

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture, 9 October 2015

**Did A Seal Die For Your Salmon Meal?
- Call for Supermarket Boycott of 'Seal Unfriendly' Farmed Salmon**

Following UK media coverage on [ITV News last night](#) (a further broadcast is scheduled on ITV News tonight), supermarkets are being urged to stop sourcing farmed salmon from 'seal-unfriendly' salmon farms. Protests are planned in Edinburgh (30 October) and in London (9 December) before a protest outside the RSPCA's head office in Sussex (10 December).

"People still buying Scottish salmon have blood on their hands," said Don Staniford, Director of the [Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture](#). "Next time you're in a supermarket or restaurant please ask whether a seal died for your salmon meal. Read my lips - eating Scottish salmon is the kiss of death for seals and leaves a bad taste in the mouth."



Read more details via the new Facebook group "[Did a seal die for your salmon meal?](#)"

Watch ITV News (8 October 2015) [online here](#) - including an admission from Grieg Seafood (Hjaltland Seafarms) that the [Norwegian-owned company](#) has shot too many seals:



Read more via ITV News (8 October 2015):

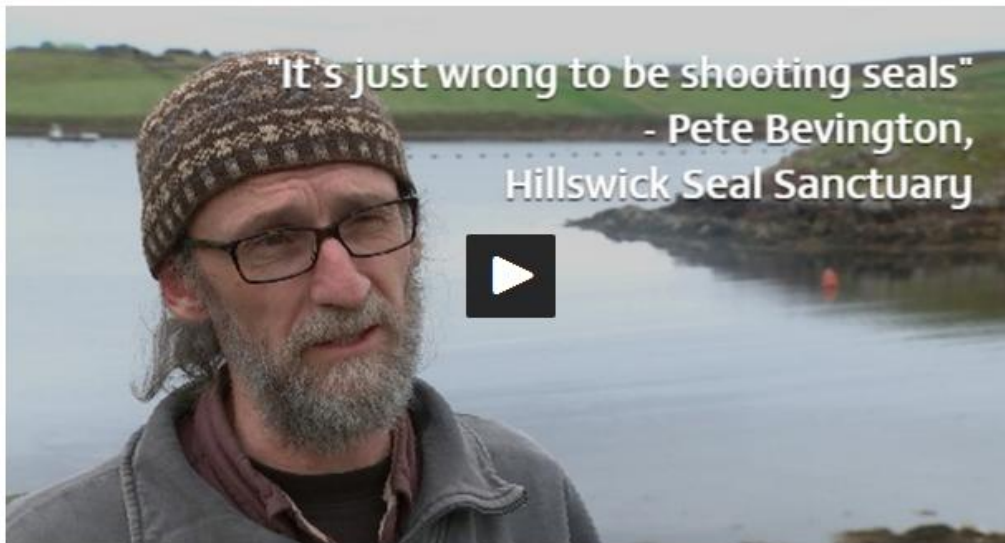
["Salmon farmers under fire for shooting seals"](#)

["Seals in Shetland are getting into deep water with the salmon industry"](#)

["More than 100 seals shot this year to protect salmon industry"](#)

["Killing seals to protect salmon - the welfare dilemma"](#)

Pete Bevington of Hillswick Seal Sanctuary told [ITV News](#) (8 October 2015):



ITV News also [published](#) (8 October 2015) the following statement from Peta:

Peta: 'No justification for shooting' seals

Animal rights group Peta has said there is "no justification for shooting beautiful animals" as an ITV News reveals more than 100 seals have been shot to protect salmon farms.



A group of seals rest on bedrock in Shetland. Credit: ITV News

“ There is no justification for shooting beautiful animals to protect the cruel and unnecessary fish-farming industry. It's our demand for cheap fish that's fuelling the cruelty. Seals feel pain as much as any dog does, and recognising what fish farming does to them and to the environment should be enough for us to reject eating fish.

– PETA

Read another statement from the International Fund for Animal Welfare - [online here](#)

Chris Choi, ITV News 'Consumer Editor' [reported](#) (8 October 2015):

I've spoken to many who want an end to the seal shooting - and that includes the salmon farmers themselves. They seem to fully realise that many shoppers buying their supermarket supplies will not want to support seal killing.



Chris Choi speaks to a salmon producer in Shetland about protective measures. Credit: ITV News

I've seen how farms are spending big money on "non-lethal" measures such as reinforced netting. The problem is that so far not one of these has been accepted industry-wide - and the shooting continues.

