

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 24 August 2014

Scottish Salmon's Secret Seal Killers!

- FOI refusal prompts call for boycott of farmed salmon

The Scottish Government is set for another bloody battle with Scotland's Information Commissioner after refusing to disclose how many seals have been killed by salmon farmers. On Thursday (21 August), GAAIA filed a formal review seeking to over-turn the Scottish Government's refusal to disclose the information.

Read today's Sunday Times: "[End Secrecy Over Seal Deaths](#)"

In May last year the Scottish Government were finally forced to publish the names of salmon farms in Scotland killing seals - with [data made available online](#) for [2013](#), [2012](#) and [2011](#). This week's refusal to disclose data for 2014 runs counter to rulings made by the Scottish Information Commissioner in [November 2012](#) and [April 2013](#). The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture is now calling for a boycott of Scottish farmed salmon.



"It's shameful that the Scottish Government is once again protecting the predominantly Norwegian-owned salmon farming industry from public scrutiny rather than protecting Scotland's seals," said Don Staniford, Director of the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#). "Surely the public have a right to know which sites are killing seals and make an informed decision about the salmon they are buying? Judging by previous rulings, the Scottish Information Commissioner should force the Government to name and shame those salmon farmers with blood on their hands. In the meantime, consumers wanting to avoid seal-unfriendly products should play it safe by boycotting all Scottish farmed salmon."

"Marine Scotland and the Scottish Government are continuing to treat Freedom of Information legislation with total contempt," said [John Robins of Animal Concern](#). "At the moment there are a number of cases where they have either totally failed to meet time limits for responding to FOI requests, refused FOI requests or have released paperwork with so many redactions that it is incomprehensible. Alex Salmond and his Ministers are bending over backwards to protect netmen who are killing thousands of wild salmon before they can

swim upriver and breed and a mainly foreign owned factory fish farming industry which profits from damaging the Scottish marine environment and killing the creatures which inhabit that environment."

Read GAAIA's request for a review (21 August 2014) of the Scottish Government's refusal to disclose seal killing salmon farm information [online here](#) - the review request includes:

"The real reason the Scottish salmon farming industry does not want data on seal killing salmon farms to be disclosed is market success and the future certification of farmed salmon. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

SCOTT LANDSBURGH
Chief Executive

Read the Scottish Information Commissioner's rulings in [26 November 2012](#) and [23 April 2013](#) and [press statement in April 2013](#).

Read letters to the US Government calling for ban on imports of farmed salmon - [online here](#)

In July it was reported that a humpback whale was killed by a salmon farm off the Isle of Mull - read more via "[Salmon Farming Kills Whales](#)".



Read more background via "[The Killing Farms](#)" and "[Scottish Salmon's Seal Killers!](#)"

Contact:

Don Staniford: dstaniford@gaaia.org (email to arrange a phone call)

Notes to Editors:

Media reports online via:

"[End Secrecy Over Seal Deaths](#)" (The Sunday Times, 24 August 2014)

"[Seal campaigners call for salmon farm cull](#)" (The Sunday Times, 12 May 2013)

"[Lethal Scottish Farmed Salmon: Serial Seal Killers Named & Shamed!](#)" (GAAIA 8 May 2013)

"[Scottish government ordered to name seal-shooting salmon farms](#)" (Sunday Herald, 28 April 2013)

"[U-turn on naming fish farms that shoot seals](#)" (Sunday Herald, 13 January 2013)

"[Government ordered to reveal secret seal shooters](#)" (Sunday Herald, 2 December 2012)

"[Scottish Salmon's Seal Killers Named & Shamed!](#)" (GAAIA, December 2012)

"[Fish farms in shooting seals row](#)" (The Sunday Times, 16 September 2012)

"[Pregnant seals shot to protect salmon farms](#)" (The Sunday Times, 1 July 2012)

"[Fish exports targeted over seal culling](#)" (The Sunday Times, 1 July 2012)