

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 5 June 2015

EXPOSED: Scottish Salmon's Sustainability Scam

A new '[Sustainability Report](#)' launched today by the Global Salmon Initiative is not worth the paper it is written on claims the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#) (GAAIA).

Listen to Don Staniford, Director of GAAIA, speaking on the BBC's 'Good Morning Scotland' radio show this morning from 7.30am - [online here](#)

"The Global Salmon Initiative's new 'Sustainability Report' smacks of the Emperor's New Clothes," said Don Staniford, Director of GAAIA. "Sustainable salmon farming is a sham, scam and consumer con. The so-called 'transparent' data is so wafer-thin that it is non-existent! Shamefully, this report completely ignores the [toxic pollution from Scottish salmon farms](#), Scotland's [infectious disease crisis](#) and only includes two of Scotland's salmon farming companies (ignoring [lice-infested Loch Duart](#), [Wester Ross Fisheries](#), [Scottish Sea Farms](#) and the [Scottish Salmon Company](#), for example). Even such blatant green-washing cannot hide the naked truth - that mortality rates are leaping like a lice-infested farmed salmon with a staggering one in seven farmed salmon dead at Marine Harvest Scotland. Sea lice levels are still alarmingly high with 2014 the worst year on record and both Marine Harvest Scotland and Grieg Seafood breaching lice limits for seven out of the twelve months." [1]

Read the report in full [online here](#)

"The whole concept of 'sustainable salmon farming' is an oxymoron," continued Staniford. "The farming of carnivores such as salmon is, by definition, [inherently unsustainable](#). The global salmon farming industry is draining our oceans of wild fish as a feed supply to fuel its insatiable appetite - it takes anywhere between 3 to 9 tonnes of wild fish to produce one tonne of farmed salmon! Consequently, the words 'salmon farming' and 'sustainable' don't even belong in the same sentence let alone a whole report devoted to sustainable salmon."

"Put lipstick on a pig and it's still a pig," concluded Staniford. "By discharging untreated sewage effluent directly into our global ocean, salmon farms are the piggeries of the sea. Not to mention the fact that from 1 June 2013, [farmed salmon was permitted by the EU to be fed on chicken and pig products](#). Stop pigging out on farmed salmon - join the [global consumer boycott](#) now!"



For more background on the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and WWF's partnership with Marine Harvest read "[Abominable Salmon Council - Buyer Beware!](#)" and "[WWF Greenwashes Marine Harvest](#)".

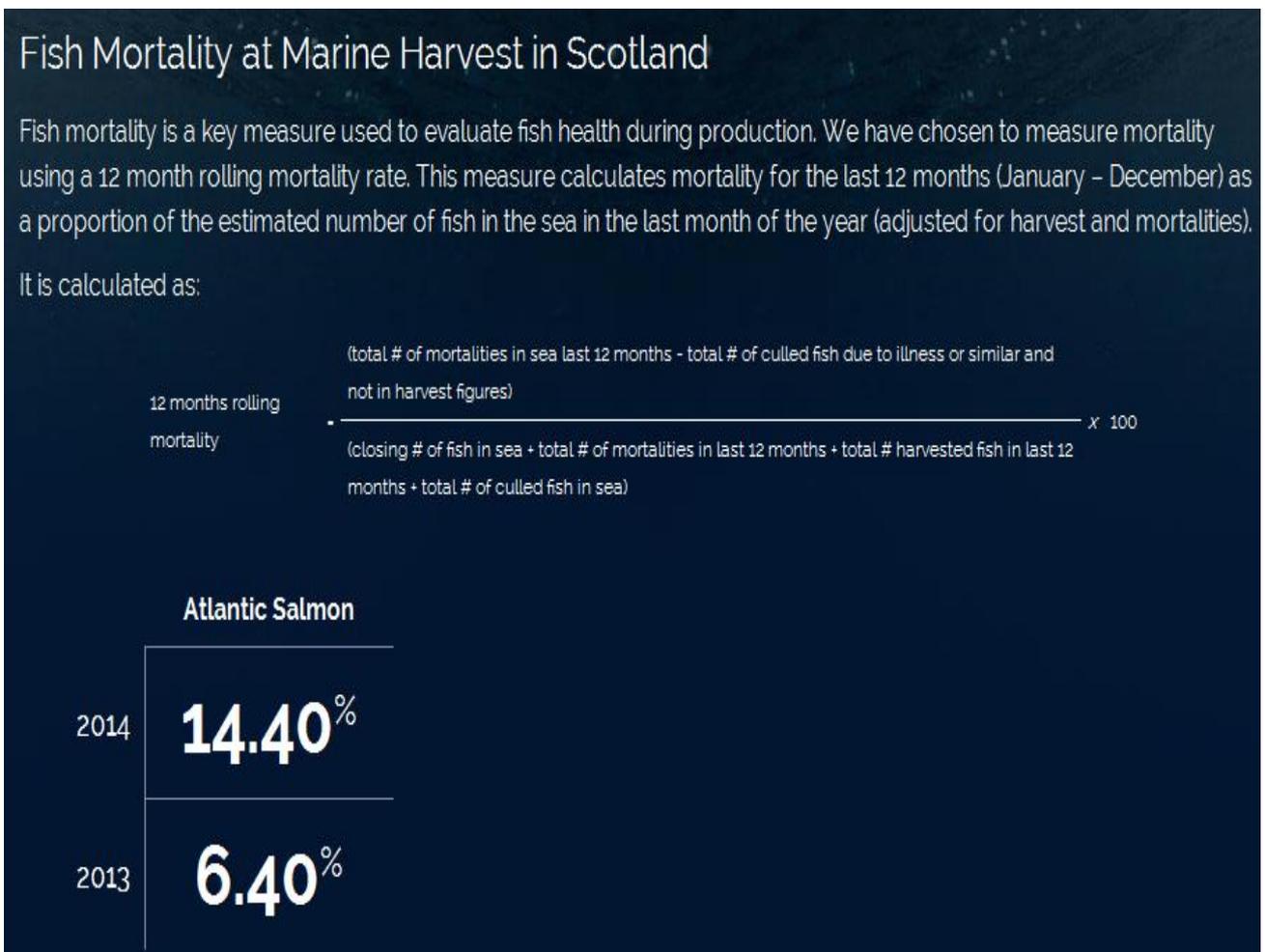
Contact:

