

[Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 17 April 2018

The Scottish Environment Pollution Agency - SEPA Permits Salmon Farming to Slip Net

In advance of [tomorrow's Scottish Parliament inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has been lambasted for failing to stem the tide of pollution from salmon farms. [Scottish Salmon Watch](#) highlighted SEPA's abject failure to police the salmon farming industry - including:

- **Zero prosecutions for salmon farms in the last decade (none since 2008) compared to at least 23 prosecutions totalling £106,5000 in fines in the previous decade (1998-2008)**
- **51 fish farms assessed as "Very Poor", "Poor" or "At Risk" in 2016**
- **Only 14 (9%) salmon farm inspection visits in 2017 were unannounced (i.e. advance notice was given by SEPA)**
- **Testing of the seabed by SEPA (2015-2017) reveals that 15% of fish farms (29 out of 188) showed "unacceptable impacts" for Emamectin benzoate contamination and 34% of fish farms (76 out of 224) showed "unacceptable impacts" on invertebrates**
- **The Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform Committee "is extremely concerned that SEPA may, in the past, or may currently, be permitting the discharge of priority substances and potentially damaging substances"**
- **Toxic chemical ban on Emamectin benzoate reversed following lobbying by industry despite damning report showing lethality to lobsters**
- **The use of the toxic chemicals Azamethiphos, Cypermethrin, Deltamethrin and Emamectin benzoate increased 1000% between 2006 and 2016**
- **Testing between 2006 and 2016 showed 45 lochs contaminated with Emamectin benzoate and Teflubenzuron**
- **Rubber-stamping of expansion with new 'super-size' salmon farms over 2,5000 tonnes in the pipeline (despite over 858 biomass exceedances between 2002 and 2016)**
- **SEPA staff joining Marine Harvest as 'Head of Environment & Regulatory Affairs' and 'Applications Manager'**

Read more via [Media Backgrounder: SEPA's Shame on Salmon Farming](#)

"SEPA should be renamed the Scottish Environment Pollution Agency," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Far from protecting Scotland's pristine environment, SEPA has permitted salmon farms to pollute with impunity. SEPA's lack of a prosecution a single salmon farm over the last decade smacks of giving this toxic industry immunity from prosecution. Shame on SEPA for cravenly kowtowing to the industry like a lapdog rather than acting as an environmental watchdog. It's no wonder that SEPA staff are now lapping it up by working for Scotland's #1 salmon farming polluter in the shape of Marine Harvest."

The Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee (RECC) will [take evidence tomorrow \(18 April 2018\) from SEPA, Highland Council, the Crown Estate and Scottish Natural Heritage](#).



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

11th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Wednesday 18 April 2018

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2).

1. **Salmon farming in Scotland:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Anne Anderson, Chief Officer, Compliance and Beyond Portfolio, Scottish Environment Protection Agency;

Mark Harvey, Team Leader, Development & Infrastructure Service, Highland Council;

Alex Adrian, Aquaculture Operations Manager, Crown Estate Scotland;

Cathy Tilbrook, Unit Manager, Coastal & Marine Ecosystems & Use, Scottish Natural Heritage.

Watch live on Scottish Parliament TV [online here](#)

Documents [disclosed last week by the Scottish Parliament to Scottish Salmon Watch via FOI](#) reveal that the RECC have proposed a visit to a salmon farm for "a frank discussion about the challenges of dealing with sea lice and other fish health issues" (believed to be on Monday 30 April 2018). In October 2017, the Convenor of the RECC (Edward Mountain MSP) met with Scottish Salmon's Chief Executive Scott Landsburgh and Chairman Gilpin Bradley in the Scottish Parliament in advance of the salmon farming inquiry (other documents point to a meeting in late November 2017 with the Managing Director of Marine Harvest, Ben Hadfield) [1].

The [FOI documents disclosed by the Scottish Parliament also include data shared by Marine Harvest with the RECC detailing disease and mortality problems at salmon farms in Loch Duich, Loch Erisort, North Harris and Loch Greshornish](#) - with 769 tonnes of dead farmed salmon already reported in the first 10 weeks of 2018. Marine Harvest's salmon farm in Loch Duich was described in March 2018 by Julie Edgar, Head of News & PR at [Scottish Salmon](#), as a "challenging site to manage sea lice, sealice infection and treatment ongoing, history of gill health challenges". Loch Greshornish (scene of a [mass mortality due to a failed Thermolicer treatment](#)) was described as suffering from "complex gill health and severe anemia leading to mortality in February" [1].

