

\$camon \$cotland, 29 November 2022

**EXPOSED: Virus-Laden Farmed Salmon Plagues Scotland
- PRV/HSMI reported at 37 salmon farms since November 2017**

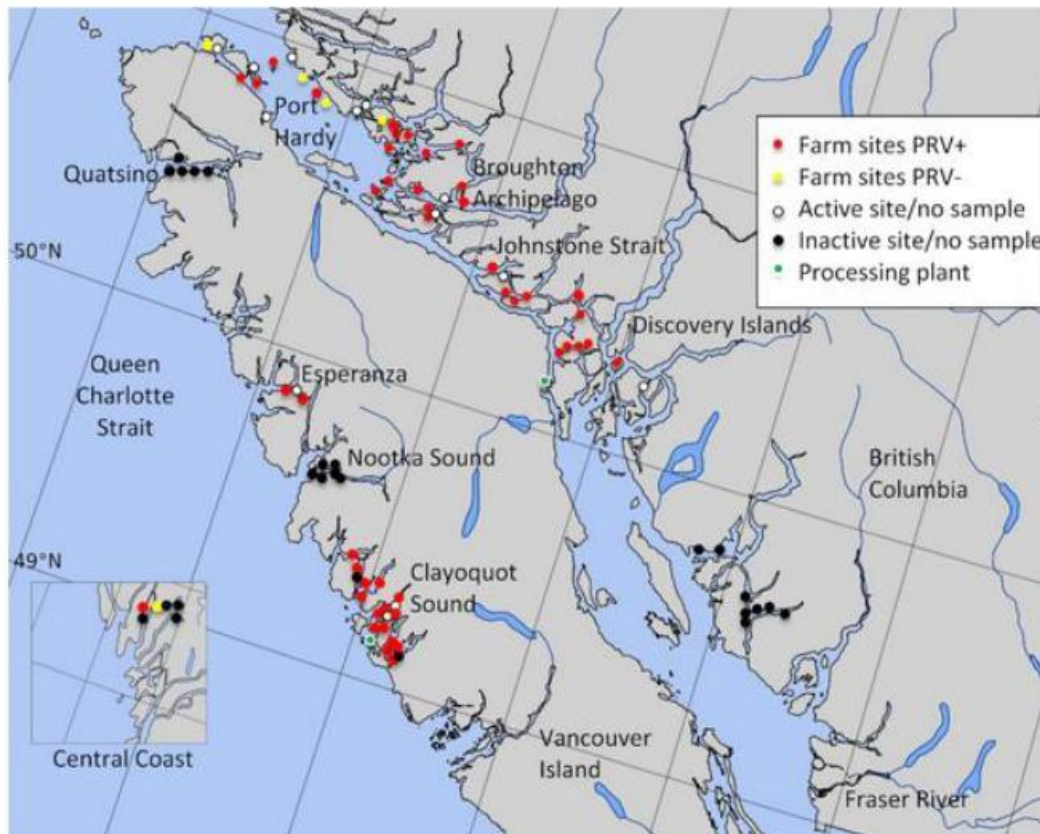


- Map sourced from Scottish Government data shows PRV/HSMI infected salmon farms operated by Bakkafrost, Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms, Grieg Seafood, Loch Duart & Cooke in Shetland, Orkney, Outer Hebrides, Skye, Mull, Linnhe, Gigha, Loch Fyne & Arran



- [Letter to Scottish Ministers](#) calls for PRV/HSMI testing of farmed salmon in sea cages, freshwater farms, hatcheries, harvesting stations, processing plants & imported ova
- A [FOI disclosure in June 2019](#) revealed that 52% of farmed salmon tested by Marine Scotland Science in 2018/2019 (399 out of 774 samples) were PRV positive but the Scottish Government refused to disclose further “commercially confidential” information
- A [scientific paper published earlier this month in Canada](#) reported 70% prevalence of PRV in salmon farms in British Columbia
- ‘Case Information’ [published by the Scottish Government](#) reveals Mowi’s Carradale salmon farm tested positive for PRV prior to the mass escape of 48,834 fish in August 2020
- Private diagnostic testing by Patogen & the Fish Vet Group has detected PRV/HSMI at salmon farms across Scotland but the Scottish Government does not routinely test

In a [letter sent to Scottish Ministers sent this week \(28 November 2022\)](#), \$camon \$cotland is calling on the Scottish Government to close the net on threats posed by the spread of Piscine Orthoreovirus (PRV) and Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI). Scientists in Canada [reported earlier this month](#) that 70% of samples collected from 56 marine salmon farms and two farm salmon processing plants in British Columbia tested positive for *Piscine orthoreovirus-1* (PRV-1).



