

[Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 5 September 2018

**Shine the Spotlight on Scottish Salmon
- Video & Photographic Evidence Opens Can of Worms**

As the Scottish Parliament meets in private to discuss salmon farming, campaigners are calling on the authorities to step up surveillance and scrutiny on Scottish salmon farms. [Shocking video](#) and [photographic evidence](#) obtained via [secret filming](#) and [Freedom of Information requests](#) has revealed widespread welfare abuse including lice-infestation, infectious diseases and deformities on salmon farms across Scotland.



Watch via [Secret Filming Inside Scottish Salmon Farms - Diseased & Deformed Farmed Salmon \(& Lice-Infested 'Cleaner Fish'\)](#)

Watch secret video footage from The Scottish Salmon Company's farm at Vacasay in Loch Roag via [Unhealthy salmon on a Scottish fish farm](#).



Read more via [Sick salmon at Scottish fish farm revealed on film](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch today called on the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and Police

Scotland's Wildlife Crime Unit to step up surveillance including monitoring and sampling at every active salmon farm in Scotland as a matter of urgency.

Ironically, the Scottish Parliament's Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee is [meeting today in private](#) to discuss a draft [report into salmon farming in Scotland](#) which is [expected to be published "in early autumn"](#). In March, the Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform Committee [published a damning report](#) on salmon farming [warning of "irrecoverable damage"](#).

"The shocking video and photographic evidence demands further investigation and urgent action to stop welfare abuse on Scottish salmon farms," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "Salmon farming cannot be allowed to evade public scrutiny and carry on killing both wild and farmed fish. There must be 24-hour video surveillance of sites in the second year of production when disease, lice infestation and welfare problems are at their worst. If the industry has nothing to hide then why don't salmon farms install web-cams inside the cages so the public can judge the health of Scottish salmon with their own eyes? With the RSPCA being paid [perhaps £1 million per year](#) by salmon farmers and the [SSPCA severely compromised](#), the relevant authorities must intervene immediately to ensure that the [Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) is being upheld."

Don Staniford [Tweeted](#) (4 September 2018):

 **Don Staniford**
@TheGAAlA

I have utmost confidence that the new chair of SSPCA - the head vet at Scottish Sea Farms bit.ly/2yLN0ZI - will thoroughly investigate claims of welfare abuse on Scottish salmon farms (including Scottish Sea Farms) bit.ly/2MMEUq3 Said no-one ever [@scotseafarms](#)



Sick salmon at Scottish fish farm revealed on film
Scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon caught on film at a fish farm off the island of Lewis have prompted an animal cruelty investigation.
[theferret.scot](#)

8:11 PM - 4 Sep 2018

Earlier this week, Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [published underwater video and photos](#) showing graphic evidence of wild salmon covered in parasites. Watch online via ["Wild salmon infested with lice in Scottish river"](#).



Read more via ["Wild Adult Salmon Run Decimated By Sea Lice"](#)

The shocking footage was followed up via:

Daily Mail: ["Suffering Salmon: Watchdog investigates farm over claims that more than 300,000 fish are infested with lice"](#)



BBC News: ["Campaigners claim fish farms are to blame for wild salmon deaths"](#)

BBC News: ["Footage shows 'lice-infested wild salmon'"](#)

Daily Mail: "[Salmon returned to river on Scottish island are infested with sea lice from local fish farms, claim campaigners](#)"

The Herald: "[Shocking images show parasite infested salmon as row over farming continues](#)"

The National: "[Scottish wild salmon 'under threat' over killer sea lice 'plague'](#)"

Sunday Post: "[WATCH: "Shocking" footage shows diseased and damaged fish on Scottish salmon farm](#)"

Press & Journal: "[VIDEO: Concerns raised over sea lice effects on wild salmon](#)"

This week, Scottish Salmon Watch released stomach-churning video footage shot on 1 September 2018 [showing maggot-infested farmed salmon in a mort bin](#) at Scottish Sea Farms' site at Tanera in the Summer Isles and footage [revealing mortars stinking out](#) The Scottish Salmon Company's site at Strondoir Bay in Loch Fyne (further video footage shot inside the cages will be [published soon](#)).



In August, The Ferret [revealed](#) that the [Scottish Salmon Company](#) and [Scottish Sea Farms](#) deployed lawyers in a bid to prevent Scottish ministers from releasing the photos of diseased and lice-infested farmed salmon under Freedom of Information law.

