

## Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 5 March 2014

### Curb China's Insatiable Appetite for 'Scottish' Farmed Salmon

- Exports leap over 10,000 tonnes and £50 million in 2013: an increase of over 8,000% since 2010!

**Ullapool, Scotland** - The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) echoed [Save Our Seals Fund's call for a ban on exports of farmed salmon to China](#). The call comes as Highland & Islands Enterprise (HIE), in partnership with Scottish Development International (SDI) and the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), host a "[Doing Business in China](#)" seminar today (5 March) in Inverness.



The Observer [reported](#) in February 2011: "A new trade agreement was signed last month with the Chinese vice-premier, Li Keqiang, by [Scotland's](#) first minister, [Alex Salmond](#), who boasted that "even if 1% of the people of China decide to eat Scottish salmon, then we'll have to double production in Scotland". Since then, the floodgates have been opened by [Scottish Ministers who plan to increase salmon farming production in Scotland by 50% by 2020](#).

[Data obtained via Freedom of Information \(FOI\) from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(DEFRA\) in February 2014](#) reveals that exports of Scottish farmed salmon to China were 9,216 tonnes in 2013 (data up to November) representing a value of £47,797,000 compared to only 111 tonnes and £331,000 in 2010. The increase from 2010 to 2013 (not including data for December 2013) is a staggering 8,203% by weight and 14,340% by value. With exports in December expected to be much higher than previous months due to the Christmas market, total exports in 2013 are likely to be over 10,000 tonnes and over £50 million in value [1].

Delegates at today's "[Doing Business in China](#)" seminar will hear first-hand experience from Madeleine Clark, Key Account Manager for Norwegian salmon farming giant [Marine Harvest](#), which has been trading in China since 2010. "We recognise that China represents a key market for Scottish salmon," she said in a [press release](#). "Our exports have grown by 20% since 2011 and we are anticipating a further 10% growth year on year. China is a very interesting and exciting market and there are many more opportunities out there for Scottish companies" [2].

"Scottish farmed salmon leaves a nasty taste in the mouth even without the stench of human rights abuses in China and shameless Norwegian profiteering," said Don Staniford, [Director of GAAIA](#). "Scotland's iconic wild Atlantic salmon and precious marine environment must not be sacrificed at the altar of increasing exports to China to line the coffers of foreign multinationals. How long will the Scottish Government allow Norwegian companies to use Scotland as a back door to enter a Chinese market slammed shut in their face back in 2010?"

A [Scottish Parliamentary Reply](#) answered in September 2013 stated that "Norwegian-owned companies are responsible for around 66 per cent of farmed salmon production in Scotland". In 2010, the [Norwegian Noble Committee](#) (appointed by the Norwegian Parliament) awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) to Liu Xiaobo "for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China" [3].

In January 2014, Save Our Seals Fund [wrote to the Chinese Consul in Edinburgh](#). "We believe that Norwegian owned salmon farms in Scotland are playing a very clever game and are getting around your import ban on Norwegian salmon by exporting to China salmon bred in Norway and then grown on in their Scottish farms," stated the [letter from John Robins](#). "While dismayed at your record on human rights we do ask you to consider banning the import of salmon from Norwegian owned salmon farms in Scotland. Scottish Government Ministers are acting like middlemen in an international scam. They are encouraging China to buy tartan tinted salmon from Norwegian owned farms based in Scotland."

**Contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

[1] Data obtained via Freedom of Information from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in February 2014 [reveals](#) that exports of Scottish farmed salmon to China were 9,216 tonnes in 2013 (data up to November) representing a value of £47,797,000 compared to only 111 tonnes and £331,000 in 2010. The increase from 2010 to 2013 (not including data for December 2013) is a staggering 8,203% by weight and 14,340% by value.

**UK exports of Salmon (inc. smoked) to China: Jan 2010 - November 2013**

TYPE	Units	2010	2011	2012	Jan-Nov 2013
Salmon (inc. smoked)	Value (£000s)	331	23,103	26,904	47,797
	(Tonnes)	111	4,331	6,479	9,216
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Source: HM Revenue and Customs					
Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Analysis & Evidence Team, DEFRA					
2013 data is subject to amendments					

Data for the whole of 2013 including December's figures has now been requested from DEFRA. In the context of total exports of farmed Scottish salmon, the Chinese component is approaching 10% - here's export data up to November 2013.

