (departed 12/01/21 signed on 07/01), ICE GJ 34/20, ICE GJ 14/20.

All original certificates available on site.

Increased mortality in one tank in March 2021 due to water issues - 4.89% of the batch (roughly half a tank) but site percentage for week below reporting threshold (2.45%). A couple of other slight peaks in mortality due to failed hatch.

Aquacen and Cress used - no withdrawal recorded- both should be 500 degree days. Issue raised but no further action required as template updated during visit. All other required information recorded in treatment record.

Site thermometer used due to biosecurity measures on site.

A [letter from the Scottish Government to Cooke Aquaculture dated 7 December 2021](#) detailed inadequately maintained medicine records:



Scottish Government
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FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS NO	FB0235	DATE OF VISIT	02/12/2021
SITE NO	FS0323	SITE NAME	Cairndow Hatchery
CASE NO	20210554	INSPECTOR	

Inspection under the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009

The above site was inspected in accordance with the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

Inspection under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015

Medicine records were inspected and found to be inadequately maintained.

The following point was raised with the site representative during the inspection:

A [letter from the Scottish Government to Cooke Aquaculture dated 7 December 2021](#) detailed a shipment of 1.8 million Atlantic salmon ova (eggs) from Iceland:



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS NO	FB0235	DATE OF VISIT	02/12/2021
SITE NO	FS0323	SITE NAME	Cairndow Hatchery
CASE NO	20210554	INSPECTOR	[REDACTED]

Inspection of a consignment imported into Scotland

An inspection was conducted on a consignment of 1.8 million Atlantic salmon ova imported into Scotland from Iceland.

The accompanying health certificate met the requirements of the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009 and the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Please contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any further information or have any queries regarding this report.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspector

Date: 07/12/2021

In December 2018, the Seattle Times [reported on Piscine Reovirus in Cooke Aquaculture's farmed salmon sourced from a hatchery in Iceland.](#)

In November 2022, \$camon \$cotland [reported that PRV/HSMI had been reported at 37 salmon farms across Scotland since November 2017](#) including Bakkafrost salmon farms at Ardcastle and Tarbert South in Loch Fyne.

Cooke Aquaculture's Cairndow Hatchery was [inspected by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate in January 2020:](#)

Case No:	2020-0007	Date of visit:	22/01/2020
Time spent on site:	2 hours	Main Inspector:	[REDACTED]
Site No:	FS0323	Site Name:	Cairndow Hatchery
Business No:	FB0235	Business Name:	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd

Additional Case Information:

Fish on site will be 2020 S0 -Put to sea in October. They will be held onsite until about 10-15g then transferred to Loch Garasdale and Furnace,

Current stock imported as ova from Stofnfiskur.

Mortalities are ensiled on site and collected by Hasco about once a year. Transported by tanker to Energen biogas plant, Deerdykes

wk 13/1/20 Issue with spate and matting caused mortality increase due to suffocation in C section; 16,000 morts on Sat 18/1/20 and 65,591 on Friday 17/1/20. Morts now back to normal.

Last cycle some fish held until S1. Not planning to do that this year due to water shortage in the summer.

High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section. - 27/5/19 approx. 70.000 lost at 0.25g in C section. 10/6/19 peak; about 153356 morts for C section in week. Wt 0.4g

Site thermometers used for biosecurity reasons.

Mortality Records

1. Mortality records available for inspection? Y

2. How are mortalities disposed of? Ensiled - on site

If other detail: _____

3. Mortality records complete and correctly entered? Y

4. Recent mortality (last 4 wks): B section 932800 fish morts 34949 in cycle so far; C section 1438499 fish 92315 morts this cycle. Both batches hatched in Dec - figures included non hatch

5. Evidence of recent increased/atypical mortalities? Y

If yes, facility nos/no mortality per facility/no stock per facility/reason: see additional info

6. Any other peaks in mortality during period checked? Y

If yes, detail: Spring 2019 -see additional info.

7. Have increased (unexplained) mortalities been reported to vet or FHI? N/A

If yes, detail action: _____

8. Have 'mortality events' been reported to FHI? If no, add MRT case and enter on mortality events sheet. N

Case No: Site No: Date of visit:

Start date:	End date: (if applicable)	Size of fish:	Average weight of affected population:	Species:	Yearclass:	Timescale	Mortality rate recorded(%):	Explained/unexplained:	If explained, select reason(s):
13/01/20	19/02/2020	1st feed to 5g	0.3g	SAL		Weekly	4.24	Explained	O2 problems
10/06/19	16/06/2019	1st feed to 5g	0.4g	SAL		Weekly	5.20	Explained	Water quality and fungus
17/06/19	23/06/2019	1st feed to 5g	0.4g	SAL		Weekly	5.30	Explained	Water quality and fungus
24/06/19	30/06/2019	1st feed to 5g	0.4g	SAL		Weekly	3.90	Explained	Water quality and fungus

Total mortality during event (if available):	Additional information (e.g. action taken by company):	Action taken by FHI (include case no where applicable):
99369	Suffocation on the screen due to spate conditions on Thursday night 16th Jan. Mortality on the 17th and 18th January. 2345868 fish on site at time. Mortality for the site was 1.06% the week before and 0.4% the week after.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
	High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
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	High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.

