



Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	Corlarach FS1287
2. Name and address	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd (FB0440) Dunvegan Pier Dunvegan Skye IV55 8WF Postcode
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	As above Postcode
4. Date of Visit	25/08/2020
5. Time of visit	09:00 to 13:40

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

██████████, Marine Scotland; ██████████ (Animal and Plant Health Agency), ██████████ (Grieg Seafood, ██████████) and partly ██████████ (Grieg Seafood, ██████████).

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

██████████ emailed SEPA alleging that salmon morts would be unsafely stored at ██████████. APHA were copied into these allegations. Liaising with Marine Scotland it emerged that this site had experienced higher than normal mortality and a joint inspection was scheduled between APHA and Marine Scotland. I accompanied the colleague of Marine Scotland who led the inspection.

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

This is a seawater site stocked with Salmon. At the time of this inspection 6/10 cages were stocked with 160,800 Atlantic salmon with an average weight of 1.7kg . The site employs ██████████ for routine inspections and to help with health management. The company vet were not available to attend on the date of inspection.

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

FINDINGS

Corlarach FS1287 –

6/10 cages stocked with 160,800 Atlantic salmon; the average weight was: 1.7kg at the time of inspection.

Recent mortality: of a multifactorial nature and attributed to complex gill issues and damage to the fish caused by blooms of jellyfish

Week 30 – 1.19% - 3,311

Week 31 – 4.34% - 11,975

Week 32 – 13% - 34,300

Week 33 – 6.64% - 15,520

Week 34 – 1.02% - 2,172

The company's staff at the site and the Private Veterinary Surgeon employed (hereafter PVS) have carried out tests of the water and of the fish to understand the possible root cause of this mortality. The PVS attended on multiple occasions between July and August (24th July, 19th and 21st of August) to inspect the records, the fish and to carry out samples to make diagnosis. It is noteworthy that this company regularly employ the services of [REDACTED] (hereafter [REDACTED]). A fish specialist vet of FVG attends this site almost every month because they are also the medicine prescribing vets. [REDACTED] carry out routinely random sampling to screen a representative group of the fish population and also targeted sampling of fish appearing sick. The PVS also analyzes the cycle records to observe trends and advise accordingly. On top of this regular input and due to the large mortality recorded [REDACTED] attended this site in July and in August (24th July, 19th and 21st of August). The case PVS was also remotely following progress when not physically on site.

Despite lab testing the primary root cause of mortality was difficult to establish with absolute certainty. However, on the grounds of ancillary diagnostics and inspection findings, the PVS considered it very likely that zooplankton blooms -which have been documented by water monitoring-, have damaged the gills of the fish causing mortality and also predisposing them to harmful microorganisms affecting the gills including the amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans*.

Pancreatic disease (SAV) did not appear to have been the cause of deaths to the PVS, moreover the fish were vaccinated against it; laboratory findings seem to have excluded with a good degree of certainty SAV as the primary causative agent of this large mortality. The PVS also reported seeing some fish damaged by the tentacles of macro-jellyfish.

No specific treatment exist for gill damage due to zooplankton, but hygiene of the cages, nets and removal of morts were the only specific options to manage some of the effects of zooplankton damage. On the day of official inspection company operatives were seen actively removing morts from cages and dealing with moribunds.

The amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans* was treated with low dose peroxide and freshwater. However, the scale of the issue made it necessary for the company to instigate emergency harvesting because of safety concerns created by the need for simultaneous removal of a large quantity of morts as well as treating fish.

SEA LICE COUNTS (average adult female) (*L. salmonis*)

Week 34 - 8.31

Week 33 - No count - bad weather

Week 32 - 5.39

Week 31 - 3.79

week 30 - 2.98
week 29 - No count
week 28 - 0.77
Week 27 - 0.53

Sea lice compounded the already complex picture. AMX (Deltamethrin) was prescribed to deal with the lice issue but treatment could not be carried out simultaneously on all cages. It also proved a safety issue to deal simultaneously with treatments and the removal of mortalities so emergency harvesting was instigated with a view to follow the site earlier than anticipated.

The site was depopulated on September the 15th which was earlier than planned. This was done to prevent further health and welfare issues.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

No action beyond inspection for APHA because the company dealt satisfactorily with this incident.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

The site has experienced high levels of mortality of a multifactorial nature. Initial damage of the gills of the salmon by blooms of hydrozoan jellyfish was compounded by secondary factors. The company recruited a fish vet specialist to carry out physical inspections, take diagnostic samples and to treat accordingly. Hygiene of cages and removal of deaths were carried out to manage this incident along with treatments. Despite this, emergency harvesting was carried out and the site followed before the expected time to prevent further health and welfare issues; this was due to the complexity of the issue. Grieg Seafood took satisfactory actions in this set of circumstances including: employment of veterinary specialist advice and treatment, emergency harvesting of salmon and finally depopulation.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant *

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

Tel No.

APHA office address

Field Delivery Services
Longman House
28 Longman Road
Inverness
IV1 1SF

DATA PROTECTION

For information on how we handle personal data please go to www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.



	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved	N/A	
Further Action	N/A	

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number 2. Date of Visit

3. Name and address

4. Location of Fish (if different from above)

5. Category 6. Visit Type

7. Visit sub type (Targeted only) 8. Target date

9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Salmo salar (Atlantic salmon)	160,800	160,800	n/a	C

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13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	Salmo salar							
Staffing STF	■							■
Inspection INS	■							■
Disease treatment DIS	■							■
Records REC	■							■
Housing HOU	■							■
Environment ENV	■							■
Equipment EQP	■							■
Freedom of Movement	■							■
Feed FDW	■							■
Mutilations MUT	N/A							N/A
Breeding Procedures BRE	N/A							N/A
Compliant or non-compliant	Compliant							C

14. Action

No further action beyond inspection for APHA because the company's actions are deemed satisfactory on this occasion.

15. Further action

n/a

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

N/A	How was unnecessary suffering resolved?	N/A
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17. Assurance Schemes

Inspectors Signature

Date

08/11/2020

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

████████████████████

Grade

██████████

APHA office

Field Delivery Services
Longman House
28 Longman Road
Inverness
IV1 1SF

M/F

Mark forward for 'non-compliance'

N/A

Non-compliance

High	Medium	Low
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assessment

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

FINDINGS

Corlarach FS1287 –

6/10 cages stocked with 160,800 Atlantic salmon; the average weight was: 1.7kg at the time of inspection.

Recent mortality: of a multifactorial nature and attributed to complex gill issues and damage to the fish caused by blooms of jellyfish

Week 30 – 1.19% - 3,311

Week 31 – 4.34% - 11,975

Week 32 – 13% - 34,300

Week 33 – 6.64% - 15,520

Week 34 – 1.02% - 2,172

The company's staff at the site and the Private Veterinary Surgeon employed (hereafter PVS) have carried out tests of the water and of the fish to understand the possible root cause of this mortality. The PVS attended on multiple occasions between July and August (24th July, 19th and 21st of August) to inspect the records, the fish and to carry out samples to make diagnosis. It is noteworthy that this company regularly employ the services of [REDACTED] (hereafter [REDACTED]). A fish specialist vet of [REDACTED] attends this site almost every month because they are also the medicine prescribing vets. [REDACTED] carry out routinely random sampling to screen a representative group of the fish population and also targeted sampling of fish appearing sick. The PVS also analyzes the cycle records to observe trends and advise accordingly. On top of this regular input and due to the large mortality recorded FVG attended the site in July and in August (24th July, 19th and 21st of August). The case PVS was also remotely following progress when not physically on site.

Despite lab testing the primary root cause of mortality was difficult to establish with absolute certainty. However, on the grounds of ancillary diagnostics and inspection findings, the PVS considered it very likely that zooplankton blooms -which have been documented by water monitoring-, have damaged the gills of the fish causing mortality and also predisposing them to harmful microorganisms affecting the gills including the amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans*.

Pancreatic disease (SAV) did not appear to have been the cause of deaths to the PVS, moreover the fish were vaccinated against it; laboratory findings seem to have excluded with a good degree of certainty SAV as the primary causative agent of this large mortality. The PVS also reported seeing some fish damaged by the tentacles of macro-jellyfish.

No specific treatments exist for gill damage due to zooplankton, but hygiene of the cages, nets and removal of morts were the only specific options to manage some of the effects of zooplankton damage. On the day of official inspection operatives were seen actively removing morts from cages and dealing with moribunds.

The amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans* was treated with low dose peroxide and freshwater. However, the scale of the issue made it necessary for the company to instigate emergency harvesting because of safety concerns created by the need for simultaneous removal of a large quantity of morts as well as treating fish.

SEA LICE COUNTS (average adult female) (L salmonis)

Week 34 - 8.31

Week 33 - No count - bad weather

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Sea lice compounded the already complex picture. AMX (Deltamethrin) was prescribed to deal with the lice issue but treatment could not be carried out simultaneously on all cages. It also proved a safety issue to deal

simultaneously with treatments and the removal of mortalities so emergency harvesting was instigated with a view to fallow the site earlier than anticipated.

Thus, the site was depopulated on September the 15th, which was earlier than planned, to prevent further health and welfare issues.

DATA PROTECTION

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Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	Leinish (FS0800)
2. Name and address	Grieg Seafood Shetland Ltd (FB0440) Dunvegan Pier Dunvegan Skye IV55 8WF Postcode
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	As above Postcode
4. Date of Visit	25/08/2020
5. Time of visit	09:00 to 13:40

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

██████████, Marine Scotland; ██████████ (Animal and Plant Health Agency), ██████████ (Grieg Seafood, ██████████) and partly ██████████ (Grieg Seafood, ██████████).

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

██████████ made allegations to SEPA that salmon morts would be unsafely stored ██████████. APHA were copied into these allegations. Liaising with Marine Scotland it emerged that this site had experienced higher than normal mortality and a joint inspection was scheduled between APHA and Marine Scotland. I accompanied the colleague of Marine Scotland who led the inspection.

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

This was a seawater site with 9 pens stocked out of 10 present. At the time of inspection the cages were stocked with 250,064 Atlantic salmon with an average weight of 2.2kg

The site employs ██████████ for routine inspections and to help with health management. The company vet were not available to attend on the date of inspection.

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

FINDINGS

At the time of inspection 9/10 cages were stocked with 250,064 Atlantic salmon with an average weight of 2.2kg.

SEA LICE

below the reporting levels. Salmosan used.

MORTALITY

Week 30 – 0.78% - 3,124

Week 31 – 0.93% - 3,726

Week 32 – 1.37% - 5,400

Week 33 – 27.65% - 107,700

Week 34 – 14.29% - 40,260

The company's staff at the site and the Private Veterinary Surgeon employed (hereafter PVS) have carried tests of the water and of the fish to understand the possible root cause of this severe mortality. The PVS attended on multiple occasions between July and August (July the 24th, August the 19th and August the 21st) to inspect records, fish and to carry out diagnostic samples. It is noteworthy that the company employ the services of [REDACTED] (hereafter [REDACTED]); a vet of [REDACTED] attends this site almost every month as they are also the prescribing vets. [REDACTED] carry out routinely random sampling to screen a representative group of the fish population and also targeted sampling of fish appearing sick. The PVS also analyzes the cycle records to observe trends and advises accordingly. Due to the large mortality recorded [REDACTED] were called to carry out physical inspections which happened on July the 24th, on August the 19th and on August the 21st. The case PVS was also remotely following progress when not on site.

Despite lab testing the root cause was difficult to establish with absolute certainty. However, on the grounds of ancillary diagnostics and findings, the PVS considered it very likely that zooplankton blooms, which have been documented by monitoring, have severely damaged the gills of the fish causing mortality and predisposing them to microorganisms affecting the gills including amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans*.

Pancreatic disease did not appear to have been the cause of deaths to the PVS, moreover the fish were vaccinated against it and laboratory findings seem to have excluded SAV as the causative agent of this large mortality. The PVS also reported seeing some fish damaged by the tentacles of macro-jellyfish.

No specific treatment exist for gill damage due to zooplankton, but hygiene of the cages, nets and removal of morts were the only specific options to manage zooplankton damage. On the day of official inspection operatives were seen actively removing morts from cages and dealing with moribunds.

The amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans* was treated with low dose peroxide. However, only little difference was observed following this treatment. Thus, due to the complexity and severity of the issue emergency harvesting was carried out. The site was depopulated on October the 23rd to prevent further health and welfare issues.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

No further actions for APHA beyond inspection because the company took satisfactory action on this occasion.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

The site has experienced high levels of mortality of a multifactorial nature. Initial damage of the gills of the salmon by blooms of hydrozoan jellyfish was compounded by secondary factors. The company recruited a fish vet specialist to carry out physical inspections, take diagnostic samples and to treat accordingly. Hygiene of cages and removal of deaths were carried out to manage this incident along with treatments. Despite this, emergency harvesting was carried out and the site fallowed on October the 23rd to prevent further welfare issues; Grieg Seafood took satisfactory actions in this set of circumstances including: employment of veterinary specialist advice and treatment, emergency harvesting of salmon and depopulation.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant*

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

Tel No.

APHA office address

Field Delivery Services
28 Longman Road
IV1 1SF
Inverness

DATA PROTECTION

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	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved	n/a	
Further Action	n/a	

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number 2. Date of Visit

3. Name and address

4. Location of Fish (if different from above)

5. Category 6. Visit Type

7. Visit sub type (Targeted only) 8. Target date

9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Salmo salar	250,064	250,064	0	0

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13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	(Atlantic Salmon, Salmo salar)								C
Staffing STF	█								█
Inspection INS	█								█
Disease treatment DIS	█								█
Records REC	█								█
Housing HOU	█								█
Environment ENV	█								█
Equipment EQP	█								█
Freedom of Movement	█								█
Feed FDW	█								█
Mutilations MUT	N/A								N/A
Breeding Procedures BRE	N/A								N/A
Compliant or non-compliant	COMPLIANT								

14. Action

No further actions for APHA because the company took satisfactory actions on this occasion.

15. Further action

N/A

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

N/A	How was unnecessary suffering resolved?	N/A
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17. Assurance Schemes

Inspectors Signature

Date

07/09/2020

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

█

Grade

█

APHA office

Field Delivery Services
Longman House
28 Longman Road
Inverness
IV1 1SF
I

M/F

Mark forward for 'non-compliance

N/A

Non-compliance
assessment

High	Medium	Low

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

FINDINGS

At the time of inspection 9/10 cages were stocked with 250,064 Atlantic salmon with an average weight of 2.2kg.

SEA LICE

below the reporting levels. Salmosan was used.

MORTALITY

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Despite lab testing the root cause was difficult to establish with absolute certainty. However, on the grounds of ancillary diagnostics and findings, the PVS considered it very likely that zooplankton blooms, which have been documented by monitoring, have severely damaged the gills of the fish causing mortality and predisposing them to microorganisms affecting the gills including the amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans*. Pancreatic disease did not appear to have been the cause of deaths to the PVS, moreover the fish were vaccinated against it and laboratory findings seem to have excluded SAV as the causative agent of this large mortality. The PVS also reported seeing some fish damaged by the tentacles of macro-jellyfish.

No specific treatment exist for gill damage due to zooplankton, but hygiene of the cages, nets and removal of morts were the only specific options to manage zooplankton damage. On the day of official inspection operatives were seen actively removing morts from cages and dealing with moribunds.

The amoeba *Neoparamoeba perurans* was treated with low dose peroxide. However, only little difference was observed following this treatment. Thus, due to the complexity and severity of the issue, emergency harvesting had to be carried out. The site was completely depopulated on October the 23rd to prevent further health and welfare issues. The depopulation was prior to what the company had originally planned for this production cycle.

CONCLUSIONS

The site has experienced high levels of mortality of a multifactorial nature. Initial damage of the gills of the salmon by blooms of hydrozoan jellyfish was compounded by secondary factors. The company recruited a fish vet specialist to carry out physical inspections, take diagnostic samples and to treat accordingly. Hygiene of cages and removal of deaths were carried out to manage this incident along with treatments. Despite this, emergency harvesting was carried out and the site fallowed before the expected time to prevent further health and welfare issues; this was due to the complexity of the issue. Grieg Seafood took satisfactory actions in this set of circumstances including: employment of veterinary specialist advice and treatment, emergency harvesting of salmon and depopulation of

the site.

