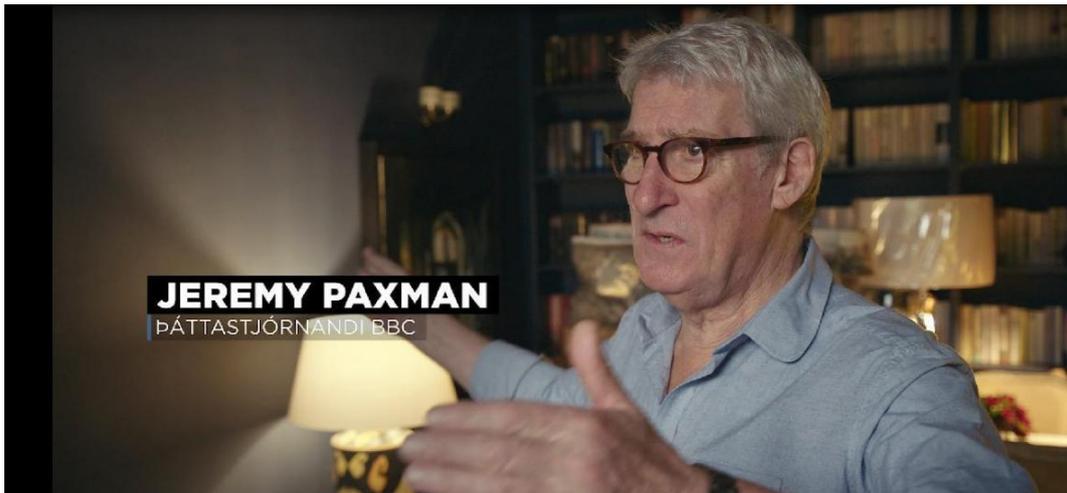


Scottish Salmon Watch, 21 May 2018

Paxo Stuffs Scottish Salmon
- TV documentary features broadside from Jeremy Paxman

A documentary featuring hard-hitting British broadcaster Jeremy Paxman fires a broadside against 'contemptible' salmon farming which "doesn't really care very much about the environmental damage it inflicts". "The terrible cost of salmon farms is that you cannot raise creatures in those conditions without having collateral consequences," argues Jeremy Paxman in 'Under the Surface'. "They're prone to disease and in order to stop them getting disease you have to use poison. And then the poison affects other fish. So it's very very simple."



The documentary premiered on the [Icelandic National Broadcasting Service](#) (Ríkisútvarpið or RÚV for short) on 13 May and is now being pitched globally for screening worldwide.

"I think there's absolutely no reason to think that anything different is going to happen in Iceland to what happened in Scotland," cautions Paxman "This is huge business that doesn't really care very much about the environmental damage it inflicts. So I think if you guys let these men expand at-sea salmon farms in the way they want to do it you are fools."



"This is big business doing what it wants," concludes Paxman. "All you can do is bring attention to these things so people can make an informed judgment. You can whistle for the Scottish Government to do anything, you can probably whistle for the Icelandic Government to do anything. There's nothing Government's like more than a promise of employment and a promise of being loved by a big powerful vested interest. I think it's contemptible".



Watch a trailer of the film [online via the producer's Facebook page](#):



Thorsteinn J. Vilhjalmsson

May 5 at 7:58pm · 🌐



Undir yfirborðinu: The terrible cost of Salmon farms...



19K Views

Don Staniford [Tweeted](#):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAIA

Watch Jeremy Paxman attacking the "collateral consequences" of salmon farming in a documentary screened in Iceland (13 May) bit.ly/2JZrZel More by Paxman in the FT on.ft.com/2JZzGI0 @charliewhelan @ScotGamekeepers @fms_scotland @SalmonTroutCons @ScotSalmonTank