A [letter from the Scottish Government to Cooke Aquaculture dated 12 February 2020](#) included:



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██████████
Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd
c/o Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd
Crowness Road, Hatston Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1RG
████████████████████

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS NO	FB0235	DATE OF VISIT	22/01/2020
SITE NO	FS0323	SITE NAME	Cairndow Hatchery
INSPECTOR	██████████	CASE NO	20200007

Inspection under the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009

Mortality levels had exceeded the reporting criteria since the last inspection and had not been reported to the Fish Health Inspectorate. I would like to remind you of the industry agreement in relation to mortality reporting as detailed in A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.

Mortality data [published by the Scottish Government’s Fish Health Inspectorate on 3 July 2023](#) details 11 ‘Mortality Event Reports’ involving 1.2 million fish at Cooke Aquaculture’s Cairndow Hatchery – including 90,352 morts in June 2022 due to viral disease (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) and deaths due to fungus:

Mortality Event No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Mortality rate (%)	Explained reasons	Mort #s	Observations	Additional information
MRT02987	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	10/06/2022	4.32	Viral disease	90352	IPN confirmed on site. Stocking density reduced.	Stock tested +ive for IPN (confirmed by PCR/Histology reports submitted to FHI), some fish moved to Yetts to reduce biomass. Mortality levels have reduced. FHI to monitor.
MRT01531	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	05/02/2020	5.2	Water quality and fungus	156196	High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
MRT01532	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	05/02/2020	5.3	Water quality and fungus	133416	High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
MRT01530	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	05/02/2020	4.24	Suffocation	99369	Suffocation on the screen due to spate conditions on Thursday night 16th Jan. Mortality on the 17th and 18th January. 2345868 fish on site at time. Mortality for the site was 1.06% the week before	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
MRT01533	Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	05/02/2020	3.9	Water quality and fungus	92846	High morts in spring 2019, poor water quality resulting in morts attributed to fungus and lesion only in C section.	Collected during a site inspection. No increased mortality at time of inspection.
MRT00822	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	02/10/2018	1.57	Fungus, Water quality	25289	Issues with low rainfall having to reuse water in a non-recirculation system, causing fungal issues and grading activity causing mortality from handling	Other mortality events in previous weeks had been reported. Following week mortality fell to 1.4%, then 0.3% the week after. Recorded during inspection 2/10/18.
MRT00697	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	10/07/2018	2.2	Poor water quality and high water temperatures	272000	Lack of rainfall caused lack of fw on site, resulting in re using water in a system not purpose built for recirc. Moved ~750k fish off site to reduce the amount of water having to be reused. Inspected by operators health team wk beg wk 28 and fish are looking much better. Rain forecast and hope to completely stop reusing water this week. Expected to fall back below reporting levels this week.	
MRT00694	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	10/07/2018	4	Poor water quality and high water	131000	Lack of rainfall caused lack of fw on site, resulting in re using water in a system not purpose built for recirc.	
MRT00695	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	10/07/2018	2.48	Poor water quality and high water temperature	84000	Lack of rainfall caused lack of fw on site, resulting in re using water in a system not purpose built for recirc. Moved 295k fish off site to reduce the amount of water having to be reused.	
MRT00696	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	10/07/2018	1.7	Poor water quality and high water temperature	27000	Lack of rainfall caused lack of fw on site, resulting in re using water in a system not purpose built for recirc. Moved 91k fish off site to reduce the amount of water having to be reused.	
MRT00517	Lakeland (Cairndow) Ltd	Cairndow Hatchery	08/11/2017	3.5	Poor doers	60229	Grading is done at a later stage now, so these are fish that would have previously been graded out now dying off naturally.	Mortality event recorded during site inspection. 2017-0512

In September 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [filmed effluent pollution at a hatchery operated by Landcatch \(Hendrix Genetics\) at Ormsary:](#)



In October 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch asked:



Don Staniford ✓

@TheGAAIA

...