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APHA ref: WS-3433563

Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment

Information provided

To be completed in all cases by the person taking the call.

Report taken by:	<input type="text"/>	Report type: Complaint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date:	14/09/2020	Media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time:	8:42	Referral	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Referral type:	Select referral type
		Third party ref:	<input type="text"/>
		Previously reported	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Previous APHA ref:	<input type="text"/>

Nature of complaint and information provided:

(Number of animals, species, breed, needs (feed, water, shelter, bedding etc), whether or not animal suffering has been witnessed (injury, distress, etc), duration of incident and other relevant information. Paste emails containing photos etc here)

E-mail received on 12th Sep 2020 (Saturday) regarding high salmon mortality and fish welfare breaches at the farm located at Loch Tralaigh NM873168. Complain submitted by . Complainant pointing out at the lack of action of workers on site.

Welfare Category:

- Farm
- Market
- Slaughter
- Transport

Reported location of animal(s):

(Details must be sufficient to determine an OS Map Reference)

Loch Tralaig NM873165 South of Oban

[OS Map Ref.](#) determined from the informant:

NM873165

APHA Delivery Team for this location:

Scotland - Perth

If the complainant is aware this issue has been reported to other organisations, please record details here:

E-mail copied to .fishhealth@gov.scot < APHA and SCD Wildlife Crime.

Note: Informant details are only used by inspectors to gather further information or to clarify location details

Informant name:	<input type="text"/>
Tel No. (1):	<input type="text"/>
Tel No. (2):	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian.

Likely owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Kames Fish Farm

Likely CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

n/a

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Comments and recommended local actions based on available information:

(Consider number of animals, breed, age, environmental conditions etc. Include risks and mitigating factors in a reasoned assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/is now occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Please consider this an official complaint against Kames Fish Farm

[Redacted content]

VRA visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (Food Standards Scotland (FSS)/Food Standards Agency (FSA)) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Date visit required by: N/A

Vet completing VRA:

VRA Date:

VRA Time:

Local Assessment

To be completed by the local field team.

Are farm details in above VRA considered correct? (If not, amend below) Yes No

Amended owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Amended CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Local knowledge and further information:

(Include risks and/or mitigating factors not recorded above to be considered in the assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Outcome of discussion with Local Authority (LA) about this case:

Name of LA:

Name of person contacted:

Local Assessment visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (FSS/FSA) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Provide justification if the Local Assessment outcome has been altered from the VRA outcome:

Date visit required by: N/A

England and Wales - Organisation(s) attending: APHA only
LA only
APHA and LA
N/A

Scotland - Name of organisation(s) attending: N/A

Name of APHA representative attending: N/A

Role: N/A

Person completing Local Assessment:

Role:

Local Assessment date:

Local Assessment time:

Email completed Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF77) to:

England: @apha.gov.uk

Scotland: @apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

Wales: @apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

HM3 Stamp	Name:	<input type="text"/>	Date Received:	<input type="text"/>	WS ID:	<input type="text"/>
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Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FB0134
2. Name and address	Kames Fish Farming Kames Kilmelford OBAN Argyll and Bute Postcode PA34 4XA
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Loch Tralaig Kilniver Argyll Postcode PA35 1HJ
4. Date of Visit	17/09/2020
5. Time of visit	10:30

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

	Animal and Plant Health Agency (Fish Health Inspectorate) (Fresh Water XXXXXXXXXX)
--	---

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Visit in response to a complaint received regarding welfare of farmed salmon.

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

<p>Loch Tralaig site is a fresh water salmon site belonging to Kames Fish Farming Ltd. The site is located in Loch Tralaig just off the shore near Kilnivear. The site consists of 5 circular cages. There are 3 x 40m cages and 2 x 50m cages. Currently the water temperature is 14.2degrees. All the cages are fed by automatic hopper feeding. The site was stocked in July with approximately 240000 smolts. These were sourced from Allt Mor Hatchery. The site was stocked over the course of 2 days. Smolts arrive at approximately 25-30g weight. The smolts are due to go out to a sea site in Shetland around the end of September. The site currently takes in one crop per year, they are on site for between 3-6 months before the site under goes a</p>
--

fallow period awaiting the next crop.

The site is under the veterinary care of the [REDACTED] in Inverness but also have their own veterinary and health managers.

The site currently has two full time staff members and additional resource is sought from other sites as required. All staff for the site undergo a staff induction and then have a training check list to work through usually on the job training with supervision. All staff undertake a vaccination course via [REDACTED] which also includes training on use of tricaine anaesthetics. They also undergo fish welfare training with [REDACTED]

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

At the time of inspection 4 cages were stocked with approximately 200,100 smolts. The current weight of the smolts ranges between 80-90 grams in 2 of the cages and over 100g in the other 2 cages.

The site have had issues with Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal infection) during this crop which became more apparent after vaccination.

Vaccinations began on the 10th August, done by onsite staff using the vaccination machine - easivac 1200. They currently have a new vaccinating machine however there were a couple of set up issues with the new machine so a combination of the old and new machines were used.

There were some issues in cage 5 following vaccination, there appeared to be an issue with the anaesthetic and water temperatures, the combination of vaccination and anaesthetic did lead to the death of approximately 1000 smolts. A new protocol has now been put in place to minimise the risks of any anaesthetic deaths.

Following vaccination Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal) infection became apparent in cage 4 on the 19th of August. The site immediately ordered in treatment (formaldehyde) to allow treatment of this cage as soon as possible. Treatments began on the fish on the 21st August in cage 4. All cages were checked for signs of Saprolegnia, all cages were found to be affected with cages 2 and 3 being worst affected.

The site underwent a treatment program to treat all cages, initially mortalities from the Saprolegnia infection and vaccination were reasonably high with a peak in the week of 5th September of 1.48% but it has steadily decreased since then and is back to a level of approximately 0.28%.

The cages were treated intensively initially to get the infection under control and at the time of the inspection preventative treatments were continuing prior to the fish going out to sea.

During our inspection the site was undertaking treatment of Cage 3 with formaldehyde. To undergo the treatments the nets are raised to crowd the fish, a protective covering is placed around the cage, oxygen is pumped through the water and the formaldehyde treatment is placed in the water. The fish undergo treatment for 1 hour at a time. During the inspection the fish were monitored for any signs of distress such as leaping, abnormal behaviours and over crowding which were not apparent.

The site is continuing preventative treatment once weekly to prevent recurrence of disease prior to movement out to sea.

The site have reviewed their health plan and for the next cycle plan to do preventative treatments on days 1, 3 and 5 following vaccination to try and avoid any issues with Saprolegnia infections.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

The site has had issues with Saprolegnia this year following vaccination, the site initiated treatment as soon as practical. There has been a reasonably high mortality due to this fungal infection, however the site has reviewed their protocols and put in place actions to prevent a similar situation. The site has a visit planned with their veterinary advisors to review their veterinary health plan at the end of this week.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

The site has had issues with Saprolegnia this year following vaccination, the site initiated treatment as soon as practical. There has been a reasonably high mortality due to this fungal infection, however the site has reviewed their protocols and put in place actions to prevent a similar situation recurring.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

01/10/2020

Tel No.

APHA office address

APHA Perth
Strathearn House
Broxden Business Park
Lamberkine Drive
Perth
PH1 1RX

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	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved		
Further Action		

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number 2. Date of Visit

3. Name and address

4. Location of Fish (if different from above)

5. Category 6. Visit Type

7. Visit sub type (Targeted only) 8. Target date

9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Salmon Smolts	~200100	~70%	0	compliant

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13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	Salmon Smolts							
Staffing STF	██████							
Inspection INS	██████							
Disease treatment DIS	██████							
Records REC	██████							
Housing HOU	██████							
Environment ENV	██████							
Equipment EQP	██████							
Freedom of Movement	██████							
Feed FDW	██████							
Mutilations MUT	██████							
Breeding Procedures BRE	N/A							
Compliant or non-compliant	Compliant							

14. Action

The site has had issues with Saprolegnia this year following vaccination, the site initiated treatment as soon as practical. There has been a reasonably high mortality due to this fungal infection, however the site has reviewed their protocols and put in place actions to prevent a similar situation. The site has a visit planned with their veterinary advisors to review their veterinary health plan.

15. Further action

Plans are in place for next cycle to carry out preventative treatment following vaccination to limit this opportunistic pathogen taking hold.

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

N/A	How was unnecessary suffering resolved?	N/A
-----	---	-----

17. Assurance Schemes

RSPCA

Inspectors Signature

██

Date

1/10/2020

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

██

Grade

██████

APHA office

APHA Perth
Strathearn House
Broxden Business Park
Lamberkine Drive
Perth
PH1 1RX

M/F

Mark forward for 'non-compliance'

N/A

Non-compliance assessment

High	Medium	Low

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

Visit in response to a complaint received regarding welfare of farmed salmon.

Loch Tralaig site is a fresh water salmon site belonging to Kames Fish Farming Ltd. The site is located in Loch Tralaig just off the shore near Kilnivear. The site consists of 5 circular cages. There are 3 x 40m cages and 2 x 50m cages. Currently the water temperature is 14.2degrees.

All the cages are fed by automatic hopper feeding.

The site was stocked in July with approximately 240000 smolts. These were sourced from Allt Mor Hatchery. The site was stocked over the course of 2 days. Smolts arrive at approximately 25-30g weight.

The smolts are due to go out to a sea site in Shetland around the end of September.

The site currently takes in one crop per year, they are on site for between 3-6 months before the site under goes a fallow period awaiting the next crop.

The site is under the veterinary care of the [REDACTED] in Inverness but also have their own veterinary and health managers.

The site currently has two full time staff members and additional resource is sought from other sites as required.

All staff for the site undergo a staff induction and then have a training check list to work through usually on the job training with supervision. All staff undertake a vaccination course via Pharmac which also includes training on use of tricaine anaesthetics. They also undergo fish welfare training with [REDACTED]

At the time of inspection 4 cages were stocked with approximately 200,100 smolts. The current weight of the smolts ranges between 80-90 grams in 2 of the cages and over 100g in the other 2 cages.

The site have had issues with Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal infection) during this crop which became more apparent after vaccination.

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There were some issues in cage 5 following vaccination, there appeared to be an issue with the anaesthetic and water temperatures, the combination of vaccination and anaesethic did lead to the death of approximately 1000 smolts. A new protocol has now been put in place to minimise the risks of any anaesthetic deaths.

Following vaccination Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal) infection became apparent in cage 4 on the 19th of August. The site immediately ordered in treatment (formaldehyde) to allow treatment of this cage as soon as possible. Treatments began on the fish on the 21st August in cage 4. All cages were checked for signs of Saprolegnia, all cages were found to be affected with cages 2 and 3 being worst affected.

The site underwent a treatment program to treat all cages, initially mortalities from the Saprolegnia infection and vaccination were reasonably high with a peak in the week of 5th September of 1.48% but it has steadily decreased since then and is back to a level of approximately 0.28%.

The cages were treated intensively initially to get the infection under control and at the time of the inspection preventative treatments were continuing prior to the fish going out to sea. During our inspection the site was undertaking treatment of Cage 3 with formaldehyde. To undergo the treatments the nets are raised to crowd the fish, a protective covering is placed around the cage, oxygen is pumped through the water and the formaldehyde treatment is placed in the water. The fish undergo treatment for 1 hour at a time. During the inspection the fish were monitored for any signs of distress such as leaping, abnormal behaviours and overcrowding which was not apparent.

The site is continuing preventative treatment once weekly to prevent recurrence of disease prior to movement out to sea.

The site have a meeting to review their health plan with their veterinary advisors and for the next cycle plan to do preventative treatments on days 1, 3 and 5 following vaccination to try and avoid any issues with Saprolegnia infections.

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HM2

From: [redacted] [Scotland \(APHA\)](#)
To: [redacted] [ScotlandDutyVet](#)
Cc: [redacted] [Scotland-Welfare \(APHA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Official Complaint: Welfare abuse at Kames in Loch Tralaig
Date: 14 September 2020 08:42:26

Morning Everyone

Please see email below,

[redacted]

Kelly

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [redacted] | Ext: [redacted] | Email: APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: One Health Team, Cotsgreen Road, Tweedbank, TD1 3SG

From: [redacted]@gmail.com]

Sent: 12 September 2020 07:58

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@apha.gov.uk>; [redacted]

APHA Scotland (APHA) [redacted]@apha.gov.uk>; [redacted]

[redacted]scotland.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: Official Complaint: [redacted] Kames in Loch Tralaig

[redacted]

[redacted]



From: [redacted] [Scotland \(APHA\)](#)
To: [redacted] [cotlandDutyVet](#)
Cc: [redacted] [cotland-Welfare \(APHA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Video evidence of welfare abuse at Kames
Date: 14 September 2020 08:46:50

Morning

[redacted] regarding [redacted] Kames.

Thanks

[redacted]

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [redacted] | Ext: [redacted] | Email: APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)
Address: One Health Team, Cotsgreen Road, Tweedbank, TD1 3SG

From: [redacted] [@gmail.com](#)]

Sent: 12 September 2020 13:19

To: [redacted] [@gov.scot](#); [redacted] [@apha.gov.uk](#)>; [redacted]

APHA Scotland (APHA) [redacted] [@apha.gov.uk](#)>; [redacted]

[redacted] [@scotland.pnn.police.uk](#)>

Subject: Video evidence [redacted] at Kames

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, [redacted] [@gmail.com](#)>
wrote:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Visit to Loch Tralaig
Date: 01 October 2020 14:45:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

The fish came from [REDACTED]. They are aquagen stock.

Fish delivered: Our count at delivery was: [REDACTED] fish in total (13th and 14th July)

Fish numbers at inspection: [REDACTED] fish before mortalities for that day.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 October 2020 11:32
To: [REDACTED]@Kames.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [REDACTED]

I am sorry to bother you again but I am just completing my report following our visit and just wanted to double check a couple of things to ensure I have the correct data if that is ok.

Could you possibly just confirm the total number of placed in [REDACTED] (and where they were sourced from) and the numbers of [REDACTED] present on the day of the inspection (17th September).

Thank you so much for your time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
 APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
 Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: APHAgov
 Address: APHA Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RX

From: [REDACTED]@Kames.co.uk]
Sent: 21 September 2020 14:07
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes tomorrow is still good. I just got back from the [REDACTED] and will set it all up now. You should get a notification via e-mail. Let me know if you don't.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 September 2020 13:23

To: [REDACTED]@Kames.co.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time last week. Are we still ok for 2pm tomorrow for the paperwork and are you ok to set it up on MS teams? I've copied in [REDACTED] so that you've got her e-mail address.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspectorate [REDACTED]

Marine Scotland - Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

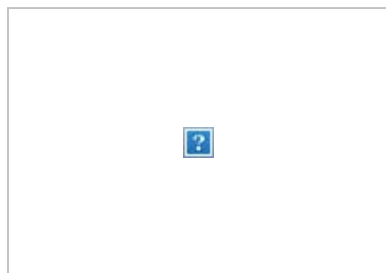
Tel: [REDACTED]

S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

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From: [REDACTED]@Kames.co.uk>

Sent: 15 September 2020 18:18

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [REDACTED]

I was informed by [REDACTED] that you will be visiting us on Thursday. We do have PPE and lifejackets if

needed. I will meet you 10am Thursday at the hatchery.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford
Oban
PA34 4XA
Tel: [Redacted]
Mobile: [Redacted]
Fax: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]@kames.co.uk



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From: [Redacted]@Kames.co.uk>
Sent: 15 September 2020 17:58
To: [Redacted]@Kames.co.uk>
Subject: FW: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [Redacted]

As discussed, I will leave you to reply and arrange the visit.

Cheers

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot]
Sent: 15 September 2020 17:34
To: [Redacted]@Kames.co.uk>
Subject: Visit to Loch Tralaig

Hi [Redacted]

As discussed on the phone I will be accompanying a vet from APHA ([Redacted]) to

visit Loch Tralaig on Thursday morning. We will meet at the hatchery at ~10am. I've asked her to let me know regarding the best approach for the paperwork. I'll let you know when I hear back.

I forgot to ask you on the phone regarding your current approach to PPE for visitors – do you have any available for [REDACTED]? I've asked [REDACTED] to confirm whether [REDACTED] has PPE – in particular a lifejacket. I will have my own stuff as usual.

