

## [Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 13 March 2018

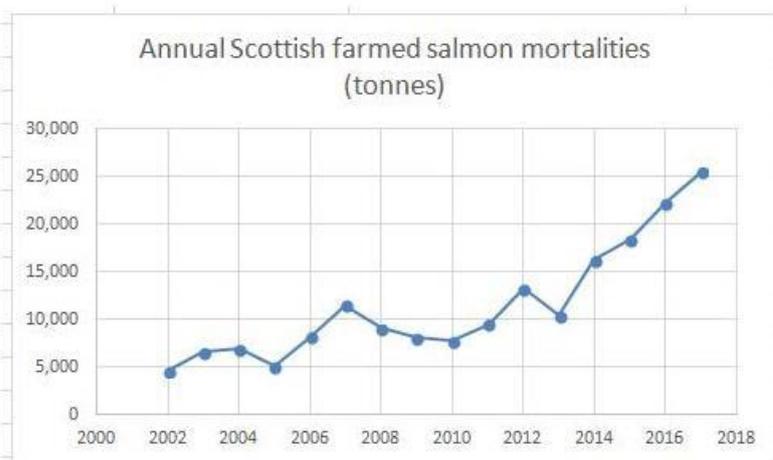
### **Aquacalypse Now** **- Scottish Parliament TV features Scottish salmon horror show**

Tomorrow (14 March), the [Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#) focuses on environmental and wild fisheries impacts with [oral witnesses](#) from the National Trust for Scotland (representing Scottish Environment LINK), Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland and Fisheries Management Scotland. Watch [live on Scottish Parliament TV](#) from 10am.

Scottish Salmon Watch's [written submission to the Scottish Parliament](#) directs MSPs on the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee to a document - "[Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)" (13 March 2018) - detailing horrific problems with infectious diseases, viruses, bacteria and mass mortalities including:

- Record level mortalities in 2017 at over 25,000 tonnes (up from 5,000 tonnes in 2002 and 10,000 tonnes in 2011) with estimated losses of 15-20 million farmed salmon at a mortality rate of 26.7%.

Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms	
Year	Mortalities (Tonnes)
2017	25,435
2016	22,232
2015	18,373
2014	16,245
2013	10,424
2012	13,234
2011	9,475
2010	7,713
2009	8,064
2008	9,088
2007	11,495
2006	8,183
2005	5,100
2004	6,907
2003	6,537
2002	4,578



- Salmon Gill poxvirus, Paranucleospora theridion, gill pathology, complex gill issues, Vibrio anguillarum, Proliferative Gill Disease, Amoebic Gill Disease, Pancreas Disease, fungus, Cardiomyopathy Syndrome, Haemorrhagic Smolt Syndrome, Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation, Enteric Redmouth Disease and Anaemia reported during 2017.

- Marine Harvest had the most mortalities during 2017 with over 7,000 tonnes followed by the Scottish Salmon Company (6,029 tonnes), Cooke Aquaculture (4,552 tonnes), Scottish Sea Farms (4,328 tonnes), Grieg Seafood (2,191 tonnes) and Loch Duart (1,066 tonnes).

Read more via today's Herald: "[Video: Disease concern as Scots salmon farmers' produce 'stomach-churning' record levels of fish deaths](#)"

"Scottish Salmon Watch views the current fish health situation (as measured via lice infestations, infectious diseases and viruses, mass mortalities and the use of toxic chemicals to control disease) as dire and disastrous," wrote Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#) in a [formal submission to the Scottish Parliament](#) (13 March 2018). "A national database on lice, diseases and mortalities is urgently required. Far from promoting the expansion of salmon farming or even considering a doubling or trebling by 2030, the Scottish Parliament should be recommending drastic reductions in salmon farming production immediately. Indeed, the Scottish Government ought to heed the warnings in North America and follow the lead of the Washington state government in ordering a ban on open net cages."



"By operating outside ecological limits, salmon farming in Scotland has patently lost its social and political licence," continued Staniford. "The Scottish Parliament must signal an end to the industry's licence to pollute with impunity and rescind salmon farm licences starting with those sites where lice infestation levels, infectious diseases and mass mortalities have spiralled out of control. From an animal welfare and environmental point of view, salmon farming is a morally repugnant industry which is now both ecologically and economically bankrupt. Strip away state sponsorships, government grants and taxpayer subsidies and the Scottish salmon farming industry is dead in the water (along with the estimated 15-20 million disease-ridden farmed salmon the industry racked up in 2017 weighing in at a staggering 25,435 tonnes)".



