

\$camon Scotland, 26 April 2022

[Lopatinsky's Laundromat](#) – more dirt on the “mysterious millionaire oligarch with links to Russian spy” & Russian security agencies comes out in the wash



- Yuri Lopatinsky's business acquaintances include Michael Matlin ([exposed by The New York Times as Roman Abramovich's bag man in the United States](#)); Mohamed Amersi ([outed in the House of Commons in January along with Lopatinsky, Bogdan, Barunin and Stauffer as closely connected to the SVR & FSB](#)) and Beny Steinmertz ([a diamond magnate who was jailed for five years in 2021 for bribery and corruption](#))
- Lopatinsky is the [secret owner of Associated Seafoods, Moray Seafoods, Lossie Seafoods, RR Spink & Sons, Pride of Scotland, ASL Buckie, Loch Fyne Oysters, Scottish Seafood Investments, Farm Originals & the Charlotte Square Connection](#)
- The 'Moscow broker' (as Yuri Lopatinsky was [dubbed in Bill Browder's 'Red Notice'](#)) was [exposed in court documents dug out by award-winning journalist Lucy Komisar as 'instrumental' in "an immense Russian bank money-laundering scheme" in the 1990s](#)
- [Letter to UK & Scottish Government](#) questions how much public cash has been hoovered up by Lopatinsky's companies including [£177,452 in COVID-19 bailout money via the Seafood Producers Resilience Fund paid out to Loch Fyne Oysters & Associated Seafoods](#)
- Lawyers representing Yuri Lopatinsky (Woods Whur) [threatened legal action against an "ill-founded" Scamon Scotland report published in 2019](#)



A new report – '[Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 2\): Dishonour Among Thieves](#)' (26 April 2022) – lifts the lid further on the dirty Russian money which has flooded into the 'Scottish' salmon farming and seafood industry via Yuri Lopatinsky's secret web of companies. \$camon Scotland is calling on governments all around the world to introduce sanctions against the 'Moscow broker' and to stem the flow of public money to his businesses and lines of credit from banks.

“Lopatinsky’s laundromat must be closed down and all his assets seized by the authorities in the UK, France, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Jersey, Isle of Man, Ireland, Bermuda, Norway, the British Virgin Islands and everywhere the ‘Moscow broker’ has profited from Putin’s regime,” said Don Staniford, [Director of \\$amon \\$cotland](#).

Scottish Seafood Investments	SIX SIS AG	Copeinca	Rambler	Oleg Radnizky
Farm Originals	Charlotte Square	Interoil	Camposol	VSMPO-AVISMA
Associated Seafoods	Fordell Estates	Indigo PR		Mikhail Khodorkovsky
Loch Fyne Oysters	Corran Properties			Vladislav Tetyukhin
RR Spink & Sons	Angus MacMillan	Joli Vin		Viatcheslav Brecht
Scottish Salmon Company	Château De La Cômbe			Michael Matlin
First Mercantile				Gabriel Partners
Northern Link				- Roman Abramovich
Craig Anderson				Mohamed Amersi
Rafael Turkot				Leonard Bogdan
Alex Christofis				Aleksandr Barunin
Jim Mullins				Ernst Stauffer
Viacheslav Lavrentyev				MegaFon
Victor West				Bill Browder
				Sidanco
				Peter Bond
				TMC Yukos
				Beny Steinmertz
				Russian Federation
				First Mercantile Fund
				Johan Kahm
				Carl de Geer
				James Keyes
				Sergei Skvortsov
				Tom Balestrery
				Peter Hughes
				Arne Treholt
				BAMI First Mercantile

Yuri Lopatinsky



“Lopatinsky's dirty Russian money has bankrolled the expansion of disease-ridden salmon farming which is pushing wild fish on the West coast of Scotland to the brink of extinction. It speaks volumes that money laundering, corruption and salmon farming are natural bedfellows. Salmon farming is a morally and ethically bankrupt industry – with millions of farmed salmon dying cruel deaths each year due to overcrowding and lice infestation. You only need to follow the \$almoney to discover how unsavoury this toxic industry really is. To find out that the owner of Associated Seafoods, Loch Fyne Oysters, Moray Seafoods, Lossie Seafoods, RR Spink & Sons and the Pride of Scotland (which markets 'Scottish' salmon and sells to M&S) is closely connected to Russian spy agencies and dirty Russian money is stomach-churning. If you buy Scottish salmon you have blood on your hands.”