See you on Thursday.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Fish Health Inspectorate [REDACTED]
Marine Scotland - Science
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB
Tel: [REDACTED]
S/B: [REDACTED]
e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

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Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FS1269
2. Name and address	MOWI Lochailort Recirculation Unit Lochailort Inverness Shire Postcode PH38 4LZ
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	N/A Postcode
4. Date of Visit	9/09/2020
5. Time of visit	09:30

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

<div style="background-color: black; width: 300px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 200px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> (Fish Health Inspectorate)	APHA) APHA)
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7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Routine welfare visit in conjunction with FHI.
--

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

<p>MOWI is a large salmon producer with freshwater and seawater sites across Scotland. The company has two large recirculation hatcheries (inchmore and Lochailort) and over 49 seawater sites located throughout Scotland.</p> <p>Lochailort recirculation hatchery unit is a freshwater tank site for salmon. The site receives eggs and takes them through to smolt production before fish (at approximately 100g) are transferred to sea and freshwater loch sites. This cycle usually takes approximately 7 months.</p> <p>The current crop of eggs were imported from Stofniskur who are located in Iceland. The intakes this year have</p>

been slightly variable due to the constraints of Covid-19, the current crop of fish were imported in May 2020.

Following importation the eggs are disinfected and laid out in the comp hatch system, the site has 4 hatcheries each with a comp hatch system with a capacity of laying out approximately 3.1million eggs over the 4 hatcheries. Following issues last year with the systems the company now aim to have one hatchery stocked with a second hatchery empty but with the exact chemical/water set up as the stocked hatchery as a back up if there are any issues in the stocked hatchery.

From the hatchery the first fry fish are moved into the fry tanks this is done through an internal pipe system meaning the fish are constantly maintained in water with the appropriate oxygen concentrations and this is much quicker than their old system of moving via containers.

There are 28 X 5m tanks and 3 X 10m tanks within the fry room, currently the three 10m tanks are stocked with approximately 840000 fry between the tanks. The tanks are maintained around 14.4degrees celcius. Currently the fry are around 2-2.5g. They are fed by automated feeders. These fish will go direct to sea around Jan - Feb time.

The parr unit has 8 X 10m tanks which are all stocked with approximately 300000 per tank, very low mortality in this unit. They will be graded at around 15g usually there is a loss of about 4-5% which is mainly smaller fish who will not make the grade. They are all fed through automatic feeders.

There are two smolt units onsite which both contain 8 X 12m tanks. Smolt unit 1 has 4 tanks stocked currently with approximately 500,000 smolts. These were graded 3 weeks ago, three tanks contain lead grades which are approximately 45g each. The fourth tank is a mixed tank with slightly smaller fish this has about 90,000 smolts which are around 35g. These are due to be graded and vaccinated in the next couple of weeks. They will be put out to fresh water loch sites around October - November time. These fish are undergoing slightly higher feeding rates as there have been some incidence of aggression - Precocious parr (gonad development in the males causing aggression).

Smolt unit 2 also has 4 tanks stocked these are stocked with the grade B fish. There are approximately 520,000 within the 4 tanks. These are roughly 20-30g. There is some evidence of fin damage in some of the fish due to precocious parr. Again the site is feeding to reduce this. This has never been a problem for the site but have found it an issue with this batch. These will be put out to freshwater sites at around 70-80g.

The site has around 15 staff currently, there has been little change in staff over the last year and there is a good amount of experience. Staff under take daily checks including mortalities, health issues, treatments, vaccinations, feeding levels etc. The staff have a good number of years of experience between them.

The site also has 4 hatcheries which contain a complihatch system. Currently the hatcheries are empty, next batch of eggs are due in November. Additional checks and training have been put in place following an incident last year with the hatchery system. When the hatcheries are stocked they aim to have a second empty hatchery set up with the same water composition in case of any issues within the stocked hatchery.

Usually the hatcheries will under go a fallow period of approximately 3 months between batches to allow for maintenance and biosecurity.

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

Routine inspection, no issues found during inspection.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

No actions necessary.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

Generally a well run site, company has implemented changes and contingencies following issues last year to ensure nothing similar happens again.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

22/09/2020

Tel No.

APHA office address

APHA Perth
Strathearn House
Broxden Business Park
Lamberkine Drive
Perth
PH1 1RX

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	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved		
Further Action		

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number 2. Date of Visit

3. Name and address

4. Location of Fish (if different from above)

5. Category 6. Visit Type

7. Visit sub type (Targeted only) 8. Target date

9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Fry (Salmon)	840000	~75%	0	
Parr (Salmon)	2.4million	~75%	0	
Smolts (Salmon)	~1.2 million	~75%	0	

13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	Fry	Parr	Smolt					
Staffing STF	██████	██████	██████					
Inspection INS	██████	██████	██████					
Disease treatment DIS	██████	██████	██████					
Records REC	██████	██████	██████					
Housing HOU	██████	██████	██████					
Environment ENV	██████	██████	██████					
Equipment EQP	██████	██████	██████					
Freedom of Movement	██████	██████	██████					
Feed FDW	██████	██████	██████					
Mutilations MUT	██████	██████	██████					
Breeding Procedures BRE	██████	██████	██████					
Compliant or non-compliant	Compliant	Compliant	Compliant					

14. Action Routine inspection, no non-compliances found at time of inspection.

15. Further action N/A

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable) N/A How was unnecessary suffering resolved? N/A

17. Assurance Schemes RSPCA

Inspectors Signature Date 18/09/2020

Name in BLOCK LETTERS ██████ Grade ██

APHA office APHA Perth
Strathearn House
Broxden Business Park
Lamberkine Drive
Perth
PH1 1RX M/F Mark forward for 'non-compliance' N/A

Non-compliance High Medium Low

assessment

N/A	N/A	N/A

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

MOWI is a large salmon producer with freshwater and seawater sites across Scotland. The company has two large recirculation hatcheries (inchmore and Lochailort) and over 49 seawater sites located throughout Scotland.

Lochailort recirculation hatchery unit is a freshwater tank site for salmon. The site receives eggs and takes them through to smolt production before fish (at approximately 100g) are transferred to sea and freshwater loch sites. This cycle usually takes approximately 7 months.

The current crop of eggs were imported from Stofnfiskur who are located in Iceland. The intakes this year have been slightly variable due to the constraints of Covid-19, the current crop of fish were imported in May 2020.

Following importation the eggs are disinfected and laid out in the comp hatch system, the site has 4 hatcheries each with a comp hatch system with a capacity of laying out approximately 3.1million eggs over the 4 hatcheries. Following issues last year with the systems the company now aim to have one hatchery stocked with a second hatchery empty but with the exact chemical/water set up as the stocked hatchery as a back up if there are any issues in the stocked hatchery.

From the hatchery the first fry fish are moved into the fry tanks this is done through an internal pipe system meaning the fish are constantly maintained in water with the appropriate oxygen concentrations and this is much quicker than their old system of moving via containers.

There are 28 X 5m tanks and 3 X 10m tanks within the fry room, currently the three 10m tanks are stocked with approximately 840000 fry between the tanks. The tanks are maintained around 14.4degrees celcius. Currently the fry are around 2-2.5g. They are fed by automated feeders. These fish will go direct to sea around Jan - Feb time.

The parr unit has 8 X 10m tanks which are all stocked with approximately 300000 per tank, very low mortality in this unit. They will be graded at around 15g usually there is a loss of about 4-5% which is mainly smaller fish who will not make the grade. They are all fed through automatic feeders.

There are two smolt units onsite which both contain 8 X 12m tanks. Smolt unit 1 has 4 tanks stocked currently with approximately 500,000 smolts. These were graded 3 weeks ago, three tanks contain lead grades which are approximately 45g each. The fourth tank is a mixed tank with slightly smaller fish this has about 90,000 smolts which are around 35g. These are due to be graded and vaccinated in the next couple of weeks. They will be put out to fresh water loch sites around October - November time. These fish are undergoing slightly higher feeding rates as there have been some incidence of aggression - Precocious parr (gonad development in the males causing aggression).

Smolt unit 2 also has 4 tanks stocked these are stocked with the grade B fish. There are approximately 520,000 within the 4 tanks. These are roughly 20-30g. There is some evidence of fin damage in some of the fish due to precocious parr. Again the site is feeding to reduce this. This has never been a problem for the site but have found it an issue with this batch. These will be put out to freshwater sites at around 70-80g.

The site has around 15 staff currently, there has been little change in staff over the last year and there is a good amount of experience. Staff under take daily checks including mortalities, health issues, treatments, vaccinations, feeding levels etc. The staff have a good number of years of experience between them.

The site also has 4 hatcheries which contain a complihatch system. Currently the hatcheries are empty, next batch of eggs are due in November. Additional checks and training have been put in place following an incident last year with the hatchery system. When the hatcheries are stocked they aim to have a second empty hatchery set up with the same water composition in case of any issues within the stocked hatchery.

Usually the hatcheries will under go a fallow period of approximately 3 months between batches to allow for maintenance and biosecurity.



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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HM2

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: FHI/APHA
Date: 03 September 2020 14:45:00

Hi [REDACTED],

Sorry was just trying to see if anyone from the Inverness was available to attend Lochailort unfortunately neither of our vets up there are available, however I am available so I've just had clearance to attend myself. I will give [REDACTED] an email to arrange.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 03 September 2020 08:42
To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FHI/APHA

Great,

Have you managed to get someone to attend Lochailort [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED] has asked me to put together a list of onshore sites that we will be visiting this year, please find attached. Unfortunately I am not able to attribute dates for these visits yet but I can drop you an email when they are scheduled.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland - Science
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB
Tel: [REDACTED]
S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 September 2020 08:20
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

That's brilliant thanks. I think [REDACTED] be available to attend, I have copied [REDACTED] into this email. [REDACTED] if you could liaise with [REDACTED] regarding details that would be great thanks.

Many thanks



Sent from my iPhone

On 2 Sep 2020, at 16:04, [redacted]@gov.scot" [redacted]@gov.scot> wrote:

Hello [redacted]

We have an inspector visiting Barcaldine [redacted] just outside Oban on Monday 7th. The operators can be a bit picky about visitors but if you have a colleague who would like to attend with [redacted] please let him know and he can contact the operators to see if they will accommodate the visit.

Best regards



Marine Scotland - Science
Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road| Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [redacted]
S/B: [redacted]

e: [redacted]@gov.scot
w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: Fish Welfare Visits
Date: 07 September 2020 11:50:00

Hi [REDACTED],

I just wanted to double check the site address is:
Lochailort Recirculation Hatchery,
Lochailort
Inverness-shire
PH38 4LZ

Also I just wanted to check we have a veterinary advisor who is trying to increase [REDACTED] knowledge in this work area who would been keen to come along to the visit alongside me if possible – I know under the current times with covid this may be difficult but do you think this is something the site would be open to? It is not a problem if they wouldn't but thought I would double check.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [APHAgov](https://www.facebook.com/APHAgov)
Address: APHA Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RX

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2020 16:07
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: Fish Welfare Visits

Perfect thanks no problem at all, I will bring the PPE and masks.

Not staying close by, I will travel up from just outside [REDACTED] in the morning.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 03 September 2020 15:59
To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk<
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: Fish Welfare Visits

Hi,

good opportunity for a joint inspection.

I am available to attend with yourself if this is still possible, if you could let me know the details please?

I have previously attended this site early 2019 [redacted] so will be a good opportunity to see it again.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [redacted] | Mobile: [redacted] | Email: [redacted]@apha.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [APHAgov](https://www.facebook.com/APHAgov)

Address: APHA Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RX

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Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FB0125- FS 1328
2. Name and address	Scottish Sea farm Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling Postcode FK7 9JQ
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Barcaldine units Barcaldine Oban Postcode PA37 1SE
4. Date of Visit	14.09.20
5. Time of visit	13.00

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

<p>[REDACTED] - APHA- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Marine Scotland - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Scottish Sea Farm - [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - Scottish Sea Farm - [REDACTED]</p>

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Routine

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

<p>Routine visit with Marine Scotland. New Freshwater site: Atlantic salmon from hatchery to smolt. The site is structurally builded up with 8 interconnected houses, with differents FS number that reflect the different stage of production. Routine visit carried out with Marine Scoland inspector ([REDACTED]) as part of the APHA annual inspection. COVID protocol in place.</p> <p>Hatchery (Not visited) - separated FS number with separated access.</p>

FS - start feed 1 and 2 (Not visited)

FS - growing 1 and 2 (Noit visited)

FS - pre smoult 1 2 (Not visited)

FS- Smalt 1 and 2 (VISITED) 16 full tanks, 1,597,623 Atlantic salmon

Average weight: smolt: 118 grams: stocking density= 39/kgx square meter. (50 kg x cube is rspca standard).

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

FS Smalt 1 2 (VISITED) 16 full tanks, 1,597,623 Atlantic salmon

Average weight: smolt: 118 grams: stocking density= 39/kgx square meter. (50 kg x cube is rspca standard)

ABP: mortality are collected and pumped out with a pressured pipe directly to the ABP point of collection outside: very low handling ensures good biosecurity.

23 people employed (included 5 engineers).

Energy supplied by mains + biogas plant. Alert system with generator in place . Oxigen level monitored/ recirculating system x water. Feed from - Biomar (ufacs certified)

Recent Mortality: w/b 31/08 – 517 (0.03%), w/b 24/08 – 258 (0.02%), w/b 17/08 – 108 (0.01%), w/b 10/08 – 124 (0.01%)

Records inspected remotely on 9/09/20 as Covid protocol with FHI-Marine Scotland: no issue.

The farm follows:

Rspca/Code of goos practice (SSpo) standard

Certified by Label rouge(Franch)

Enviromental ISO14001

Global gap

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

N/A

11. Conclusions and recommendations

N/A

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant /*

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

2/10/20

Tel No.

APHA office address

APHA PERTH
Lamberkine drive,
Perth

PH1 1RX

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	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved		
Further Action		

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number	FB0125- FS 1328	2. Date of Visit	14/9/20
3. Name and address	Scottish Sea Farms (FB0125) Scottish Sea farm Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling Postcode FK7 9JQ		
4. Location of Fish <small>(if different from above)</small>	Barcaldine Unit (FS1328) Barcaldine Oban Postcode PA37 1SE		
5. Category	Freshwater -atlantic salmon	6. Visit Type	Routine
7. Visit sub type <small>(Targeted only)</small>	N/A	8. Target date	N/A
9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:	<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>		

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise <small>(compliant or non-compliant)</small>
Atlantic Salmon Freshwater Smalt 1: 8 tanks	993085	993085	0	C
Atlantic Salmon Freshwater Smalt 2: 8 tanks	604538	604538	0	C

13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	FW-Smalt 1	FW-Smalt 2						
Staffing STF	■	■						
Inspection INS	■	■						
Disease treatment DIS	■	■						
Records REC	■	■						
Housing HOU	■	■						
Environment ENV	■	■						
Equipment EQP	■	■						
Freedom of Movement	■	■						
Feed FDW	■	■						
Mutilations MUT	■	■						
Breeding Procedures BRE	■	■						
Compliant or non-compliant	C	C						

14. Action N/A

15. Further action N/A

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable) N/A How was unnecessary suffering resolved? N/A

17. Assurance Schemes

Rspca/Code of good practice.
 Certified by Label rouge(Franch)
 Enviromental ISO14001
 Global gap

Inspectors Signature Date 2/10/20

Name in BLOCK LETTERS Grade ■

APHA office M/F Mark forward for 'non-compliance'

Non-compliance
assessment

High	Medium	Low

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

Routine visit: no animal welfare issue identified at the time of the visit. Fresh water salmon: from hatchery to smolt. All the site has 8 houses, with different FS number.

Fresh water salmon/ from hatchery to smolt. All the site has 8 houses, with different FS number. Routine visit carried out with Marine Scotland inspector (REDACTED).

Hatchery (Not visited) - 4 separated shed x incubation(each identified by different fs numbers: separate access Water quality treatment/ quality plan in place.

FS for start feed 1 and 2 (Not visited)

FS on growing 1 and 2 (Noit visited)

FS pre smolt 1 2 (Not visited)

FS Smolt 1 2 (VISITED) 16 full tanks, 1,597,623 Atlantic salmon

Average weight: smolt: 118 grams: stocking density= 39/kgx square meter. (50 kg x cube is rspca standard).

