

Letter to Supermarkets:

Aldi
ASDA (Walmart)
Iceland
Lidl
Marks & Spencer
Morrisons
Sainsbury
Tesco
Waitrose

30th August 2015

Public Pledge to Stop Sourcing from Seal-Killing Salmon Farms

Further to previous correspondence on the killing of seals at salmon farms (see Appendix 2), will you pledge publicly to stop sourcing farmed salmon from seal-killing salmon farms?

The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) will be organising protests across the UK in the run up to Halloween and Christmas. We intend to deliver seal corpses killed by salmon farms back to the supermarkets who sponsor the slaughter.

A public commitment to establish a cease-fire would be much appreciated by 30 September 2015. If you would like to meet in person or speak on the phone please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that data obtained on 21 August 2015 via Freedom of Information from the Scottish Government (sourced from quarterly return forms filed by salmon farming companies for 2013 and 2014) [reveals](#) that:

- over half (51%) of salmon farms in Scotland killed at least one seal and almost a quarter (23%) of salmon farms in Scotland killed at least two seals
- Shetland is the most lethal region representing almost half (49%) of seal killings following by Orkney (15%) and Argyll & Bute (14%)
- the most deadly salmon farm is Hjaltland/Grieg's salmon farm at East Voe Laxfirth in Shetland followed by Scottish Seafarms' salmon farm at Veantrow Bay in Orkney
- the Norwegian-owned companies Scottish Seafarms (Leroy/Salmar) and Hjaltland Seafarms (Grieg Seafood) are the most deadly companies
- Scottish Seafarms killed 56 seals during 2013 and 2014 - almost a third (32%) of all seals killed by salmon farms in Scotland
- other trigger-happy salmon farmers are the Scottish Salmon Company, Marine Harvest and Balta Island Seafare

Here's the top 10 seal-killing salmon farm sites (2013 to January 2015*):

- #1: East Voe Laxfirth, Shetland (Hjaltland/Grieg) - 24
- #2: Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 13
- #3: West of Balta Island, Shetland (Balta Island Seafare): 7
- #4 =: South Voe of Gletness, Shetland (Hjaltland/Grieg): 6

#4=: Bellister, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 6
#6 =: Gometra, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Salmon Company): 5*
#6 =: Loura Voe, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 5
#6 =: Taranais, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis (Scottish Salmon Company): 5
#6 =: West Voe, Shetland (Bound Skerries Seafood): 5
#10 =: Grunna Voe, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 4
#10 =: Ardchattan Bay, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (Dawnfresh): 4
#10 =: Toyness, Scapa Flow, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 4

* Some data for January 2015 was made available by the Scottish Government. GAAIA filed a FOI request on 24 August 2015 requesting all seal-killing data for 2015 (a reply is expected in late September 2015).

The data disclosure also reveals that the vast majority of dead seals go unreported and decaying corpses are rarely recovered or collected. In fact, out of 173 seals killed by salmon farms in 2013 and 2014 only 19 carcasses (11%) were reported, 16 carcasses recovered (9%) and only one carcass (<1%) collected via the [Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme](#).

A list of all the Scottish salmon farms killing seals in 2013 and 2014 is enclosed below in Appendix 1. For all the source data and copies of seal-killing returns forms please read:

["Appendix: Companies, Regions & Sites"](#)

["Appendix: Source Data - Seal Killing Return Forms Submitted by Salmon Farms"](#)

[250 PDFs in a 10 MB Zip file are available via Dropbox - please email dstaniford@gaaia.org].

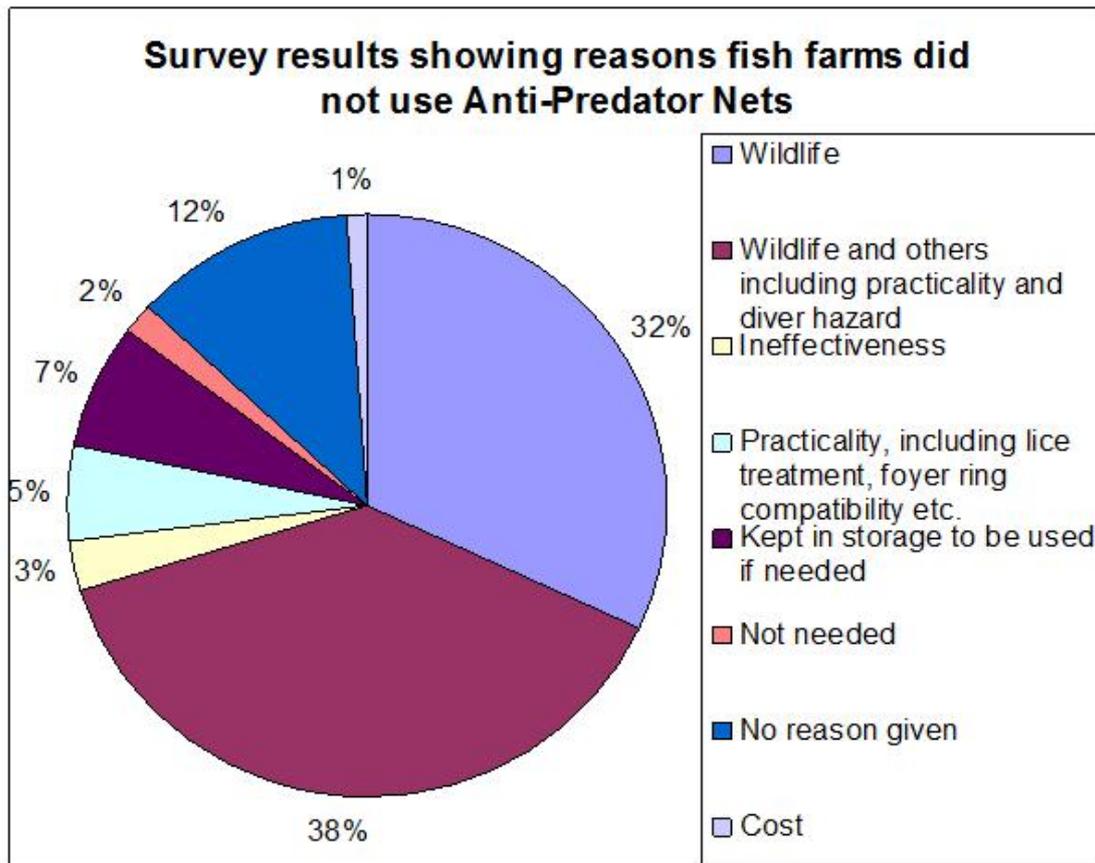
To reiterate one simple question from our letter in May 2013:

Do you source farmed salmon from companies which are killing marine mammals such as seals?

