

Fish 'hooked on chemicals'

Farmed salmon: Antibiotics are risk to public health, warns campaigner



FAVOURITE DISH: Salmon can become dependent on a 'cocktail of chemicals', it is claimed

BY KEITH FINDLAY

Salmon farming nemesis Don Staniford has warned the continued use of antibiotics to combat disease in the industry is a public health risk.

Mr Staniford, an arch critic of the sector for years,

believes farmed salmon are "addicted to a cocktail of chemicals" and a threat to the environment and public health.

Citing figures obtained from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) through a Freedom of Information request, he

highlighted scientific papers claiming a link between the use of antibiotics on fish farms and increased bacterial resistance to the drugs.

But industry body the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) accused Mr Staniford of pre-

senting "skewed" information to "support his own agenda".

According to Mr Staniford, who fronts the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA), Scottish salmon farms use large quantities of antibiotics.

Citing the Sepa figures, he said: "Between 2002 and 2015, there were 147 reported instances of drug use at salmon farm sites across Scotland."

Farmed salmon are "addicted to a cocktail of chemicals", he claimed, adding: "The use of antibiotics in salmon farming is a threat not only to the environment but also to public health."

"Antibiotic contamination of sediments and shellfish has been reported for

over two decades and antibiotic resistance means that the drugs don't work anymore."

The Sepa figures were also highlighted in a statement from GAAIA, which said: "Scottish salmon farms are still using significant quantities of antibiotics, with 2015 use higher

"... addicted to a cocktail of chemicals"

than antibiotic use in 2002 and 2004.

"Antibiotic use on Scottish salmon farms peaked at over 5,500kg (5.4tonnes) in 2006 but still stood at over 1,500kg (1.4tonnes) in 2014."

SSPO chief executive Scott Landsburgh said: "Yet

again Don Staniford has presented skewed information and data to support his own agenda.

"False and unfounded accusations have the potential to damage the reputation of the UK's favourite fish - and Scotland's largest food export, which is often seen as the pillar of Scotland's rural economy."

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "These figures alone do not give an accurate picture of antibiotic use in salmon farming. Antibiotic use in salmon farming remains low and does not pose a risk to human health. Antibiotics are not used on a long-term basis but intermittently for short periods - five to 14 days - to control outbreaks of disease."

'Risk of food poisoning for consumers'

More than a quarter of abattoirs fail to take basic hygiene precautions to prevent contaminated meat reaching butchers and supermarkets, it has been reported.

Consumers could be at risk of acute food poisoning from exposure to E.coli, salmonella or campylobacter due to breaches identified at the slaughterhouses.

Analysis of government audits at 323 abattoirs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by The Observer and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism identified failings at 86 of them.

Store recalls beef product

Supermarket Morrisons has recalled one of its meat-based products over concerns it may cause flu-like symptoms in vulnerable people.

The retailer has asked customers who bought its 150g Ready to Eat Peppered Beef Slices to return them, after the Food Standards Agency (FSA) said they are contaminated with listeria monocytogenes.

Milestone for Bond actor



Daniel Craig, pictured, has become cinema's second longest-serving James Bond.

The British actor has now played the role of 007 for a total of 4,147 days - almost 11-and-a-half years.

Man shot at boxing event

A man was taken to hospital after being shot outside a boxing event.

Police were called to the car park of the Brentwood Centre just before midnight on Saturday.

Officers found a man with a gunshot wound to his shoulder, Essex Police said.

Converted fishing trawler is catch of the day for tourists

Accommodation: Cod war boat the Orlik becomes holiday destination

Tourists in the Highlands can now stay in a retired trawler from the cod wars.

The Orlik is berthed in the shadow of Ben Nevis, the UK's highest mountain.

The boat, which fished hotly contested seas off Iceland from the 1950s to the 1970s, offers accommodation for up to four people on the Caledonian Canal.

The Orlik is anchored at Neptune's Staircase - the longest staircase lock in the UK - just four miles from the 4,413ft peak.

The lock leads into Loch Linnhe and the open seas beyond and two passengers can also enjoy a six-night cruise.

Owners Michael and Lorna Watt spent

'They're brilliant boats - it can go on for another 100 years'

£300,000 converting her into the unusual accommodation.

Mr Watt, 63, said: "The Orlik was part of the 750-strong fleet of fishing boats working out of Grimsby during the 1950s until the 1970s.

"We spent around £300,000 converting it. We put in two double cabins, two shower rooms/toilets and a sauna.

"They're incredibly rare boats now. I reckon there can't be more than around 50 left in the UK.



EASY GOING: The Orlik has been converted as a place to stay and offers accommodation for up to four people on the Caledonian Canal

They're brilliant boats - it can go on for another 100 years."

He added: "Because it's a smaller boat, it would fish off the coast of Iceland during the summer months during the cod war years.

"Boats were at constant risk of having their gear cut away by Icelandic ships."

The cod wars were a series of disputes between Britain and Iceland running from the 1950s to the 1970s over the rights to fish in Icelandic waters.

Although not a war in the normal sense, at the peak of the dispute the Royal Navy was deployed to protect the British fishing fleet.

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SCIENCE

'Torpor' cancer hopes

Cancer could be tackled more effectively by putting patients into a torpor state similar to that of a hibernating bear, a leading scientist has claimed.

Tumour growth would slow right down or cease while healthy cells in the body become more resistant to radiation, says physicist Professor Marco Durante, from the Trento Institute in Italy.

As a result larger doses of cancer-killing radiotherapy could be administered in safety.

The radical idea follows years of research on hibernating animals, and anecdotal reports of people who have been plunged into deep freeze and survived.

Prof Durante hopes it will be technically possible to hibernate humans in a safe and controlled way within 10 years.

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Researching North Pole

SCIENCE

A daring attempt to send a research vessel completely trapped in ice across the North Pole could lead to more accurate weather and climate forecasts, say scientists.

Stranded and unable to move, the RV Polarstern will be carried by slowly flowing ice as the bitterly cold and constantly dark Arctic winter closes in.

During the year-long 1,553-mile voyage, teams of scientists, protected from polar bears by armed guards, will take measurements and make observations which have never been possible before.

The bold venture, called



RV Polarstern will be allowed to drift in the ice pack

MOSAIC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate), echoes a famous polar expedition more than a century ago.

In 1893 Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen tried to reach the North Pole by allowing his vessel,

the Fram, to freeze in place and drift with the ice.

He and his crew eventually abandoned the ship.

While Nansen's goal was the Pole, the purpose of the 50million euro MOSAIC expedition being undertaken in 2019 is purely scientific.