



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael W Russell MSP  
**Argyll and Bute**

Fergus Ewing MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy & Connectivity

By email: [CabSecREC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecREC@gov.scot)

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

Dear Fergus,

**Proposed Fish Farm, Dounie, Sound of Jura**

I write in connection with the proposal for a new fish farm at Dounie in the Sound of Jura. I have met with a number of people opposed to this farm and I also met with the applicants last Friday.

I think that it is fair to say that I have never experienced the weight of objections to a Fish Farm proposal that I have seen in this proposal.

These objections appear to be based on six particular issues.

- 1) There is very substantial concern about the establishment of a new fish farm in a Marine Protected Area not least because there needs to be at the very least an intensive investigation on the effect its establishment could have on the Common Skate which is the main species at risk within this MPA.
- 2) The fish farm is proposed in a site that is known to be a productive run for wild salmon and there is very strong concern about the effect upon those salmon.
- 3) There is an associated issue of potential for Sea Lice infestation on wild fish and also many are indeed concerned about Sea Lice chemicals in the area.
- 4) There are concerns regarding the exposed location of the fish farm in terms of weather and potential escapes and also some concerns about the landscape intrusion.
- 5) Although there has been substantial and commendable public information by the applicant there remains a view in the area that the weight of public opposition should be enough to deter such applications in an area where there are quite a number of Fish Farms.
- 6) There is a strong public view there should be a substantial and wide reaching environmental impact assessment before an application of this nature is even made.



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michael W Russell MSP  
**Argyll and Bute**

You are aware that I am a positive supporter of aquaculture but I think on this occasion the particular application raises so many questions that it will require very special and very careful consideration and I am writing to you and the regulatory agencies to flag that matter up at an early date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Michael W. Russell MSP  
Argyll and Bute

Cc: Mike Palmer, Acting Director, Marine Scotland, [mike.palmer@gov.scot](mailto:mike.palmer@gov.scot);  
Terry A'Hearn, Chief Executive, SEPA, [terry.ahearn@sepa.org.uk](mailto:terry.ahearn@sepa.org.uk);  
Ian Jardine, Chief Executive, Scottish Natural Heritage, [ian.jardine@snh.gov.scot](mailto:ian.jardine@snh.gov.scot);  
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change  
& Land Reform, [CabSecECCLF@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecECCLF@gov.scot)