Please also note that a [Scottish Government survey in 2011/2012](#) revealed that 87% of salmon farms in Scotland do not even use predator nets - belying the salmon farming industry's claim that only shoot seals as a "last resort":

2011/12 Survey - Anti-Predator Nets

A total of 13% of fish farms actively use anti-predator nets and a further 7% have anti-predator nets in storage, making 20% in total (36 out of 175 responses). A number of reasons were offered for not using such nets but the most significant by far at 70% was related either solely or partly to possible impacts on wildlife. It should be noted that properly installed and maintained high-tension seal exclusion nets should not harm seals or other marine mammals. However this requires employing extra trained staff and regular net maintenance and cleaning which costs money and eats into profit margins.



Read more via "[Fish Farms in Shooting Seals Row](#)" and "[Scottish Salmon's Lethal Seal of Disapproval - 87% of farms fails to install predator exclusion nets](#)"

A reply by the **30 September 2015** would be much appreciated so we can avoid targeting your stores. If you are interested in issuing a joint statement publicising your commitment to ending the slaughter of seals at salmon farms please let me know.

If you choose to continue to sponsor seal slaughter across Scotland and have any security concerns regarding forthcoming protests please do not hesitate to contact me. GAAIA has a policy of peaceful protest and liaison with the police. If we did dump bloody seal corpses in front of your stores or head office then we would merely consider it a Good Samaritan act of returning lost property.

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

Director of the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#)

Contact details: dstaniford@gaaia.org

Appendix 1: Scottish Salmon's Serial Seal Killers

A total of 74 salmon farms killed at least one seal in the period 2013-2014 (75 if you include the Scottish Salmon Company's salmon farm at Gometra, Isle of Mull, for January 2015).

According to the latest [Scottish Government annual survey of fish farms](#) there were 145 active salmon farms in 2013. In other words, over half of salmon farms in Scotland killed at least one seal.

A total of 33 salmon farms killed at least two seals in the period 2013-2014 (34 if you include the Gometra site for January 2015). In other words, almost a quarter (23%) of salmon farms in Scotland killed at least two seals.

#1: East Voe Laxfirth, Shetland (Hjaltland/Grieg) - 24

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East Voe Laxfirth, Lax Firth, Shetland (FS0333): 1 grey seal killed (7 August 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East Voe Laxfirth, Lax Firth, Shetland (FS0333): 3 grey seals killed (2 May and 23 & 30 July 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East Voe Laxfirth, Lax Firth, Shetland (FS0333): 8 grey seals killed (12 May; 2, 7, 15 & 26 June and 1, 6 & 14 July 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East Voe Laxfirth, Lax Firth, Shetland (FS0333): 1 common seal killed (29 April 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East Voe Laxfirth, Lax Firth, Shetland (FS0333): 11 grey seals killed (4, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25 & 27 February and 1 & 18 March 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#2: Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 13

Scottish Seafarms - Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney (FS0860): 1 grey seal killed (23 January 2014); one carcass recovered (but not reported or collected)

Scottish Seafarms - Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney (FS0860): 3 grey seals killed (2 & 5 December 2013); 3 carcasses recovered (but zero reported or collected)

Scottish Seafarms - Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney (FS0860): 4 grey seals killed (27 March & 4 April 2013); zero carcasses recovered or collected but 4 reported

Scottish Seafarms - Veantrow Bay, Shapinsay, Orkney: 5 grey seals killed (14 February, 4 March, 28 March & 1 April 2014); 5 carcasses recovered but zero reported or collected

#3: West of Balta Island, Shetland (Balta Island Seafare): 7

Balta Island Seafare - West of Balta Island, Shetland (FS0717): 2 grey seals killed (9 August 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Balta Island Seafare - West of Balta Island, Shetland (FS0717): 1 grey seal killed (27 May 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Balta Island Seafare - West of Balta Island, Shetland (FS0717): 2 grey seals killed (13 & 28 November 2013); 1 carcass recovered (but not reported or collected)

Balta Island Seafare - West of Balta Island, Baltasound, Shetland (FS0717): 2 grey seals killed (7 & 27 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#4 =: South Voe of Gletness, Shetland (Hjaltland/Grieg): 6

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - South Voe of Gletness, Shetland (FS1099): 6 grey seals killed (3, 8, 14, 18, 19 & 23 February 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#4=: Bellister, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 6

Scottish Seafarms - Bight of Bellister, Shetland (FS1121): 1 grey seal killed (17 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Bellister, Dury Voe, Shetland: 3 grey seals killed (8 & 30 May and 6 June 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Bight of Bellister, Shetland: 1 grey seal killed (15 May 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Bellister, Dury Voe, Shetland; 1 grey seal killed (8 April 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#6 =: Gometra, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Salmon Company): 5*

Scottish Salmon Company - Gometra, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute: 3 grey seals killed (20 & 27 January 2015); 3 carcasses reported but zero carcasses recovered or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Gometra, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute: 2 common seals killed (20 & 27 January 2015); 2 carcasses reported but zero carcasses recovered or collected

#6 =: Loura Voe, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 5

Scottish Seafarms - Loura Voe, Dury Voe, Shetland: 1 common seal killed (18 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Loura Voe, Dury Voe, Shetland: 2 grey seals killed (11 & 16 October 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Loura Voe, Dury Voe, Shetland: 2 grey seals killed (30 August & 19 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#6 =: Taranaish, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis (Scottish Salmon Company): 5

Scottish Salmon Company - Taranaish, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 2 grey seals killed (20 March & 2 April 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Taranaish, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 1 grey seal killed (12 December 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Taranaish, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 2 grey seals killed (3 & 5 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#6 =: West Voe, Shetland (Bound Skerries Seafood): 5

Bound Skerries Seafood - West Voe, Shetland (FS0310): 1 grey seal killed (18 November 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Bound Skerries Seafood - West Voe, Shetland (FS0310): 1 grey seal killed (18 September 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Bound Skerries Seafoods - West Voe, Shetland (FS/0310): 1 grey seal killed (30 December 2013); zero carcass recovered ("too remote" listed as reason), reported or collected

Bound Skerries Seafood - West Voe, Shetland (FS0310): 2 grey seals killed (26 August & 10 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected ("too remote" listed as reason not to report)

#10 =: Grunna Voe, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 4

Scottish Seafarms - Grunna Voe, Shetland: 1 grey seal killed (18 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Grunna Voe, Dury Voe, Shetland: 2 common seals killed (10 & 14 January 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Grunna Voe, Shetland; 1 grey seal killed (8 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#10 =: Ardchattan Bay, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (Dawnfresh): 4

Dawnfresh - Ardchattan Bay, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (FS0197): 1 common seal killed (22 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Dawnfresh - Ardchattan Bay, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute - 2 common seals killed (5 November & 4 December 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Dawnfresh - Ardchattan Bay, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (FS0197): 1 common seal killed (8 July 2013); 1 carcass recovered but zero reported or collected

#10 =: Toyness, Scapa Flow, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 4

Scottish Seafarms - Toyness, Scapa Flow, Orkney (FS1024): 2 grey seals killed (5 & 13 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered or collected but 2 reported