Marine Harvest is scheduled to appear in front of the RECC on 2 May 2018 - here's the [timetable for the RECC's inquiry into salmon farming](#):

18 April	Evidence session with regulatory bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Natural Heritage, Highland Council, SEPA and the Crown Estate.
25 April	Evidence session with development bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scotland Food & Drink, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre
2 May	Evidence session with salmon farming representatives. Confirmed witnesses include Marine Harvest, Scottish Seafood Association, Grieg Seafood Shetland and SSPO
9 May	Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

Scottish Salmon Watch's [written submission](#) to the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee is available online via [Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#).

For background on the Scottish Parliament's inquiry into salmon farming please read:

[Scottish Parliament Inquiry - Evidence on 14 March](#)

[The Herald: "Fish farm damage 'beyond repair'"](#)

[Press Release: "Protests Against 'Diseased & Dangerous' Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Charlie Whelan in the Daily Mail: "We have to act now....before it is too late"](#)

[Daily Mail: "Salmon farms 'a severe risk' to the environment"](#)

[BBC Radio Shetland grills Scottish Salmon Producers on "damning" report](#)

[The Sun: "Eco Threat: MSPs kick up stink over claims salmon industry is risking 'irrecoverable damage'"](#)

[BBC Reporting Scotland \(Evening News, 5 March 2018\)](#)

[Press Update: Scottish Salmon Slapped!](#)

[Key Points: Scottish Parliament's report on the environmental impact of salmon farming](#)

[Shetland News: "Damning salmon industry report warns of 'irrecoverable' environmental damage"](#)

[Scottish Parliament Report: "Environmental Impacts of Salmon Farming"](#)

[BBC News: "MSPs warning over salmon farming impact on environment"](#)

[Press Release: "Scrutiny for Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Update: Written evidence to Scottish Parliament salmon farming inquiry](#)

[Holyrood: "Salmon producers agree to publish reports on fish deaths"](#)

[Official Report: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming \(6 Feb\)](#)

[Scottish Parliamentary inquiry calls for more evidence](#)

[Victory for Freedom of Information](#)

[Media Update: Scottish Salmon Pledges to Publish Data on Diseases & Lice Infestations](#)

[Video: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[The National: "Scotland's fish farmers to release salmon mortality figures"](#)

[Tweet storm at the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#)

['Militant' MSPs Grill Scottish Salmon](#)

[Update: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[The Scottish Salmon Polluters Organisation \(SSPO\)](#)

[Loch Duart - The \(Really Not Very\) Sustainable Salmon Company](#)

[Daily Mail: "Salmon crisis as 2.3m are dumped in nine months"](#)

[The National: "Environmental groups urge Scottish fish farms to scale back"](#)
[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon's Mort Mountain Leaps Over 10 Million - FOI reveals 2.3 million dead salmon at Marine Harvest farms in 2017"](#)
[SSPO "sets the record straight"](#)
[Transcript of Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)
[GAAIA's written submission to the Scottish Parliament inquiry](#)
[Review of the Environmental Impacts of Scottish Salmon Farming - call for written evidence \(deadline of 8 February\)](#)
[Daily Mail: "Thousands of fish thrown in a truck - and troubling new questions for salmon farms"](#)
[The Scotsman: "Fish farms increase could lead to more seals being shot"](#)
[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon Farming 101 - Scottish Parliament inquiry opens 'in early 2018'"](#)
[Scottish Salmon Farming 101](#)
[Media Backgrounder: Inquiry into Salmon Farming by the Scottish Parliament](#)

Contact:

Don Staniford (07771 541826): dstaniford@gaaia.org

Notes to Editors:

[1] FOI reply by the Scottish Parliament to be posted in full online via <http://www.parliament.scot/help/17700.aspx> (search for # 603922) - includes:

From: Julie Edgar [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2018 12:24
To: Goldsmith JM (Jenny)
Subject: Committee Visit to Marine Harvest
Attachments: GF Lice and mortality kgs 2018.xlsx

Dear Jenny

Good to talk to you just now. As per our conversation, Ben Hadfield, MD of Marine Harvest Scotland, would be happy to host a Committee visit and in principle this could be to any MH farm. Given the specific information that the Committee would like to explore he is suggesting Loch Duich and/or Greshomish – perhaps depending on the severity of the health challenges that exist on the chosen date. At the moment, the management issues at each site are as follows:

Loch Duich – Challenging site to manage sea lice, sealice infection and treatment ongoing, history of gill health challenges, fish around 3.5 Kg

Loch Greshomish – Complex gill health and severe anemia leading to mortality in February, but situation improving gradually.

Ben has also supplied sea lice and mortality data for all the MH farms in Scotland (attached). Mortality is in total kilos and it is important to remember that it is from a standing biomass in the sea of around 26,000 tonnes. The lice figures are provided as Gravid Female Lice.