Earlier this month (5 March), a [damning report](#) from the Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform Committee [lambasted the Scottish salmon farming industry](#) as threatening the marine environment "[beyond repair](#)" and of "[irrecoverable damage](#)".

 [A letter from the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee to the Committee regarding their report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming, 5 March 2018 \(1.19MB pdf\)](#)



Watch Richard Luxmoore of the National Trust for Scotland ([scheduled to give oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament tomorrow](#)) on [BBC Reporting Scotland](#) (5 March 2018):



The [timetable for the salmon farming inquiry](#) includes:

Timetable	
7 March	Evidence session with aquaculture research bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Association Marine Science; University of Stirling Institute for Aquaculture; Steve Westbrook.
14 March	Evidence session with environmental organisations. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Environment LINK, Salmon & Trout Conservation, Fisheries Management Scotland, Lochaber District salmon Fishery Board.
18 April	Evidence session with regulatory bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scottish Natural Heritage
25 April	Evidence session with development bodies. Confirmed witnesses include: Scotland Food & Drink, Highlands and Islands Enterprise
2 May	Evidence session with salmon farming representatives. Confirmed witnesses include Marine Harvest, Scottish Seafood Association, Grieg Seafood Shetland
16 May	Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

On 2 & 16 May, Scottish Salmon Watch will be organising protests outside the Scottish Parliament - read more via [Press Release: "Protests Against 'Diseased & Dangerous' Scottish Salmon"](#)

There is a [deadline of 27 April 2018](#) to provide written evidence:

### Evidence

The Committee launched a call for views on 8 February and the deadline for submissions is Friday 27 April.



Parliamentary Committee to scrutinise the far...  

 [Call for evidence \(186KB pdf\)](#)

We encourage you to use our template to submit your view -

 [Written evidence template \(39KB doc\)](#)

[Read the written submissions received](#)

A written [submission from Guy Linley-Adams of Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland](#) (who [filed the petition back in 2016](#) which prompted the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry and who [gives oral evidence tomorrow](#)) includes:

REC/S5/18/8/1

## **RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

### **SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM GUY LINLEY ADAMS ON BEHALF OF SALMON AND TROUT CONSERVATION SCOTLAND**

This is a short note, hopefully to assist the Committee in advance of my giving evidence on March 14<sup>th</sup> on behalf of Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland. I am sure you will appreciate the limits to communicating great detail within an oral evidence session, so I hope you will excuse this.

This relates to a point made in oral evidence to the REC Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> March by Professor James Bron of the Institute of Aquaculture at the University of Stirling.

He stated that:

*"mostly sea lice are under control in Scotland and as I said if you look at the data that has been produced there has been no rise in sea lice, so I think there is an impression that there has been a sort of skyrocketing of sea louse numbers, but actually if you look at the average that's remained relatively static there".*

However, as farm-specific sea lice data is not publicly available, it is not clear what the basis can be for Professor Bron's statement.

Note that on publication of farm-specific data, the ECCLR Report, at para 58 stated: *"The Committee believes the efforts of the industry have proven to be largely insufficient to address lice issues. The Committee welcomes the announcement by the SSPO that sea lice data will be published on a farm by farm basis. For that data to be most useful the Committee considers there should be no unreasonable delay in its publication, The industry should be required to publish it in real time. Data should be published in a consistent and comparable basis and should include numbers of fish and action taken in response. This information would advance the science and solutions available to the industry. The industry should also be required to publish consistent and comparable weekly historic data sets on sea lice figures on a farm by farm basis from the time records are available. There should be no delay in the industry publishing this information so this should initially be published on a voluntary basis by the end of April 2018"*