Despite risks of PRV/HSMI spreading to wild fish, \$camon \$cotland’s [letter to Scottish Ministers](#) reveals that the Scottish Government’s Fish Inspectorate rarely tests farmed salmon in sea cages for PRV/HSMI and does not test farmed salmon in freshwater farms, hatcheries, harvesting stations, processing plants or via imported ova from Iceland, Norway and Ireland.

Over the last week, \$camon \$cotland trawled through the 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 ‘[Case Information](#)’ published online by the Scottish Government’s Fish Health Inspectorate as well as ‘[Mortality Event Reports](#)’ published online by the Scottish Government on 1 November 2022 (which detail mass mortalities – including over 50 references to PRV/HSMI – since 2017). The 37 PRV/HSMI positive cases since November 2017 include 14 sites operated by Bakkafrost/The Scottish Salmon Company; 10 Mowi; 6 Scottish Sea Farms; 4 Grieg Seafood, 2 Loch Duart and 1 Cooke Aquaculture site:

Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Aird in Loch Sheildaig/Torridon](#))

Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Ardcastle Bay in Loch Fyne](#))

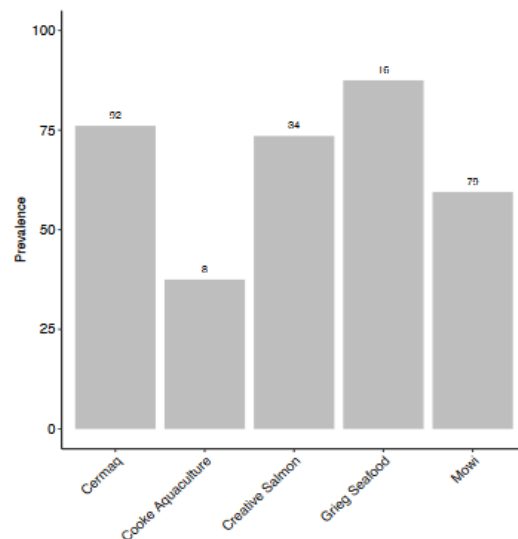
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([East Tarbert Bay in the Sound of Gigha](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Lamlash Bay/St Molios, Isle of Arran](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Loch Odhairn/Gravir, Isle of Lewis](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Maragay Mor in Loch Uiskevagh, Uists](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Portree/Torvaig in Sound of Raasay, Isle of Skye](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Portree Outer in Sound of Raasay, Isle of Skye](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Plocrapol in East Loch Tarbert, Isle of Harris](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Reibinish in East Loch Tarbert, Isle of Harris](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Scadabay in Loch Grosebay, Isle of Harris](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Sgeir Dughall in Loch Torridon](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Taranaish in Loch Roag, Isle of Lewis](#))
Bakkafrost/ The Scottish Salmon Company ([Tarbert South in Loch Fyne](#))
Cooke Aquaculture ([Lyrawa Bay in Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands](#))
Grieg Seafood ([Cole Deep in Gon Firth, Shetland](#))
Grieg Seafood ([Gob Na Hoe in Loch Dunvegan, Isle of Skye](#))
Grieg Seafood ([Leinish Bay in Loch Dunvegan, Isle of Skye](#))
Grieg Seafood ([North Voe in Linga Sound, Shetland](#))
Loch Duart ([Loch Laxford, Sutherland](#))
Loch Duart ([Lochmaddy, North Uist](#))
Mowi ([Ardintoul in Loch Alsh](#))
Mowi ([Cairidh in Loch Ainort, Isle of Skye](#))
Mowi ([Eilean Grianain/Carradale in Kilbrannan Sound](#))
Mowi ([Greshornish in Loch Snizort, Isle of Skye](#))
Mowi ([Kingairloch in Loch a Choire/Loch Linnhe](#))
Mowi ([North Shore in Loch Erisort, Isle of Lewis](#))
Mowi ([Sconser Quarry in Caol Mor, Isle of Skye](#))
Mowi ([Sron in Loch Alsh](#))
Mowi ([Stulaigh in Loch Eynort, South Uist](#))
Mowi ([Tabhaigh in Loch Erisort, Isle of Lewis](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Bight of Foraness in Swinnister Voe, Shetland](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Bloody Bay in the Sound of Mull, Isle of Mull](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Loch Creran](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Lismore North, Loch Linnhe](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Nevis C in Loch Nevis](#))
Scottish Sea Farms ([Shuna in Loch Linnhe](#))

A [Freedom of Information disclosure by the Scottish Government in June 2019](#) revealed that Marine Scotland Science detected PRV in 52% of farmed salmon tested in 2018/2019 (399 PRV positives out of 774 farmed salmon samples) but the Scottish Government refused to name the salmon farms involved citing “commercial confidentiality” as the reason for non-disclosure.