Regarding dates, Ben would want to be involved in the Committee visit and can be available until he travels to Canada from the 24th April to the 1st May.

Look forward to hearing from you re possible dates etc.

Kind regards
Julie

Julie Edgar
Head of News and PR
Scottish Salmon

Operation Generation	Marine Scotland All Lep female gravid
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Area	Year	Week										Grand Total
	2018	2018w01	2018w02	2018w03	2018w04	2018w05	2018w06	2018w07	2018w08	2018w09	2018w10	
Ardintoul	0.84		0.04	0.01	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.03	0.22	0.13
Ardnish	0.09		0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25						0.08
Bagh Dall nan Ceann	0.13		0.40	0.69	0.50	1.43	1.85					0.50
Caol Mor								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carradale	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cheese Bay	0.00		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Colonsay	0.34		0.45	0.30	0.28	0.72	0.64		0.63	0.97		0.56
Dulich	0.64		0.54	0.78	1.54	1.81	0.07	0.17	0.25	0.24	0.19	0.55
Gorsten	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Greshornish	0.08		0.43	0.29	0.23	0.70	0.56	0.60	0.74	1.00	1.01	0.56
Harport										0.00	0.00	0.00
Invasion Bay	0.36		1.07	1.01	1.19	1.58	1.74	1.77	1.41	1.24	0.53	1.22
Laga Bay	0.20		0.17	0.10	0.25	0.58	0.72	0.44	0.77	0.70	0.49	0.43
Leven									0.00			0.00
Linnhe											0.00	0.00
Loch Alsh			0.13	0.13	0.26	0.36	0.13	0.33	0.16	0.09	0.25	0.17
Loch Boisdale	0.02		0.03	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00			0.01
Loch Erisort	1.27		1.74	2.79	4.38	1.77	1.48	1.15	1.67		1.57	2.20
Loch Ewe	0.00		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Loch Hourn	1.02		0.51	0.48								0.78
Loch Shell	0.21		0.13	0.19	0.24	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.22	0.25	0.25	0.19
Maclean's Nose	0.15		0.28	0.43	0.17	0.08	0.36	0.58	0.80	0.56	0.85	0.45
Muck	1.85			1.78	1.88	1.48	1.27	1.39		0.70		1.59
North Harris	0.67		0.68	0.72	0.18	0.11	0.14	0.38	0.43	0.37	0.35	0.36
Poll na Gille	0.79		0.13	0.48	0.19	0.50	0.31	0.47	0.33	0.50	0.40	0.40
Skipport	0.01		0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01
South Harris	0.06		0.11	0.07	0.14	0.20	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.21	0.36	0.14
South West Shuna	0.16		0.02	0.41	0.20	0.03	0.06	0.15	0.13	0.22	0.22	0.18
Stulaigh	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Torrion	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WL Tarbert	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total	0.30		0.34	0.33	0.35	0.41	0.28	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.20	0.30

Operation Generation	Marine Scotland All
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Area	Year	Week										Grand Total
	2018	2018w01	2018w02	2018w03	2018w04	2018w05	2018w06	2018w07	2018w08	2018w09	2018w10	
Ardintoul	9,907		9,972	12,195	1,732	2,405	2,776	3,871	2,258	3,138	1,464	49,720
Ardnish	211		25	7								242
Bagh Dall nan Ceann	3,429		2,551	1,814	1,659	2,357	3,092	2,624	294	690	748	17,819
Caol Mor						1,897	1,149	255	108			4,848
Carradale	1,469		855	663	937	1,037	590	668	416	1,677		11,629
Cheese Bay	2,069		1,192	3,791	2,657	2,472	1,908	2,000	2,227	1,977		20,294
Colonsay	128		85	66	73	63	68	139	40	300	111	1,073
Dulich	1,919		5,134	3,899	2,060	2,430	17,822	3,601	2,419	3,807	2,853	45,944
Gorsten	7		5	25	14	14	16	17	1,096	1,405	23	2,623
Greshornish	12,533		11,785	38,952	15,132	13,264	16,963	21,441	21,323	15,994	6,592	173,979
Harport							2,247	443	232	54	8	2,986
Hellisay	299											299
Invasion Bay	8,935		22,708	7,971	9,440	5,832	6,063	4,650	4,367	5,263	3,674	78,902
Laga Bay	3,099		3,485	3,187	3,502	2,655	3,100	2,533	3,316	3,278	994	29,149
Leven							1,848	242	55	16	2,161	
Linnhe							1,747	1,286	919	51	4,004	
Loch Alsh			12,262	7,378	4,298	4,645	3,770	4,492	3,585	4,770	4,760	49,960
Loch Boisdale	112		61	94	129	203	115	169	135	56		1,074
Loch Erisort	4,936		3,947	4,408	3,326	3,746	3,337	4,708	4,160	940	527	34,035
Loch Ewe	188		457	722	1,107	832	789	551	243	605	183	5,676
Loch Hourn	1,438		1,152	1,168	372							4,130
Loch Shell	2,797		831	614	1,095	2,522	1,072	700	675	426	218	10,948
Maclean's Nose	2,264		2,969	3,372	2,839	2,325	1,476	1,492	5,106	2,928	1,127	25,896
Muck	3,701		107	2,856	2,230	1,747	3,201	3,513	2,608	1,336		21,300
North Harris	12,857		19,131	5,791	9,027	13,274	4,577	3,241	3,729	14,326	6,596	92,548
Poll na Gille	3,220		4,644	3,900	7,055	3,227	728	1,070	967	1,077	926	27,013
Skipport	291		630	716	596	770	962	887	1,568	4,043	955	11,417
South Harris	1,903		1,113	1,115	1,025	1,225	1,013	1,162	897	1,402	610	11,466
South West Shuna	1,847		3,202	1,478	2,315	5,114	1,692	2,004	1,902	2,118	256	21,931
Stulaigh	128		57	184	564	339	257	248	175	122	254	2,326
Torrion	90		125	159	101	246	416	396	395	462	232	2,702
WL Tarbert	75		46	156	70	103	132	116	166	216	92	1,172
Grand Total	79,853		108,730	106,681	73,434	74,744	79,332	70,587	65,937	73,383	36,590	769,272