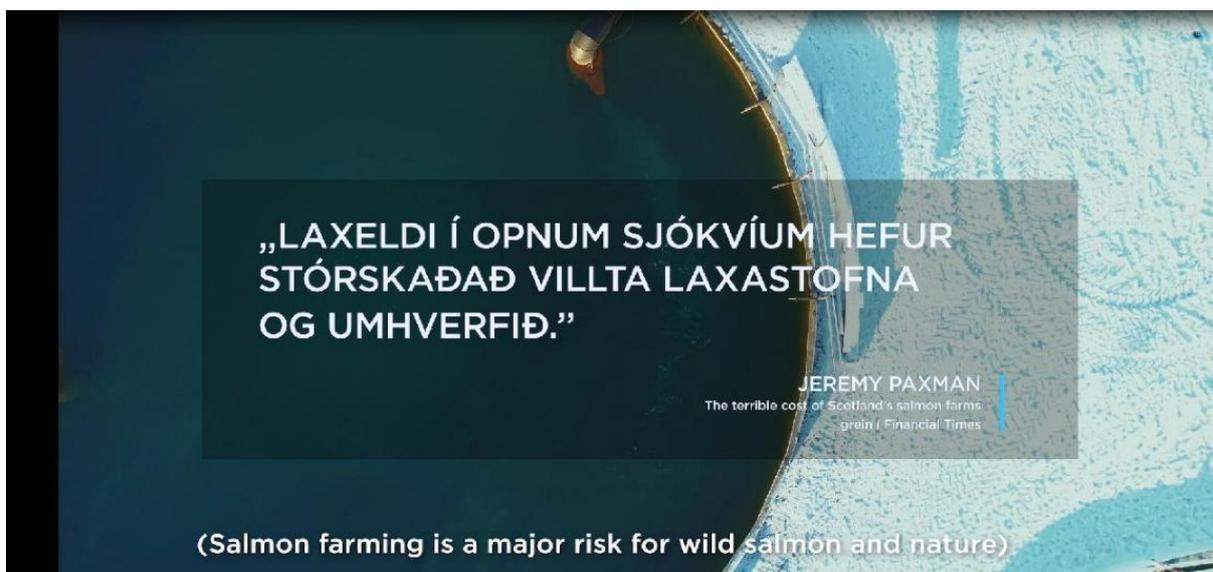
 **Thorsteinn J. Vilhjalmsón**
May 5 at 7:58pm · 🇮🇸

Undir yfirborðinu: The terrible cost of Salmon farms...


JEREMY PAXMAN
ÞÁTTASTJÓRNANOLDBBC
að ala fisk við þessar aðstæður
-1:26
19K Views

10:44 AM - 7 May 2018

The documentary cites an article - 'The Terrible Cost Scotland's Salmon Farms' - published in [The Financial Times in August 2018](#) in which the [award-winning broadcaster](#) argues that "salmon farms have done enormous harm":



Writing in [The Financial Times in August 2018](#), Paxman pulled no punches:

"The 250 salmon farms on the western coast of Scotland may be set in one of the most magnificent wildernesses in Europe, but the farmed salmon has no freedom. A single circle of mesh measuring 40 metres across may contain up to almost 70,000 fish; on a farm of 12 cages that is getting on for a million fish. It is like a series of floating battery hen sheds."



"But when you rear fish in the quantities necessary to meet growing demand, you start playing with the environment," Paxman continued. "Confining naturally migratory and carnivorous animals in packed pens produces enormous quantities of faeces, which covers the seabed beneath. The cages provide ideal breeding grounds for the sea louse, which, smaller than a fingernail, eats into the salmon's skin and either directly or indirectly (by exposing them to infections) kills them."

A screenshot of the Financial Times website. The header includes the 'FINANCIAL TIMES' logo and 'myFT' branding. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for HOME, WORLD, UK, COMPANIES, MARKETS, OPINION, WORK & CAREERS, and LIFE & ARTS. There are also 'Sign In' and 'Subscribe' buttons. The main content area features a large article preview for 'The terrible cost of Scotland's salmon farms' under the 'Life & Arts' category. The article title is in large, bold, white text on a dark background. Below the title is a short summary: 'The veteran angler Jeremy Paxman bemoans the rise of salmon farms and the 'bleak' prospects for these wild fish'. To the right of the text is a photograph of several salmon swimming in the water.

["The Terrible Cost of Scotland's Salmon Farms"](#) (Financial Times, 12 August 2017)

["Salmon farming has done 'enormous harm' to fish and environment, warns Jeremy Paxman"](#) (Daily Telegraph, 12 August 2017)

["Paxman: Fish farms 'battery hen sheds that float on water'"](#) (Daily Mail, 14 August 2017)

Salmon farming in Iceland is growing fast but at [16,000 to 18,000 tonnes](#) is still a tenth of the size of Scotland's salmon farming industry ([177,202 tonnes was the official Government forecast for 2017](#)).

