

# Loch Broom and Little Loch Broom

## *Summary of inspections by fish health inspectorate*

### **Ardmair**

The Fish Health Inspectorate inspected Wester Ross Fisheries' Ardmair farm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and recorded that adult female sea lice counts were above the suggested threshold in the Code of Good Practice (CoGP).

Subsequent inspection of Ardmair, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011, also recorded that sea lice levels were above CoGP thresholds, with the site manager reporting that Alphamax treatments were not as effective as in the past.

A further inspection on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 recorded that before an Alphamax treatment on 28<sup>th</sup> July, adult female lice levels were at 8.4 per fish, reducing to 6.7 the day after the treatment, but still way over the CoGP thresholds.

During 2011, the farm had also treated with Slice in May and July, which does not therefore appear to have controlled lice levels.

### **Corry**

The Fish Health Inspectorate inspected the Corry farm on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and reported "high lice loads observed in stocks especially the 2009 stocks (2 to 3 adult lice per fish), lice records showed lice numbers rising since February 2011".

The site representative at Corry reported that, this time, Salmosan treatments were becoming less effective than in the past, suggesting resistance.

A subsequent inspection of the same farm on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 showed that sea-lice counts conducted on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 were still above the suggested threshold of the CoGP.

Despite apparently using novel feeds which are designed to promote mucus production on the fish and reduce lice numbers, the language used suggests that the farm breached the sea-lice thresholds of the CoGP for most of the first half of 2011. Unfortunately, there is no public right of access to on-farm sea lice records and so it is impossible to know for sure. Counts of on-farm sea lice numbers are required to be kept by the fish farmers themselves under the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) Order 2008. The Fish Health Inspectorate does not take copies of sea lice counts data and destroys immediately any such records it receives, thus keeping these records outside the scope of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and thwarting the public right to environmental information enshrined in international conventions and European law.

Adult farmed fish are transferred from the Corry farm near Ullapool to the Ardessie farm in Little Loch Broom mid-production cycle. It appears that in 2011, the transfer of fish from Corry to Ardessie occurred in early June. These fish were reported upon inspection on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 as being above the CoGP lice thresholds at Corry. A treatment with Salmosan was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> June at Corry prior to transfer to Ardessie, despite the earlier reports that Salmosan was becoming less effective at Corry.

### **Ardessie**

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the Ardessie farm was inspected and the inspectors recorded that lice levels on the fish recently delivered from Corry still appeared to be above the suggested threshold in the CoGP during the period for which records were inspected.

Repeat inspection on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 showed that the farm had reported that Slice appeared to have reduced efficacy and that the "sea lice record indicates that whilst treatments have reduced lice loads, recorded numbers are still above suggested threshold".