Hatchery- 4 individusally recordet site x incubation(all separate fs number= individual. separate access 5 compatches- 8 trais each. Water quality treatment/ quality plan.

ABP disposal: mortality pipe from each shed to ABP collection outside: very low handling, with good biosecurity

23 people employed (included 5 engineers).

Energy supplied by mains + biogass plant

Alert system with generator in place

Oxigen level monitored/ recircilating system x water

Feed from - Biomar (ufacs certified)

Recent Mortality: w/b 31/08 – 517 (0.03%), w/b 24/08 – 258 (0.02%), w/b 17/08 – 108 (0.01%), w/b 10/08 – 124 (0.01%).

Records cheched remotely as Covid Protocol with Marine Scotland: no issue identified.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Cc:
Subject: RE: FHI visits
Date: 07 September 2020 10:11:07
Attachments: [CORONAVIRUS QUESTIONNAIRE.V4_AP.docx](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

no problem at all.

Please find enclosed the H&S questionnaire as required.

Shoes size: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will do for overall, thanks.

And thanks again for arranging this.

I'll touch base with you on Friday to confirm meeting point and timescale.

Have a nice day,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)

Working Pattern: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)]

Sent: 07 September 2020 09:58

To: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: FW: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

I've just seen the original email that [REDACTED] had sent about the visit being on the 7th. Sorry I didn't let you know that date had changed to the 14th. I hope this hasn't caused to many issues for you!

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]

S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)

w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 September 2020 09:30

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: FW: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

I've heard back. You are find to attend the inspection with me. I have sent you a copy of SSF's coronavirus questionnaire. Can you please complete and send to me and I will forward in with my copy as well. Can you also please let me know your shoe size and overall size (S, M, L) for PPE.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]

S/B: [REDACTED] 0

e: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 07 September 2020 09:03

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

I left voicemails with both site contacts on Friday, and another just now. I'll keep trying and let you know when I hear back.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]

S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Sent: 07 September 2020 08:07

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

Did they came back to you?

Thanks,

Kind regards,

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [redacted] | Mobile: [redacted] | Email: [redacted]@[apha.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@apha.gov.uk)
Working Pattern: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)
Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [redacted]@[gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot) [redacted]@[gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)]
Sent: 04 September 2020 12:41
To: [redacted]@[apha.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@apha.gov.uk)>
Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi [redacted],

I'm still waiting on a response. I will give them a call this afternoon and let you know when I hear more.

Thanks

[redacted]
Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [redacted]
S/B: [redacted]
e: [redacted]@[gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)
w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

From: [redacted]@[apha.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@apha.gov.uk)>
Sent: 04 September 2020 12:35
To: [redacted]@[gov.scot](mailto:[redacted]@gov.scot)>
Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi,

good afternoon.
Is this confirmed?

Thanks

Kind regards,

[redacted]
APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk
Working Pattern: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: aphagov
Address: APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive,
Perth, PH1 1RX.

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 03 September 2020 10:07
To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

I have contacted the site to see if they are happy to have another visitor on site during the inspection. I'll let you know when I hear back from them.

The site is the Scottish Sea Farms - Barcaldine Smolt Unit, the address is as follows:

Barcaldine Hatchery
Barcaldine
Oban
PA37 1SE

I was planning to arrive there around 1 pm. There is a café nearby we could meet at beforehand at 12:30. The café address is:

[REDACTED]

Just so you aware, the inspection will be different to previous visits you have been at with us previously. As part of our risk assessment we are completing all paperwork prior to the site visit via email/Microsoft teams etc. As such the visit on site will consist of inspecting of the fish on site, with samples taken as required.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]
S/B: [REDACTED]
e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 September 2020 09:52
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

as discussed between [REDACTED]
Could you please provide me the contact and the address of the unit?
What time were you planning to be there?
Shall we arrange a meeting point for a coffee before, if we have time?

Thnaks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@[apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)

Working Pattern: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 September 2020 08:20

To: [REDACTED]@[gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED]@[apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED]@[gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)

Subject: Re: FHI visits

Hi [REDACTED]

That's brilliant thanks. I think [REDACTED] should be available to attend, I have copied [REDACTED] into this email.
[REDACTED] you could liaise with [REDACTED] regarding details that would be great thanks.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 2 Sep 2020, at 16:04, [REDACTED]@[gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)> wrote:

Hello [REDACTED]

We have an inspector visiting Barcaldine [REDACTED] just outside Oban on Monday 7th. The operators can be a bit picky about visitors but if you have a colleague who would like to attend with [REDACTED] please let him know and he can contact the operators to see if they will accommodate the visit.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Marine Scotland - Science](#)

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road| Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]
S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

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**CORONAVIRUS QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR VISITORS AND CONTRACTORS**



One form per person, all sections must be completed.

Print Name	Company	Signature	Date
[REDACTED]	APHA	[REDACTED]	7/09/20

Guidance:

- **Service vessels including the [REDACTED] – Crews of these vessels should have limited access to sites. Third party crews (Including [REDACTED]) must not be on the same structure as SSF Staff unless critical to the task.**
- **SSF site staff are not permitted onboard any third-party vessels and the service vessel Sally Ann.**
- **Divers / Feed delivery – Only one designated SSF personnel to be in contact with dive team. (Vessel skipper)**
- **Drivers delivery – Drivers to remain in their cab during off loading and loading.**

Please complete all questions below.

1.	Have you travelled to an area / country with known local spread of COVID-19 in the past 14 days ?	No	[REDACTED]
2.	Have you come into close contact (within 6 feet) with someone who can be confirmed as having COVID-19 within the past 14 days?	No	Comments
3.	Do you have a fever (greater than 38.0c) or any other symptoms consistent with Covid-19, i.e., a new continuous cough, loss of taste or smell?	No	Comments
4.	Do you have symptoms of lower respiratory illness such as cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing or other symptoms such as chills, repeated shaking, muscle pain or sore throat?	No	Comments

IF THE ANSWER IS “YES” TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS, ACCESS TO THE SITE WILL BE DENIED.

NOW PLEASE WASH / DISINFECT YOUR HANDS

Please list all SSF staff this person came in direct contact with the person listed on the date above.

Print Names Clearly

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.
Signed on behalf of SSF	Site	
Print Name	Signature	Date

--	--	--



Visit Compliance Form (England/Scotland)

General details

Name in BLOCK letters

Date of inspection

Address

Scottish Sea Farms
 Loch Creran Units
 South Shian, Benderloch
 Oban

Business Identifier

Postcode PA37 1SB

County Parish Holding (CPH) number

Telephone number (incl. dialling code)

Mobile number

Record of field visit

Inspector Findings	Inspector to tick and initial relevant box
I have carried out the inspection(s) and found NO non-compliances with current animal welfare legislation . However, where animal health and/or welfare concerns were raised at the time of inspection (for example lack of compliance with welfare code or animal by products issues) details of these are recorded in the Comments box.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I have carried out the inspection(s) and detected non-compliance(s)* with current animal welfare legislation . Details of any non-compliance or potential non-compliance (for example records not available on the day) or other animal health/welfare issues are recorded in the Comments box.	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Where any welfare non-compliances have been detected a follow up letter discussing the findings and expected actions where necessary to resolve each non-compliance will be sent to the named address above. This will be copied to the local authority associated with this address and if requested or agreed by yourself it can also be shared with relevant third parties such as your private veterinary surgeon and/or private assurance schemes relevant to the findings.

Please note that if the animals subject to welfare non-compliances are owned or cared for by a recipient of Common Agricultural Policy payments covered by cross compliance rules, each welfare non-compliance detected will be recorded as a breach and reported to the relevant paying agency. Any potential breaches detected in other areas for which the Animal and Plant Health Agency do not have responsibility may also be referred to the relevant agency where appropriate.

Inspection detail - Non compliances for animal welfare (breaches) and general comments on any other animal health or welfare issues

During the visit done on 10/11/2020 and inspecting all the units stocked, with a total of 194308 salmon, only 3 animals were found unrecoverable to be culled. All of them were captured easily and culled by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. After the inspection although the fish presented score damaged gills the reason to be unrecoverable was due to physical trauma instead of chronic disease. Some of the units were found more affected by the sea lice but all the fish inspected was found with signs of recovering injuries. During the whole inspection only one fish was found with an small fresh injury. Due to there is still activity of sea lice in the units, next week commencing on 16/11/20 will be done the next thermolicer treatment. Although the treatment was complex because after the algae bloom issue fish was not in the best condition (gills were damaged) to be treated for sea lice, all the decisions make by the veterinary team and the head of Fish Health and welfare for SSF were appropriated according to the circumstances presented. Records were checked on 06/12/2020 by telecom and were satisfactory.

Declaration of Inspector

I have carried out the inspection and can confirm the details recorded on the form accurately reflect the outcome of the inspection undertaken on the day.

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

10/11/2020

Declaration of representative

By signing the form, the signatory confirms that they were present at the inspection.

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

10/11/2020

Representative/Farmer refused to sign

Representative/Farmer not present

DATA PROTECTION

For information on how we handle personal data please go to www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

HM3 Stamp	Name:		Date Received:		WS ID:	
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From: [redacted] Scotland (APHA)
To: [redacted] Scotland (APHA)
Subject: [redacted] Scotland (APHA)
Date: 02 November 2020 08:52:03
Attachments: [redacted]

Morning
Please see email below.
Thanks

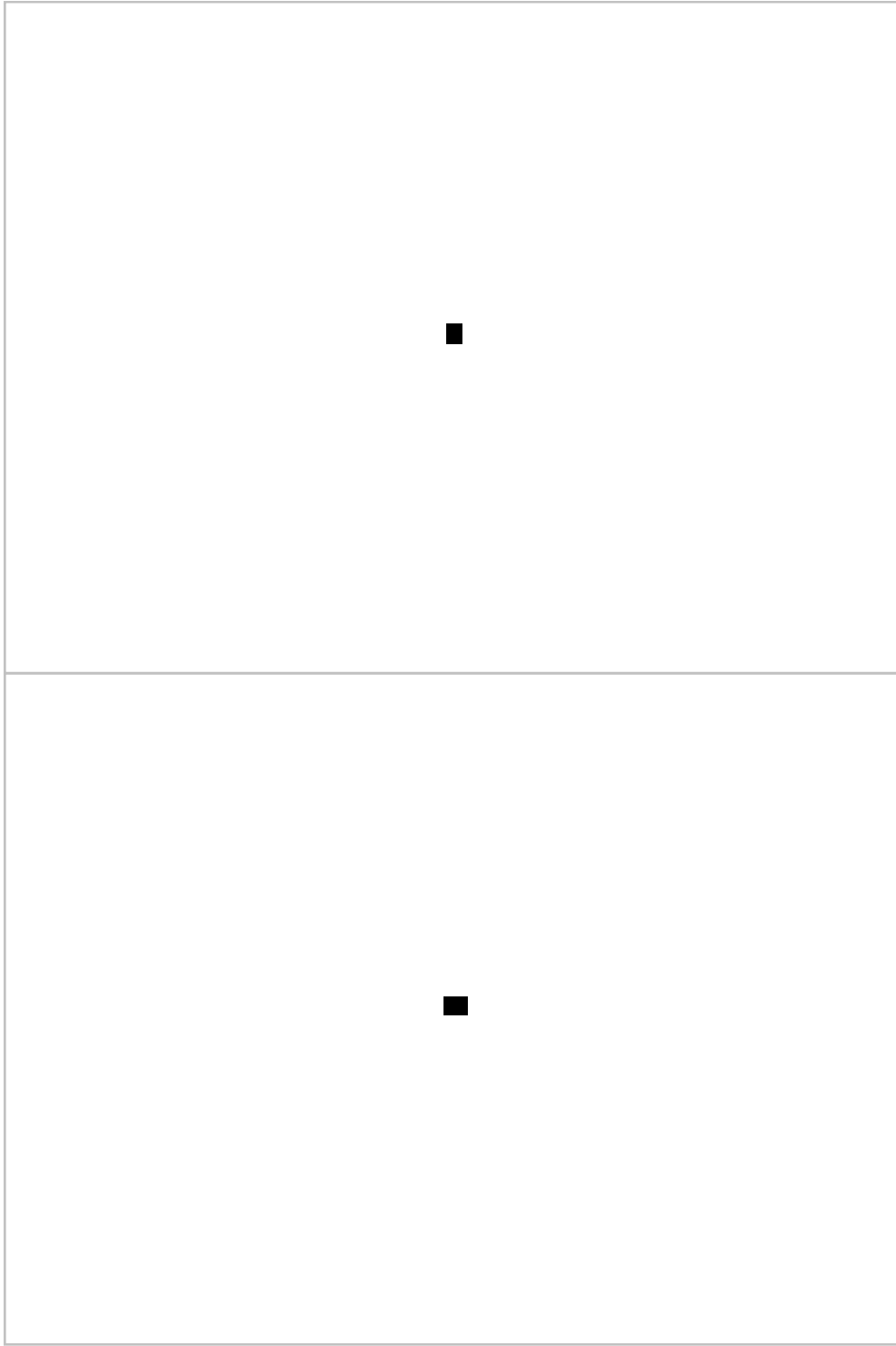
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
Telephone: [redacted] | Ext: [redacted] | Email: APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk
Website: www.apha.gov.uk | Twitter: [@apha.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/apha.gov.uk) | Facebook: [apha.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/apha.gov.uk)
Address: One Health Team, Cosgreen Road, Tweedbank, TD1 3SG

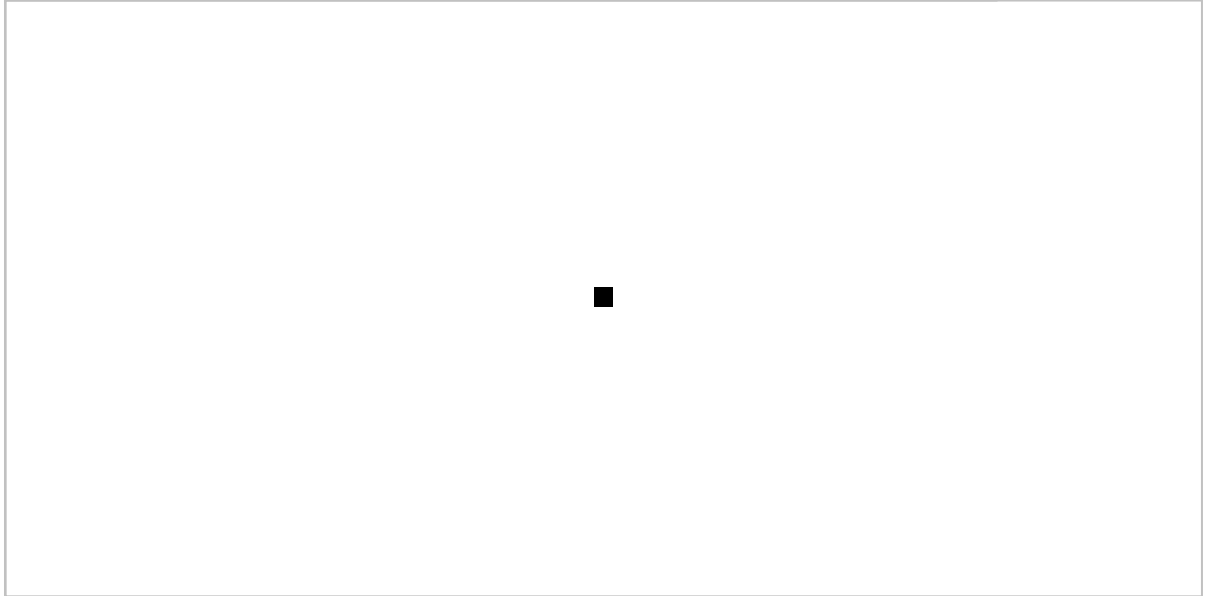
From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 October 2020 08:12
To: [redacted] (APHA) <[redacted]@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Urgent animal welfare issue
To whom it may concern,

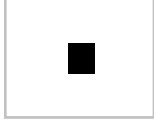
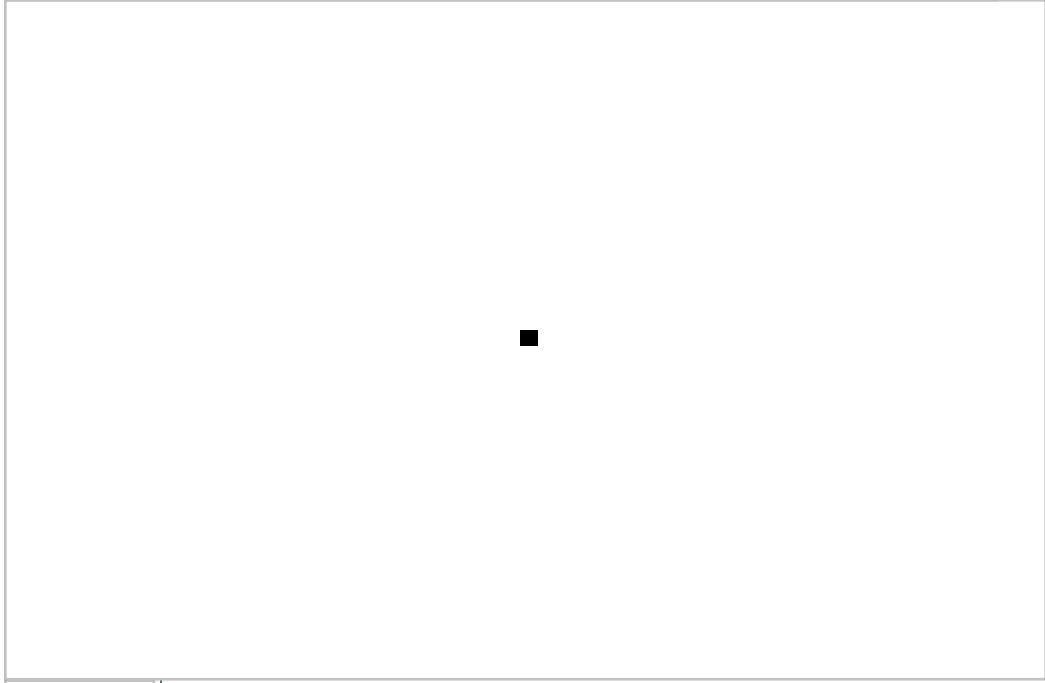
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]







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APHA ref:

Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment

Information provided

To be completed in all cases by the person taking the call.