Scottish Seafarms - Toyness, Scapa Flow, Orkney (FS1024): 2 grey seals killed (25 March & 13 April 2013); zero carcasses recovered or collected but 2 reported

#13 =: Rubha Stillig, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Salmon Company): 3

Scottish Salmon Company - Rubha Stillig, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute: 3 common seals killed (26 November 2014); zero carcasses recovered or collected but 3 reported

#13 =: Trilleachan Mor, Loch Seaforth, Isle of Harris/Lewis (Scottish Salmon Company): 3

Scottish Salmon Company - Trilleachan Mor, Loch Seaforth, Isle of Harris/Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 1 common seal killed (19 September 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Trilleachan Mor, Loch Seaforth, Isle of Harris/Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 2 grey seals killed (30 May 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#13 =: Kishorn B, Loch Kishorn, Highland (Scottish Seafarms): 3

Scottish Seafarms - Kishorn B, Loch Kishorn, Highland (FS0804): 1 common seal killed (29 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Kishorn B, Loch Kishorn, Highland (FS804): 1 common seal killed (11 March 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Kishorn B, Loch Kishorn, Highland (FS0804): 1 common seal killed (30 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#13 =: Corry, Loch Broom, Highland (Wester Ross Fisheries): 3

Wester Ross Fisheries/North & West Salmon Management Group - Corry, Loch Broom, Highland (FS/0057): 1 grey seal killed (6 August 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Wester Ross Fisheries/North & West Salmon Management Group - Corry, Loch Broom, Highland (FS/0057): 1 common seal killed (27 February 2014) and 1 grey seal killed (20 February 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Grey Horse Channel, Cheesebay, North Uist (Marine Harvest): 2

Marine Harvest - Grey Horse Channel, Cheesebay, North Uist, Outer Hebrides (FS1122); 1 grey seal killed (22 July 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Grey Horse Channel, Cheesebay, North Uist, Outer Hebrides (FS1122); 1 grey seal killed (23 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Isle Ewe, Loch Ewe, Highland (Marine Harvest): 2

Marine Harvest - Isle Ewe, Loch Ewe, Highland (FS1084); 1 common seal killed (10 November 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Isle Ewe, Loch Ewe, Highland (FS1084); 1 grey seal killed (3 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Bring Head, Scapa Flow, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 2

Scottish Seafarms - Bring Head, Scapa Flow, Orkney (FS1023): 1 grey seal killed (19 July 2013); zero carcass recovered or collected but 1 reported

Scottish Seafarms - Bring Head, Scapa Flow, Orkney (FS1023): 1 grey seal killed (22 February 2013); zero carcass recovered or collected but 1 reported

#17 =: Scallastle Bay, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Seafarms): 2

Scottish Seafarms - Scallastle Bay, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (FS0209): 1 common seal killed (4 February 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Scallastle Bay, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (FS0209): 1 common seal killed (29 January 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Cloudin, Vaila Sound, Shetland (Meridian/Cooke): 2

Meridian/Cooke - Cloudin, Vaila Sound, Shetland (FS0088): 2 grey seals killed (18 April 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Quanterness, Bay of Kirkwall, Orkney (Meridian/Cooke): 2

Meridian/Cooke - Quanterness, Bay of Kirkwall, Orkney (FS0908): 2 grey seals killed (15 & 16 April 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Cat Firth, Shetland (Hjaltland/Grieg): 2

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - Cat Firth, Shetland (FS0501): 2 grey seals killed (21 February & 3 March 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Loch Carnan, South Uist (Loch Duart): 2

Loch Duart - Loch Carnan, South Uist, Outer Hebrides: 2 grey seals killed (20 September 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Vidlin, Shetland (Scottish Seafarms): 2

Scottish Seafarms - Vidlin, Shetland: 2 grey seals killed (18 September & 3 October 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Baltasound Pier, Shetland (Balta Island Seafare): 2

Balta Island Seafare - Baltasound Pier, Shetland (FS1102): 2 grey seals killed (4 April 2014); 2 carcasses recovered and reported but zero collected

#17 =: Puldrite Bay, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms): 2

Scottish Seafarms - Puldrite Bay, Orkney: 2 grey seals killed (4 December 2013); 2 carcasses recovered (but zero reported or collected)

#17 =: Hamnavoe, Shetland (Meridian/Cooke): 2

Meridian/Cooke - Hamnavoe, Shetland (FS/1043): 2 common seals killed (27 January 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Lochmadday, North Uist (Loch Duart): 2

Loch Duart - Lochmaddy, North Uist, Outer Hebrides: 2 grey seals killed (29 November & 13 December 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Outer Eport, North Uist (Scottish Salmon Company): 2

Scottish Salmon Company - Outer Eport, North Uist, Outer Hebrides: 1 grey seal killed (6 November 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Outer Eport, North Uist, Outer Hebrides: 1 grey seal killed (2 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Geasgill, Loch Na Keal, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Salmon Company): 2

Scottish Salmon Company - Geasgill, Loch Na Keal, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute: 1 common seal killed and 1 grey seal killed (11 & 22 March 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Druimyeon Bay, Sound of Gigha, Argyll & Bute (Scottish Salmon Company): 2

Scottish Salmon Company - Druimyeon Bay, Sound of Gigha, Argyll & Bute: 1 unidentified seal killed (12 December 2014); zero carcass recovered or collected but 1 reported

Scottish Salmon Company - Druimyeon Bay, Sound of Gigha, Argyll & Bute: 1 grey seal killed (13 January 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Inverawe East, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (Dawnfresh): 2

Dawnfresh - Inverawe East, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (FS1067): 1 common seal killed (6 June 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Dawnfresh - Inverawe East, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (FS1067): 1 common seal killed (15 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

#17 =: Stringa Voe, Shetland (Bound Skerries Seafood): 2

Bound Skerries Seafood - Stringa Voe, Shetland (FS0439): 1 grey seal killed (30 October 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Bound Skerries Seafood - Stringa Voe, Shetland (FS0439): 1 grey seal killed (11 September 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected ("too remote" listed as reason not to report)

* Some data for January 2015 was made available by the Scottish Government. GAAIA filed a FOI request on 24 August 2015 requesting all seal-killing data for 2015 (a reply is expected in late September 2015).

