

From: Alastair.Mitchell@gov.scot
To: heather@scottishaquaculture.com; Willie.Cowan@gov.scot
Cc: dlandsburgh@scottishsalmon.co.uk; jim.gallagher@scottishseafarms.com; [Sinclair, Douglas](#)
Subject: RE: Demonstration Site & Research Mission to Bergen
Date: 05 January 2016 15:05:02
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Heather - thanks for your joint letter below. I would begin by noting that the demonstration/innovation site has, from its outset, been industry-led and focussed on selling the sector's potential to move to a more sustainable way of farming thereby enabling further growth. The potential for bigger sites is only appropriate as part of a broader package which manages their environmental impact in a sustainable way - larger production needs to be in the right place, employing the right techniques and equipment to keep Scottish salmon farming's environmental footprint within acceptable limits.

In our quest for sustainable growth, and Scottish Government's significant investment in time and resources to make that happen, wider marine impacts in areas such as the risks from escapes, medicine use, benthic impact, and sea lice control are all key. We should explore farming further offshore to exploit the potential of higher energy sites to design-out environmental risks such as sea lice whilst also optimising the potential for production. These challenges become all the more pressing as existing medicinal treatments for sea lice become less effective and additional controls, such as those announced recently by SEPA for SLICE, become necessary.

In the particular terms of the proposed demonstration/innovation site, moving beyond the existing perceived limit of 2,500 Tonnes sustainably is only possible in the right circumstances, with modelling to show farming on the scale proposed should be both safe and environmentally acceptable in Scottish circumstances – as SEPA advised strongly in Orkney, a 'deploy and monitor' proposition in the wrong circumstances is not acceptable. As we have advocated consistently, that SEPA expert guidance needs to be heeded, and this would seem an ideal opportunity to deploy the upgraded AUTODEPOMOD modelling tool, enabled through major Scottish Government investment, for the first time as a necessary reassurance.

Given the ongoing sea lice challenge, a demonstration/innovation site would also seem an obvious opportunity now for the sector to deploy and test the latest non-medicinal sea lice management tools and techniques, and measure their effectiveness. This should seek to showcase that salmon farming, particularly on the scale proposed, can be achieved within acceptable sea lice levels without an over-dependency on medicinal treatments.

It was on the basis of enabling the opportunity for further sustainable growth that, encouraged by the Minister, Willie Cowan and Leif Inge Nordhammer agreed to use their collective best endeavours to deliver a Scottish demonstration/innovation salmon site with Scottish Sea Farms as the lead. Further to our having facilitated earlier discussions, including the recent meeting with Orkney Islands Council, Marine Scotland would be happy to attend your proposed workshop and help explore that vision further.

Marine Scotland left Orkney with an understanding that Scottish Sea Farms/SAIC would engage further with SEPA on options for preferred locations which, alongside consideration of innovative equipment and husbandry techniques, would form the basic criteria to see any

proposal realised. I suggest these further thoughts be developed into a revised proposition and tabled as the basis for our next engagement.

I have included Douglas Sinclair as a copy recipient given SEPA's key involvement.

Regards, Alastair

From: Heather Jones [mailto:heather@scottishaquaculture.com]
Sent: 22 December 2015 13:57
To: Mitchell A (Alastair); Cowan WJ (Willie)
Cc: dslandsburgh@scottishsalmon.co.uk; Heather Jones; Jim.Gallagher@scottishseafarms.com
Subject: Re: Demonstration Site & Research Mission to Bergen

Dear Alastair and Willie

Please see a response for an update on behalf of SSF, SSPO and SAIC.

With season's greetings and best wishes,

Heather Jones

Chief Executive | Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre

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Industry Success Through Research Partnerships



From: Heather Jones <heather@scottishaquaculture.com>
Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2015 at 09:02
To: "Alastair.Mitchell@gov.scot" <Alastair.Mitchell@gov.scot>
Cc: Scott Landsburgh <dslandsburgh@scottishsalmon.co.uk>, Heather Jones <heather@scottishaquaculture.com>, Jim Gallagher <Jim.Gallagher@scottishseafarms.com>, "Willie.Cowan@gov.scot" <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Demonstration Site & Research Mission to Bergen

Hello Alastair

I will speak to Jim about the demonstration project and come back to you after that. As you know, the lead in proposing a site lies squarely with the industry partner. I have however had some very useful

discussions with Professor Kenny Black of SAMS (the originator of Autodepomod) about the scope for larger sites and he was very supportive of going beyond what he described as an entirely arbitrary current tonnage cap.

We can work towards a research trip announcement in late February, that's no problem.

Have a good Christmas, hope it includes some smoked Scottish salmon!

Heather Jones

Chief Executive | Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre

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Industry Success Through Research Partnerships



From: "Alastair.Mitchell@gov.scot" <Alastair.Mitchell@gov.scot>
Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2015 at 08:41
To: Heather Jones <heather@scottishaquaculture.com>
Cc: Scott Landsburgh <dslandsburgh@scottishsalmon.co.uk>, Jim Gallagher <Jim.Gallagher@scottishseafarms.com>, "Willie.Cowan@gov.scot" <Willie.Cowan@gov.scot>
Subject: Demonstration Site & Research Mission to Bergen

Heather – appreciating Jim will be busy with Christmas, grateful for an update please on demonstration site progress following the trip to Orkney.

Also to advise, further to our MoU with the Norway, that the Norwegian Fisheries Minister, Elisabeth Aspaker, would like to talk about research co-operation and exchange when she visits Scotland in late February 2016. I believe there are plans to visit Stirling – IoA and SAIC – and that would seem an ideal time to unveil your plans for a research mission visit to Bergen? Perhaps you might advise latest thinking following the meeting with the Hordaland County Council recently, hosted by the Norwegian Consulate.

Regards, Alastair

Aquaculture Europe - Edinburgh
Food for Thought
20-23 September 2016
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00433571.pdf>

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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