In an article - "[Killing seals to protect salmon - the welfare dilemma](#)" - published by ITV News (8 October), Chris Choi stated:

"In pure PR terms, no industry would like the suggestion it has seal blood on its hands"



In an interview with Grieg Seafood's Grant Cumming broadcast on [ITV News last night](#), Chris Choi said:

"This site came top of the list for killing seals - with something like 24 in two years. That's not the kind of thing that is going to be popular with shoppers is it?"

"No - absolutely," replied Grant Cumming. "I think we realise that we have shot far too much in this area and that's something we've had a real determination to change. And that's what led us down the line with these [Econets](#)."



Read more via "[Drive to end seal shooting in Shetland](#)" and "[Shetland fish farms top seal shooting list](#)"

Last week (2 October 2015), GAAIA submitted [formal comments](#) to the US Government calling for a ban on all imports of 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon.

C Comment from Don Staniford

This is a Comment on the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** Proposed Rule: [Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act](#)

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

Comment

In summary, the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) urges the US Government to scrutinize the global salmon farming industry with respect to the intentional killing of seals and sea lions in particular.

For more background please read the attached letter sent on 30 August 2015 to NOAA's Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Kathryn Sullivan.

The letter includes:

"Further to the group complaint filed in October 2011 and further to GAAIA's letter of May 2013 (see enclosed in Appendix 2 and also online here) could you please take immediate action against the Scottish salmon farming industry in particular in relation to the killing of seals?"

GAAIA also believes there is enough evidence assembled from salmon farming operations killing marine mammals around the world - in Chile, Canada, New Zealand and Australia for example - to open an immediate investigation into lethal practices of the global salmon farming industry."

Comment Now!
Due Nov 9 2015, at 11:59 PM ET

ID: NOAA-NMFS-2010-0098-0054
Tracking Number: 1jz-8lqk-jl83

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Submitter Information

Submitter Name: Don Staniford

And ends with:

"In conclusion, I quote from the complaint letter filed in October 2011:

"Based on the continued killing of marine mammals, we therefore ask that imports of farmed salmon from those countries and companies sponsoring and sanctioning lethal controls be excluded from the U.S. market. We ask that the U.S. send a strong signal that the killing of marine mammals will no longer be tolerated."

Please read the attached letter for more detailed evidence and supporting material.


Thanks.

City:
Dundonnell
Country:
United Kingdom
State or Province:
Ross-shire
Organization Name:
Global Alliance Against Industrial
Aquaculture

Attachments (1)



[Letter to US Department of Commerce 30 August 2015](#)

View Attachment: 

"GAAIA points you to a [recent article in the Shetland News](#)," stated an [additional email submission](#) (2 October 2015) to the US Government. "In particular, please note the following:

"Last year Grieg Seafood Hjaltdland, which employs over 200 people and produces over 60 per cent of Shetland salmon, started investing around £2 million to stop grey seals breaching its anti-predator nets. The company has installed 26 extra-strong 'Econets' around the cages at its three Wadbister sites, including Laxfirth, at a cost of more than £40,000 each."

Therefore, a single salmon farm in Shetland spent over £1 million on predator nets at a 26-cage farm. If you assume (based upon a [Scottish Government survey in 2011/2012](#)) that 87% of the industry do NOT use predator nets and there are 143 active salmon farms (based on the [latest Scottish Government annual fish farm survey](#)) then it would cost well over £100 million for the entire Scottish salmon farming industry to install predator nets.

In essence, in excess of £100 million is the price for Scottish seal-friendly farmed salmon. In other words, the Scottish salmon farming industry has a £100 million + competitive advantage over the US salmon farming industry which I understand is prohibited from killing marine mammals under the US MMPA."

On 30 August 2015, GAAIA wrote to [supermarkets](#), [RSPCA Assured/Freedom Food](#), the [Soil Association](#) and the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council/WWF](#) demanding an end to 'seal-unfriendly' farmed salmon - for more details read [online here](#).



Read more background via GAAIA's "[The Killing Farms](#)"

Contact:

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Download High Res images via:

["Did a seal die for your salmon meal?"](#)

["Farmed salmon: sealed with a kiss of death"](#)

["Stop shooting seals for salmon meals"](#)

["M&S: Seal Killers"](#)

["Scottish Seal Killers"](#)

["The Scottish Seal Killers"](#)