Another 41 sites killed one seal (2013-2014):

Marine Harvest - Invasion Bay, Loch Sunart, Highland (FS0212): 1 grey seal killed (18 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - North Voe, Whalsay, Shetland (FS0946): 1 grey seal killed (15 December 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Lismore West, Loch Linnhe, Argyll & Bute (FS0914): 1 common seal killed (5 November 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Holms, Shetland: 1 grey seal killed (30 October 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Slocks, Ronas Voe, Shetland: 1 grey seal killed (17 October 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Loch Leven (1), Loch Leven, Highland (FS1084): 1 common seal killed (13 October 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Torridon, Loch Torridon, Highland (FS0234): 1 common seal killed (24 September 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Dawnfresh - Etive 4, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute (FS1112): 1 common seal killed (6 June 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Meridian Salmon Farms - ??????? (FS/0624): 1 grey seal killed (6 May 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Spelve B, Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (FS0253): 1 common seal killed (25 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Balta Island Seafare - Baltasound, Shetland (FS0449): 1 grey seal killed (4 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Loch Creran D, Loch Creran, Argyll & Bute (FS1047): 1 common seal killed (4 April 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - Linga, Setterness, Shetland (FS1027): 1 grey seal killed (26 March 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Loch Duart/North & West Salmon Management Group - Loch A Chairn Bain, Highland (FS/0621): 1 grey seal killed (20 March 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Tanera, Summer Isles, Highland (FS0549): 1 common seal killed and 1 grey seal killed (13 & 16 March 2014); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Dury Voe, Shetland (FS0033): 1 grey seal killed (10 March 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Loch Duart/North & West Salmon Management Group - Sound of Harris, Outer Hebrides; 1 grey seal killed (4 March 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Loch Duart/North & West Salmon Management Group - Outer Bay, Loch Droigniche, Highland (FS/0671): 1 common seal killed (28 February 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Loch Duart/North & West Salmon Management Group - Calva Bay, Highland (FS/0068): 1 grey seal killed (26 February 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Spelve A, Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute (FS0634): 1 common seal killed (20 February 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Mangester, Mangester Voe, Shetland: 1 grey seal killed (21 January 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Ardcastle, Loch Fyne, Argyll & Bute: 1 grey seal killed (15 January 2014); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - Swinning Voe, Shetland (FS/0377): 1 common seal killed (8 November 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Nevis B, Loch Nevis, Highland (FS0616): 1 common seal killed (22 October 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Creag an T'Sagairt, Loch Hourn, Highland (FS0605): 1 common seal killed (16 October 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Cairidh, Loch Ainort, Isle of Skye, Highland (FS0605): 1 common seal killed (26 September 2013) and 1 grey seal killed (6 September 2013); zero carcasses recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - North Havra, Shetland (FS0674): 1 grey seal killed (27 September 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Loch Harport, Isle of Skye, Highland (FS0247): 1 common seal killed (25 September 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Dawnfresh - Etive 3, Port Na Mine, Loch Etive, Argyll & Bute: 1 common seal killed (18 September 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Portree, Isle of Skye, Highland: 1 common seal killed (17 September 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Eughlam, Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides: 1 grey seal killed (6 August 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Plocrapol, Isle of Harris, Outer Hebrides: 1 common seal killed (25 April 2013); zero carcass recovered and collected but 1 reported

Meridian/Cooke - Papa Westray, Orkney (FS1210): 1 grey seal killed (1 April 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Crooie, Clift Sound, Shetland; 1 grey seal killed (29 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Tuath, Loch Tuath, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute: 1 grey seal killed (28 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Kames Fish Farming - Eilean Coltair, Loch Melfort, Argyll & Bute (FS0777): 1 common seal killed (20 March 2013); 1 carcass recovered, reported and collected

Meridian/Cooke - Meil Bay, Orkney (FS0597): 1 grey seal killed (5 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Salmon Company - Inchkenneth, Loch Na Keal, Isle of Mull, Argyll & Bute: 1 common seal killed (5 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Puldrite Bay, Orkney (FS0813): 1 grey seal killed (19 February 2013); zero carcass recovered or collected but 1 reported

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - Punds Voe, Shetland (FS0446): 1 grey seal killed (13 March 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Hjaltland Seafarms/Grieg Seafood - East of Papa, Shetland (FS447): 1 grey seal killed (19 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Marine Harvest - Sconser, Isle of Skye, Highland: 1 common seal killed (15 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Holms Geo, Clift Sound, Shetland; 1 grey seal killed (11 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Scottish Seafarms - Crying Taing and Pobie Suka, Ronas Voe, Shetland; 1 grey seal killed (6 February 2013); zero carcass recovered, reported or collected

Appendix 2: Previous Correspondence with Supermarkets

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 08 May 2013 18:57
To:
Subject: Sourcing question re. salmon farms & killing of seals

Please pass onto your farmed salmon purchasing team:

The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) is [writing](#) once again to retailers in the UK and around the world with one simple question:

- Do you source farmed salmon from companies which are killing marine mammals such as seals?

Please find new information released by the Scottish Government naming for the first time all salmon farm sites in Scotland killing seals (online now via "[Scottish Salmon's Seal Killers Named & Shamed](#)").

For example, do you source farmed salmon from any of the 'Seven Deadliest Salmon Farms'; namely Hjaltland: Lax Firth, Shetland (#333); Scottish Sea Farms: Veantrow Bay, Orkney (#860); Lakeland Marine (Meridian): Loch Melfort, West Scotland (#629); Scottish Salmon Company: Loch Roag, Western Isles (#752); Scottish Sea Farms: Bring Head, Scapa Flow, Orkney (#1023); Marine Harvest: Loch Sunart, West Scotland (#413); Northern Isles Salmon (Meridian): Rousay Sound, Orkney (#645)?

The damning data reveals that over half of the salmon farms in Scotland claimed to have killed seals as a 'last resort' even though only 13% of sites have predator nets installed!

The worst offenders are the Norwegian-owned companies Hjaltland (Grieg Seafood), Scottish Sea Farms (Leroy/Salmar), Marine Harvest (Meridian/Morpol) and the Scottish Salmon Company. GAAIA is now writing to retailers and the U.S. Government urging a boycott of 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon.



FOI data [disclosed](#) late yesterday (7 May) reveals that salmon farms in Orkney & the North Coast, Shetland, Western Isles and on the West Coast of Scotland killed a total of 346 seals (93 common seals and 253 grey seals). During 2011 and the first six months of 2012, 112 different salmon farms killed at least one seal – representing 52% of the [215 active salmon farms](#) in Scotland. Fifteen salmon farms accounted for over a third (37%) of the killings – with the ‘Seven Deadliest Salmon Farms’ accounting for a quarter of all killings:

- 18 seals killed – Hjaltland: Lax Firth, Shetland (#333)
- 14 seals killed – Scottish Sea Farms: Veantrow Bay, Orkney (#860)
- 14 seals killed – Lakeland Marine (Meridian): Loch Melfort, West Scotland (#629)
- 13 seals killed – Scottish Salmon Company: Loch Roag, Western Isles (#752)
- 11 seals killed – Scottish Sea Farms: Bring Head, Scapa Flow, Orkney (#1023)
- 10 seals killed – Marine Harvest: Loch Sunart, West Scotland (#413)
- 8 seals killed – Northern Isles Salmon (Meridian): Rousay Sound, Orkney (#645)

Download the data online now for [2011](#) and [2012](#) and other documents [online here](#)

The disclosure comes despite over 12 months of [complaints](#), refusals and delays from both the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) and the Scottish Government. In December 2012, the SSPO wrote to the Scottish Government claiming that the release of the names of the seal-killing salmon farms would “have a direct impact on the market success of their products” (read the SSPO’s letter in full [online here](#)).



