



Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FS1269
2. Name and address	MOWI Lochailort Recirculation Unit Lochailort Inverness Shire Postcode PH38 4LZ
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	N/A Postcode
4. Date of Visit	9/09/2020
5. Time of visit	09:30

Part 2: Detail

6. Present at visit:

(List the names and roles of attendees at the visit)

	APHA)
	APHA)
	(Fish Health Inspectorate)

7. Reason for Visit:

(state specific reason for visit i.e. routine visit, complaint etc. If a complaint include by whom)

Routine welfare visit in conjunction with FHI.
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8. Background

(include nature of site (sea/freshwater), species, number, production aim, production cycle, source, history of unit, any recent changes, transport used, veterinary and other advisers).

MOWI is a large salmon producer with freshwater and seawater sites across Scotland. The company has two large recirculation hatcheries (inchmore and Lochailort) and over 49 seawater sites located throughout Scotland.

Lochailort recirculation hatchery unit is a freshwater tank site for salmon. The site receives eggs and takes them through to smolt production before fish (at approximately 100g) are transferred to sea and freshwater loch sites. This cycle usually takes approximately 7 months.

The current crop of eggs were imported from Stofnfiskur who are located in Iceland. The intakes this year have

been slightly variable due to the constraints of Covid-19, the current crop of fish were imported in May 2020.

Following importation the eggs are disinfected and laid out in the comp hatch system, the site has 4 hatcheries each with a comp hatch system with a capacity of laying out approximately 3.1million eggs over the 4 hatcheries. Following issues last year with the systems the company now aim to have one hatchery stocked with a second hatchery empty but with the exact chemical/water set up as the stocked hatchery as a back up if there are any issues in the stocked hatchery.

From the hatchery the first fry fish are moved into the fry tanks this is done through an internal pipe system meaning the fish are constantly maintained in water with the appropriate oxygen concentrations and this is much quicker than their old system of moving via containers.

There are 28 X 5m tanks and 3 X 10m tanks within the fry room, currently the three 10m tanks are stocked with approximately 840000 fry between the tanks. The tanks are maintained around 14.4degrees celcius. Currently the fry are around 2-2.5g. They are fed by automated feeders. These fish will go direct to sea around Jan - Feb time.

The parr unit has 8 X 10m tanks which are all stocked with approximately 300000 per tank, very low mortality in this unit. They will be graded at around 15g usually there is a loss of about 4-5% which is mainly smaller fish who will not make the grade. They are all fed through automatic feeders.

There are two smolt units onsite which both contain 8 X 12m tanks. Smolt unit 1 has 4 tanks stocked currently with approximately 500,000 smolts. These were graded 3 weeks ago, three tanks contain lead grades which are approximately 45g each. The fourth tank is a mixed tank with slightly smaller fish this has about 90,000 smolts which are around 35g. These are due to be graded and vaccinated in the next couple of weeks. They will be put out to fresh water loch sites around October - November time. These fish are undergoing slightly higher feeding rates as there have been some incidence of aggression - Precocious parr (gonad development in the males causing aggression).

Smolt unit 2 also has 4 tanks stocked these are stocked with the grade B fish. There are approximately 520,000 within the 4 tanks. These are roughly 20-30g. There is some evidence of fin damage in some of the fish due to precocious parr. Again the site is feeding to reduce this. This has never been a problem for the site but have found it an issue with this batch. These will be put out to freshwater sites at around 70-80g.

The site has around 15 staff currently, there has been little change in staff over the last year and there is a good amount of experience. Staff under take daily checks including mortalities, health issues, treatments, vaccinations, feeding levels etc. The staff have a good number of years of experience between them.

The site also has 4 hatcheries which contain a complihatch system. Currently the hatcheries are empty, next batch of eggs are due in November. Additional checks and training have been put in place following an incident last year with the hatchery system. When the hatcheries are stocked they aim to have a second empty hatchery set up with the same water composition in case of any issues within the stocked hatchery.

Usually the hatcheries will under go a fallow period of approximately 3 months between batches to allow for maintenance and biosecurity.

9. Findings

(include disease situation and duration, mortalities and other significant records, feeding patterns, advice sought, diagnosis, treatment, vaccinations, culling, expectations etc).

Routine inspection, no issues found during inspection.

10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

No actions necessary.

11. Conclusions and recommendations

Generally a well run site, company has implemented changes and contingencies following issues last year to ensure nothing similar happens again.

12. Overall Assessment: Compliant

** delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

22/09/2020

Tel No.

APHA office address

APHA Perth
Strathearn House
Broxden Business Park
Lamberkine Drive
Perth
PH1 1RX

DATA PROTECTION

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