

[Media Backgrounder: The Welfare Nightmare of Scottish Salmon](#) (March 2021)



Scottish Salmon Watch (SSW) believes that factory salmon farming is a [welfare nightmare](#) riddled with [infectious diseases](#), [physical abuse](#) and [mass mortalities](#).

SSW is [calling for a ban](#) on the use of '[Thermolicers](#)' (torture chambers for farmed salmon) and legal action against the Scottish Government and salmon farming companies.

SSW believes Scottish Ministers and salmon farmers are breaching the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) ([Section 19: "Unnecessary Suffering"](#); [Section 21: "Cruel Operations"](#) and [Section 24: "Ensuring Welfare of Animals"](#)).



Timeline

July 2017 - A damning report - "[RSPCA Assured certification of Scottish farmed salmon](#)" - published by Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [exposed the problems at 'welfare friendly' salmon farms](#).

March 2018 - SSW's [submission to the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#) detailed 'Hard Evidence' on lice, diseases and mortalities.

May 2018 - SSW [wrote to the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare](#) raising the question whether salmon farms were breaching animal welfare law.

June 2018 - SSW [obtained gruesome photos of diseased and deformed salmon graphically illustrating welfare abuse](#).



July 2018 - SSW [filed a legal complaint with Police Scotland and the Animal & Plant Health Agency](#) (copied to Scottish Ministers) stating that "there is a strong argument for a case to be filed via the Procurator Fiscal".

August 2018 - OneKind published a report - "[Fish Welfare on Scotland's Salmon Farms](#)" - exposing "[a number of welfare breaches including mass mortality, sea lice infestations, disease and escapes](#)".

August 2018 - The Ferret [named and shamed supermarkets](#) selling farmed salmon from companies accused of poor animal welfare.

September 2018 - Shocking [video footage](#) of welfare abuse by The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Roag was [captured by photographer Corin Smith](#) - triggering coverage by the [BBC 'One Show'](#), [BBC Panorama](#), [The Ferret](#) and [The Daily Mail](#).



September 2018 - A [Motion on the Welfare of Farmed Salmon](#) was lodged with the Scottish Parliament by Mark Ruskell MSP (supported by other MSPs) citing the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

October 2018 - SSW [launched a 'Crowd Justice' fundraising campaign to fund legal action](#).

November 2018 - SSW published photos from whistleblowers working at Marine Harvest (Mowi) and The Scottish Salmon Company illustrating welfare abuse.



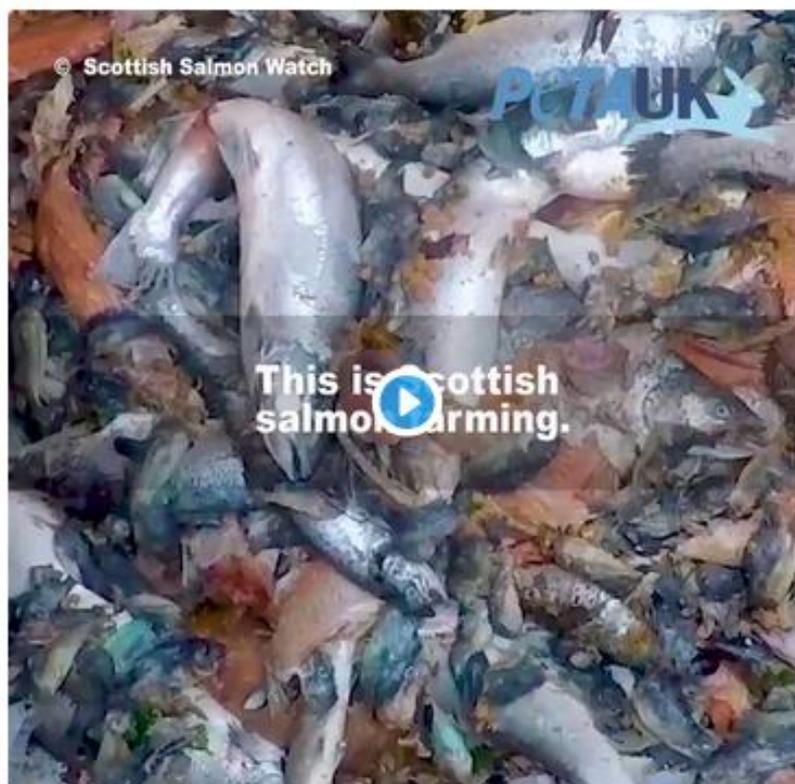
November 2018 - The Sunday Mail [published video footage obtained by SSW](#) of the "disease hell" at Scottish salmon farms.



 PETA UK 
@PETAUK



THIS is unacceptable – don't ignore the cruelty. 🤢💔
#WorldAnimalDay



♡ 42 1:38 PM - Oct 4, 2018



November 2018 - OneKind published a report - "[Cleaner Fish Welfare on Scotland's Salmon Farms](#)" - on animal welfare concerns associated with the use of cleaner fish on Scottish salmon farms and recommendations to better protect their welfare.

March 2019 - SSW published a report - "[The State of Scottish Salmon Farming in 2018](#)" - detailing welfare and disease problems plaguing salmon farms.



June 2019 - [Secret filming by SSW](#) uncovered evidence of welfare abuse at The Scottish Salmon Company's salmon farm in Loch Shiel ([featured by STV News](#) and [The Ferret](#)) prompting a [complaint to the Animal & Plant Health Agency re. "unnecessary suffering"](#). An [inspection by the Scottish Government](#) (triggered by a [formal complaint filed by SSW](#)) detailed "blind, rubbed and moribund" farmed salmon infested with lice, damaged eyes, boils and flank abrasions.



July 2019 - Over 44,000 people [signed a petition co-ordinated by SumOfUs](#) calling for immediate unannounced inspections of salmon farms to assess fish welfare.

August 2019 - Scottish Ministers [claimed in a letter to SSW](#) that:

There is no evidence to support your assertions that there is widespread welfare abuse at Scottish salmon farms. It is misleading and irresponsible to make such a claim, which ignores the fact all farms operate within the regulatory framework and the vast majority comply. We do not agree that all fish farms must be subject to immediate unannounced inspections.

September 2019 - The Ferret [reported](#) that "Government investigations into alleged animal cruelty after scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon were filmed at a fish farm on the island of Lewis were a "whitewash", according to a new report ("[An Autopsy of an All-Clear](#)" by Corin Smith).

September 2019 - SSW [compiled new 'case information' \(including photos\)](#) published by the Scottish Government and suggested that "the weight of evidence recording widespread welfare abuse on Scottish salmon farms is surely now so overwhelming to bring legal action for systematic breaches of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)?"

"Scottish Salmon Watch believes that Scottish Ministers - together with the SSPCA ([who is chaired by a salmon farmer](#) - working for [Scottish Sea Farms who in 2018 threatened legal action against the disclosure of photos of welfare abuse of farmed salmon](#)) and the [RSPCA who earn close to £1 million from certifying 70% of Scottish salmon farming production as welfare-friendly](#) - are irresponsible in not policing the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)," wrote SSW in a blog: "[Welfare Abuse at Scottish Salmon Farms - Why No Legal Enforcement Or Prosecutions?](#)"

"How many more dead and diseased farmed salmon will it take before Scottish Ministers take action against salmon farms for welfare abuse? How high does [Scottish salmon's mort mountain](#) need to rise to before it triggers a prosecution for breach of Section 19 ("[Unnecessary Suffering](#)"); Section 21 ("[Cruel Operations](#)") and Section 24 ("[Ensuring Welfare of Animals](#)") of the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)?"

October 2019 - SSW [wrote to Scottish Ministers](#) reiterating their call to ban the Thermolicer for breach of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and [publishing new video footage](#).



The [letter](#) suggested that the [Scottish Government's Animal Welfare Commission](#) and the [Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare](#) investigate the issue.



