

[Scottish Salmon Watch](#), 25 March 2019

The Sorry State of Scottish Salmon Farming in 2018



A new report - '[The State of Scottish Farming in 2018](#)' - provides a shocking snapshot of disease, mortality and welfare problems plaguing salmon farms across Scotland.



"2019 is '[International Year of the Salmon](#)' but 2018 was the year Scottish salmon farming shamed the world," said Don Staniford, [Director of Scottish Salmon Watch](#). "This report - [sourced entirely from data published by the Scottish Government](#) - reveals the horrifying scale of infectious diseases, viruses, pathogens and mortalities plaguing salmon farms around Scotland. Dare lift up the kilt of Scottish salmon and you're in for a [gruesome sight](#)."

Last week (21 March) Sir David Attenborough cited the spread of parasites, diseases and escapes at Scottish salmon farms threatening the very survival of wild salmon in a [video promoting 'The International Year of the Salmon'](#).



Later this week (29 March), Scotland's largest salmon farming company [Mowi](#) (formerly Marine Harvest) features in a panel discussion at the Fisheries Management Scotland [conference in Edinburgh](#) (programme and registration available [online here](#)).

Scottish Salmon Watch has trawled through hundreds of pages of Fish Health Inspectorate 'Case Information' [published by the Scottish Government](#) revealing mass mortalities (known as 'morts'), infectious diseases, pathogens, viruses and lice infestations at salmon farms inspected by the Fish Health Inspectorate during 2018.

The following were reported on Scottish salmon farms during 2018: Piscine reovirus (Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation), Salmon gill poxvirus, Piscine myocarditis virus (Cardiomyopathy Syndrome), Neoparamoeba perurans (Amoebic Gill Disease), Epitheliocystis, Proliferative Gill Disease, Enteric Redmouth (Yersinosis), Paranucleospora theridon, Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis virus, Salmonid Alphavirus (Pancreas Disease), Candidatus Branchiomonas cysticola, Candidatus Piscichlamydia salmonis, Candidatus Syngnamydia salmonis, Candidatus Clavochlamydia Salmonicola, Vibrio, Pasteurella skyensis, Moritella toxemia (Winter Ulcer Disease), Aeromonas salmonicida (Furunculosis), Anaemia, Fungus and Lice [1].

Specific cases reported by the Fish Health Inspectorate during 2018 include:

October and November 2018: 50,000+ morts at the Scottish Sea Farms Loch Nevis salmon farm due to Salmon Gill Poxvirus, "complex gill pathology" and possible Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation

September 2018: Proliferative Gill Disease, "heavy lice loads" and Fungus at Scottish Sea Farms in Loch Creran with 7,000 morts ("many fish with white heads and some fish with red heads" and "High morts on input in AquaGen cages attributed to fungus")

September 2018: 6,904 morts at Scottish Sea Farms Lismore North site with Piscine Reovirus (Heart & Skeletal Muscle Inflammation) cited in report along with Amoebic Gill

Disease, Paranucleospora theriodon, Salmon Gill Pox, Moritella toxaemia, Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis virus, Candidatus Branchimonas cysticola, Candidatus Syngamydia salmonis and Candidatus Piscichlamydia salmonis

August 2018: 117,000 morts at Cooke Aquaculture's hatchery at Furnace on Loch Fyne due to Gill Pox Virus. "Site may no longer hatch own eggs due to historic issues with salmon gill pox on site" stated a Fish Health Inspectorate report.

July 2018: 10,000+ morts at The Scottish Salmon Company's site in Outer Eport following a Hydrogen Peroxide treatment and "high lice load" (Salmonid Alphavirus, Amoebic Gill Disease and Salmon Gill Poxvirus were all reported along with fish with "damaged/missing eyes" and "all fish had very high Caligus numbers")



Caligus

June 2018: 159,000 morts at the Scottish Sea Farms hatchery at Knock (Isle of Mull) due to Candidatus Clavochlamydia Salmonicola

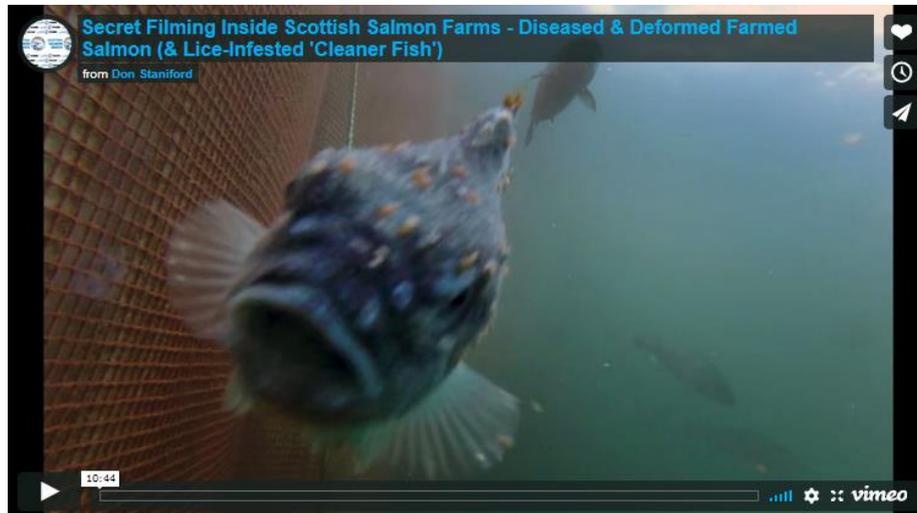
March and April 2018: 231,000 morts (13.6% of stock) at Marine Harvest's Eilean Grianain (Carradale) site due to "abrasion and scale loss" following the 'Beast from the East' storm