Willie Cowan
Marine Scotland
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay 1-B
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

December 6th 2012

Dear Willie

Information Commissioner Decision 193/2012

Following the recent decision by the Information Commissioner to permit the disclosure of locations where seals have been shot at salmon farms, I have been asked to write to you on behalf of SSPO members.

Our membership is extremely dismayed by this decision and believes it will have a direct impact on the safety of their employees and on the market success of their products. Don Staniford stated in this week’s media that “the consumer now has the opportunity to boycott salmon from the named farms”.

Bearing this additional information in mind, SSPO member companies would expect the Scottish Government automatically to appeal this decision.

Could you please confirm that this is your intention?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Landsburgh', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

SCOTT LANDSBURGH
Chief Executive

In January 2013, the Scottish Information Commissioner [delayed disclosure](#) to investigate a [complaint](#) of death threats. Back in [June 2012](#) (following the original FOI request in [April](#)

[2012](#) filed by GAAIA) the Scottish Government named the salmon farming companies killing seals but [refused](#) to name the specific sites leading to an [appeal](#) to the Scottish Information Commissioner. Thanks to rulings in [November 2012](#) and [April 2013](#) upholding freedom of information the general public now know the identity of the salmon farms across Scotland slaughtering seals.

GAAIA also published damning data (obtained from Marine Scotland in March 2013) naming all 169 salmon farm sites in Scotland WITHOUT predator nets (download data [online here](#)). The Scottish Government admitted in a FOI reply in [September 2012](#) that 87% of Scottish salmon farms do not even have predator nets – explaining that installing predator nets “requires employing extra trained staff and regular net maintenance and cleaning which costs money and eats into profit margins”. Another [FOI reply](#) from the Scottish Government in March 2013 detailed the 47 salmon farms with predator nets – although only 37 sites were operational and only 25 sites used the predator nets continuously (12 sites kept the nets in storage).

Faced with a [barrage of bad publicity](#) in British Columbia, Marine Harvest Canada installed predator nets at a cost of [\\$250,000 per farm](#) but Marine Harvest and other companies have continued to cut corners in Scotland. If the 169 salmon farms without predator nets in Scotland installed predator nets it would cost the salmon farming industry £27 million (\$42.5 million).

Read more details including a press release and media backgrounder online via "[Lethal Scottish Farmed Salmon: Serial Seal Killers Named & Shamed!](#)"

Please see below for previous emails requesting information in September 2012 and June 2012.

A reply including a policy statement on your sourcing policy would be much appreciated. Will you publicly pledge to stop sourcing cheap Scottish farmed salmon from sites which kill seals as a first resort rather than install predator nets?

As John Robins, Secretary to the [Save Our Seals Fund](#), said in a [press release](#) issued earlier today:

“When you buy Scottish salmon you pay for bullets to shoot seals. It is ludicrous and shameful that the Scottish Government is freely issuing licences to allow salmon farmers to kill seals when, by the Governments’ own admission, the vast majority of these floating factory fish farms do not use proper anti-predator nets. When the Scottish Government and RSPCA Freedom Foods claim that seals are only shot as a ‘last resort’ they are lying. They are lying to the public and colluding with the salmon farmers in the killing of seals in Scottish waters. The Scottish Government and RSPCA Freedom Foods should insist that salmon farmers deploy and maintain proper seal exclusion nets.”



For more information please read today's [Intrafish](#):



Sign up

Your search term h

[Home](#) [Aquaculture](#) [Fisheries](#) [Prices](#) [Finance](#) [Commentary](#) [Events](#) [Photos](#) [Jobs](#)

Scotland names top seal-shooting salmon farmers

Seal kills totaled by company.

 IntraFish Media

Published: 08 May 2013 02:23 PM Updated: 08 May 2013 04:37 PM

The Scottish government released detailed reports on companies that killed seals in 2011 and 2012, with Hjaltland Seafarms and Scottish Salmon Company as the top shooters in 2011 with 55 seals and 43 seals respectively.

Scottish Sea Farms meanwhile shot 37 seals, with Marine Harvest just behind it at 34 seals. Loch Duart took five seals.

In total, the Scottish salmon farming industry bagged 241 seals in 2011, mostly off West Scotland and the Shetlands.

Statistics for 2012 only cover the first two quarters of the year. Those show the Scottish Salmon Company took 25 seals, slightly more than Hjaltland, which shot 20 seals. Scottish Sea Farms shot 19, and Marine Harvest took 10. Loch Duart killed five seals, meanwhile.

The Scottish salmon farming industry fought the release of the government statistics, saying the naming of companies would make them targets of environmental groups.

Associated Articles

- [Scottish salmon producers see drop in exports](#)
- [Scottish salmon farms to be named in seal shootings](#)

From: Don Staniford [mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com]
Sent: 17 September 2012 08:29
To:
Subject: Sourcing question re. salmon farms & killing of seals

Do you have a reply to my email of 28 June and the question: Do you source farmed salmon from companies which are killing marine mammals such as seals?

Please also note new information from Marine Scotland which shows that only 13% of Scottish salmon farms have installed anti-predator nets (see below).

Do you source from the 13% of Scottish salmon farms which have installed anti-predator nets instead of shooting seals as a first resort?

Thanks,

Don

Save Our Seals Fund & GAAIA, 16 September 2012

[Scottish Salmon's Lethal Seal of Disapproval](#)

- 87% of farms fail to install predator exclusion nets

Exclusive figures forced from the Scottish Government under Freedom of Information laws reveal that only 13% of Scottish salmon farms use seal exclusion nets. The 2011/12 survey has just been released by Marine Scotland following an appeal over the refusal of an earlier Freedom of Information request. The survey shows that although 20% of salmon farms have these vital anti-predator nets only 13% of farms use them [1].

Read more via today's Sunday Times newspaper: "[Fish Farms in Shooting Seals Row](#)"

"These damning figures blow the industry's claim that seals are only shot as a 'last resort' out of the water," said Don Staniford of the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA). "The bloody truth is that 4 out of 5 salmon farms do not even have predator nets and are killing seals unnecessarily. Consumers have blood on their hands when buying Scottish farmed salmon – even RSPCA-certified 'Freedom Food' salmon."

Following Marine Scotland's refusal to name the companies, GAAIA has now filed an appeal with the Scottish Information Commissioner [2]. GAAIA has [forwarded](#) this damning new information to the US Government demanding that imports of Scottish farmed salmon be banned due to a blatant breach of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act.