October 2019 - SSW [revealed from a Freedom of Information reply by the Scottish Government](#) that photos of diseased salmon would continue to be published on a monthly basis despite objections from salmon farming companies ([including legal threats from lawyers acting for Scottish Sea Farms and The Scottish Salmon Company](#) and [objections from Mowi](#)).



Photos: Scottish salmon from Mowi's Stulaigh Island farm in Loch Eynort

November 2019 - [The Ferret revealed](#) that salmon giant Mowi (the largest salmon farming company in Scotland) was "under fire over fish welfare after 700,000 deaths" (Mowi [admitted in a press release](#) to welfare problems of 'cleaner fish' and an inspection by the Animal & Plant Health Agency - which was [triggered by secret filming by SSW in July 2019](#) and a [complaint filed by SSW](#)).



November 2019 - SSW [wrote to Scottish Ministers](#) citing [new scientific research](#) detailing welfare abuse due to the Thermolicer.



Veterinary and Animal Science

Volume 8, December 2019, 100076



Sudden exposure to warm water causes instant behavioural responses indicative of nociception or pain in Atlantic salmon

Jonatan Nilsson ^{a,*,} Lene Moltumyr ^{a,} Angelico Madeno ^{a,} Tore Sigmund Kristiansen ^{a,} Siri Kristine Gjesnes ^{b,} Cecilie Marie Majdell ^{b,} Kristine Gismenvik ^{b,} Lars Helge Stien ^a

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Abstract

Thermal treatment has become the most used delousing method in salmonid aquaculture. However, concerns have been raised about it being painful for the fish. We studied the behavioural response of Atlantic salmon acclimated to 8°C when transferred to temperatures in the range 0–38°C. Exposure time was 5 min or until they reached the endpoint of losing equilibrium and laying on their side, a sign of imminent death. At temperatures below 28°C, none of the fish reached endpoint within the 5-min maximum. At 28°C four of five fish reached endpoint, and fish reached endpoint more rapidly as temperature increased further. Fish transferred to temperatures above 28°C had higher swimming speed immediately after transfer and maintained a high swimming speed until just before loss of equilibrium. Their behaviour was from the start characterised by collisions into tank walls and head shaking. Just before loss of equilibrium they started breaking the surface of the water, swimming in a circle pattern and in some instances displayed a side-wise bending of their body. In other words, salmon transferred to temperatures above 28°C showed instant behavioural responses indicative of nociception or pain.

December 2019 - Photos [published by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate](#) showed head damage due to high lice loads, bleeding gills, haemorrhaging, lesions and other welfare problems.

Summary: 'Case Information' [published online on 19 December 2019](#)

Mowi - Port na Cro: *Pasteurella skyensis*, Anaemia & lice loads of 20 causing head damage



Grieg - Cole Deep: 100,000+ morts, Piscine Reovirus, AGD, bleeding gills and lesions



January 2020 - Photos [published by the Scottish Government's Fish Health Inspectorate](#) (who in January 2020 [revised how they published 'Case Information'](#)) show welfare abuse at Mowi's salmon farm at Tabaigh in Loch Erisort.



February 2020 - SSW [published a dossier of photos of diseased, deformed and abused Scottish salmon](#) obtained via ['Case Information'](#); [Freedom of Information](#); [sourced from secret filming](#) and [leaked by whistleblowers](#).





 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Edie Bowles @Animallawyersuk said the dossier, compiled by Don Staniford, a critic of salmon farming, indicated "systemic and obvious" pain & suffering that could justify legal action against @scotgov @MairiGougeon @SSPOsays tinyurl.com/yxy775wp @SundayTimesScot @ciwf @scotgp



9:54 AM · Feb 2, 2020 · Twitter Web App

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Why does @rspcaassured certify 70% of Scottish salmon farms as welfare-friendly when there is systemic suffering & abuse? @RSPCA_official @RSPCA_Frontline @AnimalLawCon @Animal_Alliance @animalpharm @AnimalEquality @AnimalAid @media_ciwf @PETAUK @HSIUKorg tinyurl.com/yxy775wp



 Mowi Scotland Limited and 9 others

10:12 AM · Feb 2, 2020 · Twitter Web App

February 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to the RSPCA urging an end to the certification of farmed salmon.](#)

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAlA

As RSPCA 'VIPs' you have the power to stop suffering on salmon farms in Scotland - please tell the RSPCA executive to end certification of Scottish salmon!
[@rspcaassured](#) tinyurl.com/wn5g3p6 [@ChrisGPackham](#)
[@brianblessed](#) [@BillOddie](#) [@DrBrianMay](#) [@PeterEgan6](#)
[@CarolineLucas](#) #RSPCA



RSPCA (England & Wales) and 8 others

7:22 AM · Feb 5, 2020 · Twitter Web App

The Sunday Times [reported](#) (9 February 2020):

THE SUNDAY TIMES NEWS | SCOTTISH NEWS

RSPCA paid over £500,000 to back salmon industry

Mark Macaskill

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has revealed it was paid more than £500,000 by Scottish salmon farmers for membership of an ethical food scheme.

The charity admitted the money was received this year from 150 farms – about 60% of the industry – who have signed up to RSPCA Assured, a food label dedicated to farm animal welfare.

The disclosure has triggered fresh criticism of the RSPCA for supporting salmon farming amid claims that millions of fish suffer despite the industry's efforts to improve standards.

This weekend, naturalist Chris Packham, a vice-president of the RSPCA, said he intends to raise concerns with the charity's top executives. In a tweet to his 386,000 followers, he wrote: "Open cage salmon farming is fraught with very serious issues and clearly needs reform/regulation/cessation. I will liaise with @RSPCA_official to work urgently towards a renewed position



Packham: will raise concerns

March 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [called for a ban on Thermolicers](#).



Media Backgrounder (March 2020)

The Welfare Case Against the Thermolicer, Hydrolicer & Optilicer

- Evidence Sourced from the Scottish Government's
Fish Health Inspectorate (2016-2019)



2019-0135 North Papa – Fish 2 exophthalmia

Read more via [Stop Thermolicing Farmed Salmon to Death!](#)

 **Advocates for Animals**
@Animallawyersuk

We have recently written to the @scotgov challenging the lawfulness of thermolicers (an extremely aggressive piece of equipment used to de-lice farmed salmon) under animal welfare legislation. We are proud to represent our client @TheGAAIA on this matter 🐟 #animalprotection #fish



Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (11 March 2020):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

239,333 more mortalities cited in 30 'Mortality Event Reports' in Jan 2020 @marinescotland tinyurl.com/rc6gd2z Reasons include "Compromised gill health (CGD + anaemia associated with gill bleeding) + thermal lice treatment" @MowiScotlandLtd @GriegShetland @salmon_scottish

date reported	Mort #s	Mort %	Explained reasons	Company	Location	Date	Mort #s	Mort %	Reasons
20/01/2020	44275	8.64	Damaged gills - bleeding, AGI	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	17/01/2020	2751	3.38	Weather
17/01/2020	21445	3.07	Mechanical lice treatment in	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	17/01/2020	2082	3.28	Post treatment/ gill health
17/01/2020	20728	5.35	Seal Predation	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	26/01/2020	2634	5.29	Weather, gill health
20/01/2020	16187	3.06	Damaged gills - bleeding, AGI	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	19/01/2020	1932	5.05	Physical damage to weaker fish of
31/01/2020	15329	1.28	Mechanical treatment	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	29/01/2020	1844	5.27	Post treatment
17/01/2020	14961	2.21	Mechanical lice treatment in	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	06/01/2020	1747	2.36	Environmental, phytoplankton, g
10/01/2020	14118	3.14	Seal Predation	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	20/01/2020	1813	2.27	Environmental, phytoplankton, g
29/01/2020	12323	3.36	Seal Predation	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	06/01/2020	1276	1.49	Environmental, phytoplankton, g
31/01/2020	9773	1.59	Treatment related mortality	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	10/01/2020	1334	1.36	Environmental, phytoplankton, g
17/01/2020	9450	2.17	Seal Predation	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	26/01/2020	1004	1.45	Environmental, phytoplankton, g
20/01/2020	9247	1.72	Damaged gills - bleeding, AGI	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	03/01/2020	45	3.3	Orkney, Physical damage
08/01/2020	7126	1.46	Post Treatment	fish Salmon Company	Orkney	17/01/2020	27	3.27	Orkney, Physical damage
31/01/2020	5493	2.38	Physical damage incurred dur	fish Salmon Company	Orkney				
03/01/2020	5010	1.1	Seal Predation	fish Salmon Company	Orkney				
17/01/2020	4487	1.18	Compromised gill health (CGI	fish Salmon Company	Orkney				
03/01/2020	3965	1.08	Post Treatment loss	fish Salmon Company	Orkney				
17/01/2020	3932	1.02	Compromised gill health (CGI	fish Salmon Company	Orkney				