January to March 2018: 105,000+ morts at Marine Harvest's Loch Greshornish due to lice skirts causing poor gill health and Anaemia (Proliferative Gill Disease, Cardiomyopathy Syndrome and Amoebic Gill Disease also reported)

The report reveals that Grieg Seafood stopped using [lice skirts](#) during 2018 at various sites in Shetland "as they believe that this has compromised the gills and has resulted in increased gill damage" which "is in line with the finding of some Grieg sites in Norway".

Watch video footage of [lice-infested 'cleaner fish' and farmed salmon inside a Scottish Sea Farms site fitted with a lice skirt](#) in Loch Spelve in August 2018 - [online here](#)



A Scottish Sea Farms site at Slocka Ronas Voe in Shetland had lice problems exacerbated by a [Stingray optical delouser](#) which is [claimed to kill 'Superlice'](#). "During previous cycle all cages were stocked with sea lice skirts and half of the cages also had the Stingray system in place," stated the report. "The Stingray system wasn't reported to be effective during this trial and sea lice counts were higher in some of the cages with Stingray than those without."

"The Scottish Government's plans to [double or even treble salmon farming production by 2030](#) are dead in the water along with the [15-20 million farmed salmon](#) which die every year inside [Scotland's lice-infested cages](#)," [concluded Staniford](#). "Shame on 'Scottish' salmon farming and shame on the Scottish Government for protecting and promoting an industry in such a sorry state. Read and weep at the scale of the salmon farming industry's problems with pathogens, parasites, viruses, infectious diseases and mass mortalities."



Watch video reports from Don Staniford [online here](#) - including:



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Notes to Editors:

[1] Here's some of the infectious diseases, pathogens, parasites and viruses reported at salmon farms in Scotland during 2018:

Piscine reovirus (PRV)

Pool Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
P1	18.18	26.13	25.93	26.06	Positive

Salmon gill poxvirus (SGPV)

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	21.93	23.26	23.26	23.04	POSITIVE
F2	22.60	23.66	23.22	23.69	POSITIVE
F3	22.40	28.39	28.67	28.63	POSITIVE
F4	22.25	30.55	29.78	30.39	POSITIVE
F5	21.75	32.62	32.18	32.55	POSITIVE

Paranucleospora theridion

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	21.93	30.48	30.66	30.46	POSITIVE
F2	22.60	36.03	36.19	35.55	POSITIVE
F3	22.40	37.26	36.18	36.96	POSITIVE
F4	22.25	36.21	36.14	35.61	POSITIVE
F5	21.75	31.95	31.4	31.5	POSITIVE

Piscine myocarditis virus (CMS)

Pool Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
P1	15.68	23.58	23.60	23.81	POSITIVE

Neoparamoeba perurans (AGD)

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	20.32	29.67	29.78	29.86	POSITIVE
F2	20.26	31.65	32.24	32.10	POSITIVE
F3	19.95	28.06	27.96	27.90	POSITIVE
F4	21.29	30.01	29.85	30.15	POSITIVE
F5	20.81	26.92	27.17	27.31	POSITIVE

Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV)

Pool Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
P1	16.12	37.37	37.38	37.39	POSITIVE

Candidatus Branchiomonas cysticola

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	22.21	22.60	22.63	22.65	POSITIVE
F2	21.83	20.91	20.91	20.98	POSITIVE
F3	22.04	21.80	21.73	21.78	POSITIVE
F4	20.48	19.35	19.85	20.35	POSITIVE
F5	20.96	20.62	21.06	20.25	POSITIVE

Candidatus Piscichlamydia slamonis

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	22.21	36.32	35.88	36.38	POSITIVE
F2	21.83	34.42	34.19	34.75	POSITIVE
F3	22.04	35.88	35.76	36.20	POSITIVE
F4	20.48	33.51	33.61	33.13	POSITIVE
F5	20.96	34.24	34.82	34.32	POSITIVE

Candidatus Syngnamydia salmonis

Fish Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
F1	22.21	27.26	27.27	27.29	POSITIVE
F2	21.83	26.17	25.97	26.15	POSITIVE
F3	22.04	26.88	26.89	26.82	POSITIVE
F4	20.48	28.31	28.25	28.49	POSITIVE
F5	20.96	27.93	27.58	27.80	POSITIVE

Salmonid alphavirus (SAV)

Pool Number	Endogenous control Cp value	Cp Values			Reported Result (PCR)
P1	15.65	21.53	21.49	21.57	POSITIVE

Read in full via ['The State of Scottish Farming in 2018'](#)