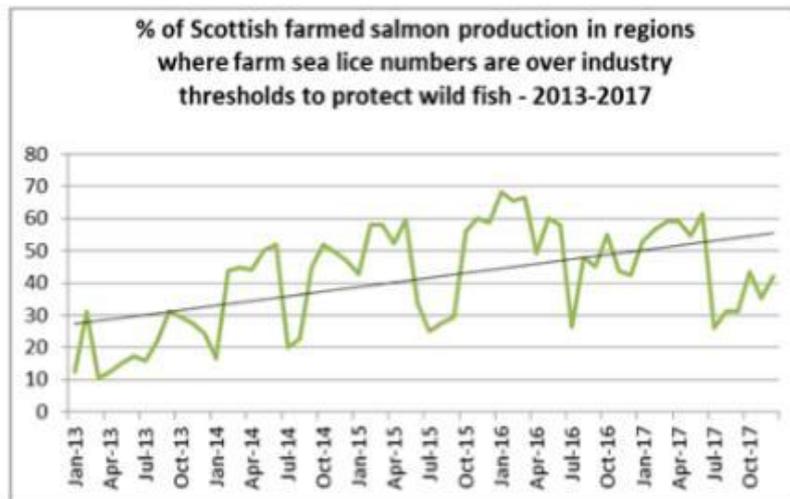
What we do know, from the output of Freedom of Information requests made by S&TCS to the Fish Health Inspectorate – at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/foi-17-02315-review/> - is that the current sea lice figures on fish farms in Scotland are not encouraging.

Over the 14 months to December 2017, 81 salmon farms have gone over the 3 or 8 adult female sea lice per farmed fish trigger levels, which were announced by the Scottish Government at NASCO in 2016, but only one Enforcement Notice has been issued so far, which required nothing that the industry's own Code of Good Practice did not already, in theory, require of the farmer, or that an ordinary inspection or enhanced sea lice inspection, as already operated by the Fish Health Inspectorate under the 2008 Guidance, would not have addressed.

See <https://www.salmon-trout.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NewLiceBreachingList.pdf> for the full list of farms, also appended to this note. See also S&TCS' critique of the Scottish Government's 2016 sea lice management policy for Scottish salmon farming <https://www.salmon-trout.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/A-critique-of-the-Scottish-Government%E2%80%99s-new-sea-lice-management-policy-for-Scottish-salmon-farming.pdf>

In addition, aggregated sea lice data (in each of 30 regions) has been published by the SSPO in Fish Health Management reports since 2013 (on a three monthly in-arrears basis). Analysis of this data, as against the CoGP sea lice thresholds for treatment (0.5 and 1 adult female lice per fish), the proportion of the industry, as given in the SSPO reports, that is in regions over CoGP threshold shows a cyclical pattern and, between 2015 and 2017 has ranged between 26% and 68%.

Note that in 2013 and 2014, that range was 10% to 52%, so the data shows that the sea lice issue has got worse.



Note also that the ECCLR Committee Report stated, at para 57, that *"the Committee considers there should be a mandatory requirement to keep sea lice levels within those identified in the Code of Good Practice"*.

As the graph above shows, the Scottish industry is a very long way from that being delivered.

In its report, SAMS also noted (at para 2.1.4) that *"The main treatment methods used in Scotland are experiencing reduced efficacy in dealing with sea lice on farms. New techniques are being applied, although the long-term success of these is uncertain. The legislative and voluntary frameworks that underpin the management of lice levels on farms are not transparent. They appear neither to be succeeding in controlling sea lice, nor capable of addressing the environmental effects of the lice"*.

In conclusion, what published data there is does not support Professor Bron's evidence that *"mostly sea lice are under control in Scotland"*.

Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland  
March 2018

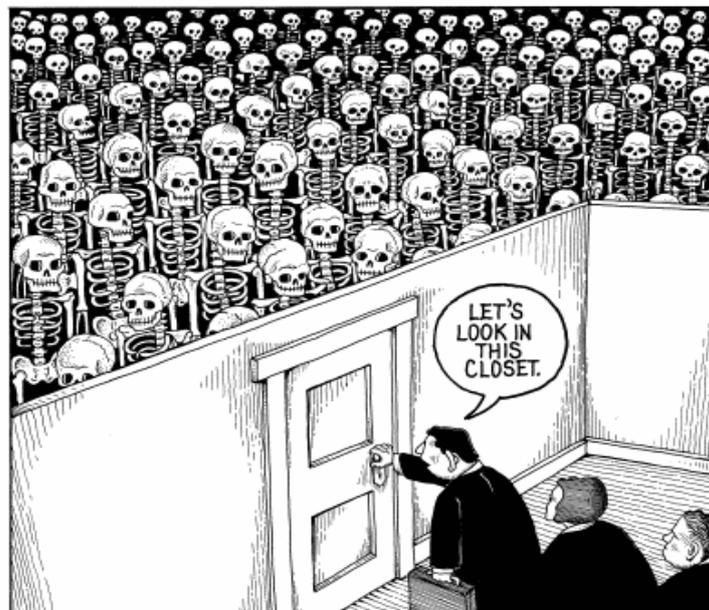
In February 2018, the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) [pledged to publish site specific data on mortalities, diseases and lice](#). David Sandison, General Manager of the SSPO, [testified to the Scottish Parliament](#) (6 February 2018):

