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# Salmon and Black Soldier fly, anyone?

## Bid to feed farmed fish bugs branded 'recipe for disaster'

By Julia Horton

SALMON farmed in Scotland could soon be fed a 'stomach-churning' diet of ground-up flies, under plans by a recycling body backed by the Scottish Government.

The Zero Waste Scotland quango has proposed the creation of insect farms where food waste would be used to fatten up millions of Black Soldier flies.

The larvae would then be harvested and fed to caged salmon in fish farms across the country.

Zero Waste Scotland believes it would cut financial and environmental costs for the fish-farming industry - worth nearly £2 billion a year - by providing a cheaper, more sustainable source of 'high-quality protein'.

But critics yesterday warned that many shoppers would be disgusted by the practice - and said it could lead to the spread of disease.

Don Staniford, director of Scottish Salmon Watch, said: "Tinkering with Mother Nature is a recipe for disaster. 'Scottish salmon is stomach-churning stuff already without the addition of insects to the feed. I don't think consumers would love the idea of eating farmed fish fed on insects.'

The proposal to feed salmon ground-



Coming soon to a fish counter near you, the salmon that's truly fowl...

**'REVOLTING':** Our story back in 2016 up flies follows other controversies about fish-farming. In 2016, The Scottish Mail on Sunday revealed plans to make fish food from abattoir waste rich in protein from slaughtered poultry - including offal, blood and ground-up bone and feathers.

Mr Staniford said fish farmers who had previously turned to that 'revolting' idea were now 'scraping the bottom of the barrel' with the insect proposal. But

**ON THE MENU:** But should the Black Soldier fly be fed to farmed salmon?

quango chiefs said the idea, set out in a report published last week, could be a 'game-changer' for Scottish salmon and the wider economy and environment.

The move would have been impossible until recently because of a blanket ban on animal-sourced meal for livestock imposed by the EU in the wake of the mad cow disease crisis.

But the restriction on insect feed was lifted for fish farms in 2017 after the European Food Safety Authority concluded that - provided insects were not fed on, or in contact with, animal products - they posed no greater threat of disease than existing legal foodstuffs.

The Zero Waste Scotland report states: 'Extensive testing has shown the flies do not carry human or livestock dis-

eases... previous studies found favourable attitudes towards using insect meal among fish farmers and consumers.'

Report co-author Michael Lenaghan said: 'This is a fascinating and potentially game-changing opportunity.'

Dr Richard Dixon, of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said: 'I'm pretty sure the fish-farming industry is nowhere near ready to embrace this food source, fearing a backlash that would damage their attempts to present farmed fish as a luxury, natural product.'

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation said flies were a natural food for fish, adding: 'We are monitoring these exciting developments closely to establish whether it might become commercially viable.'

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bump, and I imagine some of this is because she is so delighted to be pregnant. Possibly, at 37, she wasn't sure it would happen so quickly.

But there may be another story. All Royals have a method of preventing their arms from flailing around in a chaotic fashion when they are out and about. Meghan is using her bump as a way to keep her hands calm, while showing how protective she is.

### SHE LOOKS AS DEMURE AS THE VIRGIN MARY

Alison Jackson, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEGHAN'S arms framing the bump very clearly shows that she is pregnant, rather than just looking large. I think she's also very consciously making the effort to break up the solid colour of her outfits.

After years as an actress, she'll be very aware of camera angles and how to work them, and how to create flattering shapes with her body.

I also think she resembles the image of the Virgin Mary: demure and regal, carrying the most precious cargo. She's definitely very pleased with herself about that.

● [instagram.com/alisonjacksonartist](https://www.instagram.com/alisonjacksonartist)

### IGNORE THE BACKLASH, THIS IS A BIG POSITIVE

Julianne Boutaleb, PSYCHOLOGIST

IT'S interesting to see such a backlash against a woman who is interacting with her bump in this way. But I see it as a very positive thing. It indicates a good attachment to the unborn baby.