What testing of Landcatch's Ormsary Hatchery @HGSalmonUK has @ScottishEPA & @marinescotland carried out for chemical pollutants, infectious diseases, viruses, pathogens & bacteria discharged into Loch Caolisport? tinyurl.com/yyuev59e @Feorlean @FergusEwingMSP @strathearnrose



10:07 AM · Oct 5, 2020





On 5 October 2020, Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a Freedom of Information request with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Government](#) on testing of salmon hatchery effluents and any pollution problems. In November 2020, the Scottish Government replied that they did not have any information and SEPA never replied to the FOI request.



Read more via: [“Testing Hatchery Effluents for Viruses, Pathogens, Diseases & Chemical Pollution”](#)

Intrafish [reported today \(7 August 2023\)](#) that salmon farming companies in Chile were facing fines “relating to the destruction of colonies of mucilaginous microorganisms in sectors of a discharge channel, point of discharge and downstream of the effluent discharge” and “failing to implement necessary measures to respond to the destruction of microorganisms in sectors downstream of the effluent discharge”.



Benchmark Genetics faces \$9.8 million fine over alleged environmental rule breaking in Chile

Chilean salmon producer Exportadora Los Fiordos is facing a lesser charge related to non-compliance.

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Salmon

2 August 2023 3:00 GMT

7 August 2023 4:00 GMT UPDATED 7 August 2023 4:00 GMT

By John Evans 

Aquaculture biotech company Benchmark Genetics faces fines totaling \$9.8 million (€9.1 million) after Chile's Environmental Superintendency SMA in the central La Araucania region filed charges for non-compliance with environmental permits.

The Herald newspaper [reported in May 2019](#): “Campaigners are calling for a salmon hatchery to have its licence revoked amid concerns it was found pumping sewage into a protected river where endangered freshwater pearl mussels are found. Kinlochmoidart Hatchery, in Lochaber, was branded as ‘very poor’ during a Sepa inspection of the site in 2017.....Don Staniford, director of SSW, said: “The Scottish Salmon Company has been found guilty by Sepa of gross pollution of the River Moidart, which is an EU-protected ‘Special Area of Conservation’. “The time has come for Scottish Natural Heritage, ministers, Highland Council and Sepa to close down the Kinlochmoidart Hatchery which has plummeted from ‘Excellent’ to ‘Poor’ and now ‘Very Poor’.”



Read more via: [“Close Down ‘Very Poor’ Scottish Salmon”](#)

 **Pollution Problems at the "Very Poor" Scottish Salmon Company's Kinlochmoidart Hatchery**

Don Staniford



04:39



The image shows a video player interface. The main content is a photograph of a sign for 'The Scottish Salmon Company Kinlochmoidart Hatchery'. The sign is white with black text and a logo. To the left of the sign is a circular speed limit sign with the number '5' and 'MPH' below it. The sign is mounted on a metal railing. The background shows trees and a sky. The video player has a progress bar at the bottom with a play button, volume icon, settings icon, full screen icon, and the Vimeo logo.

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported in August 2019](#): “Fungus-ridden salmon farms have spread sewage wastes into pristine rivers threatening wild fish and shellfish populations. The Scottish Government must sample effluent from all salmon farms as a matter of urgency and close down the worst polluters. It’s scandalous that SEPA have turned a blind eye to salmon farming pollution for decades.”



Read more via: [“Fungus From Fish Farm Pollutes River Polly \(Again, Again & Again\)”](#)



BBC News [reported in January 2018](#):

“A Shetland salmon packing factory leaked "bloody" sewage into the sea, BBC Scotland has been told. People had complained of an "offensive odour" coming from the Cooke Aquaculture's Mid Yell Plant. It led to a Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) investigation in 2017 - which uncovered "significant" breaches of environmental conditions..... A Freedom of Information request has revealed that Sepa was contacted by a member of the public in August 2017, who reported "weekly offensive smell complaints from locals, the school and tourists". It led to the environmental regulator visiting the site on the island of Yell - which, according to the inspector's report, uncovered untreated overflow from blood water tanks discharging into Mid Yell Voe. Sepa identified one "gross" and two "significant" breaches of Environmental Limit Conditions related to this activity - but it is reported that only "small quantities" of blood water were leaked into the sea. Scottish Government advice says untreated effluent from processing plants risks spreading infectious salmon anaemia. The incident has prompted an environmental campaigner to call on the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation to expel Cooke Aquaculture due to breaches of the industry's code of practice relating to the spread of infectious diseases.”



Photo: Overflowing blood water and "raw effluent" from Cooke's processing plant into Mid Yell Voe (download high res image [online here](#))

Read more via: [“Cooke's Untreated Blood Water is 'Gross' says SEPA”](#)