

## Letter to Retailers:

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

30 November 2015

### Public Pledge to Stop Sourcing from Seal-Killing Salmon Farms

Further to my letter dated 30 August 2015 (read [online here](#)), will you pledge publicly to stop sourcing farmed salmon from seal-killing salmon farms?

Put simply, retailers do not need to source Scottish salmon from seal-unfriendly farms. Nor do the public want to buy Scottish salmon sourced from such lethal farms. An [opinion poll by Metro in October 2015](#) reported that 87% of people are opposed to the killing of seals on salmon farms.



For a full list of the 51 seals killed during the first seven months of 2015 please read [online here](#). The worst companies were Marine Harvest with 15 seals killed, Scottish Seafarms with 12 seals killed and the Scottish Salmon Company with 11 seals killed.

The two worst sites - both slaughtering five seals - were Gometra, Isle of Mull (The Scottish Salmon Company) and Sconser, Isle of Skye (Marine Harvest). Other salmon farms killing more than two seals were Toyness, Orkney (Scottish Seafarms) with four seals killed and Invasion Bay, Loch Sunart (Marine Harvest) and Shuna Sound (Marine Harvest) where three seals were killed.

An [exclusive analysis](#) by GAAIA of all the data made available by the Scottish Government (i.e. for the [first two quarters of 2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#) and [2011](#)) reveals that nearly 700 seals have been killed by salmon farmers since 2011 when [official Scottish Government](#)

[statistics](#) were first collected. Scottish Seafarms (who exclusively supply Marks & Spencer) are Scotland's worst serial killers with 150 dead seals followed by Grieg Seafood Hjaltdland (136 seals killed), the Scottish Salmon Company (128 seals killed) and Marine Harvest (76 seals killed).

Please note that the number of seals being killed is increasing whilst the use of predator control methods is still woefully low. The Herald [reported](#) in October 2015 that the number of seals killed on Scottish salmon farms has [leapt by 20 per cent](#).

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The#Herald **sundayherald**

### Protests planned as number of seals killed in Scots salmon farms rises by 20 per cent



Protest as number of seals killed in Scots salmon farming rises



Martin Williams, Senior News Reporter / Friday 30 October 2015 / News

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ANIMAL rights protesters are calling for a boycott of Scottish salmon as new figures show that the number of seals killed for salmon farming in the first half of the year has risen by 20 per cent.

Campaigners are to launch new protests on Friday as new official figures show that salmon farming has been responsible for the shooting of 49 seals in the first half of this year. That's eight more than the same period last year, according to campaigners.

According to the Scottish Government, 80% of salmon farms in Scotland still do not use anti-predator nets and 67% do not use seal blinds despite claims that seals are only shot as a 'last resort'. Read more in yesterday's Sunday Times newspaper via: "[Seal killing slips through the net](#)".

"I am pleased to support those campaigning for an end to seal deaths," said [Alison Johnstone, Member of the Scottish Parliament](#), who joined a [protest outside M&S](#) in Edinburgh in October 2015. "People buying farmed salmon in Scotland will be appalled to learn that there is no requirement on salmon producers to have nets to deter seals. If those making vast profits from salmon sales aren't prepared to invest in this preventative measure, they cannot

claim that shooting a seal is a last resort. It is a lazy, greedy response that contradicts the image the producers and our supermarkets seek to promote and it has to stop."



[Protestors including [Alison Johnstone MSP](#) handing out leaflets outside M&S in Edinburgh: photo by [Colin McPherson](#) - download high res image [online here](#)]

Undercurrent News [reported](#) (2 November 2015):



## Protesters target Marks and Spencer over seals killed at salmon farms



Photo by Colin McPherson

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[UK salmon farmers under pressure over seal shooting](#)

[UK retailers may face 'zombie seal' protests over farmed salmon](#)

[M&S salmon supplier comes off worst as Scottish gov't names seal shooting farmers](#)

November 2, 2015, 10:36 am

[Undercurrent News](#)

A branch of UK retailer Marks and Spencer was targeted by anti-salmon farming protesters at the weekend, calling for an end to the practice of killing seals at Scottish farm sites.

Member of Scottish parliament Alison Johnstone joined the protesters outside the store in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"I am pleased to support those campaigning for an end to seal deaths," said Johnstone.

"People buying farmed salmon in Scotland will be appalled to learn that there is no requirement on salmon producers to have nets to deter seals. If those making vast profits from salmon sales aren't prepared to invest in this preventative measure, they cannot claim that shooting a seal is a last resort. It is a lazy, greedy response that contradicts the image the producers and our supermarkets seek to promote and it has to stop."

Newspaper *The Herald* covered the reasons behind the protest: "Animal rights protesters are calling for a boycott of Scottish salmon as new figures show that the number of seals killed for salmon farming in the first half of the year has risen by 20%."

"Campaigners are to launch new protests on Friday as new official figures show that salmon farming has been responsible for the shooting of 49 seals in the first half of this year. That's eight more than the same period last year, according to campaigners. The data has shocked protesters who fear that instead of finding alternative ways to deal with seals, salmon farms are continuing to be content to shoot to kill."

The price for seal-friendly farmed salmon is the installation of predator nets, and that could be £1 million for each salmon farm, said Don Staniford in a press release.

Given that there are currently 143 active salmon farms in Scotland, and 87% of salmon farms (according to a 2011/12 Scottish Government survey) do not have predator nets installed, then the cost to the Scottish salmon farming industry could be well over £100 million, he continued.

"Until all salmon farms install predator nets consumers should boycott all Scottish salmon -- even RSPCA Assured 'Freedom Food' salmon, Aquaculture Stewardship Council-certified and Soil Association-certified 'organic' salmon which all shamefully endorse the killing of seals."

Some companies and some supermarkets are making progress towards seal-friendly salmon. For example, Grieg Seafood (Hjaltland Seafarms) has killed only one seal thus far in 2015 - a drastic decrease from the 50 seals killed in 2011, 49 in 2012, 30 in 2013 and 6 in 2014. Grieg Seafood has virtually eliminated the killing of seals by installing 'Eco-Nets' at a cost of £40,000 per cage (£1 million for a 25-cage farm). "From shooting too many seals we've gone to shooting nothing," claimed Grieg Seafood's production manager Grant Cumming in [The Shetland Times](#) in October 2015. Watch more via ITV News (8 October 2015) [online here](#):



An M&S spokeswoman [told The Herald](#) (30 October 2015): "We have invested time and money to avoid this happening, which has led to no seals being harmed on sites that supply M&S, in the last six months."

GAAIA is organising protests outside supermarkets in London (9 December) and outside the RSPCA's head office in Horsham, West Sussex (10 December) - details [online here](#).



The message from both seals and protestors is simple: [Stop shooting seals for salmon meals!](#)



Will you give seals an early Christmas present by pledging to introduce a cease-fire?



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.

For more information please see GAAIA's "[The Killing Farms](#)"

Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

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

Contact details: [dstaniford@gaaia.org](mailto:dstaniford@gaaia.org)