I work with a lot of women who struggle to develop a bond with their

child, whether due to difficulty conceiving, miscarriage, or birth trauma. But a woman who is cradling her bump is showing that she's very engaged, both emotionally and physically, with her unborn child.

● [parenthoodinmind.co.uk](https://www.parenthoodinmind.co.uk)

### IT'S MEGHAN'S CLOAK OF INVULNERABILITY

Linda Kelsey, FORMER EDITOR OF COSMOPOLITAN

EVERYONE else constantly paws you when you're pregnant, so why shouldn't Meghan take things into her own hands? Personally, I've never felt as strong and invulnerable as when my belly was ballooning.

I would march into meetings with my doctor, feeling nothing he could say could burst my sense of well-being. And in case he missed the point I'd cradle my belly for added effect.

Meghan has had a hard time of it lately with attacks on a number of fronts. But when you're pregnant and loving it nothing else really matters.

Every time she cradles her bump, it's a case of you and me against the world, babe - and she's rocking it.

### IF THIS IS HER ACTING, IT'S A MASSIVE CLICHE

Dee Cannon, ACTING COACH

WHEN you're teaching an actor to 'play' pregnant, the preparation involves holding the back. Cradling the bump is not really something you'd ask an actor to do - it's such a demonstrative gesture that it could be seen as a cliché. So when a woman is doing that in real life, you can choose to interpret it in either a positive or a negative way - either it's a subcon-

scious, instinctive, nurturing, maternal gesture, or they're proud and overly protective.

● [deecannon.com](https://www.deecannon.com)

### WHAT'S SO UNNATURAL IN LOVING YOUR BUMP?

Bonita Turner, EDITOR OF JUNIOR MAGAZINE

I IMAGINE it's reassuring for Meghan to put her hands on her baby. I don't think she's doing it to show off, and I imagine that people saying that have never been pregnant. It's natural to be proud of your bump. You only have it for nine months and it is quite special.

### CONSTANT STROKING IS HELPING BABY LEARN

Tamara Bugembe, PAEDIATRICIAN

WE HAVE known for a long time that babies respond to voices and sounds from outside the womb, and they also move their arms, head and mouths more when the bump was stroked. Some babies would reach out and touch the walls of the uterus.

Touching your bump is good for the baby's development. Meghan may not know it, but her constant stroking and rubbing is helping develop the baby's co-ordination and movements.

● [drtamarab.com](https://www.drtamarab.com)

### A POSITIVE SIGN SHE LOVES HER NEW BODY

Holli Rubin, BODY IMAGE EXPERT

SOME women love how they look when pregnant. Others hate it. A woman's body image pre-pregnancy very much influences how she feels, looks and

presents herself. When we feel good in ourselves, we tend to present ourselves in a very different way to when we don't - and putting your hand on the bump in this way is a positive sign.

● [hollirubin.com](https://www.hollirubin.com)

### MAKING THE MOST OF HER NEW SHAPE

Renee Rispin, STYLIST & BLOGGER

SOME women find it hard to make the most of their changing body shape and hide their bumps - but Meghan isn't one of them. Choosing to wear striking colours such as the purple dress and red coat she wore on a recent visit to Birkenhead is a clear message that not only does she want to show off her bump, but also that being pregnant doesn't mean she's taken her finger off the fashion pulse.

● [mummystyle.co.uk](https://www.mummystyle.co.uk)

### SHE LOVES TO SHOW THAT SHE'S A 'FAT LADY'

Katie Nicholl, ROYAL AUTHOR

HAVING observed Meghan on official engagements, her bump patting seems to be second nature - it's her new prop.

It's endearing, but a little distracting. I think she genuinely feels a connection with what Harry calls 'our little bump' and cradling her tummy is instinctive and protective.

Even when she's wearing a coat, Meghan flicks it to one side so her tummy is on show.

I've loved the way she's not been afraid to display her bump. She took no offence when she was called a 'fat lady' by a well-meaning member of the public at a recent outing, laughing: 'I'll take it.'

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