

Scottish Salmon Watch, 8 January 2020

[Exposed: Scottish 'Organic' Scam](#)



- 'Organic' Sea Harvest questioned in letter to UKAS & Soil Association
- Investigations and Enforcement Services asked to investigate "scam"
- Highland Council meet on 21 January to decide on application for two 'organic' farms
- Conflict of interest as two Highland Councillors are directors in 'Organic' Sea Harvest
 - 'Organic' Sea Harvest is controlled by Norwegian & Canadian interests
- If approved 'Organic' Sea Harvest could treble Scotland's 'organic' salmon production
 - 'Organic' salmon production limited to five farms producing 4,219 tonnes in 2018
 - 'Organic' Sea Harvest want four 2,500 tonne farms (i.e. 10,000 tonnes) off Skye

The expansion of so-called "organic" salmon farming in Scotland is [being challenged by a Skye resident who has asked for an investigation by the Investigations and Enforcement Services branch of the Insolvency Service](#) (who have [power to investigate companies for fraud](#) - including companies "[running scams](#)"). Norwegian/Canadian-owned Organic Sea Harvest is the subject of the complaint which has also been filed with the [United Kingdom Accreditation Service](#) and the [Soil Association who certifies farmed salmon as 'organic'](#).

"It is a public scam for Organic Sea Harvest to promote their agenda of obtaining planning for fish farms under a banner which does not currently belong to them," [wrote Jonathan Johnson in a letter dated 5 January 2020](#). "This is a highly unsatisfactory situation and we ask you to address this worrying illegal name which is setting a precedent for future 'scams'."

"Organic Sea Harvest are extensively using the self-proclaimed 'Organic' prefix to gain support for their future trading operation from the public, when it is not their position to say they are 'Organic'," [stated the letter to the Investigations and Enforcement Services branch of the Insolvency Service](#). "At the same time this organic self-classification is deliberately being used to dumb down public dissent, in which the public is being lead to believe that, because it is an organic company already, they don't need to bother themselves with matters further. This is very misleading and confusing to the public, many believe, it has been done deliberately so."

To hammer home the point, [Jonathan Johnson signed his letter "Sir"](#):

I would be grateful if you can address this matter before it snowballs and gets out of hand. I used to work in the accreditation industry and this is putting the cart before the horse.

It is an affront to any accreditation authority and undermines the whole ethos of quality and third party approval if you can open up a new company implying confirmation at the flick of a pen

Regards

"Sir" Jonathan Johnson

(I have not been knighted yet but I am working towards this title, please call me this in the meantime and when addressing your response to me)

I hope this demonstrates where this is coming from and where it can lead to. I have also sent a copy of this and the enclosed copy of a letter (to the Soil Association and UKAS), as well as this correspondence to the BBC Panorama program, as your actions will be in the public interest.

Thank you for looking into this.

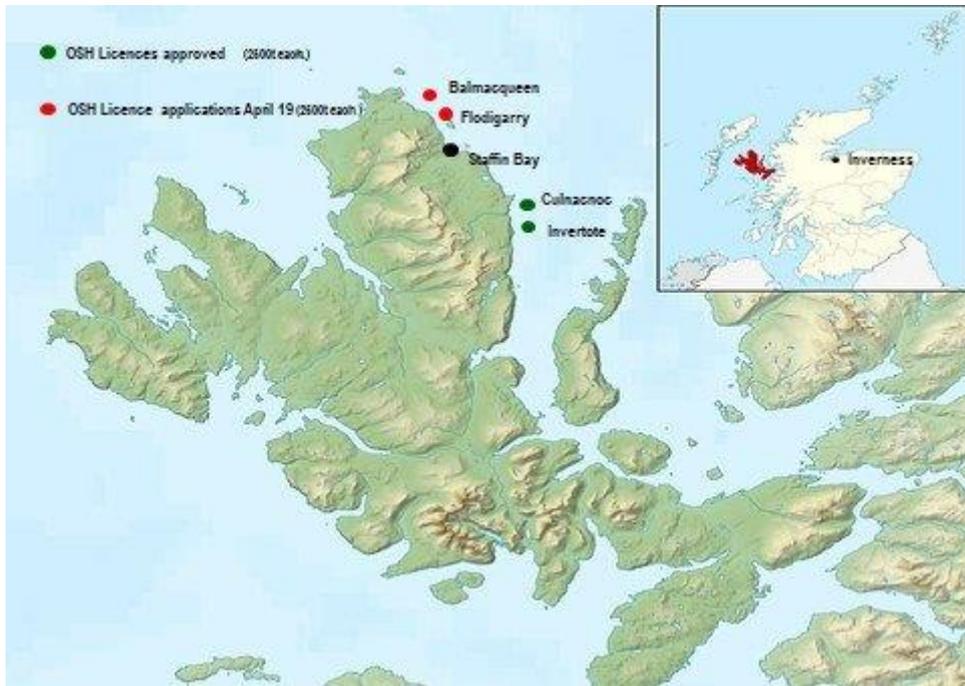
Jonathan Johnson's [letter to UKAS and the Soil Association dated 5 January 2020](#) included:

If a company can claim to be "organic" from the outset, as its name suggests to the public, without audits of historical evidence based records, it makes your standards and your organisation meaningless. It is putting the cart before the horse so to speak. They (OSH) may not be compliant for two or three years (if at all) and it makes a mockery out of your organisations and accreditation. Even if you say "ah but they will be" there is absolutely no way you can guarantee that, and it paints an image that you are just ticking a box at the end of the certification process where conformity for an organisation is already guaranteed. A very grave road to walk down indeed.

They may not have produced a single product yet but they are promoting their new company to the public as "organic" already, something which is not their decision to make.

Until "Organic" Sea Harvest can produce historical records, audited by the Soil Association or other independent accredited third party, the current situation of this "self-proclaimed", (organic) status is un-tenable and makes a farce out of the Soil Association and the whole compliance regime. They are at the moment - Sea Harvest

Highland Council is [meeting on 21 January](#) to discuss an application by 'Organic' Sea Harvest (who in a colossal conflict of interest have two Highland Councillors - [Alister Mackinnon](#) and [Alex MacInnes - as directors](#)) for two massive 2,500 tonne salmon farms at Flodigarry and Balmaqueen on the North-East coast of the Isle of Skye.



[A petition has been signed by over 2,700 people objecting to 'Organic' Sea Harvest's expansion plans.](#)

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To: Local Authorities

No to Flodigarry and Balmaqueen Fish Farms

Campaign created by **Emma Beaton**



We as a community strongly object to the proposed development of two "Organic" Marine Salmon Farms on the coast of Flodigarry and Balmaqueen.

Why is this important?

Flodigarry and Balmaqueen is situated within the Trotternish peninsula on the Isle of Skye.

There are two proposed large scale fish farm developments planned within 1 mile of each other on the east coast of Trotternish

2,702 of 3,000 signatures

Sign the petition

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Postcode *

I'd like to be emailed about this, and other great 38 Degrees campaigns

Yes, keep me informed via email

No, don't send me emails or keep me updated in future

Your personal information will be kept private and held securely. By submitting information you are agreeing to the use of data and cookies in accordance with our [privacy policy](#).

SIGN

LAST SIGNED BY:

In November 2019, [Scottish Salmon Watch](#) visited [Flodigarry](#) on a family holiday to take in the amazing views and meet with locals opposed to 'Organic' Sea Harvest.



"Organically farmed salmon is a scam, sham and a consumer con," said Don Staniford, Director of Scottish Salmon Watch and author of '[Organically Farmed Salmon is an Oxymoron](#)'. "Cramming a migratory species such as the Atlantic salmon - the 'King of Fish' - in disease-ridden cages is cruel, inhumane and the antithesis of wild and natural. Organic standards are so close to conventional factory fish farming that they even permit the use of toxic chemicals. Shame on 'Organic' Sea Harvest for misleading the public and shame on Highland Council for already granting this Norwegian/Canadian-owned company permission for two super-sized feedlots. Further expansion of 'organic' salmon farming will not only threaten tourism but also Skye's pristine marine environment."

Read more details via:

[Organic Scamon Alert on Skye: Self-Classification "Used to Dumb Down Public Dissent" Claims Resident](#)

[Skye High Opposition to 'Organic' Sea Harvest](#)

[Video Report from Skye: Please Stop 'Organic' Sea Harvest!](#)

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