 RSPCA Assured and 9 others

8:28 AM · Mar 11, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

April 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (6 April 2020):



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Anyone for disease-ridden Scottish salmon fresh from Landcatch marinated in antibiotic & cancer-causing Formalin? tinyurl.com/ta88ydp @HGSalmonUK

@salmon_scottish New 'Case Information' published today @marinescotland The horror of #Scottish #Salmon @ciwf @PETAUK @APHAgovuk



Fergus Ewing MSP and 7 others

6:55 PM · Apr 6, 2020 · Twitter Web App



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Be Sure to Boycott RSPCA Assured Scottish Salmon! tinyurl.com/srommob Shocking new photos published of Mowi's disease-ridden North Shore feedlot in Loch Erisort @marinescotland @MowiScotlandLtd "visibly moribund fish" & "significant lice damage" @sainsburys @rspcaassured



@LidlGB and 9 others

5:00 PM · Apr 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (23 April 2020):



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Censored: Welfare Abuse on Salmon Farms - redacted
FOI documents reveal welfare breaches of Animal
Health & Welfare Act @rspcaassured
@MowiScotlandLtd tinyurl.com/yb9wr3nk
@APHAgovuk @marinescotland @ProfCMDwyer
@SSPCA_Mike @SSPOsays @ChrisGPackham
@markruskell @scotgp



Roseanna Cunningham and 9 others

9:53 AM · Apr 23, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Other documents disclosed by APHA included welfare complaints and inspections relating to [Mowi](#), [The Scottish Salmon Company](#), [Loch Duart](#), [Grieg Seafood](#) and [Scottish Sea Farms](#).

The FOI disclosure details around a dozen salmon farms investigated/visited by APHA (mostly in conjunction with the Fish Health Inspectorate) since January 2018 - including:

- Mowi's aptly named Muck salmon farm ([certified as welfare friendly via RSPCA Assured](#)) which was the subject to an anonymous tip-off regarding mortalities due to disease and a failed Hydrolicer treatment and [biomass breaches](#) in August 2019 (including [video footage](#) of a fatty oil slick and photos of dead fish).

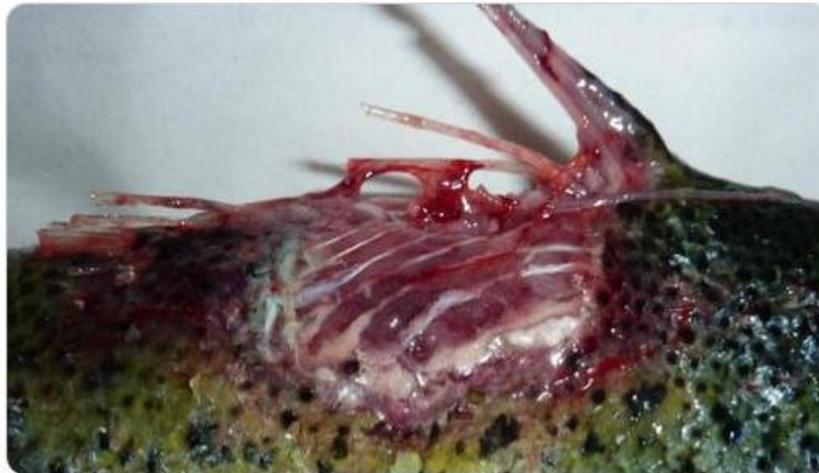


May 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (27 May 2020):



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

RSPCA Assured Mowi Plagued by Mass Mortalities & Infectious Diseases tinyurl.com/yaykxc8d Boycott disease-ridden Scottish salmon treated with antibiotics @MowiScotlandLtd @rspcaassured @sainsburys @LidlGB @AldiUK Enteric Redmouth Disease (Yersiniosis) is like the Black Death!



Fergus Ewing MSP and 9 others

8:46 AM · May 27, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Fish Farming Expert [reported](#) (27 May 2020) that RSPCA Assured had suspended on-site inspections of salmon farms.

The certification body suspended in-person assessments on March 23, replacing them with virtual assessments carried out via live streaming through various platforms including WhatsApp, Google Meet and Google Hangouts.

More than half the salmon produced in Scotland is farmed in compliance with the certification body's standards.

Physical audit

From Monday, June 1 (phase 1), members who are due an assessment will be offered a physical in-person audit. These will only be carried out with the mutual agreement of both the assessor and member and will not be mandatory.

June 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (10 June 2020):

REVEALED: Over Half a Million Salmon Tortured to Death by De-Licers!



- Parliamentary Reply reveals 522,702 farmed salmon died due to mechanical de-licers between 2016 and 2019
- The Hydrolicer is the most lethal with 269,674 farmed salmon mortalities followed by the Thermolicer (177,601 deaths) and the Optlicer (75,427 deaths)
- Fish Health Inspectorate publishes 108 'Mortality Event Reports' involving over 815,000 dead farmed salmon where mechanical de-licers are cited
 - Advocates for Animals question legality of thermal de-licers
- Scottish Salmon Watch [launches crowd-fundraiser to fund legal action](#)



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Over half a million (522,702) farmed salmon died shocking deaths due to the Hydrolicer (269,674 deaths), Thermolicer (177,601 deaths) & Optlicer (75,427 deaths) tinyurl.com/yckasfwb @FergusEwingMSP @GreenerScotland @scotgp @markruskell @MairiGougeon @ProfCMDwyer @SSPOsays

Question SSW-27713: Mark Ruskell, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Green Party, Date Lodged: 03/03/2020

To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many (a) farmed salmon and (b) cleaner fish have been killed because of the use of (i) thermolicers, (ii) optlicers and (iii) hydrolicers in each year since 2016.

Answered by Fergus Ewing (17/03/2020):

The figures recorded as involving thermal treatments in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 are shown in the following table.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hydrolicer	89,466	115,445	7,516	57,247
Thermolicer	47,982	52,798	35,841	40,980
Optlicer	-	-	15,610	59,817

There is no record of mortality kept for cleaner fish.

June 2020 – The Ferret [reported](#) (17 June 2020):



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



"The Scottish Green Party has called for an imminent ban on seal killing by salmon farms to be beefed up to include sonic 'torture' devices" tinyurl.com/yd8s8r39
[@Shetnews](#) [@markruskell](#) [@scotgp](#) [@marinescotland](#)
[@SSPOsays](#) [@OTAQ2](#) [@aceaquatec](#) [@NOAA](#)
[@MowiScotlandLtd](#) [@scotseafarms](#)



Greens want ban on seal scarers

THE SCOTTISH Green Party has called for an imminent ban on seal killing by salmon farms to be beefed up to include sonic ...

shetnews.co.uk

11:36 PM · Jun 7, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

July 2020 – The Ferret [reported](#) (13 July 2020):



The amount of salmon killed by diseases and other problems at fish farms has reached record levels, with death rates quadrupling over the last 18 years, according to an analysis of official figures.

More than 25,770 tonnes of caged salmon died prematurely in 2019, higher than in any previous year. That equates to over ten million fish.

The analysis also reveals that the mortality rate at fish farms has risen faster than salmon production over the years. In 2019, 13.5 per cent of the annual harvest died prematurely compared to 3.1 per cent in 2002.