"When you buy Scottish salmon you pay for bullets to shoot seals," said John Robins, Secretary to the Save Our Seals Fund. "It is ludicrous and shameful that the Scottish Government is freely issuing licences to allow salmon farmers to kill seals when, by the Governments' own admission, the vast majority of these floating factory fish farms do not use proper anti-predator nets. When the Scottish Government and RSPCA Freedom Foods claim that seals are only shot as a 'last resort' they are lying. They are lying to the public and colluding with the salmon farmers in the killing of seals in Scottish waters. The Scottish

Government and RSPCA Freedom Foods should insist that salmon farmers deploy and maintain proper seal exclusion nets.”

Paul Wheelhouse, the new Environment Minister at the Scottish Government, [claimed](#) earlier this month: “More than 60 per cent of Scottish farmed salmon now has the RSPCA’s Freedom Foods accreditation.” Despite failing to install predator nets at 87% of farms, the Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation [claims](#): “More than 90% of Scottish salmon will be farmed to RSPCA Freedom Food welfare standards within the next two years”.

In June, FOI data from the Scottish Government [revealed](#) that over 300 seals were killed during 2011 and 2012 (up to April) by Scottish salmon farmers including Marine Harvest, Loch Duart, Scottish Sea Farms, Meridian, Hjalmland Seafarms and The Scottish Salmon Company.

For more information read the ‘[Killing Farms](#)’ and ‘[Killer Panda](#)’

Contacts:

John Robins, Save Our Seals Fund (SOSF) & Animal Concern: +44 (0)1389-841111 and +44 (0)7721-605521

Don Staniford, Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA):
dstaniford@gaaia.org

NOTES TO EDITORS:

[1] Marine Scotland (a Scottish Government Department) reply of 10 September 2012 to a FOI request by GAAIA for data on the number of predator nets on Scottish salmon farms. Prior to this, information circulated by the Government and given in at least one written answer to a parliamentary question (Government Minister Richard Lochhead on Friday, March 04, 2011) misled the public by suggesting that 20% of salmon farms actually used predator exclusion nets.

2011/12 Survey - Anti-Predator Nets

A total of 13% of fish farms actively use anti-predator nets and a further 7% have anti-predator nets in storage, making 20% in total (36 out of 175 responses). A number of reasons were offered for not using such nets but the most significant by far at 70% was related either solely or partly to possible impacts on wildlife. It should be noted that properly installed and maintained high-tension seal exclusion nets should not harm seals or other marine mammals. However this requires employing extra trained staff and regular net maintenance and cleaning which costs money and eats into profit margins.

Please find enclosed below new information detailing over 300 seals killed by salmon farming companies in Scotland during 2011 and 2012. The serial killers include Marine Harvest, Loch Duart, Scottish Seafarms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Hjaltland Seafarms (Grieg Seafood) and Meridian.

Exclusive data obtained from Marine Scotland via a Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveals that 229 seals were killed during 2011 by the following companies:

Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd – 50 seals killed
The Scottish Salmon Co Ltd – 45 seals killed
Scottish Seafarms Ltd – 37 seals killed
Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd – 34 seals killed
Northern Isles Salmon Ltd (Meridian group) – 22 seals killed
Lakeland Marine Farm Ltd – 17 seals killed
West Minch Salmon Ltd – 9 seals killed
Dawnfresh Farming Ltd – 6 seals killed
Loch Duart Ltd – 5 seals killed
Bound Skerries Seafoods Ltd – 4 seals killed

Already during 2012 (up to April) there have been 81 seals killed:

The Scottish Salmon Company – 21 seals killed
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd – 17 seals killed
Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd – 15 seals killed
Meridian Salmon Group – 13 seals killed
Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd – 9 seals killed
Loch Duart Ltd – 5 seals killed
Dawnfresh Farming Ltd – 1 seals killed

Read the correspondence with the Scottish Government in full [online here](#)

For more background - including a press release "[Scotland's Seal Killers Named & Shamed](#)" – please [visit here](#)

The killing of seals and sea lions by salmon farmers is sadly nothing new. In 2008, the [Protect our Seals Coalition](#) wrote to all High Street retailers in the UK calling on them to insist that their suppliers of Scottish salmon stop seal shooting, and to stipulate this in their supply contracts. A planned protest outside Sainsbury's was "postponed as a result of **Sainsbury's willingness to meet and discuss how the seal killings can be avoided**".

"Salmon farmers, retailers and animal welfare groups are joining forces to bring to an end the killing of problem seals at salmon farms as quickly as possible," claimed a [press release](#) issued in 2010. "In what is believed to be a world first, Marine Harvest, the world's largest salmon farmer will work with the Seal Protection Action Group as part of the newly formed "Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group", alongside Sainsbury's, Freedom Food, the RSPCA, the Sea Mammal Research Unit and International Animal Rescue."

In 2011, the Seal Protection Action Group's director Andy Ottaway stated in a [press release](#): "An average of at least one seal shot every single day is too high a price to pay for Scottish

Salmon and other Scottish seafood”. “We are grateful to Marine Harvest, Sainsbury’s and the RSPCA for working with us to eliminate all seal killings and the Scottish Government’s licensing scheme is a mechanism to help achieve that” continued Ottaway. “We know it is perfectly possible to deter seals and other wild predators without harming them. The new licence scheme must not rubber-stamp seal killings, but ultimately end them altogether.”

However, the harsh truth is that the killing of seals is increasing not decreasing. The so-called ‘Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group’ is an abject failure. Marine Harvest, for example, is still killing seals – 43 seals in Scotland alone during 2011 and 2012 (up to April).

[Seal Scotland reported](#) earlier this month that:

“In the first year of the government’s new seal licensing system they claim that 461 seals have been shot. The latest annual figures which cover the period from 31 January 2011 to 31 January 2012 can be found at [Licences & Returns: 2011](#). The government claims this is a success story - that these figures are far lower than the 3,000 seals that environmental groups had claimed were being killed each year. In fact a Freedom of Information request shows that the number of seals reported to the government as being shot over the three years before licences were introduced was 66, 34 and 10. The truth is that no one knows how many seals are being shot because no one is counting. Information received privately suggests that salmon farmers operate a policy of shoot on sight, far from the government’s insistence seals are shot as a last resort. The licensing system actually provides a smokescreen for salmon farmers and netmen to hide behind as they continue their slaughter of Scotland’s iconic sea mammal.”

Nor is the killing of seals always a “last resort” as claimed by salmon farmers. “A government survey showed that 80 per cent of salmon farms in Scotland do not have anti predator nets,” reported the [Shetland News](#) in March 2011. “Surely it would be in everyone’s interest to have a system in place that made sure that every salmon farm had non-lethal, anti-predator measures in place before they are granted a licence to ensure that shooting a seal is indeed a last resort. Or even better, only grant a licence to kill an individual “rogue” seal rather than give blanket approval to one salmon farm to kill more than 30 seals in one year. Without doubt what is needed is a system of policing and monitoring so that we can have confidence that fish farms are adhering to their licence, have a high standard of anti predator measures in place and only shoot seals as a last resort.”