Report taken by: <input type="text"/>	Report type: Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date: <input type="text" value="02/11/2020"/>	Media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time: <input type="text" value="08:30"/>	Referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Referral type:	Select referral type
	Third party ref:	<input type="text"/>
	Previously reported	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Previous APHA ref:	<input type="text"/>

Nature of complaint and information provided:

(Number of animals, species, breed, needs (feed, water, shelter, bedding etc), whether or not animal suffering has been witnessed (injury, distress, etc), duration of incident and other relevant information. Paste emails containing photos etc here)

Welfare Category:

- Farm
- Market
- Slaughter
- Transport

Email received in APHA Scotland inbox: **From:**

Sent: 31 October 2020 08:12

To: [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:apha.gov.uk)

Cc: >

Subject: Urgent animal welfare issue

To whom it may concern,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please keep this report confidential and do not share my name or my organisation's name with the farm, company or other parties.

Please advise me on the next steps and the outcome of this investigation as soon as possible.

Reported location of animal(s):
(Details must be sufficient to determine an OS Map Reference)

Loch Crenan

[OS Map Ref.](#) determined from the informant:

[Redacted]

APHA Delivery Team for this location:

Choose an item.

If the complainant is aware this issue has been reported to other organisations, please record details here:

[Redacted]

Note: Informant details are only used by inspectors to gather further information or to clarify location details

Informant name: [Redacted]

Tel No. (1): [Redacted]

Tel No. (2): [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian.

Likely owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Scottish Sea Farms
Loch Creran site B
The Location is not available on SAM.

Likely CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Comments and recommended local actions based on available information:

(Consider number of animals, breed, age, environmental conditions etc. Include risks and mitigating factors in a reasoned assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Discussed with Marine Scotland Fish Health Duty Inspector [REDACTED]: The site currently populated in Loch Creran is site B. This site had an algal bloom in late August/early September which lead to damage on gills of fish. This meant that lice treatments could not be applied when required. In march the lice burden was of 4 female lice /fish average. Mortalities have gone up on this location over the last 3 months: 8%; 6%; 4% (reportable to marine Scotland as above threshold)- the management indicate this is because of the algal bloom. On 12 October as motalities were coming down a thermolicer treatment was applied and a second treatment has just been completed (no date given). The premises is applying lice treatments, removing and culling damaged fish, and harvesting affected pens. The site will be left fallow by March 2021 (this was communicated at the last fish inspectorate inpection in March 2020) for a cycle, while sire A on the loch will be used for the next cycle. In terms of health the farm management have advised they are doing what they are supposed to.

There are photographs taken 23/10, after the first thermolicer treatment, that show damaged fish and heavy lice burdens. The fish do look like they are near harvesting size.

Risk Assesment: The VRA indicates that animal needs were not being met- as demonstrated by the damaged fish in photographs and above threshold mortality over the last 3 months. Discussion with farm managers indicates that they are following guidance and have applied lice treatments as soon as possible after the effects of the algal bloom. For this reason I have assigned it a 2A Meduim risk with a visit required by 09/11/2020. This should be reasssed in conjunction with Marine Scotland in order to arrange a joint visit, and also bearing in mind the weather at this time of the year

VRA visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (Food Standards Scotland (FSS)/Food Standards Agency (FSA)) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Date visit required by: N/A

Vet completing VRA:

VRA Date:

VRA Time:

Local Assessment

To be completed by the local field team.

Are farm details in above VRA considered correct? (If not, amend below) Yes No

Amended owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Amended CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Local knowledge and further information:

(Include risks and/or mitigating factors not recorded above to be considered in the assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Outcome of discussion with Local Authority (LA) about this case:

Name of LA:

Name of person contacted:

Local Assessment visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (FSS/FSA) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Provide justification if the Local Assessment outcome has been altered from the VRA outcome:

Risk assessment was done correctly but the visit was finally completed on 10th November 2020 instead on 09th November due to technical issues to arrange the visit with Marine Scotland. Records were checked on Friday 06th November by telecom, where the mortality records confirmed the situation was improving and the actions taken from the first issue with the algae bloom started were right.

Date visit required by: N/A

England and Wales - Organisation(s) attending: APHA only
LA only
APHA and LA
N/A

Scotland - Name of organisation(s) attending: N/A

Name of APHA representative attending: N/A

Role: N/A

Person completing Local Assessment:

Role:

Local Assessment date:

Local Assessment time:

Email completed Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF77) to:

England: @apha.gov.uk

Scotland: @apha.gov.uk
@apha.gov.uk

Wales: @apha.gov.uk
@apha.gov.uk
@apha.gov.uk

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Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Inverurie Field Office
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 5YA

T +44 3000 600 708
F +44 1467 626611
www.gov.uk/apha

Scottish Sea farm
Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park,
Stirling
FK7 9JQ

17th November 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009
Animal Welfare Act 2006
Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006
The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010

Thank you for your time and cooperation during my visit to Scottish Sea Farms at Loch Creran (Oban) with [REDACTED] Fish Health Inspector from Marine Scotland on Tuesday 10th November 2020. The visit was in response to a complaint about the very poor health and welfare state of the salmon in site B of Loch Creran. This complaint was due to sea lice infestation with a large number of fish found with big chunks of flesh missing, fin erosion and scale/skin loss.

At the time of my visit I found no evidence of unnecessary suffering (due to the sea lice issue reported) among the animals which I saw and that, as far as could be ascertained at that time, the welfare legislation appeared to be being complied with. As exception, during the inspection a minor issue was managed correctly, when three salmons were found as unrecoverable due to physical trauma. It was not a chronic disease problem and it was resolved immediately by culling those salmons.

Regarding the event that occurred during September and October 2020 it was clarified during the visit and supported by the records checked on 06/11/2020 that it is now under control as the salmon is responding satisfactory to the treatment. Although the treatment was complicated because following the algae bloom issue, the fish was not in the best condition (due to the gills were damaged) to commence treatment for sea lice, all the decisions made by the veterinary team and the head of Fish Health and welfare for SSF were appropriate according to the circumstances presented.

Please continue with the treatment plan outlined by [REDACTED] for SSF and take all the necessary actions such as rigorous inspection, thermolicer treatment and culling to ensure the safeguarding of animal welfare at all times.

If you wish to discuss these matters further please feel free to contact me as per the letterhead.

Yours sincerely,

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.



HM3 Stamp	Name:		Date Received:		WS ID:	
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Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FS 0426 Loch Creran
2. Name and address	<p>Scottish Sea farm Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling</p> <p>Postcode FK7 9JQ</p>
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	<p>Loch Creran (B) Units South Shian, Benderloch Oban, Argyll</p> <p>Postcode PA37 1SB</p>
4. Date of Visit	10/11/2020
5. Time of visit	09:30

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

<p>[REDACTED] (Marine Scotland Inspector)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Scottish Sea Farms Limited)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Scottish Sea Farms Limited)</p> <p>[REDACTED] APHA)</p>

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Complaint received by email from a person who wants to be anonymous.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

Scottish Sea Farms has several locations around Scotland, in that area of Oban they are completing the life cycle of the salmon. They have the hatchery where salmon grow from egg in incubators then into tanks before they are transported to the sea water farms. When salmon are the right size and weight the salmon is transported to the farm in site B in Loch Creran. At the time of harvesting, after around 9-12 months, salmon is transported by a wellboat to the processing plant facility located beside Loch Creran. These boats contain large vats of water that closely replicate the farm water, to control salmon behaviour and stress level.

Last routine inspection by Marine Scotland was in March 2020.

New Seawater site: Atlantic salmon farm site B FS0246, with a total of 14 units cages but only 12 of them are stocked on 06/11/2020 and only 9 units stocked at the time of the visit on 10/11/2020.

Visit carried out with Marine Scotland inspector () as part of the APHA welfare inspection. COVID protocol in place.

FS 0246 site B at Loch Creran:

9 Units - Visited

5 Unit - Not visited as not stocked

Total number of salmon: 194308

Average weight: 3.1kg

Stocking density= 9 kg /m3. (50 kg x cube is rspca standard)

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

FS0246 farm site B (VISITED) 14 units, but only 9 stocked at the time of the visit.

Atlantic salmon total of 194308.

Average weight on 06th November 2020 was 3.1kg. Low stocking density due to the mortality records and the harvesting.

When the Veterinary Health Plan was agreed at the start of the crop, harvesting was scheduled to start in November – this would have been via passive grading to removed the largest fish at this time. Harvesting was therefore basically started on schedule but, because of the incident, the process changed to remove the worst-affected pens in their entirety, rather than subject the fish to the extra process of passive grading. So the schedule was the same but the details changed to take account of fish condition.

Stocking density always complying with 50 kg x cube is RSPCA standard, according with the records, on 10/11/2020 was 9 kg/m3.

DISEASE situation:

This site had an algal bloom in late August/early September (around week 34/35) which lead to damage on gills of fish. Due to the environmental incident all fish were affected but to very varying degrees. This meant that lice treatments could not be applied immediately after the incident was found because fish needed to recover before the treatments.

The algae bloom started around 30th September (the middle of week 40). Feeding was stopped, this is standard practice as it reduces exposure and drops metabolic oxygen demand. In addition, airlift systems & aeration were installed to improve dissolved oxygen levels. Plankton levels and gill condition were initially monitored by site staff and gills were examined during mortality removal additional of the routine checks that are done in weekly sampling.

Due to Covid- related restrictions the veterinary services visited site B on 2nd October.

Mortalities have gone up on this location:

Week 41/2020 - 05/10 - 32471 (8.25%),

Week 42/2020 - 12/10 - 24021 (6.66%),

Week 43/2020 - 19/10 – 29101 (8.64%),

Week 44/2020 - 26/10 – 1769 (0.57%),

Week 45/2020 - 02/11 – 1647 (0.54%) Not completed yet.

First 3 weeks (w40, w41 and w42) after the algae bloom, with these levels, mortality removal was a priority so there was no formal culling in these weeks.

Recent mortality reportable to marine Scotland as above threshold. On 12th October 2020 as mortalities were coming down a thermolicer treatment was applied and a second treatment has just been completed.

Adult female (AF) lice levels:

Week 40: 2.54 AF,

Week 42: 5.18 AF,

Week 44: 0.82 AF returned below CoGP following successful treatment, and has remained below CoGP since then.

SEA LICE TREATMENTS:

Week 29 - Physical treatment (Thermolicer) only Pen 3

Week 32/33 - Physical treatment (Thermolicer) All pens

Week 34/35 - Physical (SFI) All pens

Week 36/37 - Physical treatment (Thermolicer) All pens

Week 39 - Slice 2mg/g PREMIX Medicated feeding All pens

Week 42/43 - Physical treatment (Thermolicer) All pens

Week 44/45 - Physical treatment (Thermolicer) All pens

The premises is applying lice treatments, removing and culling damaged fish, and harvesting affected pens.

The site will be left fallow for a cycle by March 2021 (this was communicated at the last fish inspectorate inspection in March 2020). In terms of health the farm management have advised they are doing what they are supposed to.

There are photographs taken 23/10, after the first thermolicer treatment, that show damaged fish and heavy lice burdens. According with the records photographs must be taken after the thermolicer treatment but before they were culling the damaged and not recoverable fish.

ABP: mortalities are collected and pumped out with a pressured pipe directly to the ABP point for incineration on site. So no ABP waste is sent out of the premises.

People/employees 6 on site B.

Alert system with generator in place for the oxygen level, which is monitored/ recirculating system x water.

Feed from - Biomar (ufacs certified).

Records inspected remotely on 06/11/20 as Covid protocol with FHI-Marine Scotland: no issue.

The farm follows:

RSPCA

Code of good practice (SSPO) standard

Certified by Label rouge(Franch)

Environmental ISO14001

Global gap
Protected Geographical Indicator

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

During the visit done on 10/11/2020 and inspecting all the units stocked, only 3 salmon were found unrecoverable to be culled. All of them were captured easily and culled by [REDACTED], after the inspection although the fish presented score 3 of 5 for the damage of the gills the reason to be unrecoverable was due to physical trauma due to a physical impact instead of chronic disease. Although the levels of physical trauma are not a significant sign of lack of welfare at the moment, as it was not a problem before in this site, it is clear that gills damaged and the sea lice increased the stress of the salmon. All actions taken to treat the algae bloom and the sea lice were focused to improved the welfare of the animals as well.

Some of the units were found more affected by the sea lice but all the fish inspected was found with signs of recovering injuries. During the whole inspection only one fish was found with an small fresh injury.

Due to there still being sea lice activity on the site, a further thermolicer treatment will be carried out next week. (week commencing 16/11/2020)

Marine Scotland didn't take any sample because the fish culled during the inspection was not related to the sea lice issue.

Although the treatment was complicated because following the algae bloom issue, the fish was not in the best condition (due to the gills were damaged) to commence treatment for sea lice, all the decisions made by the veterinary team and the [REDACTED] for SSF were appropriate according to the circumstances presented. For that reason APHA is not taking further actions.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

As the actions taken by the company were found appropriated, the only recommendation was to continuing with the treatment plan implemented by [REDACTED] for SSF). Ensuring rigorous inspections, thermolicer treatments and culling to ensure animal welfare is safeguarded at all times.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

Tel No.

APHA office address

Field Services Inverurie
Thainstone Court
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire
AB51 5YA

DATA PROTECTION

For information on how we handle personal data please go to www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.



	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved		
Further Action		

Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

General details

(Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number	FS 0426 Loch Creran	2. Date of Visit	10/11/2020
3. Name and address	Scottish Sea farm Laurel Ho/Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling Postcode FK7 9JQ		
4. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Loch Creran (B) Units South Shian, Benderloch Oban, Argyll Postcode PA37 1SB		
5. Category	Seawater, Atlantic Salmon	6. Visit Type	Complaint
7. Visit sub type (Targeted only)	Targeted	8. Target date	10/11/202
9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:	<div style="background-color: black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>		

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Atlantic Salmon Freshwater Site B: 9 Units stocked	194308	194308	3	Compliant

--	--	--	--	--

13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	SW- Site B							
Staffing STF	[REDACTED]							
Inspection INS	[REDACTED]							
Disease treatment DIS	[REDACTED]							
Records REC	[REDACTED]							
Housing HOU	[REDACTED]							
Environment ENV	[REDACTED]							
Equipment EQP	[REDACTED]							
Freedom of Movement	[REDACTED]							
Feed FDW	[REDACTED]							
Mutilations MUT	[REDACTED]							
Breeding Procedures BRE	[REDACTED]							
Compliant or non-compliant	Compliant							

14. Action

During the visit done on 10/11/2020 and inspecting all the units stocked, only 3 salmon were found unrecoverable to be culled. All of them were captured easily and culled by [REDACTED]. After the inspection although the fish presented score 3 of 5 for the damage of the gills the reason to be unrecoverable was due to physical trauma instead of chronic disease.

