



## Report on Fish Welfare for Scottish Government

### Part 1: General details

1. Reference number	FB0134
2. Name and address	Kames Fish Farming Kames Kilmelford OBAN Argyll and Bute  Postcode PA34 4XA
3. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Loch Tralaig Kilniver Argyll  Postcode PA35 1HJ
4. Date of Visit	17/09/2020
5. Time of visit	10:30

### Part 2: Detail

#### 6. Present at visit:

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

	Animal and Plant Health Agency (Fish Health Inspectorate) (Fresh Water )
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#### 7. Reason for Visit:

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

Visit in response to a complaint received regarding welfare of farmed salmon.
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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).

<p>Loch Tralaig site is a fresh water salmon site belonging to Kames Fish Farming Ltd. The site is located in Loch Tralaig just off the shore near Kilnivear. The site consists of 5 circular cages. There are 3 x 40m cages and 2 x 50m cages. Currently the water temperature is 14.2degrees. All the cages are fed by automatic hopper feeding. The site was stocked in July with approximately 240000 smolts. These were sourced from Allt Mor Hatchery. The site was stocked over the course of 2 days. Smolts arrive at approximately 25-30g weight. The smolts are due to go out to a sea site in Shetland around the end of September. The site currently takes in one crop per year, they are on site for between 3-6 months before the site under goes a</p>
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fallow period awaiting the next crop.

The site is under the veterinary care of the [REDACTED] in Inverness but also have their own veterinary and health managers.

The site currently has two full time staff members and additional resource is sought from other sites as required. All staff for the site undergo a staff induction and then have a training check list to work through usually on the job training with supervision. All staff undertake a vaccination course via [REDACTED] which also includes training on use of tricaine anaesthetics. They also undergo fish welfare training with [REDACTED]

## 9. Findings

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

At the time of inspection 4 cages were stocked with approximately 200,100 smolts. The current weight of the smolts ranges between 80-90 grams in 2 of the cages and over 100g in the other 2 cages.

The site have had issues with Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal infection) during this crop which became more apparent after vaccination.

Vaccinations began on the 10th August, done by onsite staff using the vaccination machine - easivac 1200. They currently have a new vaccinating machine however there were a couple of set up issues with the new machine so a combination of the old and new machines were used.

There were some issues in cage 5 following vaccination, there appeared to be an issue with the anaesthetic and water temperatures, the combination of vaccination and anaesthetic did lead to the death of approximately 1000 smolts. A new protocol has now been put in place to minimise the risks of any anaesthetic deaths.

Following vaccination Saprolegnia (an opportunistic fungal) infection became apparent in cage 4 on the 19th of August. The site immediately ordered in treatment (formaldehyde) to allow treatment of this cage as soon as possible. Treatments began on the fish on the 21st August in cage 4. All cages were checked for signs of Saprolegnia, all cages were found to be affected with cages 2 and 3 being worst affected.

The site underwent a treatment program to treat all cages, initially mortalities from the Saprolegnia infection and vaccination were reasonably high with a peak in the week of 5th September of 1.48% but it has steadily decreased since then and is back to a level of approximately 0.28%.

The cages were treated intensively initially to get the infection under control and at the time of the inspection preventative treatments were continuing prior to the fish going out to sea.

During our inspection the site was undertaking treatment of Cage 3 with formaldehyde. To undergo the treatments the nets are raised to crowd the fish, a protective covering is placed around the cage, oxygen is pumped through the water and the formaldehyde treatment is placed in the water. The fish undergo treatment for 1 hour at a time. During the inspection the fish were monitored for any signs of distress such as leaping, abnormal behaviours and over crowding which were not apparent.

The site is continuing preventative treatment once weekly to prevent recurrence of disease prior to movement out to sea.

The site have reviewed their health plan and for the next cycle plan to do preventative treatments on days 1, 3 and 5 following vaccination to try and avoid any issues with Saprolegnia infections.

## 10. Action

(outline any necessary actions)

The site has had issues with Saprolegnia this year following vaccination, the site initiated treatment as soon as practical. There has been a reasonably high mortality due to this fungal infection, however the site has reviewed their protocols and put in place actions to prevent a similar situation. The site has a visit planned with their veterinary advisors to review their veterinary health plan at the end of this week.

## 11. Conclusions and recommendations

The site has had issues with Saprolegnia this year following vaccination, the site initiated treatment as soon as practical. There has been a reasonably high mortality due to this fungal infection, however the site has reviewed their protocols and put in place actions to prevent a similar situation recurring.

## 12. Overall Assessment: Compliant

*\* delete as appropriate*

Signature

Name in  
BLOCK LETTERS

Date

01/10/2020

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### DATA PROTECTION

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