John Robins of Animal Concern and Save Our Seals Fund told [The Sun](#) newspaper in 2011: “I am furious that the Scottish Government has passed a death sentence on over a thousand seals. The Government have lied to us over this. They said seal shooting would only be allowed as a last resort. Marine Scotland have made it official - if you buy Scottish salmon you pay for bullets to shoot seals. We are calling on the public to boycott Scottish salmon”.

Read more via “[Licence to Kill - Salmon Farmers in Firing Line During 2011 Scottish Slaughter of Seals](#)”

Andy Ottaway, Director of the Seal Protection Action Group [said](#) in February: “The Scottish Government's scheme has had a huge impact, but it does require that any seal shootings are a last resort measure. Unfortunately, if 500 'last resort' shootings have taken place in the first

year of the scheme it strongly suggests that some people are simply not trying hard enough to stop them.”

The continuing killing of marine mammals by salmon farmers prompted GAAIA and others to write to the U.S. Department of Commerce in October 2011 calling for a ban on imports of farmed salmon sourced from salmon farms where marine mammals had been killed. Read the letter in full [online here](#).

John Robins, secretary of Save Our Seals Fund in Scotland, followed up this letter with another letter to the U.S. Department of Commerce in March 2012. He wrote:

“Scottish salmon farmers are allowed to shoot and kill seals which come near their farms. This is far less expensive than installing and maintaining the high tensioned, high strength external anti-predator nets required to exclude marine mammals from salmon farms. Only 20% of Scottish salmon farms have any form of anti-predator exclusion nets in place. Instead farmers rely on the Scottish Government giving them licenses to shoot seals. In 2011 farmers were permitted to kill 1,298 seals. This year they can kill up to 1,100 seals. The true figure of seals killed will never be known as the Scottish Government does not police the situation. Farmers employ their own shooters and complete and return their own figures for the number of seals shot.....I urge you to use section 102(c)(3) of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act to ban the import of Scottish Atlantic Salmon into the USA. By doing so you would force salmon farmers here to install proper anti-predator nets thus protecting Scotland’s internationally important seal population.”

Read the letter in full [online here](#) - further correspondence with the U.S. Department of Commerce is available [online here](#).

Sourcing farmed salmon away from ‘seal unfriendly’ or ‘sea lion unfriendly’ salmon farms is a no-brainer. A poll conducted in 2009 revealed that the majority of people in the UK believe that supermarkets should refuse to buy farmed salmon from companies which kill seals:

- 58% believe that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from any suppliers that kill UK seals’ with only 15% disagreeing.

- 52% of people buying salmon products said they would be prepared to pay more for them to stop UK seals being killed, with only 17% disagreeing. 61% of women polled said they would be prepared to pay more.

“With the majority of people supporting a change in the law to protect seals and believing that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from producers that shoot seals, the tide is turning against the routine killing of our seals” said Andy Ottaway of the Seal Protection Action Group, “Even in these harsh economic times over half of the salmon buying public said they would be prepared to pay more for salmon products to stop seals being killed”.

Read more via [“New poll shows UK public want salmon without seal killings”](#)

It is clear that retailers should boycott all farmed salmon from companies who support a shoot to kill policy. It is a sad state of affairs when trigger-happy salmon farmers refuse to pay for predator nets and resort to the rifle as a first not last resort. Seals and sea lions are



Exclusive data obtained from Marine Scotland via a Freedom of Information (FOI) request reveals that 229 seals were killed during 2011 by the following companies:

- Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd – 50 seals killed
- The Scottish Salmon Co Ltd – 45 seals killed
- Scottish Seafarms Ltd – 37 seals killed
- Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd – 34 seals killed
- Northern Isles Salmon Ltd (Meridian group) – 22 seals killed
- Lakeland Marine Farm Ltd – 17 seals killed
- West Minch Salmon Ltd – 9 seals killed
- Dawnfresh Farming Ltd – 6 seals killed
- Loch Duart Ltd – 5 seals killed
- Bound Skerries Seafoods Ltd – 4 seals killed



Already during 2012 (up to April) there have been 81 seals killed:

- The Scottish Salmon Company – 21 seals killed
- Scottish Sea Farms Ltd – 17 seals killed
- Hjalmland Seafarms Ltd – 15 seals killed
- Meridian Salmon Group – 13 seals killed
- Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd – 9 seals killed
- Loch Duart Ltd – 5 seals killed
- Dawnfresh Farming Ltd – 1 seals killed

Read the correspondence with the Scottish Government in full [online here](#)

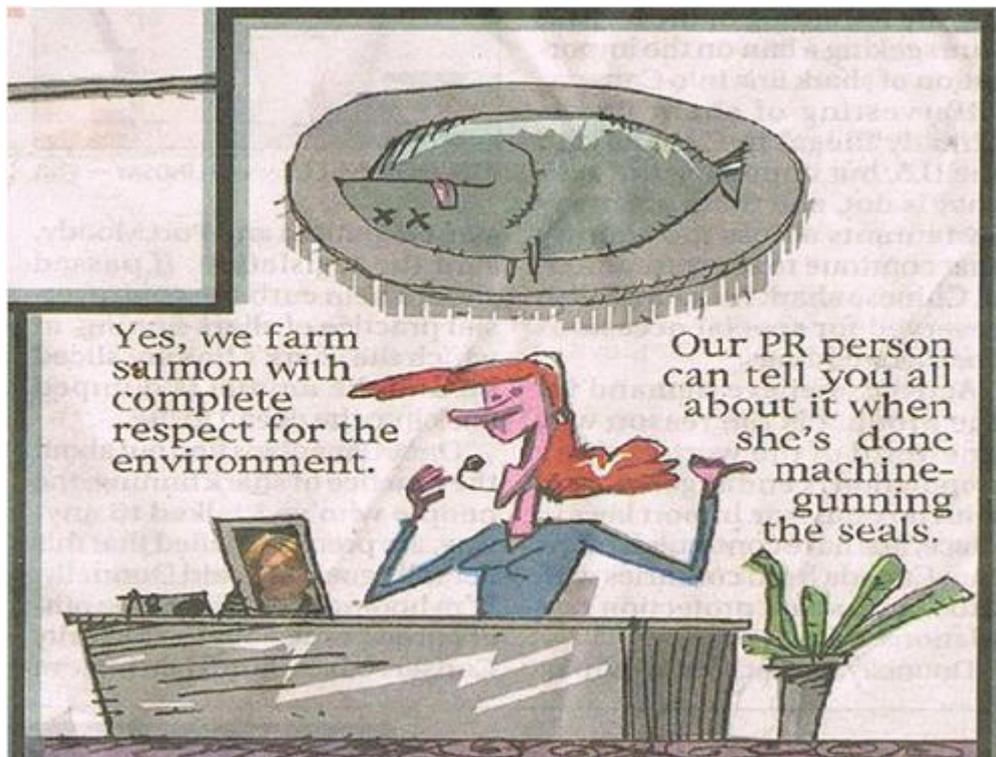
The killing of seals and sea lions by salmon farmers is sadly nothing new. In 2008, the [Protect our Seals Coalition](#) wrote to all High Street retailers in the UK calling on them to insist that their suppliers of Scottish salmon stop seal shooting, and to stipulate this in their supply contracts. A planned protest outside Sainsbury's was "postponed **as a result of Sainsbury's willingness to meet and discuss how the seal killings can be avoided**".