15. Further action

N/A

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

10/11/2020	How was unnecessary suffering resolved?	Salmon was culled immediately
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17. Assurance Schemes

RSPCA
 Code of good practice (SSPO)
 Certified by Label rouge (French)
 Environmental ISO14001
 Global gap
 Protected Geographical Indicator

Inspectors Signature

[REDACTED]

Date
18/11/202

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

[REDACTED]

Grade
[REDACTED]

APHA office

Field Services Inverurie
 Thainstone Court
 Inverurie, Aberdeenshire
 AB51 5YA

M/F Mark forward for 'non-compliance'

Non-compliance assessment

High	Medium	Low

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

FS0246 farm site B (VISITED) 14 units, but only 9 stocked at the time of the visit.
Atlantic salmon total of 194308.

Average weight on 06th November 2020 was 3.1kg. Low stocking density due to the mortality records and the harvesting.

When the Veterinary Health Plan was agreed at the start of the crop, harvesting was scheduled to start in November – this would have been via passive grading to removed the largest fish at this time. Harvesting was therefore basically started on schedule but, because of the incident, the process changed to remove the worst-affected pens in their entirety, rather than subject the fish to the extra process of passive grading. So the schedule was the same but the details changed to take account of fish condition.

Stocking density always complying with 50 kg x cube is RSPCA standard, according with the records, on 10/11/2020 was 9 kg/m³.

DISEASE situation:

This site had an algal bloom in late August/early September (around week 34/35) which lead to damage on gills of fish. Due to the environmental incident all fish were affected but to very varying degrees. This meant that lice treatments could not be applied immediately after the incident was found because fish needed to recover before the treatments.

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ABP: mortalities are collected and pumped out with a pressured pipe directly to the ABP point for incineration on site. So no ABP waste is sent out of the premises.

People/employees 6 on site B.

Alert system with generator in place for the oxygen level, which is monitored/ recirculating system x water.

Feed from - Biomar (ufacs certified).

Records inspected remotely on 06/11/20 as Covid protocol with FHI-Marine Scotland: no issue.

The farm follows:

RSPCA

Code of good practice (SSPO) standard

Certified by Label rouge(Franch)

Enviromental ISO14001

Global gap

Protected Geographical Indicator

ACTION:

During the visit done on 10/11/2020 and inspecting all the units stocked, only 3 salmon were found unrecoverable to be culled. All of them were captured easily and culled by [REDACTED], after the inspection although the fish presented score 3 of 5 for the damage of the gills the reason to be unrecoverable was due to physical trauma due to a physical impact instead of chronic disease. Although the levels of physical trauma are not a significant sign of lack of welfare at the moment, as it was not a problem before in this site, it is clear that gills damaged and the sea lice increased the stress of the salmon. All actions taken to treat the algae bloom and the sea lice were focused to improved the welfare of the animals as well.

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RECOMMENDATION:

As the actions taken by the company were found appropriated, the only recommendation was to continuing with the treatment plan implemented by [REDACTED] SSF). Ensuring rigorous inspections, thermolicer treatments and culling to ensure animal welfare is safeguarded at all times.

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
HM2

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarm.com)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: APHA Scallastle
Date: 16 October 2020 12:57:00

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

In preparation for our meeting, may I ask to get a full report, including any action taken [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Any feedback from the company vet is welcome.

Please include the site Fish Health plan with reports of monitoring and investigation of disease/consequential actions taken when required.

Also: do you have any production feedback from depopulation?(rejected/damaged fish etc...).

As mentioned yesterday over the phone, I'm trying to arrange this meeting with FHI-Marine Scotland. Most reasonable date should be Thursday the 22nd, but I'll confirm this on Monday. I'll really appreciate if we can have this required documentation available before the meeting.

Can I also please ask for a quick reply to this email confirming the timescale of the depopulation at the site for this production? When did it started? Could you confirm is going to be completed by this Sunday (18th of October).

Thanks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Subject: FW: Scallastle issue
Date: 19 October 2020 11:05:00
Attachments: [REDACTED].png

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told me you should be the FHI appointed for this meeting/investigation. Is this correct?
Please give me a call to arrange it.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park,
Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)]

Sent: 19 October 2020 10:40

To: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarm.com); [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is on another site today so may not be able to send / receive emails. Once we know the timing of the meeting we'll arrange for appropriate SSF personnel to be available.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Scottish Sea Farms Limited,

Laurel House, Laurelhil Business Park, Stirling, Scotland, UK, FK7 9JQ

Tel: (+44) 07747792048



From: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)>

Sent: 19 October 2020 10:36

To: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarm.com); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

Thanks [REDACTED]

I've copied in [REDACTED] (Fish Health and Welfare) as he has been liaising with FHI and will take the lead in the response from our side.

Cheers,

Ronnie

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 October 2020 10:05

To: [REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com>; [REDACTED]@scottishseafarm.com

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to

[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com

Hi [REDACTED]

thanks for confirming this.

I'm still waiting FHI to come back to me to confirm the timing for the meeting.

As soon as I'll have information, I'll let you know.

Aoife, are you attending this as company representative?

Thanks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk Working Pattern: [REDACTED]

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com]

Sent: 19 October 2020 09:13

To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

Good morning [REDACTED]

I've had confirmation this morning that the Scallastle site is now fallow as planned.

Best regards,

From: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:36

To: [REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to

[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com

Hi [REDACTED]

thanks you very much for this informations.

As mentioned: I'll be in touch with FHI and yourself to arrange the meeting for Thursday.

Have a nice weekend,

■

Kind regards,

■
■

APHA Perth Field Services
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: ■ | Mobile: ■ | Email:

■ [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:■@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: ■

■

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park,
Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: ■ [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:■@scottishseafarms.com)

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:32

To: ■ [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:■@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

Sorry, ■ I should probably have made it clear that harvest operations have been going on at Scallastle since the summer, rather than just very recently, which is why I don't have the dates to hand.

Cheers,

■

From: ■

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:22

To: ■ [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:■@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

It should all be finished on Sunday, ■ – I've no reason to think that harvest will be delayed this weekend, so I don't expect there to be anything on site next week.

I'll ask for details of those harvest dates for you – I don't have them here.

Cheers,

■

From: ■ [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:■@apha.gov.uk)>

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:07

To: ■ [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:■@scottishseafarms.com)>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify with the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt please forward to

■ [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:■@scottishseafarms.com)

Hi ■

If operations are going on Monday I'll be happy to attend it.

Could you please pass this to the farm and let me know?

Please I do need also to know when the site started to harvest and slaughter.

Thanks

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)]

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:03

To: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

Hi [REDACTED]

I should be able to confirm on Monday that the harvest has been completed as scheduled.

I've heard that the meeting is scheduled for Thursday, which should be fine for me.

Will look forward to speaking to you. Meanwhile, have a good weekend,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Sent: 16 October 2020 17:00

To: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)>; [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarm.com)

Subject: RE: Scallastle issue

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[REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)

Hi [REDACTED]

thanks for this: I'll be in touch with yourself on Monday to discuss this. I'll really appreciate if you could be part of the meeting as well.

At this stage I do require the confirmation by the SSF that the site is going to be empty by Sunday, and the timescale of the whole depopulation please.

Thanks

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: [REDACTED]

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Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: **APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.**

From: [REDACTED] [@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com)]

Sent: 16 October 2020 14:57

To: [REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: Scallastle issue

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are staying safe and well in these strange times.

I'm working from home but I got a message from our Stirling office regarding a possible APHA visit in response to a [REDACTED] about the Scallastle farm. The message was third-hand and not entirely clear but your name was mentioned.

As with all SSF stock, these fish will be under my veterinary care so if there's anything I should know, or any query I can help with, I'd be happy to talk. However, my phone signal is really poor here so a call via WhatsApp (same mobile number) or setting up a web-based call would probably be easier.

Best regards,

[REDACTED] | **Scottish Sea Farms Limited**

Laurel House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling FK7 9JQ

Tel [REDACTED] Mobile [REDACTED]

www.scottishseafarms.com | www.facebook.com/scottishseafarms |

www.twitter.com/scotseafarms



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[Scottish Sea Farms](#)

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We may monitor all communications through our network. If you contact us, we may store your name and address to facilitate communication with you.

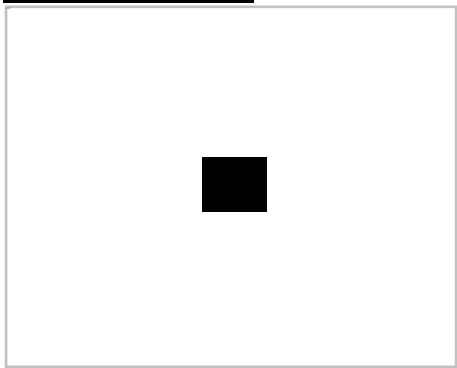
Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the message explicitly states otherwise.

We take reasonable precautions to ensure our communications are virus free. However, we cannot accept responsibility for any virus transmitted by us and recommend that you subject your own communications to virus checking procedures.

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[Scottish Sea Farms](#)

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] (APHA); [REDACTED] (APHA)
Subject: ODP: URGENT - reporting of serious animal welfare issue
Date: 15 October 2020 10:54:45
Attachments: [REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png
[REDACTED] .png

Good morning,

On Tuesday (13th October) I have sent the email below [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

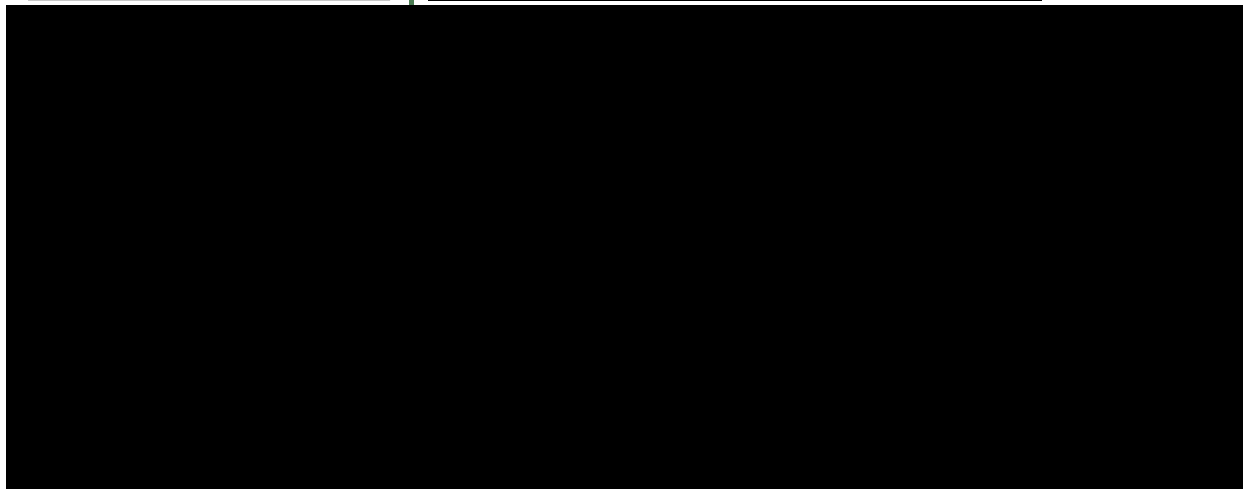
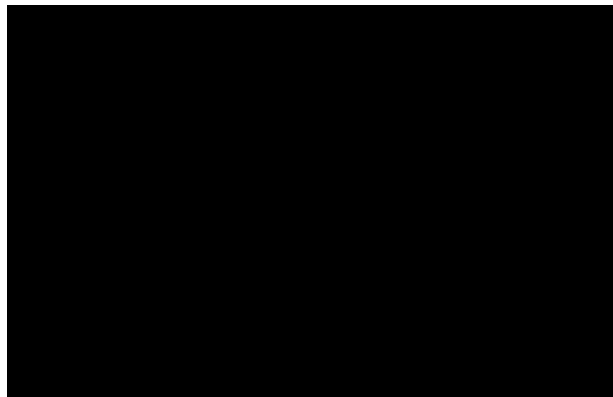
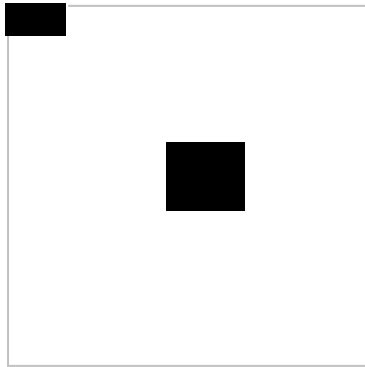
I have not received any response from you so far.

Could you please confirmed that this has been noted and let me know if any action will be taken on this case?

Many thanks.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]@apha.gov.uk
[Redacted]@apha.gov.uk

Temat: URGENT - reporting [Redacted]

To whom it may concern,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
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[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: reporting of [REDACTED] issue
Date: 15 October 2020 17:51:50

Hi All,

I'll take this from APHA side.

I just spoke with [REDACTED] Scottish Sea farm: I was hoping I could go and check the harvesting operation and some fish on Monday, but [REDACTED] has confirmed that the all operations for final depopulation have been already started and last cage will be emptied this Sunday.

At this stage the best option is to conduct a remote inspection of records, and we will plan a targeted visit on the site for next season when new stock will be on farm.
APHA has also an ABP inspection planned by the end of this month.

My understanding is that:

- [REDACTED] but should be able to conduct this meeting next week.
- [REDACTED] has asked to do not book it for Tuesday if possible.
- I cannot on Wednesday.

Shall we plan this for Thursday the 22nd?

Thanks,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk Working Pattern: [REDACTED].

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 October 2020 15:36
To: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: reporting of serious animal welfare issue

Hi [REDACTED]

Just for information, I will let you know if I hear any more from the FHI regarding a possible visit next week.

Regards

█

From: █@gov.scot █@gov.scot] On Behalf Of █@gov.scot
Sent: 14 October 2020 15:32
To: █@apha.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: reporting of serious animal welfare issue

Hi J █,

I spoke with your colleague, █, yesterday to discuss the below complaint. I have forwarded it onto senior colleagues to discuss how to proceed.

It will be myself that is in the Oban area next week but I am leaving sharp around 07:30 on Sunday and have site visits organised Mon-Wed so not sure if I will have time to meet you.

I have asked if there is anyone else available, perhaps the on call inspector who could accompany you on a visit.

I will chase my colleagues up and try and get back to you ASAP.

Cheers,

█

From: █@apha.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 October 2020 14:51
To: █@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: reporting of serious animal welfare issue

Good afternoon,

We have received a █ for Scallastle farm on the Isle of Mull yesterday see below and attached, I am not sure if this is a █ which has been received by yourselves as well.

Could you please contact me to discuss the █ and the availability of an inspector for a joint inspection? Probably best contact is the mobile number below █

Many thanks

█

█
APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: █ | Mobile: █ | Email: █@apha.gov.uk

Subject: URGENT - reporting of [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] @gov.scot
Subject: RE: Scallastle mortality data
Date: 17 November 2020 18:06:00

Hi [REDACTED]

I am finalising my report: online Scallastle is updated until June. I'd like to double check my note following the remote inspection with the official figures. May I please ask you to get treatment records for the whole cycle?

Thanks

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] @apha.gov.uk Working Pattern: [REDACTED].

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: @APHAgovuk | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.

From: [REDACTED] @gov.scot]

Sent: 22 October 2020 20:29

To: [REDACTED] @apha.gov.uk>

Subject: Scallastle mortality data

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland – Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

Tel: [REDACTED]

S/B: [REDACTED]

e: [REDACTED] @gov.scot

w: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine>

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SSF Scallastle additional records
Date: 23 November 2020 10:04:00
Attachments: [REDACTED].png

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks you for this.