Associated Seafoods – [secretly owned by Yuri Lopatinsky via Scottish Seafood Investments/Farm Originals](#) – is [“flying the flag for Scottish exports” for ‘Team Scotland’ at Seafood Expo Global in Spain this week \(as reported yesterday by The Press & Journal\)](#).

Yuri Lopatinsky was [born in Ukraine but secured a British passport in the late 1990s when he moved to Scotland and proceeded to buy into the ‘Scottish’ seafood sector and property in Edinburgh](#). The ‘Moscow broker’ – as Yuri Lopatinsky was dubbed in [Bill Browder’s book ‘Red Notice’](#) – was [outed in January in the House of Commons by Liam Byrne MP as closely connected to Russian spy agencies, dirty Russian money and businessmen like Mohamed Amersi and Leonard Bogdan \[1\]](#).

\$camon Scotland has [spent the last month digging up information about Yuri Lopatinsky's business interests](#) and [background history](#) – here's what we know so far about the workings and global reach of '[Lopatinsky's Laundromat](#)':



FARM ORIGINALS LIMITED **LLF Farm Originals S.A.**

Company number SC521798

Scottish Seafood Investments Limited

Scottish Seafood Investments S.à r.l.

SCOTTISH SEAFOOD INVESTMENTS S.à r.l

SOPICA SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND LIMITED

FIRST MERCANTILE FUND LTD

FIRST MERCANTILE PARTNERS LLP **Northern Link**

Company number SO300953

SOPICA PARTNERS LIMITED **Six SIS AG**

Company number SC334531

BAMI First Mercantile **FM Asset Management**

**Sopica CIS Small Cap
Fund Ltd.**

SIS SegalInterSettle

ASSOCIATED SEAFOODS LIMITED **RR SPINK
& SONS**

Company number SC361498

MORAY SEAFOODS LIMITED **LOSSIE SEAFOODS LTD.**

Company number SC409689

Company number SC145004

LOCH FYNE OYSTERS LIMITED **ASL BUCKIE LTD**

Company number SC066647

Company number SC496552

**GLENISLA PRIDE OF SCOTLAND
LIMITED**

Company number SC429604

THE PRIDE OF SCOTLAND LIMITED

Company number SC169084

CHATEAU DE LA COMBE LTD

Company number 09110419

MINAVEST HOLDINGS LTD

ARDYNE ORGANIC FARMS LTD

Company number SC517731

ARDYNE ESTATES LIMITED

Company number SC433931

**THE SCOTTISH SALMON COMPANY
LIMITED**

Company number SC107275

LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA LIMITED

Russian Federation First Mercantile Fund **рамблер**



And here's what we know about Yuri Lopatinsky's investments in salmon farming, fishing, cannabis, oil and gas exploration and agriculture (assuming that SIX SIS AG "is ultimately controlled by well-heeled Ukrainian investor Yuri Lopatinsky" [as reported by Intrafish in September 2019](#)):



Media Backgrounder:

[The Sunday Mail](#) and [The Ferret](#) reported on the spy story last month (27 March) – with a photo of the “media shy” businessman published for the first time (sourced from a [video shot by Joli Vin at Yuri Lopatinsky’s ‘organic’ vineyard at Château De La Cômbe in Provence, France in 2019](#) (a saved copy is [online here](#) in case it is disappears like investors money).



Last month (31 March), \$camon Scotland [wrote to the UK Government and Scottish Ministers raising red flags about Yuri Lopatinsky](#) about his ongoing seafood business interests in Scotland via Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters.



Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Rt. Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

31 March 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Red Flag for Yuri Lopatinsky (owner of Associated Seafoods & Loch Fyne Oysters)

Further to the [comments by Liam Byrne MP in the House of Commons on 17 January 2022 naming Yuri Lopatinsky as a person “with close connections to the SVR and FSB” \(as well as Mr Amersi\)](#), please read a dossier outlining the shady business interests of the ‘Moscow broker’ (as Yuri Lopatinsky is called in [Bill Browder’s book ‘Red Notice’](#)) including his current ownership of Associated Seafoods and Loch Fyne Oysters (via [Scottish Seafood Investments](#) which is [owned by Yuri Lopatinsky’s Farm Originals](#)):

[Yuri Lopatinsky: The Spy Who Laundered \\$almony for the Russian/Norwegian Salmafia](#)



The UK Government [swiftly replied on 1 April 2022](#):



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Don Staniford

salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

FCDO Correspondence Team
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email:

fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Our ref: CTO2022/10622

1 April 2022

Dear Don Staniford,

Thank you for your email of 31 March to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) about sanctions relating to Russia. Your correspondence has been passed to the Correspondence Team in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for a response.