Access to disease data held by salmon farming companies and diagnostic testing companies is required to produce a graph detailing prevalence of positive PRV detections in Scotland by company (Mowi, Scottish Sea Farms/Grieg Seafood, The Scottish Salmon Company/Bakkafrost, Loch Duart, Cooke Aquaculture and Organic Sea Harvest) – as [reported by the Canadian Journal](#)

[of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences \(18 November 2022\) for Cermaq, Cooke Aquaculture, Creative Salmon, Grieg Seafood and Mowi.](#)

Figure S3 Prevalence (%) of positive detections in each company. Numbers show the total number of samples tested for each company (n).



“The weight of scientific evidence warrants urgent attention by Scottish Ministers and Marine Scotland Science,” said Don Staniford, Director of Scamon Scotland in a [letter to Scottish Ministers \(28 November 2022\)](#). “The lack of screening and testing of [tens of millions of ova imported into Scottish salmon farms](#) is a disease disaster waiting to happen (or more appropriately, already happening on salmon farms across Scotland). The disease dangers of importing ova – whether they are sourced from Norway, Iceland or Ireland – represents all too real a risk for wild fish and it beggars belief that imported ova remains untested for PRV, ISA and other viruses, pathogens and diseases.”

“The exact prevalence of PRV inside salmon farms, hatcheries and processing plants in Scotland is unclear but the [recent revelation of 70% prevalence in British Columbia](#) - where many of the same Norwegian-owned companies operate – demands a routine and rigorous testing regime across the salmon farming sector,” continued Scamon Scotland’s [letter to Scottish Ministers \(28 November 2022\)](#). “The [presence of PRV in over 50% of farmed salmon tested by Marine Scotland Science](#) could represent the tip of a very large iceberg indeed. Scamon Scotland asks what scientific research – including any risk assessments of impacts of wild fish – and sampling is being conducted by the Scottish Government with respect to PRV/HSMI in processing plant effluents and [bloodwater](#)? What safeguards are in place in Scotland to stop the spread of PRV/HSMI via processing plants and harvesting stations?”

“Government surveillance of PRV/HSMI inside sea cages, freshwater smolt farms, hatcheries and processing plants (including waste effluents and waste biological material) must close the

net on the disease-ridden, virus-laden and lice-infested salmon farming sector in Scotland,” concluded Scamon Scotland’s [letter to Scottish Ministers \(28 November 2022\)](#). “The protection of commercial confidentiality and the business interests of foreign-owned companies (who [control 99% of ‘Scottish’ salmon farming production](#)) cannot be allowed to take precedence over Scotland’s iconic wild salmon. Private companies such as [Norwegian-owned Patogen](#) and the [Inverness-based Fish Vet Group/Pharmaq \(formerly owned by Benchmark but bought by Zoetis-owned Pharmaq in 2020\)](#) are conducting commercial testing for PRV/HSMI: the results of which are not available to the public and not disclosed by the Scottish Government via FOI. Scamon Scotland vehemently opposes the current regime where the screening of imported ova for infectious diseases, viruses and pathogens is an [optional service which some egg companies such as Benchmark/Stofnfiskur offers to salmon farming companies](#). Instead of allowing an open border and permitting millions of imported ova to flood untested into Scottish salmon farms, the Scottish Government should introduce mandatory and statutory testing of imported ova and smolts for PRV/HSMI (the results for which are routinely published).”

Read Scamon Scotland’s letter to Scottish Ministers (28 November 2022) in full [online here](#)

Contact:

Don Staniford: 07771 541826 (salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com)

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[Piscine Reovirus Ravages Scottish Salmon Farms - please follow the science in Canada & investigate the risks to wild fish in Scotland!](#)

[Going Down the Drain: Photos of Mowi's blood water treatment at "highly offensive & polluting" processing plant in Fort William](#)

[Unsatisfactory Biosecurity: Disease Control 'Improvement' & 'Further Investigation' Required at Processing Plants Operated by Mowi & Loch Duart](#)

[Letter to Scottish Ministers: Please Close the Border to Imports of Salmon Ova, Parr & Smolts!](#)

[Iceland Still Importing Ova to 'Scottish' Salmon Farms Despite Disease Risks](#)

[Game Ova for Imports & Exports: Close the Borders to Stop the Spread of Diseases & Genetic Pollution!](#)

[Infectious Salmon Anaemia Reported at Landcatch’s Ormsary Hatchery in November – was ISA imported via infected salmon eggs \(ova\) from Iceland?](#)

[Stop the Scottish Salmonemic - please avoid disease-ridden farmed salmon like the proverbial plague!](#)

[Heart & Pancreas Disease Ravage Scottish Salmon \(according to new Marine Scotland Science report\)](#)

[FOI Reveals Virus-Laden Salmon Slip Net & Into Scottish Waters](#)

[Virus-Laden Farmed Salmon - FOI reveals over half of samples test positive for Piscine Reovirus](#)