"Salmon farmers, retailers and animal welfare groups are joining forces to bring to an end the killing of problem seals at salmon farms as quickly as possible," claimed a [press release](#) issued in 2010. "In what is believed to be a world first, Marine Harvest, the world's largest salmon farmer will work with the Seal Protection Action Group as part of the newly formed "Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group", alongside Sainsbury's, Freedom Food, the RSPCA, the Sea Mammal Research Unit and International Animal Rescue."



In 2011, the Seal Protection Action Group's director Andy Ottaway stated in a [press release](#): "An average of at least one seal shot every single day is too high a price to pay for Scottish Salmon and other Scottish seafood". "We are grateful to Marine Harvest, Sainsbury's and the RSPCA for working with us to eliminate all seal killings and the Scottish Government's licensing scheme is a mechanism to help achieve that" continued Ottaway. "We know it is perfectly possible to deter seals and other wild predators without harming them. The new licence scheme must not rubber-stamp seal killings, but ultimately end them altogether."

However, the harsh truth is that the killing of seals is increasing not decreasing. The so-called 'Salmon, Aquaculture and Seals Working Group' is an abject failure. Marine Harvest, for example, is still killing seals – 43 seals in Scotland alone during 2011 and 2012 (up to April).



[Seal Scotland reported](#) earlier this month that:

"In the first year of the government's new seal licensing system they claim that 461 seals have been shot. The latest annual figures which cover the period from 31 January 2011 to 31 January 2012 can be found at [Licences & Returns: 2011](#). The government claims this is a success story - that these figures are far lower than the 3,000 seals that environmental groups had claimed were being killed each year. In fact a Freedom of Information request shows that the number of seals reported to the government as being shot over the three years before licences were introduced was 66, 34 and 10. The truth is that no one knows how many seals are being shot because no one is counting. Information received privately suggests that salmon farmers operate a policy of shoot on sight, far from the government's insistence seals are shot as a last resort. The licensing system actually provides a smokescreen for salmon farmers and netsmen to hide behind as they continue their slaughter of Scotland's iconic sea mammal."

Nor is the killing of seals always a “last resort” as claimed by salmon farmers. “A government survey showed that 80 per cent of salmon farms in Scotland do not have anti predator nets,” reported the [Shetland News](#) in March 2011. “Surely it would be in everyone’s interest to have a system in place that made sure that every salmon farm had non-lethal, anti-predator measures in place before they are granted a licence to ensure that shooting a seal is indeed a last resort. Or even better, only grant a licence to kill an individual “rogue” seal rather than give blanket approval to one salmon farm to kill more than 30 seals in one year. Without doubt what is needed is a system of policing and monitoring so that we can have confidence that fish farms are adhering to their licence, have a high standard of anti predator measures in place and only shoot seals as a last resort.”

John Robins of Animal Concern and Save Our Seals Fund told [The Sun](#) newspaper in 2011: “I am furious that the Scottish Government has passed a death sentence on over a thousand seals. The Government have lied to us over this. They said seal shooting would only be allowed as a last resort. Marine Scotland have made it official - if you buy Scottish salmon you pay for bullets to shoot seals. We are calling on the public to boycott Scottish salmon”.

Read more via “[Licence to Kill - Salmon Farmers in Firing Line During 2011 Scottish Slaughter of Seals](#)”

Andy Ottaway, Director of the Seal Protection Action Group [said](#) in February: “The Scottish Government's scheme has had a huge impact, but it does require that any seal shootings are a last resort measure. Unfortunately, if 500 'last resort' shootings have taken place in the first year of the scheme it strongly suggests that some people are simply not trying hard enough to stop them.”

The continuing killing of marine mammals by salmon farmers prompted GAAIA and others to write to the U.S. Department of Commerce in October 2011 calling for a ban on imports of farmed salmon sourced from salmon farms where marine mammals had been killed. Read the letter in full [online here](#).

John Robins, secretary of Save Our Seals Fund in Scotland, followed up this letter with another letter to the U.S. Department of Commerce in March 2012. He wrote:

“Scottish salmon farmers are allowed to shoot and kill seals which come near their farms. This is far less expensive than installing and maintaining the high tensioned, high strength external anti-predator nets required to exclude marine mammals from salmon farms. Only 20% of Scottish salmon farms have any form of anti-predator exclusion nets in place. Instead farmers rely on the Scottish Government giving them licenses to shoot seals. In 2011 farmers were permitted to kill 1,298 seals. This year they can kill up to 1,100 seals. The true figure of seals killed will never be known as the Scottish Government does not police the situation. Farmers employ their own shooters and complete and return their own figures for the number of seals shot.....I urge you to use section 102(c)(3) of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act to ban the import of Scottish Atlantic Salmon into the USA. By doing so you would force salmon farmers here to install proper anti-predator nets thus protecting Scotland’s internationally important seal population.”

Read the letter in full [online here](#) - further correspondence with the U.S. Department of Commerce is available [online here](#).

Sourcing farmed salmon away from 'seal unfriendly' or 'sea lion unfriendly' salmon farms is a no-brainer.



A poll conducted in 2009 revealed that the majority of people in the UK believe that supermarkets should refuse to buy farmed salmon from companies which kill seals:

- 58% believe that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from any suppliers that kill UK seals' with only 15% disagreeing.

- 52% of people buying salmon products said they would be prepared to pay more for them to stop UK seals being killed, with only 17% disagreeing. 61% of women polled said they would be prepared to pay more.

“With the majority of people supporting a change in the law to protect seals and believing that High Street retailers should not buy salmon from producers that shoot seals, the tide is turning against the routine killing of our seals” said Andy Ottaway of the Seal Protection Action Group, “Even in these harsh economic times over half of the salmon buying public said they would be prepared to pay more for salmon products to stop seals being killed”.

Read more via [“New poll shows UK public want salmon without seal killings”](#)

It is clear that retailers should boycott all farmed salmon from companies who support a shoot to kill policy. It is a sad state of affairs when trigger-happy salmon farmers refuse to pay for predator nets and resort to the rifle as a first not last resort. Seals and sea lions are

paying a high price for cheap farmed salmon. Supermarkets which condone the killing of seals by selling 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon have blood on the hands.

Will you pledge publicly to stop sourcing farmed salmon from companies which kill marine mammals?

For more details please visit: <http://www.gaaia.org/killing-farms>

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford, [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](http://www.gaaia.org)