Read more via:

[Scottish Salmon Watch: "Secret Filming Reveals Shocking Images of Unhealthy Scottish Salmon"](#)

[REVEALED: Photos Shot Inside Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

[The Ferret: "Salmon firms bid to block diseased fish photos"](#)

[REVEALED: Legal Threats to Prevent Publication of Damning Photographs](#)

[Hard Evidence: Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(August 2018\)](#)

[Legal Complaint Vs Breaches of Animal Health & Welfare \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Horror photos of farmed salmon spark legal threat](#)

[EXPOSED: Gruesome Photos of Deformed & Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

[Hard Evidence - Photos of Diseased & Deformed Scottish Salmon \(June 2018\)](#)

[Hard-Evidence: Fast-Tracking Disease-Ridden Scottish Salmon](#)

[Hard Evidence: Dossier of Data on Lice, Diseases & Mortalities at Scottish Salmon Farms](#)

Scottish Salmon's Diary of Disaster:

September 2018 - The Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee is [expected to publish a report](#) as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

September 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [publishes secret filming footage](#) shot at three salmon farms showing deformities, lice-infestation of both farmed salmon and 'cleaner fish' and wild fish living inside salmon cages.

September 2018 - The Ferret [publishes scarred, frayed and lice-infested salmon caught on film](#) at a salmon farm in Loch Roag prompting animal cruelty investigations.

September 2018 - Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland [show graphic video evidence](#) of wild salmon "smothered with many hundreds of sea lice" near salmon farms on the Isle of Lewis.

August 2018 - A report - "[Fish Welfare on Scotland's Salmon Farms](#)" - published by OneKind exposed a number of [welfare breaches](#) including mass mortality, sea lice infestations, disease and escapes.

August 2018 - Mortality data [published by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation](#) revealed shocking levels of mortalities [due to gill health, diseases and anaemia](#) with a jaw-dropping [58% mortality rate reported at the Scottish Salmon Company's site at Inch Kenneth](#).

July 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [filed a legal complaint](#) with Police Scotland for breaches of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms, The Scottish Salmon Company, Cooke Aquaculture, Grieg Seafood and Loch Duart.

June 2018 - Gruesome photos of deformed, disfigured, damaged and diseased farmed salmon were [published by The Ferret](#) following a [FOI disclosure by the Scottish Government](#).

May 2018 - Scottish Salmon Watch [revealed](#) that salmon farms in Scotland were fast-tracking the harvesting of fish due to infectious diseases, lice infestation and mortalities.

May 2018 - A [43,000-strong petition by SumOfUs](#) calling for the testing of salmon farming operations for infectious diseases, pathogens and viruses was [delivered to the Scottish Government](#).

March 2018 - A [dossier of data on lice, diseases and mortalities](#) was submitted to the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee as part of the Scottish Parliament's [inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#).

March 2018 - A [damning report on the environmental impacts of salmon farming](#) was published by the Scottish Parliament's [Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee](#) who warned of "[irrecoverable damage](#)".

February 2018 - Data disclosed via FOI [revealed](#) mortality and disease problems at salmon farms operated by Marine Harvest, Scottish Sea Farms and The Scottish Salmon Company.

January 2018 - A [Parliamentary Reply from Fergus Ewing revealed](#) that the mortality rate on Scottish salmon farms was a staggering 26.7% with nearly 13 million dead farmed salmon.

January 2018 - The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture [filed a complaint with the European Commission](#) regarding a breach of the Animal By-Products Regulations and the failure to properly police the transport of dead farmed salmon.

December 2017 - The BBC's 'One Show' [broadcast damning footage](#) of leaking haulage trucks disposing of diseased farmed salmon on '[The Dead Salmon Run](#)'.

November 2017 - The Sunday Herald [revealed](#) that the tonnages of dead farmed salmon that had to be disposed of has more than doubled from 10,599 tonnes in 2013 to a record high of 22,479 in 2016 (the Herald [revealed](#) in March 2018 that over 25,000 tonnes died in 2017).

July 2017 - [Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland estimated](#) that 20 million farmed salmon die each year on salmon farms despite ca. 70% of the salmon farming industry being certified as RSPCA Assured.



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