Campaigners have condemned the deaths as “biblical in scale” and a “stain on the reputation” of Scotland’s food and drink industry. The salmon farming industry said it was investing to manage the “challenges to fish health”.

The [latest figures](#) were analysed by Corin Smith, a campaigner who runs the [Inside Scottish Salmon Feedlots](#) website. They show that caged salmon deaths have risen from 4,421 tonnes in 2002 to 25,772 tonnes in 2019, more than the previous record high of 25,460 tonnes in 2017.

Estimates of the numbers of fish that died [stopped being routinely published](#) in 2013 after the industry complained the information was commercially damaging. But based on previous years, 25,772 tonnes could represent between 10 and 20 million fish deaths, depending on their size.

The rising death rates of farmed salmon in Scotland

Year	Mortalities (tonnes)	Annual Harvest (tonnes)	Mortalities as a proportion of harvest
2002	4,421	141,000	3.1%
2003	6,287	167,000	3.8%
2004	6,737	158,000	4.3%
2005	5,007	135,000	3.7%
2006	8,053	135,500	5.9%
2007	11,377	135,000	8.4%
2008	9,066	134,500	6.7%
2009	7,818	141,000	5.5%
2010	7,511	157,000	4.8%
2011	9,494	159,000	6.0%
2012	12,945	160,000	8.1%
2013	10,329	160,500	6.4%
2014	16,046	179,000	9.0%
2015	18,302	170,000	10.8%
2016	22,245	163,000	13.6%
2017	25,460	189,707	13.4%
2018	16,573	156,025	10.6%
2019	25,772	190,499	13.5%

Sources: aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk, Scottish Government and issf.org.uk.

Scottish Salmon Watch [published video footage of mortalities and welfare abuse:](#)



Fresh Scottish Salmon from the Isle of Skye - Mmmm...
 📺 Don Staniford | 94 views



Mmmm Momi's RSPCA Assured Salmon at Greshornis...
 📺 Don Staniford | 644 views



Formic Acid Cleans Up Momi's Disease-Ridden Salmon...
 📺 Don Staniford



Toxic Salmon Soup - Fresh from Kames Fish Farming!
 📺 Don Staniford | 11 views



Don Staniford @TheGAAIA · Jul 24, 2020



Scottish salmon farming is a welfare nightmare - shame on the R\$PCA for promoting welfare abuse! @philip_ciwf @onekindtweet @PETAUK @LynneUSneddon @Animallawyersuk @MairiGougeon @FishEG4A @SSPCA_Mike @RSPCAChris @RachRSPCA @ChrisGPackham @PeterEgan6 @brianblessed @BillOddie



Mmmm Mowi's RSPCA Assured Salmon at Greshornish on the Isle of Skye

from Don Staniford



02:24

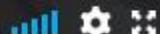


Fresh Scottish Salmon from the Isle of Skye - Mmmmmmm!

from Don Staniford



01:15



August 2020 – The Daily Record [reported](#) (14 August 2020):



Whales and dolphins being 'tortured' by anti-seal scare devices at Scottish fish farms

The acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs) make noise underwater to scare seals and stop them stealing fish at farms but fears have been raised over the damage being caused to other marine life.

By Sarah Ward & Sarah Vesty
18:00, 8 AUG 2020



Scientific evidence shows the devices can damage the hearing of whales and dolphins (Image: Getty)

Scottish Salmon Watch [published video footage of mass mortalities at The Scottish Salmon Company in Loch Fyne](#):



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Boycott Scottish Salmon - the mortality rate for Scottish salmon farms is over 20% with ca. 15 million fish dying each year on disease-ridden feedlots - it's enough to make you vomit not buy it! vimeo.com/444285904 @salmon_scottish @SSPOsays @Try_Lochlander @coopuk

Lifting the Lid on Diseased Scottish Salmon
Filmed at The Scottish Salmon Company's Strondoir Bay salmon farm on Loch Fyne in July 2020 More on disease...
vimeo.com

6:22 PM · Aug 3, 2020

September 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (2 September 2020):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

RSPCA Assured Mowi tops the mortality charts with a 17.4% monthly death rate in July at Stulaigh in Loch Eynort & 28.7% overall mortality in Loch Greshornish on Skye
scottishsalmon.co.uk/reports @SSPOsays @MowiScotlandLtd @GriegShetland @salmon_scottish @rspcaassured @KateForbesMSP

Monthly Mortality Rate July 2020				Scottish Salmon PRODUCERS ORGANISATION
Company	Farm	Monthly mortality (%)	Notes	Cumulative mortality over full production cycle (%)
Mowi Scotland Limited	Stulaigh	17.4	Algal bloom	In production
Mowi Scotland Limited	Muck	14.5 (Farm stocked in Jul.)	Transfer	In production
Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd	Corlarach	8.9	CMS/Gill Health	In production
Mowi Scotland Limited	Boisdale (An Camus)	8.1	Algal bloom	In production
Loch Duart Ltd	Lochmaddy	7.0	PD	In production
Loch Duart Ltd	Sound of Harris	6.9	Transfer	In production
Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd	Snizort East	6.2	Gill Health/ Treatment losses	In production
Mowi Scotland Limited	Greshornish	5.6 (Farm fallowed in Jul.)	CMS	28.7

8:41 PM · Sep 2, 2020

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

If Mowi was a dog it would be mange-ridden & infested with parasites tinyurl.com/y6mvg3dl @MowiScotlandLtd Why does the RSPCA continue to support welfare abuse by certifying Mowi salmon farms @rspcaassured ?
 @ChrisGPackham @philip_ciwf @onekindtweet @ciwf @ProfCMDwyer #RSPCA




10:36 AM · Sep 3, 2020



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Salmondemic Plagues Scotland! tinyurl.com/y3st4jto Data published @marinescotland details 233 'Mortality Events' in 2020 with 2.52 million farmed salmon due to diseases like CMS, PD, AGD, HSMI etc @MowiScotlandLtd @salmon_scottish @GriegShetland @scotseafarms @kamesfishfarm

Mortality Event #	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Mortality rate (%)	Explained reasons	Total mortality	Additional Information	Action taken by FHI
MRT01648	The Scottish Salmon Company	Reibersih	02/06/2020	11.01	Human error wellboat treatment	80,026	O2 drop in wellboat, 1 pen affected. Increased mortality removal, and diver presence.	Mortality levels have returned to normal levels, no health issues reported on site. FHI to monitor
MRT01725	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stulaigh	31/07/2020	4.54	Algae Bloom and CMS	38,033	Aeration system in place	PSI conducted 16/07/2020 (case no. 2020-0279) Site only stocked since 27/7/2020, this report falls within the first 6 weeks of stocking and is not required to be reported. No further action at this point.
MRT01724	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Muck	31/07/2020	2	Failed smolts and physical damage due to strong tides	29,427		Site only stocked since 27/7/2020, this report falls within the first 6 weeks of stocking and is not required to be reported. No further action at this point.
MRT01731	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Muck	24/07/2020	1.86	Smolt failed.	28,164		Site only stocked since 27/7/2020, this report falls within the first 6 weeks of stocking and is not required to be reported. No further action at this point.
MRT01693	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stulaigh	16/07/2020	3.12	Harmful Algae Bloom and Jellyfish during last weekend	26,556	Aeration system put in place	PSI conducted (case no. 2020-0279)
MRT01698	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stulaigh	16/07/2020	1.92	Effects of Harmful Algae Bloom and Jellyfish during previous weekend.	16652	Aeration system in place, skirts removed.	PSI conducted (case no. 2020-0279)

12:30 PM · Sep 21, 2020



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Grieg Seafood reports Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (Piscine Reovirus) in Loch Dunvegan on Skye tinyurl.com/y29yky8v @GriegShetland @SSPOsays @marinescotland @APHAgovuk @IainNaHoe @WHFP1 @ScotSalmonTank @KateForbesMSP tinyurl.com/u3mxays @FergusEwingMSP @scotgp

Home » Publications »

PUBLICATION - TRANSPARENCY DATA

Fish Health Inspectorate case information: 2020

Published 17 Aug 2020
Last updated 17 Aug 2020

FHI case information relating to inspections and visits.