However, [lice infestation, infectious disease and mass mortalities](#) are impacting on Scottish salmon farming production with job losses [reported by Scotland's largest operator, Marine Harvest, in January 2018](#).

BBC News [reported](#) (19 May 2018):



The image is a screenshot of a BBC News article. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, 'Your account', and links for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, and a menu icon. Below this is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner is a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, UK, World, Business, Politics, Tech, Science, Health, and Family & Education. A third navigation bar shows regional links for Scotland, Scotland Politics, Scotland Business (which is underlined), Edinburgh, Fife & East, and Glasgow & West. The main headline of the article is 'Scots salmon producers report difficult start to year'. Below the headline, the date '19 May 2018' is shown on the left, and social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and a general 'Share' button are on the right. The article features a large photograph of a salmon leaping out of the water, creating a splash. The photo is credited to 'GETTY IMAGES'. Below the photo, a text box contains the sub-headline: 'Strong prices for Scottish salmon have failed to compensate for low harvests'.

Scottish salmon producers have reported a difficult start to the year, forecasting an 11% drop in output for 2018.

Strong prices for Scottish salmon have failed to compensate for low harvests and problems with sea lice and disease.

Read more via "[Big drop forecast in Scottish salmon harvests](#)" (Fish Farming Expert, 15 May 2018)

Don Staniford [Tweeted](#) (18 May 2018):



Don Staniford

@TheGAAIA

If everything in Scottish salmon farming is going so swimmingly why the "Big drop forecast in Scottish salmon harvests"? bit.ly/2GhKljj @scotseafarms @SSPOsays @JulieHL 155,000 tonnes in 2018 would be less than salmon farming production in 2004! bit.ly/2FmTsEY

Table 24: Annual production of salmon (tonnes) during 1996-2016 and projected production in 2017

| Year | Tonnes | Percentage difference | Year | Tonnes | Percentage difference |
|------|---------|-----------------------|------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1996 | 83,121 | 19 | 2007 | 129,930 | -1.4 |
| 1997 | 99,197 | 19 | 2008 | 128,606 | -1 |
| 1998 | 110,897 | 12 | 2009 | 144,247 | 12 |
| 1999 | 126,686 | 14 | 2010 | 154,164 | 6.9 |
| 2000 | 128,959 | 2 | 2011 | 158,018 | 2.5 |
| 2001 | 138,519 | 7 | 2012 | 162,223 | 2.7 |
| 2002 | 144,589 | 4 | 2013 | 163,234 | 0.6 |
| 2003 | 169,736 | 17 | 2014 | 179,022 | 9.7 |
| 2004 | 158,099 | -7 | 2015 | 171,722 | -4.1 |
| 2005 | 129,588 | -18 | 2016 | 162,817 | -5.2 |
| 2006 | 131,847 | 2 | 2017 | 177,202* | |

*Industry estimate of projected tonnage based on stocks currently being on-grown.

The total production of Atlantic salmon during 2016 was 162,817 tonnes, a decrease of 8,905 tonnes (5.2%) on the 2015 total.

10:29 AM - 18 May 2018

"Scottish salmon farming is dead in the water due to infectious diseases, lice infestations and mass mortalities," said Don Staniford, Director of [Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Little wonder that anglers like Jeremy Paxman are rising up against the Scottish Government's reckless plans for expanding salmon farming. I'd love to see the 'contemptible' Scottish salmon farming industry get a good grilling on BBC's Question Time. The industry simply does not have any answers to the growing problems of escapes, lice, diseases, waste pollution, toxic chemicals and the killing of seals."

Contact:

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Read the latest news via:

- [Reported Versus Reality - 'Inaccuracies' Rebutted by Scottish Salmon Watch](#)
- [Letter to the Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare](#)
- [UK Government's 'Sustainable Seas Inquiry'](#)
- [The National: "42,000 sign petition for tougher Scottish salmon farm testing"](#)
- [Herald: "Salmon farms are turning Scotland's seas into an open sewer, claim campaigners"](#)
- [SumOfUs: "Campaigners at Scottish Parliament call for wastewater testing at salmon farming operations to save wild fish"](#)
- [Supersized McSalmon - I'm Lovin' It Sings Fergus!](#)
- [Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

