

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 19 November 2012

## Fit for the Queen & Residents of Nova Scotia - Loch Duart's Chlamydia-Contaminated Salmon?

North Uist, Outer Hebrides – A [warning letter](#) from the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore in Nova Scotia will be delivered later today (19 November) to Loch Duart's office in Lochmaddy. [Disease data](#) obtained from Marine Scotland via Freedom of Information reveals that Loch Duart's operations in Lochmaddy were riddled with infectious diseases including [Epitheliocystis](#) (Chlamydia), [Salmonid Alphavirus](#) (Salmon Pancreas Disease Virus) and [Vibrio species](#) (Winter Ulcer). GAAIA has now [written](#) to Her Majesty the Queen, who served [Loch Duart](#) farmed salmon at her Diamond Jubilee, asking her to screen her farmed salmon for [Chlamydia](#) and other infectious diseases.

“I am writing to you from New Scotland, Nova Scotia, where Loch Duart is seeking to have licences on our Eastern Shore to install three eighteen hectare open pen salmon feedlots,” wrote Marike Findlay, President of the [Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore](#) (APES). “We, the citizens of Nova Scotia, beseech you, the citizens of Scotland, to prevail upon your government not to allow Loch Duart to come to Nova Scotia to contaminate our waters. Pollution that severely damages our wild catch fisheries, our tourism industries, and our wild and pristine environment, is not the kind of diplomacy that needs to exist between the New and Old Scotlands.”



Read the letter in full [online here](#) and watch a video report of the letter being delivered yesterday (nobody was home so it will be redelivered today) [online here](#)

Data obtained via FOI from Marine Scotland in August 2012 (for the period April to July 2012) [revealed](#) the following diseases at Loch Duart's operations in Lochmaddy:

Business Name	Site name	Results Type Name
Loch Duart Ltd	Lochmaddy	Salmonid alphavirus
Loch Duart Ltd	Lochmaddy	Epitheliocystis
Loch Duart Ltd	Lochmaddy	Vibrio species

In July 2012, following a FOI request, Marine Scotland also [revealed](#) that escapees from Loch Duart's operations in Lochmaddy in December 2011 had “some Amoebic Gill Disease” (Read more via [“Gill Diseases: Scottish Salmon's Dirty Big Secret”](#)). In June 2012, Her

Majesty the Queen and her guests at her Diamond Jubilee luncheon dined on farmed salmon from [Loch Duart's](#) operations in the Uists. Last year, [Loch Duart](#) supplied farmed salmon for the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton at Buckingham Palace.

“[Chlamydia-infected](#) farmed salmon is not fit for the Queen’s corgis let alone the Royal Family,” said [Don Staniford](#) of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) who will deliver the letter on behalf of APES. “Loch Duart markets itself around the world as ‘The Sustainable Salmon Company’ but if truth be told it should re-name itself ‘The Chlamydia Company’.”



“Loch Duart is a mange-ridden wolf in salmon’s clothing who has duped [Her Majesty the Queen](#), [Prince William](#), the [Marine Conservation Society](#) and some of the world’s top chefs including [Rick Stein](#),” continued Staniford who visited Loch Duart’s operations in Lochmaddy yesterday (18 November). “The [fact](#) is that Loch Duart is a company which uses known shellfish-killing chemicals such as Teflubenzuron, Azamethiphos, Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin and Emamectin benzoate and has an appalling [history of escapes](#). Chlamydia-infected farmed salmon from Loch Duart should be avoided like the plague.”

Watch a video report filmed yesterday (18 November) at Loch Duart’s operations in North Uist – [online here](#)



In September 2012, [Fishyleaks](#) published damning data on [Loch Duart's](#) use of toxic chemicals. Following the revelations, The Chronicle Herald in Nova Scotia [reported](#) that the findings “will not hurt the company’s pending application, says a Fisheries and Aquaculture Department spokesman.”

According to the [data](#) supplied by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Loch Duart was the fifth largest user of toxic chemicals in Scottish salmon farming using a total of 89350.988g in the period 2008-2011 – including 53490g of the organophosphate Azamethiphos; 23555.1g of the insecticide Teflubenzuron, 5949.538g of the pesticide Emamectin benzoate; 3565.5g of the lobster-killing Cypermethrin; and 2790.85g of the bath treatment Deltamethrin.