Fish at Gob Na Hae tested positive for HSMI, although no clinical signs observed.

Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd
Gretna
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0PK

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

Business No: FR0440 Date of Case: 06/07/2020
Site No: FS1267 Site Name: Colarach
Inspector: Case No: 20200248

Passive Surveillance Inspection

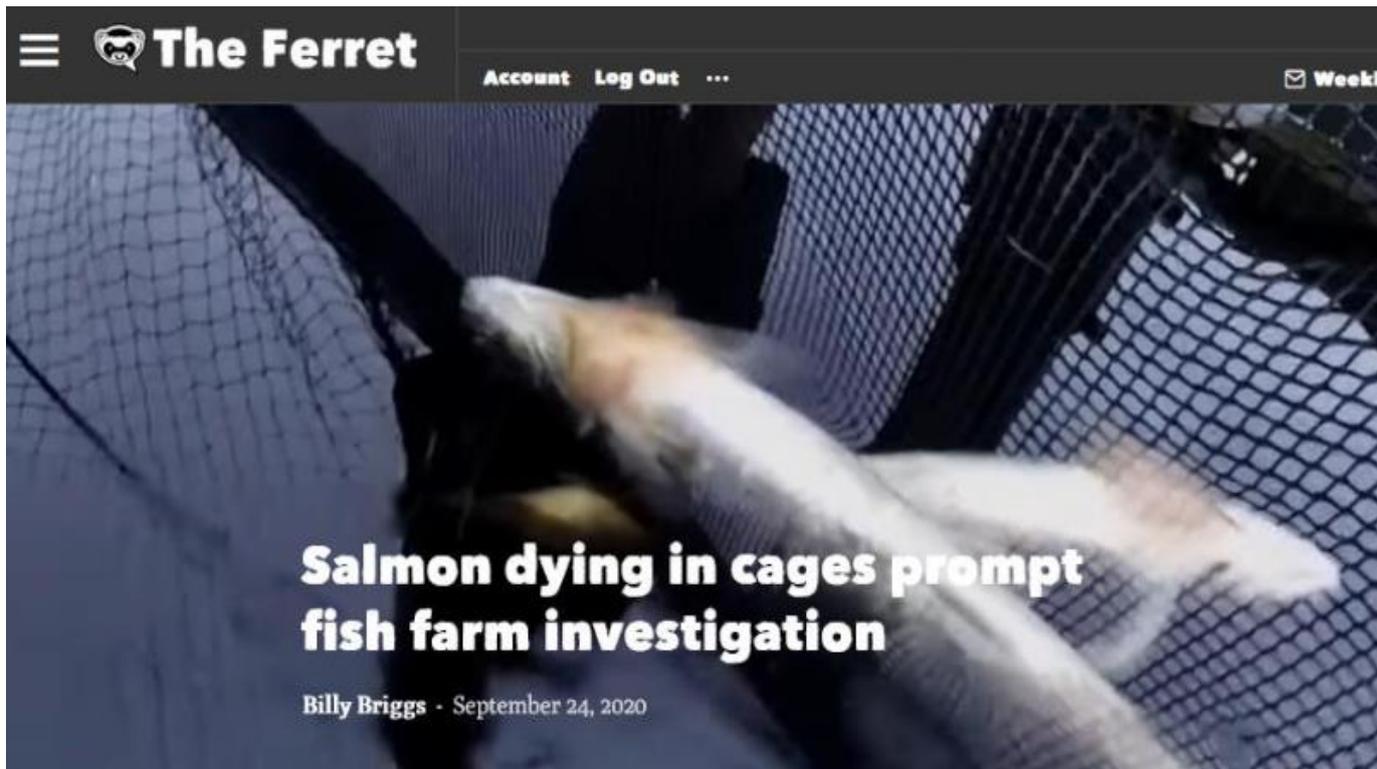
A notification of mortality levels above the reporting criteria was received by the Fish Health Inspectorate on 02/07/2020 for the period of 22/06/2020 to 29/06/2020.



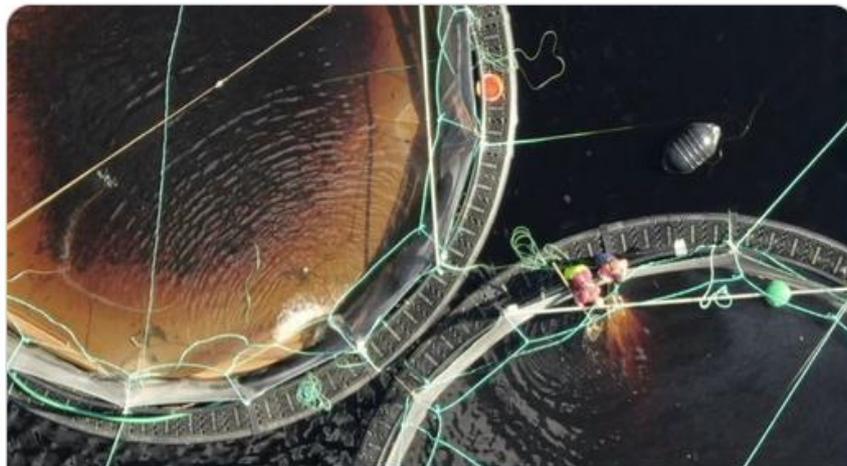

9:31 AM · Sep 21, 2020



The Ferret [reported](#) (24 September 2020):



An investigation has been launched into conditions at an Argyll fish farm after footage emerged of dead and dying salmon floating in cages on a freshwater loch.



Salmon dying in cages prompt fish farm investigation
Video evidence obtained by The Ferret shows hundreds of dead salmon, many with lesions, in bins at premises used by Kames Fish Farming.
theferret.scot

10:24 AM · Sep 24, 2020





Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



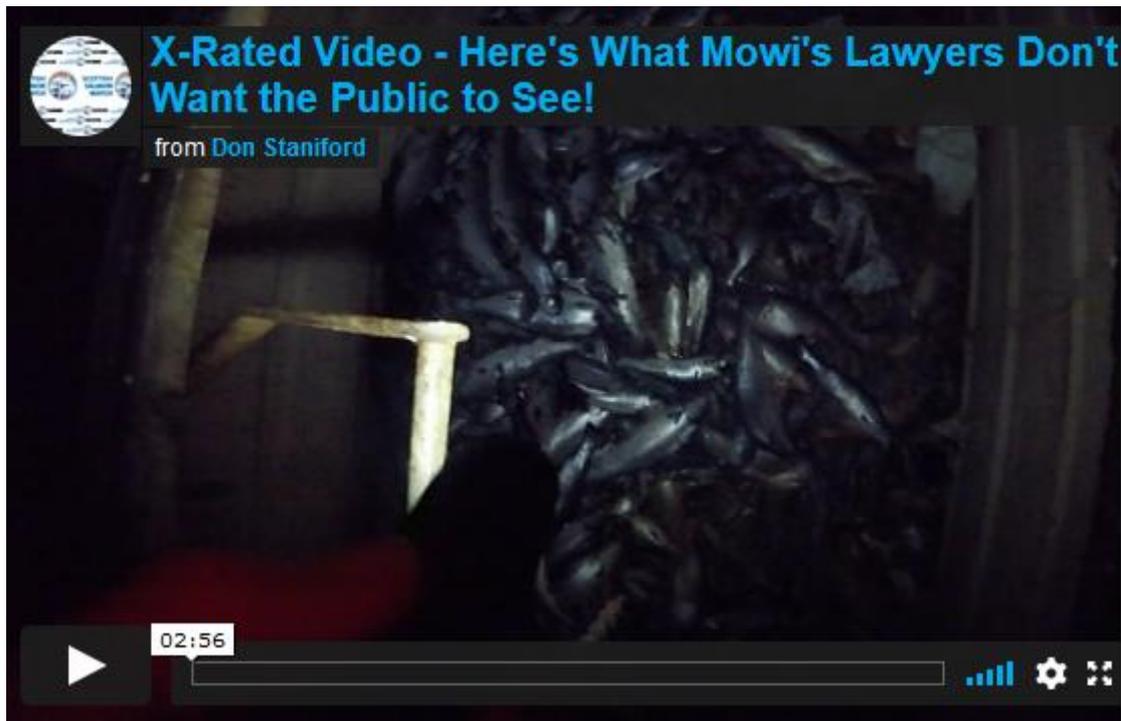
Secret Filming Exposes Welfare Abuse at RSPCA Assured Kames @kamesfishfarm @rspcaassured @MairiGougeon @APHAgovuk @ProfCMDwyer @LynneUSneddon @Animallawyersuk @SSPCA_Mike @SSPOsays @GreenerScotland @SaveOurLochs @andrholder @obantimes @strathearnrose tinyurl.com/yxwjpb66



