

T: +44 (0)131 244 2500 F: +44 (0)1224 295511  
marinescotland@gov.scot

Don Staniford  
Scottish Salmon Watch and Global Alliance Against  
Industrial Aquaculture

Our ref: Fol/18/01466

18 June 2018

Dear Mr Staniford

Thank you for your request dated 18 May 2018 under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs).

### Your request

You asked for information on the Thermolicer and Optilicer since 7 April 2017, including:

- information on any deaths, injuries and welfare concerns relating to the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer
- any complaints regarding the operation of the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer
- any scientific research, dialogue with Norwegian agencies and authorities and any welfare assessments of the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer
- correspondence with Norwegian agencies and authorities; with Thermolicer and Hydrolicer manufacturers; salmon farming companies; welfare bodies and any other parties in relation to the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer since 7 April 2017
- any Cabinet Briefings, internal correspondence and other dialogue relating to the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer
- copies of licences to operate a Thermolicer and Hydrolicer in Scottish waters and any other documents relating to the operation of the Thermolicer and Hydrolicer in Scottish waters

As the information you have requested is 'environmental information' for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your request under those Regulations. We are applying the exemption at section 39(2) of Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB  
www.gov.scot/marinescotland

the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption, because there is no public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on the outcome of your request.

## **Response to your request**

Please find attached copies of mortality event reports which are relevant to your request. Whilst these mortality event reports refer to either the thermolicer or hydrolicer, the mortality reported may have also resulted from other causes and therefore may be multifactorial.

You will also find relevant information collected through our Aquatic Animal Health surveillance programme which is released through our active publication plan. The published information will be available through the following link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation>

## **Your right to request a review**

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIRs request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to:

Graham Black  
Director Marine Scotland  
Scottish Government  
Area 1B South  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Email: [directormarinescotland@gov.scot](mailto:directormarinescotland@gov.scot)

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>.

Yours sincerely

Neil Purvis

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,  
Aberdeen AB11 9DB  
[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