The [letter dated 1 April 2022](#) included:

We are working closely with other government departments to maximise the effectiveness of our sanctions. The Foreign Secretary has established an Oligarch Taskforce drawing on expertise from across Government, including the Home Office, HM Treasury, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the National Crime Agency.

We have designed our overall sanctions package in such a way to maximise the impact on Russia while minimising the impact to the UK economy. Unlike other countries in Europe, the UK is not dependent on Russian gas supply. Less than 3% of our gas was sourced from Russia in 2020. The Government will do everything possible to safeguard our own people from the repercussions for the cost of living, and we stand ready to protect our country from any threats, including in cyberspace.

We are not giving a running commentary on which sanctions may or may not be in the pipeline, as it risks reducing their impact. That being said, nothing is off the table.

Today (26 April 2022), \$camon \$cotland [wrote to the UK Government and Scottish Ministers](#) asking how much public monies have been given to businesses controlled/owned by Yuri

Lopatinsky. Scamon Scotland has also [questioned what money laundering due diligence has been conducted by the Royal Bank of Scotland prior to bankrolling Lopatinsky's businesses.](#)

The Ferret [reported \(27 March 2022\)](#):



Calls for 'urgent' government Lopatinsky probe

On 28 February, Scottish Labour's [Paul Sweeney](#) MSP [tabled a motion](#) in the Scottish Parliament calling on the Scottish Government to investigate and seize the assets of those in Scotland with links to the Kremlin.

"That call was supported by the Scottish Government and I believe a review of this is underway," he said.

Lopatinsky has "apparent links to the Kremlin" and "owns a swathe of properties in Charlotte Square, a matter of metres from the First Minister's official residence, via a company based in an offshore tax haven."

"It is absolutely incumbent on the Scottish Government to investigate this urgently, and if these links are proven to be conclusive they should be seizing these assets."

Sweeney said Scotland cannot allow anyone with apparent close links to the Kremlin "to operate and profit with impunity". He added: "We must do all we can to ensure that those who appear to be linked to that regime are rooted out of Scotland's economy."

The Scottish Liberal Democrats echoed Sweeney's point. Scotland "needs to do its bit to squeeze Putin's regime and the oligarchs who have profited from it," said [Willie Rennie](#) MSP, the party's economy spokesperson.

"If there are documented connections between Mr Lopatinsky and Russian intelligence services, it is hard to see why his business empire including these Edinburgh properties are not on the sanctions list. Scotland needs to be much more transparent about who owns what."

Scottish Labour MSP Sarah Boyack [told The Sunday Mail \(27 March 2022\)](#): "This is a worrying revelation. Every effort must be made to counter the influence of Russian and Russian-aligned millionaires in Scotland and the rest of the UK."

“A public filing by AquaBounty has revealed that Edinburgh-based tycoon Yuriy Lopatynskyy has invested in the genetically modified (GM) salmon producer,” [reported Intrafish in February 2020](#). “Luxembourg-based LLF Financial, half-owned by Lopatynskyy, purchased just under 3.2 million shares via two companies -- Sopica Special Opportunities and Sopica Global Retail Growth Fund -- giving the group 9.9 percent of the outstanding shares. The other half of LLF Financial is owned by Ukraine-based Hennadiy Lopatynskyy. It's unclear the relation between the two men. The UK-based Lopatynskyy is linked to several investments and properties around the globe, [including multiple offshore groups cited in the Paradise Papers](#), among them Uraslib Russia Select Fund, USB Asset Management, Sopica CIS Small Cap Fund, FMIG and BAMI First Mercantile. Lopatynskyy also owns Northern Link, which was the largest shareholder of the Scottish Salmon Company. Northern Link is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Virgin Islands-based Sopica Global Retail Growth Fund, which is advised by LLF Financial. [Lopatynskyy took a controlling interest in Scottish salmon farmer Lighthouse Caledonia in 2009 through his private equity firm Northern Link](#), right before it was acquired by SSC. Northern Link has held in the past several other investments in aquaculture and marine-related companies in Norway, Peru and Russia, including stakes in Leroy Seafood, Codfarmers, Marine Farms, Copeinca and Villa Organic.”