11:51 AM · Sep 24, 2020



Scottish Salmon Watch [published](#) (25 September 2020) video footage of diseased salmon at Mowi's salmon farm in Loch Torridon:



October 2020 – Scottish Salmon Watch [asked](#):



10:05 AM · Oct 19, 2020





Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



Dead fish @rspcaassured @salmon_scottish in Loch Dampn from 2019 look eerily familiar to the Loch Tralaig morts @kamesfishfarm during 2020. Is this part of the "escalating saprolegniosis outbreaks on salmon farms"? @thefishsite @SSPOsays @scottishaquaculture tinyurl.com/y433lx72



2:19 PM · Oct 8, 2020



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



New mortality data @marinescotland makes shocking reading for investors @MowiScotlandLtd - nearly 900,000 dead farmed salmon reported already in 2020 via 84 'Mortality Event Reports' gov.scot/publications/f... @rspcaassured

Site No	Reporting Business Name	Site Name	Date reported	Mortality rate recorded (%)	Explained reasons	SI mor durtin	SI mor durtin	Date	Mortality rate recorded (%)	Explained reasons	SI mor durtin	SI mor durtin	SI mor durtin	SI mor durtin
					Probably Asterionella sp and Cyanobacteria bloom, plankton found out in water samples	61	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Seaforth	12/03/2020	9.07	Treatment related mortality + PD	30701	30701	Freshwater harvest
1767	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Glenfinnan	21/08/2020	8.07		61	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Eilean	11/04/2020	3.77	FW extended treatments, possible crowding issues	29874	29874	38 pens
1739	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stuallaigh	16/08/2020	6.98	Harmful Algae Bloom and CMS	53	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Muck	11/07/2020	2	Failed smolts and physical damage due to strong tides	29427	29427	
1765	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stuallaigh	21/08/2020	7.01	Harmful Algae Bloom, Gill Irritant and CMS.	41	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Muck	24/01/2020	1.86	Smolt failed.	28154	28154	Aerator plate
1750	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stuallaigh	11/06/2020	5.55	Harmful Algae Bloom and CMS.	41	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stuallaigh	16/01/2020	3.13	Harmful Algae Bloom and jellyfish during last weekend	35336	35336	
1725	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Stuallaigh	11/07/2020	4.54	Algae Bloom and CMS	41	Mowi Scotland Ltd	Loch	17/01/2020	3.07	Mechanical lice treatment in fish affected by AGO	21445	21445	



Healthy and delicious seafood

More than 4 million Mowi meals are enjoyed around the world every day, thanks to our world-leading, innovative and sustainable approach, we offer a wide selection of healthy, delicious seafood. Our customers can choose from a range of products, including whole gutted fish, fillets and steaks, to ready-to-eat items like smoked salmon and portioned fish.



9:13 PM · Oct 22, 2020



Undercurrent News [reported](#) (27 October 2020):



Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (29 October 2020):



Video footage exposing welfare abuse at an RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Loch Creran operated by Scottish Sea Farms was [published by Fly Fish & Fly Tying magazine](#) (30 October 2020):

 **Mark Bowler**
@FFFTmag

Film footage shows sea lice currently out of control on many west coast salmon farms: flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk/news/view/sea_...

#salmon #salmonfarming #scotland #sealice



© Corin Smith

8:48 PM · Oct 30, 2020

**Video Exposes Welfare Abuse at RSPCA Assured salmon farm sourced by M&S 'Lochmuir'**
from Don Staniford

00:24

The Herald [reported](#) (31 October 2020):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Fish found in 'sickening' conditions on Scottish salmon farms as sea lice problem escalates [heraldscotland.com/news/18836582...](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18836582...) @rspcaassured @scotseafarms @marinescotland @marksandspencer @SSPOsays @SalmonTroutCons @FergusEwingMSP @LeroySeafood @ProfCMDwyer



Fish found in 'sickening' conditions on Scottish salmon farms as sea li...
Graphic warning
[heraldscotland.com](https://www.heraldscotland.com)

12:31 PM · Oct 31, 2020

The Herald

Scottish salmon found in 'sickening' conditions across Scotland as sea lice problem escalates

 By Caitlin Hutchison | [CaitlinHutchie](#)



Fish found in 'sickening' conditions on Scottish salmon farms as sea lice problem escalates

November 2020 – Salmon & Trout Conservation [reported](#) (2 November 2020):



Salmon & Trout
Conservation
Scotland

EXTENDING OUR WILD WATERS • EST 1983

WHAT WE DO ▾

WHO WE ARE ▾

ABOUT WILD FISH ▾

SUPPORT US ▾



Sea lice rampant on salmon farms

Shocking photos show sea lice rampant on salmon farms in Scotland

Shocking footage passed to Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland reveals horrendous sea lice parasite problems currently occurring on salmon farms in Argyll & Bute, Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

RECENT POSTS

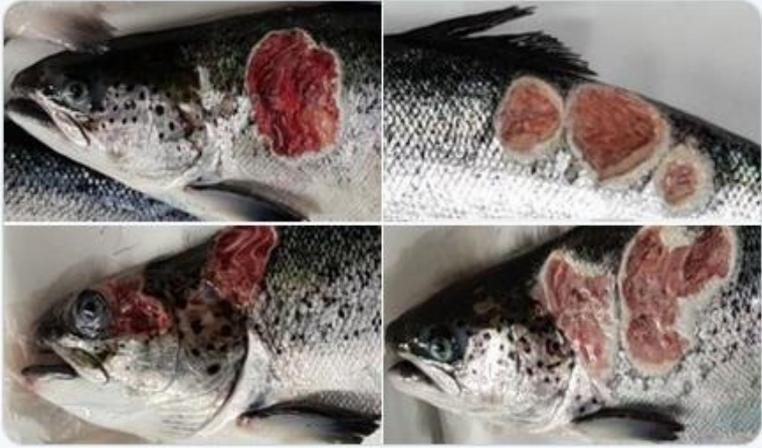
- Sea lice rampant on salmon farms
02/11/2020
- Don't just take our word for it
30/10/2020



Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (4 November 2020):

Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Photos slipped out last month @marinescotland provide yet more damning evidence of welfare abuse on salmon farms - please boycott Scottish salmon! tinyurl.com/yyymayjz
@salmon_scottish @Try_Lochlander @Folketrygdfond @GreenerScotland @scotgp @coopuk @rspcaassured @SSPCA_Mike



2:07 PM · Nov 4, 2020

Scottish Salmon Watch [reported](#) (6 November 2020):

Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

Shocking Scottish Salmon: 78.3% mortality rate reported at Grieg Seafood's Leinish salmon farm on the Isle of Skye - four out of five @rspcaassured fish died a horrible death!
@GriegShetland @SSPOsays @onekindtweet
scottishsalmon.co.uk/reports
@KateForbesMSP @Ianblackford_MP @WHFP1