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

Notes to Editors:

[1] Here's some highlights/lowlights from the '[Sustainability Report](#)':

Mortality rates are rising - with Norwegian-owned Marine Harvest (Scotland's largest operator) reporting a more than doubling in mortality rate from 6.4% in 2013 to 14.4% in 2014 (i.e. one in seven dead farmed salmon).



Norwegian-owned Grieg Seafood also report an increase in mortality rates:

Fish Mortality at Grieg Seafood in Scotland

Fish mortality is a key measure used to evaluate fish health during production. We have chosen to measure mortality using a 12 month rolling mortality rate. This measure calculates mortality for the last 12 months (January – December) as a proportion of the estimated number of fish in the sea in the last month of the year (adjusted for harvest and mortalities).

It is calculated as:

$$\text{12 months rolling mortality} = \frac{(\text{total \# of mortalities in sea last 12 months} - \text{total \# of culled fish due to illness or similar and not in harvest figures})}{(\text{closing \# of fish in sea} + \text{total \# of mortalities in last 12 months} + \text{total \# harvested fish in last 12 months} + \text{total \# of culled fish in sea})} \times 100$$



The benefit of a 12-month rolling rate is that seasonal variations are eliminated.

A closer look at the Scottish salmon farming industry as a whole reveals a mortality rate of 23% (77% survival rate) in 2011 (based upon Marine Scotland's latest annual fish farm survey for 2013 published in 2014 - Table 28 on p25 - read [online here](#)).

In 2011, the last year for which survival can be calculated, the survival rate from smolt input to harvest decreased to 77.0%. Of the 2012 year class, 52.0% of the input has been harvested, 1.4% higher than the average harvest of fish one year after input in the 2011 year class. In 2013, there was no harvest of fish from the 2013 smolt input. This was a decrease compared with the proportion of fish harvested from the same year class in 2012.



Marine Scotland Science
Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey 2013

Lice levels are rising - with Marine Harvest breaching lice limits for 7 out of 12 months in 2014 (up from zero in 2013):

Sea Lice Count at Marine Harvest in Scotland

Sea lice are a naturally occurring parasite found throughout the world's oceans and on many species of fish, and have a detrimental effect on the health and welfare of the infected fish, and can reduce productivity of the farm. Controlling sea lice levels is a priority for all GSI members.

We operate in accordance with national regulation sea lice trigger limits which set the maximum number of lice per fish throughout the year. These limits vary, based on the type of lice, time of year and jurisdiction, as stated below.

This has been calculated as the average no. of adult female lice per month.