UK trade in Fresh, Frozen and Smoked Salmon													
Type	Flow	Unit	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Jan-Nov 2013
Salmon (inc. smoked)	Imports	(£000s)	26,912	42,431	83,533	141,136	144,108	150,189	197,049	223,826	251,920	252,652	310,959
		(Tonnes)	11,176	16,759	29,931	43,563	48,050	46,734	52,599	50,146	57,003	62,650	62,919
	Exports	(£000s)	197,650	175,949	158,257	197,359	194,209	210,089	290,291	390,811	483,793	441,628	523,360
		(Tonnes)	73,529	65,325	48,583	53,775	60,260	57,089	70,796	82,594	96,186	100,113	101,682
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Source: HM Revenue and Customs													
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Download the FOI reply from DEFRA [online here](#) and [online here](#)

[2] Fish Update [reported](#) in August 2013:



**Marine Harvest capture Chinese consumers with fish of beauty**

Published: 09 August 2013

Sales of Freedom Food salmon have reached more than £25million in China.



Salmon producers Marine Harvest have realised that in China the words 'good', 'beauty' and 'dignity' are associated with the fish.

Photo: Marine Harvest

These words were made into a recognisable Chinese character to represent the Marine Harvest brand. The welfare-friendly salmon has sold well there ever since, reaching the £25million mark in sales for the salmon company.

[3] In 2011, The Independent newspaper [reported](#): "The Chinese imposed additional import controls on Norwegian salmon last year in apparent retribution for the Nobel Peace Prize awarded in Oslo to the Chinese dissident, Liu Xiaobo. The result has been a collapse in sales of salmon to China, and the sight and smell of North Sea fish rotting in Chinese warehouses. The Norwegian Foreign Office said overall trade with China had grown by 46 per cent over the past six months. But sales of fresh salmon, meanwhile, have collapsed 61.8 per cent..... Marine Harvest, a vast Norwegian salmon farmer with operations worldwide, has switched to exporting Scottish salmon – with no problems." (read more via "[Norway's salmon rot as China takes revenge for dissident's Nobel Prize](#)").

In December 2013, John Robins of Animal Concern Advice Line stated in a [press release](#): "For political reasons Norway cannot sell salmon direct to China. However two-thirds of the floating factory salmon farms in Scotland are owned by Norwegian companies. Their solution is simple – sell their Scottish farmed fish in China and their Norwegian farmed fish in Scotland. The Scottish marine environment and the creatures which inhabit that environment are being sacrificed by the Scottish Government to allow Norwegian companies to increase their profits by getting around the Chinese ban on their salmon".

In a [letter \(30 December\) to the Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism](#) (Fergus Ewing), John Robins wrote:

"I write concerning a serious trading anomaly which increases my misgivings on the integrity of the Scottish salmon farming industry. As you are no doubt aware in 2010 Norway gave the Noble Peace Prize to Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. As a result China stopped importing salmon from Norway and started buying from Scotland instead. This is despite the fact that around a third of Scottish salmon farms are Norwegian owned and tens of millions of salmon ova are exported from Norway to Scotland where they are grown on and presumably then sold to China as Scottish salmon."

Read more background on Chinese/Norwegian/Scottish farmed salmon via:

["Call for ban on salmon to China"](#)

["Chinese demand 'could make wild salmon rare as pandas'"](#)

["Chinese Year of the Norse: China asked to ban "Scottish" salmon"](#)

["Sunday Times: "Scotland 'used as back door' to ship salmon to China"'"](#)

["Salmond's Chinese/Norwegian 'Scottish' Salmon Takeaway!"](#)

["Customers 'taken for mugs' over 'tartan-tinted salmon'"](#)

["Fears for Scottish salmon farming after China production targets missed"](#)

[Scotsman Letter: "Salmond unhealthy close to aquaculture industry"](#)

["China salmon exports spark human rights row"](#)

["Scotland's wild salmon face 'calamity' from trade deal with China: Deadly parasites found in fish farms will pose greater risk to wild fish if production soars because of Chinese deal, conservationists warn"](#)

["You're so wrong about salmon, Mr Salmond: The new trade deal with China has terrifying implications for our wild fish stocks"](#)

["Scottish salmon farmers set to clean up after China's Nobel dispute with Norway: China's dispute with Norway over the awarding of the Nobel prize to dissident Liu Xiaobo has produced an unlikely winner – the Scottish salmon"](#)

["Alex Salmond warned not to pander to China after panda gift"](#)

["How can Scotland cope with China's salmon demands?"](#)

["Chinese appetite for Scottish salmon leaps"](#)

["Costing the Earth: Chinese Salmon"](#)

["Norway's salmon rot as China takes revenge for dissident's Nobel Prize"](#)