Monthly Mortality Rate: September 2020				Monthly Mortality Rate: August 2020			
Company	Farm	Monthly mortality (%)	Notes	Company	Farm	Monthly mortality (%)	Notes
West Highland Ltd	Leinish	59.7 (Farm followed in Sep.)	Gill health/Sea/ulcers	West Highland Ltd	Leinish	67.2	Sea health/Sea/ulcers
West Highland Ltd	Centraich	18.8 (Farm followed in Sep.)	Gill health	West Highland Ltd	Perinver	7.9 (Farm followed in Aug.)	
West Company Ltd	Strone	8.2 (Farm followed in Sep.)		West Highland Ltd	Stahin	2.8 (Farm followed in Aug.)	
West Company Ltd	Egan Duibh	2.0 (Farm followed in Sep.)		West Company Ltd	Menckies Howe	2.8 (Farm followed in Aug.)	
Orland Limited	Strathgill	0.0 (Farm followed in Sep.)		West Company Ltd	Strathgill	0.0	Aggravated/EMS/PS
West Company Ltd	Vuic Mhor	5.5 (Farm followed in Sep.)	Environmental challenge/Gill health/Treatment issues	West Company Ltd	Stront Fuar	0.0	Gill health/Treatment issues
West Company Ltd	Arduine	0.0 (Farm followed in Sep.)		West Company Ltd	Teravich	7.8	Gill health/Treatment issues
West Company Ltd	Victoria	28.3	Gill health/Treatment issues	West Company Ltd	Stronach Bay	4.4	Aggravated/Environmental challenge/Gill health
West Company Ltd	Tollachan Mhor	20.1	Aggravated/EMS/PS	West Company Ltd	Thuch	1.8	Transfer
				West Company Ltd	Stronach	9.1	Treatment issues

2:49 PM · Nov 6, 2020

The Stornoway Gazette [reported](#) (10 November 2020):



Campaign group accuse local salmon farm of welfare issues

A salmon farm based in the Western Isles has been accused of failing to care for its fish - and not for the first time - after photographs appeared on social media.

By John A. MacInnes
Tuesday, 10th November 2020, 12:56 pm



Viva [reported](#) (23 November 2020):



FLESH-EATING PARASITIC SEA LICE INVADE SCOTTISH FISH FARMS

The Daily Mirror [reported](#) (23 November 2020):



By [Nada Farhoud](#) Environment editor
17:17, 22 NOV 2020

'Putrid' salmon farms infested with flesh-eating lice threaten wildlife in oceans

Investigators for Viva! visited farms in the Highlands where they say fish are being kept in 'putrid' overcrowded sea pens – a breeding ground for diseases which can put oceans at risk.



Sea lice attached to Scottish salmon for sale on supermarket fresh fish counter (Image: DAILY MIRROR)

Viva! Scottish Salmon Farms Exposed

Watch later Share

SCOTTISH SALMON FARMING

[EXPOSED]

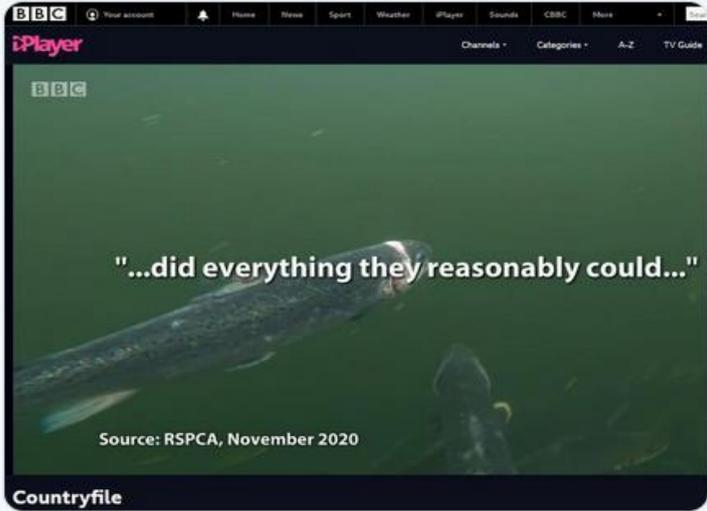
Watch on YouTube

Viva!
END FACTORY FARMING
BEFORE IT ENDS US

December 2020 – BBC Countryfile [featured shocking video footage shot inside a RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Scotland.](#)

Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

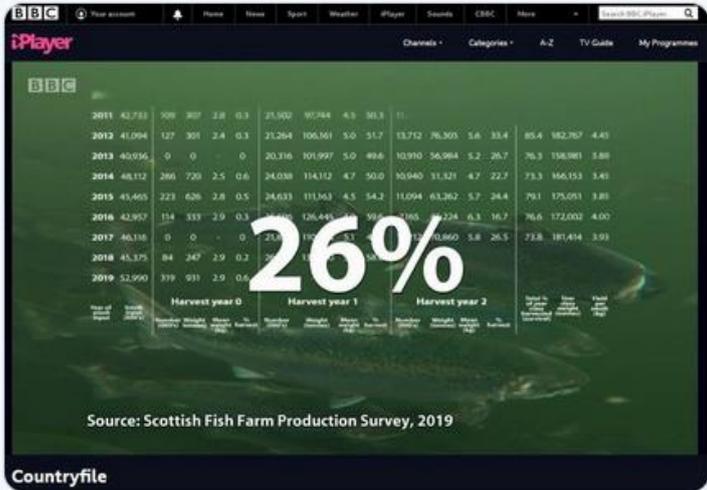
RSPCA claim they "did everything they reasonably could" with respect to welfare abuse @scotseafarms @marksandspencer @SSPOsays in Loch Creran @BBCCountryfile @joe_crowley bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episod...
Surely it is reasonable to question why @rspcaassured still certify salmon farms?



9:41 AM · Dec 7, 2020

Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA

26% mortality rate on Scottish salmon farms (in just the sea phase of production) - that means one in four RSPCA certified salmon are dying a horrible death! @rspcaassured @SSPOsays @marinescotland bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episod... @BBCCountryfile @joe_crowley @SalmonTroutCons @scotgp



Year	Number of fish																	
2011	43,733	109	307	2.8	0.3	21,302	97,744	4.3	30.3	11								
2012	41,094	127	301	2.4	0.3	21,264	106,161	5.0	51.7	13,712	76,305	5.8	33.4	85.4	182,767	4.43		
2013	40,936	0	0	-	0	20,316	101,997	5.0	49.6	10,910	56,984	5.2	26.7	76.3	158,361	3.88		
2014	48,112	286	720	2.5	0.6	24,038	114,112	4.7	50.0	10,940	31,321	4.7	22.7	73.3	146,153	3.43		
2015	45,465	223	626	2.8	0.5	24,633	113,163	4.5	54.2	11,094	63,262	5.7	24.4	79.1	175,051	3.81		
2016	42,957	114	333	2.9	0.3	21,105	126,445	5.7	59.5	10,555	27,234	6.3	16.7	76.6	172,002	4.00		
2017	46,115	0	0	-	0	21,105	107,445	5.1	51.1	11,110	30,960	5.8	26.5	73.8	181,414	3.93		
2018	45,375	84	247	2.9	0.2	20,110	107,445	5.1	51.1	11,110	30,960	5.8	26.5	73.8	181,414	3.93		
2019	52,990	319	931	2.9	0.6	21,105	107,445	5.1	51.1	11,110	30,960	5.8	26.5	73.8	181,414	3.93		

Source: Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey, 2019

9:59 AM · Dec 7, 2020

February 2021 – An [undercover investigation by Animal Equality](#) revealed welfare abuse of farmed salmon inside The Scottish Salmon Company.



Despite a stunning device being in place in this facility, numerous salmon displayed consciousness at the time of slaughter, evidenced by flapping, wriggling and gasping motions.



Many salmon's gills were cut when they were still conscious, causing them to be in agony for up to several minutes as a result.



Some salmon were stunned with a club after their gills were cut, causing their blood to spray out. In some instances, conscious animals were clubbed as many as seven times.



With so many animals entering the slaughterhouse, many fish fell, or were thrown, to the floor when the chute was full. Left to suffocate, their painful death was even more drawn out.