"There is absolutely no problem with our being completely open and transparent about that data. There is nothing that we wish to hide away"

#### COMMITTEE ROOM 1 LIVE



On BBC Radio Shetland (5 March 2018), David Sandison [pledged to publish data in April 2018](#).



**Contact:**

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**Read more on the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry via:**

[Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)  
[The Herald: "Video: Disease concern as Scots salmon farmers' produce "stomach-churning" record levels of fish deaths"](#)

[Scottish Parliament Inquiry - Evidence on 14 March](#)

[The Herald: "Fish farm damage 'beyond repair'"](#)

[Press Release: "Protests Against 'Diseased & Dangerous' Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Charlie Whelan in the Daily Mail: "We have to act now....before it is too late"](#)

[Daily Mail: "Salmon farms 'a severe risk' to the environment"](#)

[BBC Radio Shetland grills Scottish Salmon Producers on "damning" report](#)

[The Sun: "Eco Threat: MSPs kick up stink over claims salmon industry is risking 'irrecoverable damage'"](#)

[BBC Reporting Scotland \(Evening News, 5 March 2018\)](#)

[Press Update: Scottish Salmon Slapped!](#)

[Key Points: Scottish Parliament's report on the environmental impact of salmon farming](#)

[Shetland News: "Damning salmon industry report warns of 'irrecoverable' environmental damage"](#)

[Scottish Parliament Report: "Environmental Impacts of Salmon Farming"](#)

[BBC News: "MSPs warning over salmon farming impact on environment"](#)

[Press Release: "Scrutiny for Scottish Salmon"](#)

[Update: Written evidence to Scottish Parliament salmon farming inquiry](#)

[Holyrood: "Salmon producers agree to publish reports on fish deaths"](#)

[Official Report: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming \(6 Feb\)](#)

[Scottish Parliamentary inquiry calls for more evidence](#)

[Victory for Freedom of Information](#)

[Media Update: Scottish Salmon Pledges to Publish Data on Diseases & Lice Infestations](#)

[Video: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[The National: "Scotland's fish farmers to release salmon mortality figures"](#)

[Tweet storm at the Scottish Parliament's salmon farming inquiry](#)

['Militant' MSPs Grill Scottish Salmon](#)

[Update: Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[The Scottish Salmon Polluters Organisation \(SSPO\)](#)

[Loch Duart - The \(Really Not Very\) Sustainable Salmon Company](#)

[Daily Mail: "Salmon crisis as 2.3m are dumped in nine months"](#)

[The National: "Environmental groups urge Scottish fish farms to scale back"](#)

[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon's Mort Mountain Leaps Over 10 Million - FOI reveals 2.3 million dead salmon at Marine Harvest farms in 2017"](#)

[Data on Mortalities & Diseases at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[Photo Gallery: Dead Salmon from Scotland's Disease-Ridden Salmon Farms](#)

[SSPO "sets the record straight"](#)

[Transcript of Scottish Parliament inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#)

[GAAIA's written submission to the Scottish Parliament inquiry](#)

[Review of the Environmental Impacts of Scottish Salmon Farming - call for written evidence \(deadline of 8 February\)](#)

[Daily Mail: "Thousands of fish thrown in a truck - and troubling new questions for salmon farms"](#)

[The Scotsman: "Fish farms increase could lead to more seals being shot"](#)

[Press Release: "Scottish Salmon Farming 101 - Scottish Parliament inquiry opens 'in early 2018'"](#)

[Scottish Salmon Farming 101](#)

[Media Backgrounder: Inquiry into Salmon Farming by the Scottish Parliament](#)

[Parliamentary Question: to ask the Scottish Government how many farmed salmon have died in each year since 2012](#)

[First Minister questioned on leaking wastes from morts - call for a moratorium from Greens](#)

[Campaigners say 'no more salmon farms' after disease on Lewis kills 125,000 fish](#)