Download as a PDF [online here](#)

From: "Goldsmith JM (Jenny)"
Date: Thursday, 22 February 2018 at 12:26
To: Julie Edgar
Cc: "Cook D (Deborah)"; "Farrell S (Steve)"; "Kerr A (Amy)"; "Lyll HL (Heather)"
Subject: REC Committee - salmon farm visit

Hi Julie

I'm emailing in relation to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/107585.aspx>

As part of its inquiry, the Committee would like to visit a salmon farm so we can have a frank discussion about the challenges of dealing with sea lice and other fish health issues, so we would like to visit a farm which is having to manage these issues, and which would have no problems about letting the Committee see the issues faced.

Our clerk Steve Farrell had a meeting recently with Gilpin Bradley and Scott Lansburgh from SSPO, and Scott said that the SSPO would be able to assist in identifying such a farm, so I am now following that offer up.

Would you be able to send us several suggestions of a suitable fish farm? I am happy to chat this through if that helps.

Best wishes

Jenny

Jenny Goldsmith

**Assistant Clerk
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee**

From: Julie Edgar
Sent: 04 October 2017 15:57
To: Goldsmith JM (Jenny)
Cc: Cook D (Deborah)
Subject: Re: Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee - invite to meeting with Convener re salmon inquiry

Hi Jenny

That suits us and is in the diary. I expect that our chief exec Scott Landsburgh and our chairman Gilpin Bradley (who hosted a farm visit a few months ago) will attend from SSPO. Do you have an agenda for the meeting?

Kind regards
Julie

From: "Goldsmith JM (Jenny)"
Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2017 at 13:54
To: Julie Edgar
Cc: "Cook D (Deborah)"
Subject: RE: Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee - invite to meeting with Convener re salmon inquiry

Julie

Edward says he can do 3pm on Thursday 26th October, but this would be subject to parliamentary business in the Chamber.

Does that work?

If not, please send me some more suggested dates/ times!

Jenny Goldsmith

**Assistant Clerk
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee**

On 22 Sep 2017, at 12:03, Goldsmith JM (Jenny) wrote:

Dear Ms Edgar

I am emailing regarding an upcoming Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee inquiry into salmon. Our Convener would like to have a meeting with Scottish Salmon before we start the inquiry in early 2018.

Could you let me know what dates might suit Scottish Salmon for a meeting over the next few months?

Our Convener tends to be in Edinburgh on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - although Wednesday morning is not a good time being our Committee meeting slot.

A letter from the Scottish Parliament dated 11 April 2018 included:

Please find the information the Parliament holds in relation to your request in the attachment contained alongside this letter. You will be aware from the information on the website that Marine Harvest, Scottish Seafood Association, Grieg Seafood Shetland and SSPO have confirmed their attendance at the REC Committee meeting on 2 May. The Scottish Salmon Company has also been invited to attend but is (at the date of writing) yet to confirm. When the ECCLR Committee inquiry was ongoing Loch Duart were invited to give evidence but were unable to attend. You will also see that early email discussions about possible sites for a REC Committee visit to a fish farm have been included.

For PDF copies of the FOI documents disclosed on 11 April 2018 by the Scottish Parliament please email dstaniford@gaaia.org