Re letter: I have passed your query to senior management. As you know, at the moment we do not have such a standard procedure, and I personally do agree it should be there. We have this VCF letter we provide following cross compliant visits, but are related to claimant farmers: the form is set for this.

Will my official conclusion below, as stated in my report, provide the sort of feedback you are looking for?

I can confirm to you that following our remote meeting, as APHA inspector, my conclusion related to the 2020 Scallastle anonymous complaint received is:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I hope this satisfy your query,

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for your cooperation,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

APHA Perth Field Services

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email:

[REDACTED] [@apha.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk) Working Pattern: [REDACTED]

Website: www.gov.uk/apha | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park,
Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@scottishseafarms.com]

Sent: 20 November 2020 17:44

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: SSF Scallastle additional records

Hi [REDACTED]

As requested, please see attached additional records for Scallastle – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

I trust this meets your needs, but please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

I appreciate this is not APHA normal procedure but can I ask if you are able to provide a letter to me when you have completed your investigation with the outcome for our records.

Best regards,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Scottish Sea Farms Limited,
Laurel House, Laurelhill Business Park, Stirling, Scotland, UK, FK7 9JQ
Tel: [Redacted]



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APHA ref: WS-3433717

Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment

Information provided

To be completed in all cases by the person taking the call.

Report taken by: 	Report type: Complaint <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date: 13/10/2020	Media <input type="checkbox"/>	
Time: 15:39	Referral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Referral type: Other	
	Third party ref: 	
	Previously reported <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Previous APHA ref: 	

Nature of complaint and information provided:

(Number of animals, species, breed, needs (feed, water, shelter, bedding etc), whether or not animal suffering has been witnessed (injury, distress, etc), duration of incident and other relevant information. Paste emails containing photos etc here)

Welfare Category:

- Farm
- Market
- Slaughter
- Transport

Complaint about fish at Scallastle Marine Farm on Mull as per email below

To whom it may concern,

[Redacted]

Please keep this report confidential and do not share my name or my organisation's name with the farm, company or anyone else. We will also not be able to tell you who filmed and sent in this footage as they do not wish to be connected to this report and so asked us to make this contact on their behalf.

Please advise me on the next steps and the outcome of this investigation as soon as possible.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Reported location of animal(s):
(Details must be sufficient to determine an OS Map Reference)

Details taken from SAM record for Scallastle

Scottish Sea Farms
Scallastle
Isle of Mull
PA65 6BHI

[OS Map Ref.](#) determined from the informant:

NM6860039100

APHA Delivery Team for this location:

Scotland - Perth

If the complainant is aware this issue has been reported to other organisations, please record details here:

[Redacted]

Note: Informant details are only used by inspectors to gather further information or to clarify location details

Informant name: [Redacted]

Tel No. (1): [Redacted]

Tel No. (2): [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA)

To be completed in all cases by an APHA Veterinarian.

Likely owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Keeper main address on SAM record

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
South Shian
CONNEL BY OBAN
Argyll and Bute
PA37 1SB

Likely CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Comments and recommended local actions based on available information:

(Consider number of animals, breed, age, environmental conditions etc. Include risks and mitigating factors in a reasoned assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/is now occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Complaint has been made by [REDACTED] on behalf of someone else who took the pictures and informed them. The actual complainant doesn't want to be identified or contacted and took the photographs of the fish on 7th Oct. The complaint alleges [REDACTED]

I have contacted the Fish Health Inspectorate who had no information on the site at the time and had not received any complaints. They will identify an inspector who could carry out a joint visit with APHA. Due to the delay in reporting this complaint, the lack of evidence of large numbers of fish suffering outwith normal farming practices and the need to liaise with the FHI, I have assessed this as a medium priority visit. Recommend a local office fish welfare trained vet to liaise with FHI and carry out a joint visit or re-assess as necessary based on further information provided by FHI.

VRA visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (Food Standards Scotland (FSS)/Food Standards Agency (FSA)) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Date visit required by: N/A

Vet completing VRA:

VRA Date:

VRA Time:

Local Assessment

To be completed by the local field team.

Are farm details in above VRA considered correct? (If not, amend below) Yes No

Amended owner/keeper name and address (include postcode):

Amended CPH:

Tel No. (1):

Tel No. (2):

SBI/CRN/BRN:

XC claimant? Yes No

On [current XC selection](#)? Yes No

Ongoing complex case? Yes No

Last Sam welfare inspection date:

Listed on [hazard database](#)? Yes No

Local knowledge and further information:

(Include risks and/or mitigating factors not recorded above to be considered in the assessment of whether animal needs were/are now being met and if animal suffering was/now is occurring. Refer to the Guidance for Completing the Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form ([WF114](#)))

Outcome of discussion with Local Authority (LA) about this case:

Name of LA:

Name of person contacted:

Local Assessment visit outcome: (select one option only)

1A - High Immediate, same day <input type="checkbox"/>	2A - Medium Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	3 - Low Within 14 calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>
1B - High (FSS/FSA) Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2B - Medium (FSA/FSS) Within seven calendar days <input type="checkbox"/>	4 - Negligible No visit <input type="checkbox"/>
1C - High Urgent, within 24 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	2C - High/Medium (FSA/FSS) Delayed for up to eight weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	

Provide justification if the Local Assessment outcome has been altered from the VRA outcome:

Date visit required by: N/A

England and Wales - Organisation(s) attending: APHA only

LA only

APHA and LA

N/A

Scotland - Name of organisation(s) attending: N/A

Name of APHA representative attending: N/A

Role: N/A

Person completing Local Assessment:

Role:

Local Assessment date:

Local Assessment time:

Email completed Welfare Incident Record and Veterinary Risk Assessment Form (WF77) to:

England: @apha.gov.uk

Scotland: @apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

Wales: @apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

@apha.gov.uk

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

HM3 Stamp	Name:	<input type="text"/>	Date Received:	<input type="text"/>	WS ID:	<input type="text"/>
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Animal Health & Welfare Act (Scotland) 2006

Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FFMC01
2. Name and address	Scottish Sea Farms Limited, Laurel House Laurelhill Business Park Stirling Scotland, Postcode FK7 9JQ
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Scallastle farm site Sound of Mull Postcode PA65 6BH
4. Date of Visit	22/10/20
5. Time of visit	13:30

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

Remote on line inspection: site empty at the time of inspection.

[Redacted] Scottish sea Farm.
[Redacted] Scottish Sea Farm.
[Redacted] Marine Scotland
[Redacted] : APHA [Redacted]

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Complaint by email sent by [Redacted]
As reported:
[Redacted]

Please keep this report confidential and do not share my name or my organisation's name with the farm, company or anyone else. We will also not be able to tell you who filmed and sent in this footage as they do not wish to be connected to this report and so asked us to make this contact on their behalf

8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

Sea water site: production of Atlantic salmon. Licence number CAR/L/1010606/C1/V7,

Max licensed biomass on site (tonnes): 2000

Recorded in June 2020: 1259 tonnes.

Production cycle started in Feb 2019, with 425.655 Atlantic Salmon, 35.077 Ballan Wrasse introduced on wk 19 and 36.309 Lumpfish from wk 52. Site gradually depopulated since early summer 2020, and fully depopulated by October 2020. Biomass on site checked for all the production cycle: no issue detected.

APHA received a welfare complaint for the site and Spelvie site at the same time: General good health was noticed at Scallastle with no major issues identified apart from detected issues with lice that were under veterinary treatment.

Analysis of picture sent:

- Sea lice infestation: by the picture provided it's not possible to make any valuation on the extent of this infestation across the farm. APHA will consider actions taken on the group (monitoring/action/outcome).
- Damaged fish: this looks like the consequences of an attack from predator(s), likely a seal. This has been investigated with analysis of predator policy and records.

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

Sea lice presence has been detected and monitored along the production cycle by the farm. PVS has referred that the site had a challenge in spring /summer 2020 as a result of the elevated harmful algal bloom seen in the region. The harmful algae embedded into the gills of fish causing damage which, if not fatal, will prevent treatment action (included the one approved for sea lice), reducing oxygen level available. Action plan can only be to reduce the stocking density, and the site has been always stocking under approved capacity, splitting the pens timely and harvesting often (62 times for the 16 cages in total). This early harvesting has occurred also to mitigate a second health challenge detected: CMS suspected on clinical signs on week 35 2020, confirmed following Laboratory investigation and Histopathology. Cardiomyopathy syndrome is a severe disease affecting the heart of infected fish and characterized by prolonged periods of low-level mortalities (Brun et al. 2003). PVS has referred that lice treatment at this stage is going to be more damaging as a stressful time for the fish. This is confirmed in scientific literature: during sea lice bath treatments, mortalities can be significantly elevated and considered due to the clinical and pathological effects of the CMS as stressful events (Kongtorp et al. 2006). Several harvestings have mitigated the lack of treatment available.

Records are solid and able to show constant monitoring of the sea lice presence, with treatment action as soon as this was possible (see below) and culling when required. According to the PVS, this was a good production cycle with a challenging situation due to the algal bloom, but at any time health and welfare were supervised. Weekly meetings with the farm management were in place. PVS refers that in his professional experience the farm was managing correctly the health and the welfare of the fish. Good average growing figures provided can confirm this: there is a constant progress noticed in the growing records (in grams): Jan to Dec 2019: 94, 131, 196, 233, 373, 562, 692, 914, 1368, 1768, 2305, 2786. Jan to Sept 2020: 3375, 3968, 4465, 4784, 5068, 5638, 6397, 6712; in September 6681: It has been explained that the average weight of fish on site is expected to decrease at the end of a cycle as pens with larger size fish are harvested first to allow the smaller sized fish to continue to grow to their potential.

Fish health monitoring sampling history available, as records of mechanical treatment/Medicine used when possible as a multisystem approach are all actions taken by the farm timely: records checked and verified in line with increased mortality data recorded by fish Health Inspector (only those above 1% were required to be reported to FHI (regular levels 0.1% - 0.2%).

Week 45 2019 – 1620 (0.44%)Week 50 2019 – 2379 (0.66%)Week 05 2020 – 1801 (0.3%)Week 06 2020 – 2327 (0.67%)Week 12 2020 – 1025 (0.3%)Week 16 2020 – 1934 (0.6%)Week 17 2020 – 1441 (0.45%)Week 25 2020 – 1006 (0.52%)Week 36 2020 - 569 (1.16%)Week 37 2020 – 437 (1.04%)Week 39 2020 – 529 (2.25%)Week 40 2020 – 194 (1.17%)Week 41 2020 – 215 (1.87%)Week 42 2020 – 55 (1.2%)

Medicine treatment (whole site): Slice Vet: 25/3/19, 10/05/19, 1/7/19- Salmosan: 7/7/19 Paramove50 29/08/19 - Slice vet 17/9/19.

Mecanical treatment- specified for pen: Thermolycer 4/10/19 pen6; 4/11/19 pen 14; 9/11/19 pen 8; 20/12/19 pen 1; Hydrolicer: 19/4/20 pen 4; SFI 11/5/20 pen 4; 20/7/20 pen1; 7/8/20 pen4; 18/8/20 pen1

Attach from predators. This issue is verified and match with timing of picture sent by the informant and records provided by the farm (increaase of seal activity around the farm recorded in October 2020). Acoustic deterrent authorised in place, (REFERENCE NUMBER: 20/01057/MFF) and net tension checked for damage and tension adjusted.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

No APHA action required

Follow up with on site visit at next production cycle will be schedule.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

In general, managing fish farms has become more challenging in the past few years, with higher water temperatures and an increase in the incidences of algal blooms. This is reported into the recent scientific articles and it has occured also for other sites in Scotland this year.

The site has invested in recent time into cleaner fish and mechanical treatment to remove sea lice in balance with responsible access to medicines as part of a multi-faceted strategy.

All records provided are showing that appropriate action were taken to respond promptly to the challenges occurred during the production cycle in order to prevent deterioration of the welfare of the animals under care. The site staff detected fish Health issue, consulted the PVS, and took proportionated action required, included culling and treatment available (mechanical and medicine) when possible. Good records kept are able to satisfy the APHA investigation, also on the actions required related to safeguard from predators.

On site visit will be request for next production site as follow up.”

12. Overall Assessment:

** delete as appropriate*

Signature	<input type="text"/>
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	<input type="text"/>
Date	22/11/2020
Tel No.	<input type="text"/>

APHA office address APHA Perth, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX.
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DATA PROTECTION

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[Redacted]

12. Has the company veterinarian been contacted before the visit? Yes No

13. Who was present at visit?

Remote on line inspection: site empty at the time of inspection.
[Redacted] Scottish sea Farm.
[Redacted] Scottish Sea Farm.
[Redacted], Marine Scotland_Senoior
[Redacted] : APHA [Redacted]

14. Background and nature of visit

Sea water site: production of Atlantic salmon.
Licence number CAR/L/1010606/C1/V7,
Max licensed biomass on site (tonnes): 2000
Recorded in June 2020: 1259 tonnes.
Production cycle started in Feb 2019, with 425.655 Atlantic Salmon, 35.077 Ballan Wrasse introduced on wk 19 and 36.309 Lumpfish from wk 52. Site gradually depopulated since early summer 2020, and fully depopulated by October 2020. Biomass on site checked for all the production cycle: no issue detected.
APHA visits the farm quite regularly for ABP inspection: issue related to ABP incinerator not reaching required temperature detected during routine inspection in summer 2017: minor non compliance finally rectified on 28/11/17.
APHA recived a welfare complain for the site and Spelvie site at same time: General good health was noticed at Scallastle with no major issues identified apart from detected issues with lice that were under veterinary treatment.
Analysis of picture sent:
- Sea lice infestation: by the picture provided it's not possible to make any valuation on the extent of this infestation across the farm. APHA will consider actions taken on the group (monitoring/action/outcome).
- Damaged fish: this looks the consequences of an attack from predator(s), likely a seal. This has been investigated with analysis of predator policy and records.

15. Assurance schemes

BRC Food
Label Rouge
Freedom Food (RSPCA monitored)

16. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
Atlantic Salmon	0	0	0	c
Wrasse	0	0	0	c
lumpfish	0	0	0	c

17. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue.

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Types	Atlantic salmon	Wrasse	Lumpfish				
Staffing STF	█	█	█				█
Inspection INS	█	█	█				█
Disease treatment DIS	█	█	█				█
Records REC	█	█	█				█
Housing HOU	N/A	N/A	N/A				N/A
Environment ENV	█	█	█				█
Equipment EQP	█	█	█				█
Freedom of Movement	█	█	█				█
Feed FDW	█	█	█				█
Mutilations MUT	█	█	█				█
Breeding Procedures BRE	█	█	█				█
Compliant or non-compliant	c	c	c				c

18. Findings/comments

Sea lice presence has been detected and monitored along the production cycle by the farm. PVS has referred that the site had a challenge in spring /summer 2020 as result of the elevated harmful algal bloom seen in the region. The harmful algae embedded into the gills of fish causing damage which, if not fatal, will prevent treatment action (included the one approved for sea lice), reducing oxigen level available. Action plan can only be to reduce the stocking density, and the site has been always stocking under approved capacity, splitting the pens timely and harvesting often (62 time for the 16 cages in total). This early harvesting have occurred also to mitigate a second health challenge detected: CMS suspected on clinical sign on week 35 2020, confirmed following Laboratory investigation and Histopathology. Cardiomyopathy syndrome is a severe disease affecting the heart of infected fish and characterized by prolonged periods of low-level mortalities (Brun et al. 2003). PVS has referred that lice treatment at this stage are going to be more damaging as stressful time for the fish. This is confirmed in scientific literature: during sea lice bath treatments, mortalities can be

significantly elevated and considered due to the clinical and pathological effects of the CMS as stressful events (Kongtorp et al. 2006). Several harvesting have mitigate the lack of treatment available.

Records are solid and able to show constant monitoring of the sea lice presence, with treatment action as soon as this was possible (see below) and culling when required. According to the PVS, this was a good production cycle with challenging situation due to the algal bloom, but at any time health and welfare was supervised. Weekly meeting with the farm management were in place. PVS refers that in his professional experience the farm was managing correctly the health and the welfare of the fish. Good average growing figures provided can confirm this: there is a constant progress noticed in the growing records (in grams): Jan to Dec 2019:: 94, 131, 196, 233, 373, 562, 692, 914, 1368, 1768, 2305, 2786. Jan to Sept 2020: 3375, 3968, 4465, 4784, 5068, 5638, 6397, 6712; in September 6681:It has been explained that the average weight of fish on site is expected to decrease at the end of a cycle as pens with larger size fish are harvested first to allow the smaller sized fish to continue to grow to their potential.

