



marineharvest

Marine Farming Site – Isle of Rum

Final Planning Application – Document 8. Environmental Statement
Appendix 7.5.3a – Technical Report - Predator Mitigation Plan

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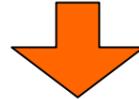
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PREDATOR MITIGATION OPTIONS FOR RUM SALMON FARM

Top Netting, Tension Netting, Seal Blinds, Lift-Up Technology

- High net tension and net quality are significant factors in the minimisation of escapes and predator attacks. As an initial attempt to curtail interaction between seals and the stock, MHS will install pens with Sinker Tube Technology to maximise net tension, and have seal blinds in the appropriate areas of the nets. Checks of net tension are to be implemented frequently to deter the likelihood of attack. In addition, staff will endeavour to remove mortalities from the pens on a daily basis, using new Lift-Up technology.
- Top nets will be installed at all stocked pens throughout the production period in order to mitigate against bird attacks from above the water surface.



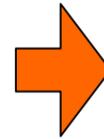
Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs)

Not authorised for use.

Please contact the Environmental Team for further information.

The waters around the Small Isles, such as the Isle of Rum, are known to be visited by a number of different cetacean species. Under the Regulation 39(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly disturb any dolphin, porpoise or whale (cetacean). Furthermore, the farm is located within the Inner Hebrides and Minches candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) for the protection of harbour porpoise. Scottish Natural Heritage have advised that the use of ADDs has the potential to lead to disturbance/habitat exclusion of harbour porpoise and the continuous noise emission from ADDs is not best practice. In the absence of further information, assessment and certainty, the decision has been made not to install ADDs at the proposed site as precautionary mitigation.

ADDs are capable of emitting a frequency of sound which effectively deters seals from the pens and the ADD systems are switched off as soon as the significant risk is removed. Should seals become a common predator the site manager should speak with the production managers to discuss options. However, the future use of ADDs would need discussion and approval from Scottish Natural Heritage prior to use. Please contact the Environmental Team at Stob Ban for further information.



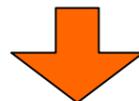
Predator Nets

Not authorised for use.

Please contact the Environmental Team for further information.

Weighted predator nets are another option, should ADDs become insufficient to prevent predation. The nets would significantly reduce the interaction between wildlife and farmed stock; however a risk associated with the use of predator nets is the entanglement of passing wildlife. This option would have to be thoroughly considered by staff and approval provided by Scottish Natural Heritage prior to installing the nets. The decision should be reviewed.

The Small Isles is home to otters and a variety of cetaceans and bird species; many of these are present in large numbers. The presence of the Golden eagles, Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Manx shearwaters, and Red-throated divers are among some of the bird species protected by the Rum Special Protection Area. Given the importance of this area to wildlife, and in the absence of further assessment, the decision has been made not to install predator nets at Rum Salmon Farm as precautionary mitigation to prevent entanglement and damage to wildlife.



On rare occasions there can be a problem with a particularly aggressive and persistent seal, which may even enter the salmon pen. Should the mitigation measures available be insufficient to protect fish stock, rogue seals will be humanely dispatched by shooting. This option is only ever considered as a last resort, when other methods fail, and is conducted in line with the appropriate regulations.

Marine (Scotland) Act - From the 31st January 2011, any fish farm in Scotland that requires to manage seals, at any time of year, will need an annual Seal Management Licence. Predator control at the Salmon Farm should be managed in a manner which is compliant with the conditions of its licence. Please contact Jackie Hail at the Stob Ban Office if you have any enquires regarding the content of the licence.

Dispatch of a seal will also require authorisation internally and will be done in a manner which minimises potential impacts, using licensed and trained contractors. The selective dispatch of seals is unlikely to have any impact upon a healthy population. However the company recognises shooting of persistent seals is a deeply emotive and often controversial issue.