“The Scottish Salmon Company is controlled by the media tycoon Russian hedge fund manager Yuri Lopatinsky,” [reported Salmon Business in September 2019](#). “He holds 72.8 per cent of the shares through the Swiss-registered investment company SIX SIS. It has been an adventurous investment. The shareholding has risen twelve-fold in value since 2011 and is now valued at EUR 370 million. Adjusted for dividends, most of the investment is pure profit. However, this is not the first time Lopatinsky has made a big cut. He was the founder of Russia’s answer to Google, Rambler. In selling this company, he earned somewhere between USD 500 and USD 600 million. He used these funds, among other things, to buy SSC.”

Read more via:

[‘Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 2\): Dishonour Among Thieves’](#) (26 April 2022)

[EXPOSED: Lopatinsky's Laundromat - How Dirty Russian Money Corrupted Scottish Salmon!](#) (19 April 2022)

[Lopatinsky's Laundromat \(Part 1\): AVISMA - A Case Study in Corruption, Corporate Fraud & Money Laundering](#) (17 April 2022)

[Yuri Lopatinsky: His Story \(Chronology/Biography\)](#) (12 April 2022)

[Yuri Lopatinsky: The \\$py Who Laundered \\$almoney for the Russian/Norwegian \\$almafia \(& is a neighbour of the First Minister of Scotland\)?](#) (8 April 2022)

Contact:

Don Staniford: 07771 541826 (salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com)

Notes to Editors:

[1] Speaking under parliamentary privilege, Liam Byrne MP [addressed the House of Commons on 17 January 2022](#) on “the lack of any attempt to clean up the laundromat of British politics, which is now awash with dark money from dubious sources”.

“Information I have seen from well-placed sources in the Kremlin shows that Mr Amersi is an associate and business partner of people with all sorts of friends, including some with close connections to the SVR and FSB,” [continued Liam Byrne MP](#). “They include Yuri Lopatinsky, Ernst Stauffer, and Aleksandr Barunin, with whom Mr Amersi worked on several telecom deals, including the takeover of Megafon, the firm later accused by the Georgians of “illegal business operations and participation in the military and economic annexation of Georgia. Mr Amersi made a fortune helping to sell PeterStar to a Luxembourg-based company, which—surprise, surprise—turned out to be controlled by Leonid Rieman, who was none other than President Putin’s former telecoms Minister. Coincidence? You be the judge, Mr Deputy Speaker.”

“Perhaps the most concerning of Mr Amersi’s connections is Leonard Bogdan, a man with very interesting friends in the FSB and the SVR,” [continued Liam Byrne MP](#). “Mr Bogdan was a minor partner in Tempbank, which held Soviet Union Communist party assets and then specialised in covert foreign transfers. The bank was associated with several Syrian citizens supplying arms to Syria and Iran and was sanctioned by the US Treasury in 2014. But Tempbank also helped to facilitate another sanctioned firm, Hudsotrade, which dealt with Russian arms and ammunition suppliers. Sources inside the Russian Government say that Mr Amersi was involved in these deals, providing finance from Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, along with private clients from Syria and Iran, to help exports into the middle east. Mr Amersi, it is said, dealt directly with Hudsotrade and two of the shareholders, who were later sanctioned.”



[Liam Byrne MP](#) told me via an email late on 25 March 2022:

“As Britain throws wide its sanctions net, it's now vital Yuri Lopatinsky explains any and every relationship with Russian intelligence agencies along with any and every connection to a web of Russian linked tycoons like Aleksandr Barunin, Leonard Bogdan and Ernst Stauffer”.

I [Tweeted \(29 March 2022\)](#):



Don Staniford
@TheGAAIA



“Parliament will be ruthless in demanding our Foreign Secretary sanctions every single profiteer from Putin’s regime. Now is the time for Mr Lopatynskyy to put his cards on the table or face MPs using parliamentary privilege to lay out the full dossiers” [@liambyrnemp](#)
[@Sunday_Mail](#)