Fish health monitoring sampling history available, as records of mechanical treatment/Medicine used when possible as multisystem approach are all action taken by the farm timely: records checked and verified in line with increased mortality data recorded by fish Health Inspector (only those above 1% were required to be reported to FHI (regular levels 0.1% - 0.2%).

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19. Action

No APHA action required

Follow up with on site visit at next production cycle will be schedule.

20. Conclusions and recommendations

In general, managing fish farms has become more challenging in the past few years, with higher water temperatures and an increase in the incidences of algal blooms. This is reported into the recent scientific articles and it has occurred also for other sites in Scotland this year.

The site has invested in recent time into cleaner fish and mechanical treatment to remove sea lice in balance with responsible access to medicines as part of a multi-faceted strategy.

All records provided are showing that appropriate action were taken to respond promptly to the challenges occurred during the production cycle in order to prevent deterioration of the welfare of the animals under care. The site staff detected fish Health issue, consulted the PVS, and took proportionated action required, included culling and treatment available (mechanical and medicine) when possible. Good records kept are able to satisfy the APHA investigation, also on the actions required related to safeguard from predators.

On site visit will be request for next production site as follow up.”

21. Unnecessary suffering present?

Yes

No

22. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

N/A

How was unnecessary suffering resolved?

N/A

Inspectors Signature

Date

22/11/2020

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Grade

APHA office

APHA Perth,
Strathearn House,
Broxden Business Park,
Lamberkine Drive,
Perth,
PH1 1RX.

MF Follow Up visit (if applicable)

next production cycle-summer 2021

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Welfare of Farmed Fish

Completion of the Inspection Report (WF152)

The Work Schedule number can be found on Sam, work schedules for the visit will be created by the Scottish Customer Delivery Team.

Visit Type - Complaint or Routine visit

It can be helpful to speak to the vets involved in the site prior to visit as they can provide invaluable information and may wish to be present at the visit.

Background and nature of the visit - include details on the background of the site (regular numbers, cycles, fallow periods, detail cage numbers and sizes etc) as much information regarding the site as possible.

Assurance schemes - list all assurance schemes the sites belong to. It can be helpful to note dates and findings of previous inspections if known.

Enterprise type:

- detail all species of fish on the farm (including cleaner fish) and provide numbers of each species
- for Hatcheries detail numbers of each stage of fish (e.g. alevin, smolts, fry etc)
- overall assessment for enterprise – compliant or non-compliant. (See further guidance below).

Welfare Compliance Levels:

- for each enterprise type detail the compliance with each of the key standards listed
- this should be completed as compliant or non-compliant.

Findings - record all findings and anything that has been discussed at the visit.

Actions - record any actions taken by APHA, company vets or managers. Note any verbal advice given, notices served or letters produced.

Guidance

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 in England and Wales and Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 applies to farmed fish on freshwater and sea sites as they are considered 'Protected animals' under the legislation.

The following document is based on the guidelines concerning fish welfare issued by the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and follows the requirements of WOFAR and Directive 98/58 although fish are exempt from the requirements of this legislation.

General Biological Characteristics of Fish

Fish are generally cold blood animals (poikilotherms) and their metabolic processes are dependent on the environmental temperature.

Fish obtain oxygen from water via their gills and for some species via their skin. The heart and circulatory system are adapted to this means of respiration.

The basic structure and function of muscles, liver, hormonal control mechanisms and nervous system are similar to higher vertebrates.

The skin of the fish is the first line of defence against disease and provides protection from the environment. It contains sensory receptors for touch, pressure and pain and also has respiratory, excretory and osmo-regulatory functions. The skin also contains mucus glands, which secrete a protective layer over the skin, scales.

Most fish species show maximal emergency responses under stressful conditions, such as:

- low oxygen tension in the water or the presence of certain noxious substances in the water
- when under threat or attacked
- when they are removed from water

However, in the same situations, certain species will show little behavioural reaction even though physiological stress response will be substantial.

Long lasting stressful events may result in immune-suppression and disturbance of reproduction and growth.

Key Standards:

A. Staffing

1. For the purpose of this guidance any person who owns farmed fish, or has farmed fish under their control will be referred to as 'the stockman', and every person engaged in the keeping of farmed fish shall, according to their responsibilities, ensure that every reasonable step is taken to safeguard the welfare, including health of such fish.

2. A substantial period of training appropriate to their responsibilities, including practical experience, as well as continued training, are considered essential for those engaged in the keeping of fish.

3. Farmed fish shall be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel with adequate training and experience of the fish and of the husbandry system used to be able to:

- recognise whether or not the fish are in good health
- understand the significance of behavioural changes, and
- appreciate the suitability of the total environment for the fishes' welfare, including health

4. Fish should be caught and handled only by competent, trained staff, working under the supervision of the stockman.

5. The number of fish and farm units (group of enclosures such as ponds, cages, etc. situated in a same area), shall be such that, under normal circumstances, the stockman is able to ensure that animals are properly looked after to safeguard their welfare, including health.

B. Inspection

1. Enclosures containing fish should be inspected at least once a day, preferably more frequently, unless such a frequent inspection is impossible due to adverse weather or to the specific characteristics of certain extensive husbandry systems. Inspection should be made with minimal disturbance to the fish.

2. The inspection should focus on factors adversely affecting the welfare of the fish, and signs of abnormal behaviour, injury, poor health or increased mortality.

3. If fish are behaving abnormally, are injured or in poor health or if increased mortality is registered, the person responsible for their care shall act promptly to establish the cause and take remedial action, if necessary with the assistance of a veterinarian or other expert.

4. Any dead or dying fish shall be removed as soon as possible in a way that does not adversely affect the welfare of those remaining.

5. Water quality (at least turbidity, oxygen, temperature, pH and salinity) shall be assessed; visually or with an appropriate technical device according to the parameter to be considered, with a frequency appropriate to the species and the system involved in order to avoid poor welfare, including health in fish.

C. Record Keeping

1. In the interest of good management, the responsibility for keeping on-farm records shall lie with the stockman. Records should be kept of details of feeding, feeding rates, numbers and weight of fish, stocking density, growth and water quality measures, as well as the movements of fertilized eggs, gametes, fry and live fish onto or off the site, fish mortalities, diseases diagnosed, and medicines used.

D. Freedom of movement

1. Measures shall be taken to minimise stress, aggression and cannibalism. Since fish grow at different rates, where appropriate, they shall be separated according to size. When grading is carried out it shall be done with a minimum of handling and shall cause a minimum of stress.

2. Stocking density shall be adjusted in line with the following criteria:

- the biological needs of fish with regard to environmental conditions in addition to health and welfare
- the farming system used, in particular the ability to maintain water quality and the feeding technology

3. Stocking density shall be based on knowledge of the water quality parameters and other local farming conditions, the physiology of fish and animal health and welfare indicators such as:

- behaviour
- the level of stress
- injuries
- appetite
- growth
- mortality, and
- disease.

E. Buildings and accommodation

1. Professional advice on health and other aspects of welfare should be sought when new farm units for farmed fish are planned or when existing farm units are modified. In large companies this advice should be available in-house but other advisers, veterinary and otherwise, may need to be consulted.

2. New methods of husbandry, and new design of equipment and enclosures for fish should be comprehensively and objectively tested from the point of view of fish welfare and when tests are undertaken, shall not be put into commercial use unless found to be satisfactory.

3. Buildings, equipments and enclosures, shall be designed and maintained as far as possible to provide protection to the fish from predators.

F. Environment

1. The parameters affecting water quality, such as oxygen, ammonia, CO₂, pH, temperature, salinity and water flow, are interrelated. Their variation will influence the water quality and therefore affect the welfare of fish. Water quality parameters shall at all times be within the acceptable range that sustains normal activity and physiology for a given species unless certain parameters in exceptional situations cannot be managed by the farmers. Water quality parameters shall also take into account the fact that the requirements of individual species may vary between different life-stages e.g. larvae, juveniles, adults or according to physiological status e.g. metamorphosis or spawning. In recirculation systems special attention should be given to monitoring and management of water quality.

2. Fish show varying degrees of adaptability to changing water quality conditions. Some degree of acclimatisation may be necessary and this should be carried out for a period appropriate for the fish species in question. Appropriate measures shall be taken to minimise sudden changes in the different parameters affecting water quality.

3. Oxygen concentration should be appropriate to the species and the context in which they are held. It will vary depending on factors including temperature, salinity, atmospheric pressure, carbon dioxide concentration, etc. and it

is affected by management practices (feeding, handling, etc.). In pond culture, the oxygen level should be monitored closely in case of high density and warm water. In recirculation systems, the oxygen level should be monitored continuously by way of a system which accurately reflects the oxygen available to the fish, and an alarm system should be in place. Oxygen levels can be increased by different means, such as aeration, direct oxygen injection, increasing the flow rate or reducing temperature.

4. Ammonia and nitrite are very toxic to fish and accumulation to harmful levels shall be avoided. The accumulation of ammonia and nitrite can be avoided by different means according to the farming system used, such as increasing flow rate, reducing feeding, biofiltration, reducing density or temperature.

5. Carbon dioxide is produced by fish during respiration and dissolves in water to form carbonic acid thus lowering pH. The carbon dioxide level may be affected by plant and bacterial metabolism as well as by the temperature, salinity and alkalinity of the water. Accumulation of carbon dioxide to harmful levels shall be avoided, for example by using aeration systems or by chemical means, according to the farming system used.

6. pH depends on many water quality factors. Where possible, pH shall be kept stable, as all changes in pH initiate complex water quality changes which may cause harm to the fish.

7. Water flow and water exchange should ensure, according to the farming system used, appropriate water quality for fish, once other factors - such as temperature and stocking density - have been taken into account, in such a way that excretion- and metabolism-related products are kept below the toxic levels.

G. Automatic or mechanical equipment

1. Where the welfare of the fish depends on automatic or other mechanical systems, these should be checked at least daily. Where defects are discovered these shall be rectified immediately, or, if this is impractical (e.g. in very rough seas) other appropriate steps taken to safeguard the welfare, including health of the fish until the fault can be rectified.

2. Feeding equipment shall be designed, constructed, placed, and maintained in such a way that:

- contamination of the water is minimised
- all fish have sufficient access to feed to avoid undue competition between individuals
- it operates in all but severest weather conditions, and
- the amount of feed provided can be monitored

3. Equipment used for size grading, netting and the mechanical transfer on-farm of fish should be designed so that fish are not injured during their operation.

4. Where nets are used to handle fish, they shall cause as little injury as possible to the fish and the mesh size should be appropriate to the size of fish to avoid entanglement.

5. The design, construction and maintenance of enclosures, buildings and equipment for farmed fish shall be such that they:

- allow the fulfilment of essential biological requirements and the maintenance of good welfare, including health
- facilitate management of the fish
- minimise the risk of injuries and stress
- avoid sharp corners, projections and material which may be harmful to the fish
- allow a thorough inspection of the fish
- are appropriate to the weather conditions and surroundings in which they are to be used
- minimise the risk of escape of farmed fish and entry of wild fish
- allow for the prevention and treatment of disease, in particular cleaning and disinfection, or
- where possible following
- allow for easy maintenance of good conditions of hygiene and water quality, including removal of waste, depending on the requirements of the fish and the systems.

H. Feed, Water and other substances

1. All fish shall have access to adequate amount of nutritious, balanced and hygienic feed according to their physiological needs. Feed should be distributed in a way which precludes excessive competition between fish.

2. Before certain management practices, transport, slaughter or for therapeutic reasons, fish shall be starved in order to reduce metabolism and excretion of waste products. The period during which fish may be deprived of food prior to certain management procedures or slaughter shall be appropriate to the species and take into account environmental conditions, in particular temperature. In any case, this period shall be kept as short as possible. It should be established if starving is being carried out for these purposes or on veterinary advice and this should be verified.

3. The feeding, especially of fry and young fish shall be monitored.

4. Sudden changes in the type or quantity of feed and feeding procedures shall be avoided except where necessary for the welfare, including health of the fish. Methods of feeding which may be detrimental to the fish or adversely affect the water quality shall not be used.

I. Mutilation

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, 'mutilation' means a procedure carried out for other than therapeutic purposes and resulting in damage to or loss of a sensitive part of the body or the alteration of the bone structure.

2. The mutilation of fish shall be prohibited.

3. Notwithstanding point 2, marking methods may be used but only where they cause minimal damage to the fish.

J. Breeding procedures

1. In the breeding of farmed fish, the stripping and milking process shall be carried out by trained and competent persons.

2. During the monitoring of fish prior to stripping and milking, sedation may be necessary. The number of times a fish is handled and exposed to sedation shall be minimised to limit injury and stress.

3. If live fish are to be stripped or milked, anaesthesia or sedation should be used as necessary for the species concerned.

4. Where compressed air is used to assist stripping and milking in live fish they must be fully anaesthetised.

5. If gonads are removed from fish, the animal shall be killed prior to their removal.

K. Disease

1. A method for the removal of dead and moribund fish appropriate to the enclosures used shall be available.

2. Enclosures should be regularly cleaned and where possible - allowed to reduce the risk of accumulation of agents that can harm the fish or induce diseases, and to prevent the spread of disease from one production group to another.

3. No substance other than those given for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes shall be administered to an animal unless it has been demonstrated by scientific knowledge or established experience that the effect of the substance is not detrimental to the welfare, including health, of the animals.

4. The routine use of medicines as part of a management system to compensate for poor hygienic conditions, poor management practices, or to mask signs of poor welfare such as pain and distress is not allowed.

Emergency Killing

1. If fish are ill or injured to such an extent that treatment is no longer feasible and transport would cause additional suffering, they must be killed on the spot and without delay by a person properly trained and experienced in the techniques of killing except in an emergency when such a person is not immediately available.

2. The choice of the emergency killing method to be used depends on the farming system, on the species, on the size and on the number of fish to be killed; the need for rapid killing of large batches of fish for disease control purposes should also be considered.

The methods used shall either:

- cause immediate death, or
- rapidly render the fish insensitive until death supervenes, or
- cause the death of a fish which is anaesthetised or effectively stunned

3. It is essential to monitor the effectiveness of the procedures used for emergency killing. Monitoring should be performed using reliable indicators such as the following:

- immediate and irreversible cessation of respiratory movements (rhythmic opercular activity)
- immediate and irreversible loss of eyeroll (vestibulo-ocular reflex), that is, the movement of the eye when the fish is rocked from side to side. In a dead fish the eye does not move
- If large groups of fish are to be killed, the effectiveness of the procedure should be determined on a sample

4. Except when larger numbers of fish have to be killed rapidly, to protect their welfare or for disease control, carbon dioxide shall not be used.

5. Severing the gills or gill arches without prior stunning shall not be allowed.

Annex 1: Key Standards:

Key Standards	Guidance Summary
Staffing	Appropriate number of trained and experienced staff.
Inspection	Focussed inspection at least daily - abnormal behaviour, injury, poor health or increased mortality. Removal of dead or dying fish. Water quality. Sea-lice burdens.
Disease	Ill or injured fish must be cared for appropriately without delay. Preventative measures should be implemented to prevent the spread of disease. Demonstrable evidence of vet being involved in serious disease situations.
Records	Feeding, feeding rates, numbers and weights of fish, stocking density, growth, water quality, movements, disease, medicines and mortalities. Health Plans.
Housing	Must not be harmful to the fish. No sharp edges or protrusions, protection from predators, clean and disinfectable.
Environment	Water quality (oxygen, Ammonia and Nitrite, Carbon dioxide). Temperature, Salinity, pH. Water flow.
Equipment	Automatic/mechanical - Checked at least daily. Back-up systems. Remedial action taken without delay.
Freedom of Movement	Stocking density. Minimise stress, aggression and cannibalism.
Feed	Adequate amounts of nutritious, balanced and hygienic feed. Avoid competition.
Mutilations	No mutilation (other than marking).
Breeding procedures	Carried out by trained staff. Appropriate measures employed to prevent injury or suffering.

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