For more background read “[Loch Duart – The Toxic Salmon Company](#)”

### High resolution photos available:

- Don Staniford at Loch Duart (18 November): [online here](#) and [online here](#)
- Letter being delivered to Loch Duart (18 November): [online here](#) and [online here](#)

### Contact:

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### Notes to Editors:

[1] Loch Duart’s plans to expand into [Eastern Canada](#) via [Snow Island Salmon](#) have been met with fierce [community opposition](#). Earlier this month, South Coast Today [reported](#) that: “Loch Duart may be considering pulling out of Snow Island Salmon altogether. This is due, say sources, “to the huge disease outbreak on his farms in Scotland and perhaps the fierce resistance to his company here in the area.”

In March 2012, a [letter](#) sent to Loch Duart from the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore warned that “80-90% of the citizens of the Eastern Shore are against Loch Duart coming here”. “Many citizens have researched Loch Duart online and are aware of its terrible record,” continued the letter. “They have learned that Loch Duart is in no way better than any other salmon farm although they always claim to be. They are among the companies with most extensive use of toxic chemicals in all of Scotland. It’s also widely known that Loch Duart Ltd has an appalling track record on escapes. The people of the Eastern Shore do not want Loch Duart despoiling their pristine coastline, polluting their coastal waters and spoiling their sustainable fisheries and industries.”

For more background read [“Loch Duart’s ‘Sustainable Salmon’ Scam Exposed”](#)

[2] Chlamydia-like agents in fish were originally recognised in 1969, with the first molecular characterisation in 2002. A new species associated with epitheliocystis in farmed Atlantic salmon, *Piscichlamydia salmonis*, was proposed in 2004. Subsequently it has become clear that the chlamydia-like agents associated with epitheliocystis are remarkably heterogeneous and a further Candidatus species, *Clavochlamydia salmonicola* was described in 2008.

Read more via [“Piscichlamydia and other chlamydia-like agents in epitheliocystis diseases of fish”](#) and [“Chlamydia and gill disease ravage Scottish salmon: GAAIA”](#)

More via [“Chlamydia and Disease Backgrounder: Scottish Farmed Salmon Killed by The Clap \(Chlamydia\) –World’s Largest Salmon Farmer \(Marine Harvest\) Affected”](#)

[3] Loch Duart reported the following infectious diseases to the Scottish Government in 2007 (obtained via a FOI request from the [Pure Salmon Campaign](#)):

Loch Duart Ltd	Gyrodactylus derjavini	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Epitheliocystis	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Flavobacterium (histology)	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Unidentified bacteria (histology)	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Adhesions	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Flavobacterium species	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Aeromonas hydrophila	Salmon

In 2006, Loch Duart also reported the following infectious diseases (obtained via FOI from the [Scottish Government](#)):

Loch Duart Ltd	Flavobacterium species	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Flavobacterium psychrophila (RTFS)	Salmon
Loch Duart Ltd	Bacterial gill disease	Salmon

Read more via [Fishyleaks](#)

For details on Chlamydia and other infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses lurking on salmon farms read “[Fish Farmageddon: The Infectious Salmon Aquacalypse](#)”

[4] In September 2012, the Salmon & Trout Association [published](#) damning data on how 68% of Loch Duart’s farms were classified as “unsatisfactory” by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Nick Joy, the Managing Director of Loch Duart, admitted to [The Sunday Times](#) that some sites had “not been performing to our standards”. In 2010, Loch Duart also [refused](#) the Scottish Government to publish audits claiming that “inaccurate critical reports could destroy a company or business”.

Following the circulation in 2009 of damning details of escapes, chemical use and sea-bed pollution at Loch Duart, Nick Joy [admitted](#) via email that: “I am not ashamed to say that we could do better. I wish we were perfect but we are not”.

Loch Duart has only been operating in the Outer Hebrides since 2008 when they started operations in [South Uist](#). In 2010, Loch Duart relocated into Lochmaddy in [North Uist](#) following an oil leak.

In June 2012, Loch Duart [defended](#) the slaughter of seals at their Scottish operations following the publication of [damning data](#) by [GAAIA](#).