The national sea lice limit set by Scotland is: **0.5 (1 Feb-30 Jun), 1 (1 Jul-31 Jan)**

**species - Lepeoptheirus salmonis*

Grieg Seafood also report breaches of lice limits for 7 out of 12 months in 2014:

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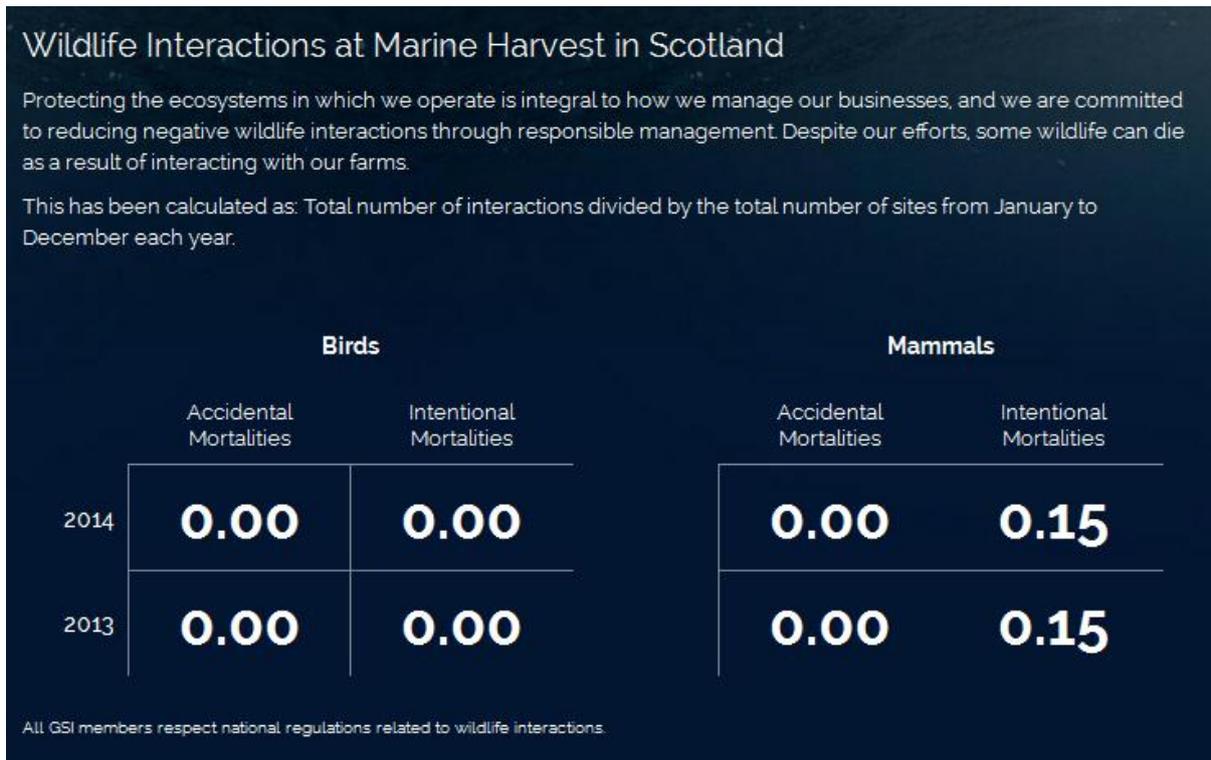
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Seal killing continues - with Marine Harvest reporting 0.15 dead marine mammals (i.e. one dead marine mammal per seven sites) during 2014 and 2013.



Grieg Seafood claim to have "no data available" for 2013 and 2014 despite [data published by the Scottish Government](#) revealing that Grieg Seafood (via their Scottish subsidiary Hjaltdland) is one of Scottish salmon's biggest seal killers (read more via "[Lethal Scottish Farmed Salmon: Serial Seal Killers Named and Shamed!](#)" and "[Almost 150 Seals Shot Under Licence](#)").

Wildlife Interactions at Grieg Seafood in Scotland

Protecting the ecosystems in which we operate is integral to how we manage our businesses, and we are committed to reducing negative wildlife interactions through responsible management. Despite our efforts, some wildlife can die as a result of interacting with our farms.

This has been calculated as: Total number of interactions divided by the total number of sites from January to December each year.

	Birds		Mammals	
	Accidental Mortalities	Intentional Mortalities	Accidental Mortalities	Intentional Mortalities
2014	*No data available	*No data available	*No data available	*No data available
2013	*No data available	*No data available	*No data available	*No data available

All GSI members respect national regulations related to wildlife interactions.

*At this point in time data is not available for this metric. For more information please contact the company directly.

The absence of Leroy/Salmar (Norwegian owners of Scottish Sea Farms) from the report also denies the public from further details of the dead humpback whale reported drowned in a salmon farm net off the Isle of Mull in July 2014 (read more via "[Humpback whale drowned off Mull 'after getting trapped'](#)" and "[Salmon Farming Kills Whales!](#)").