The Times [reported](#) (13 February 2021):

VIDEO

Waitrose salmon supplier Scottish Salmon Company 'let fish die on the floor'

Ben Webster, Environment Editor

Saturday February 13 2021, 12:01am,
The Times



Salmon reared by a company that supplies [Waitrose](#) and the Co-op were left to suffocate on the floor of a factory, repeatedly clubbed and had their gills cut while still conscious, an investigation has found.



Animal Equality UK
@animal_equality



BREAKING: Undercover footage from Animal Equality shows fish left to suffocate, repeatedly clubbed and having their gills cut while fully conscious at a Scottish salmon slaughterhouse.



Waitrose salmon supplier Scottish Salmon Company 'let fish die on t...
Salmon reared by a company that supplies Waitrose and the Co-op were left to suffocate on the floor of a factory, repeatedly clubbed ...
[@thetimes.co.uk](#)

8:26 AM · Feb 13, 2021



The Sunday Times [reported](#) (21 February 2021):

Animal welfare campaigners sound out ban on acoustic seal deterrent

Jeremy Watson

Sunday February 21 2021, 12.01am,
The Sunday Times



Acoustic devices are used at salmon farms to scare off seals, but campaigners say they can cause lasting damage to dolphins, porpoises and whales
ALAMY

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Don Staniford @TheGAAIA

An online petition to stop the 'legalisation' of cruelty to dolphins has helped win a U-turn by salmon farms
obantimes.co.uk/2021/02/21/mor...
@obantimes @marinescotland @SealifeA @scotseafarms @OTAQ2 @aceaquatec @ScotlandMowi @salmon_scottish @SSPOsays @strathearnrose @FergusEwingSNP

The Oban Times
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Dolphin protection petition helps win fish farms' U-turn



A Seil couple's online petition to stop the 'legalisation' of cruelty to dolphins has helped win a U-turn by salmon farms.

More than 30,000 people signed the change.org petition set up by marine biologist David Ainley and wife Jean who run Seattle Adventurers.

A flurry of publicity in the media and lobbying of MSPs asking them to stop Marine Scotland from issuing European Protected Species (EPS) licences to fish farms that would allow them to use Acoustic Deterrent Devices brought about the change of heart.

The clock had been ticking, with Marine Scotland aiming to conclude the licensing process by March 1 0th year.

Campaigners said if fish farms got EPS licences allowing them to use ADDs, it would have legalised disturbing and injuring dolphins.

The petition and lobbying had 'very much played a part' in the fish farms' U-turn, but conservationists still had to keep watch and keep campaigning.

In an open letter to director of Marine Scotland Annabel Turpie before the U-turn was announced, campaigners claimed a model published by Marine Scotland calculating how many cetaceans will be disturbed and injured by the ADDs to be licensed was also 'not scientifically robust'. The campaigners were also angry that EPS licence applications were not open to public scrutiny.

If you use the right nets, you don't have to use ADDs. They couldn't have issued EPS licences while there are these alternatives. I think Marine Scotland will have formal round to the farm, and a bit more.

7:16 PM · Feb 22, 2021

March 2021 - Scottish Salmon Watch [published shocking images of seals killed alongside farmed salmon](#) (8 March 2021).

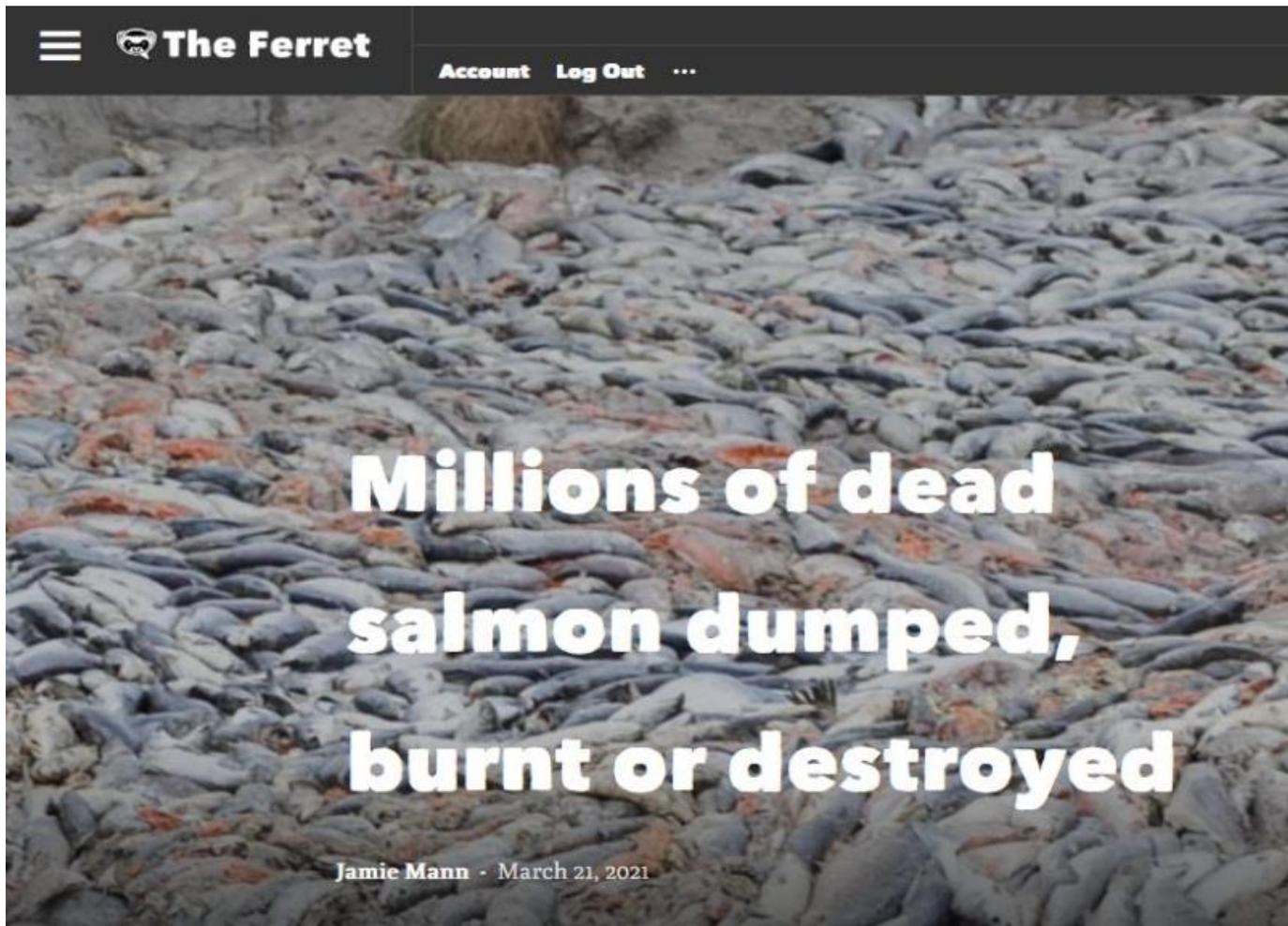


Photo: Seal in bin with farmed salmon (The Scottish Salmon Company, Taranaish salmon farm in Loch Roag) January 2020



Photo: Bloody seal dripping with eyes popped out (Cooke Aquaculture, Unst, Shetland) December 2018

The Ferret [reported](#) (21 March 2021):



The Ferret
@FerretScot



45 per cent of the salmon killed by disease or other problems at Scottish fish farms end up as landfill, are incinerated or disposed of as waste. [#fishytales](#)





Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA



Did you know that some salmon farms cram over 1 million migratory fish in cages? That's a bath-tub of water for each farmed salmon (not to mention the toxic chemicals, disease & welfare abuse) - it's like battery farming Golden Eagles!

tinyurl.com/vdv838tv

Salmon Farming is a Welfare Nightmare



4:28 PM · Mar 22, 2021 · Twitter Web App

