

From: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>
Sent: 14 September 2020 13:18
To: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>; MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <<REDACTED> @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Video evidence of welfare abuse at Kames

Hi,

I would agree with <REDACTED>. The decision surrounding a welfare issue should be made by APHA colleagues, probably on the basis of the actions taken by the APB. It may have helped this determination if all the allegations in the email were corroborated by video footage.

On another note the APB should be concerned that uninvited visitors to their sites can access the cages and remove fish from the facilities. Perhaps the site security and storage of equipment/mortalities should be reviewed and improved at both the site and shorebase. This may require a review of the BMP during any future attendance at the site.

Cheers
<REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>
Sent: 14 September 2020 13:06
To: MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>; <REDACTED> <REDACTED> @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Video evidence of welfare abuse at Kames

Hi <REDACTED>

Thanks for this. I suggest you respond very briefly to <REDACTED> acknowledging that we have received his email and that this has been passed on for further discussion.

Separately, I would suggest circulating this to all FHI, <REDACTED> and aquaculture / health and welfare policy colleagues.

You are correct, the remit of welfare investigation does fall with APHA, but in the past we have accompanied them on such visits, to facilitate with legal access issues I think, and to check legal fish health requirements are being fulfilled. It would be worth contacting APHA about this situation and discussing what plans they have in terms of follow up investigation and any input required from ourselves. We can let the wider MS group know we have / will undertake APHA contact when we inform them of the situation.

That would be my suggestion on handling at present.

Thanks
<REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> <REDACTED> @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** MS FishHealth
Sent: 14 September 2020 12:42
To: <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>; <REDACTED> (MARLAB) <REDACTED> @gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Video evidence of welfare abuse at Kames

Hi,

Do I need to respond to <REDACTED> ? If so, could you advise me on the response? He has already emailed APHA and as it's a welfare complaint, I'm guessing it is more their remit than ours?

<REDACTED>

From: <REDACTED> <<REDACTED> @gmail.com>

Sent: 12 September 2020 13:19

To: MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>; SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <enquiries@apha.gov.uk>; APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk; SCD Wildlife Crime <SCDWildlifeCrime@scotland.pnn.police.uk>

Subject: Video evidence of welfare abuse at Kames

Here's the video evidence as promised in my formal complaint filed earlier this morning - please watch the video footage in conjunction with the complaint.

<https://vimeo.com/457215999/c9b1f7d4c1>

<https://vimeo.com/457223750/1fd51cac54>

Thanks,

<REDACTED>

<REDACTED> Scottish Salmon Watch

On Saturday, September 12, 2020, <REDACTED> <REDACTED> @gmail.com> wrote: Please consider this an official complaint against Kames Fish Farm for unnecessary suffering and failure to ensure the welfare of animals under their care in Loch Tralaig in Argyll (just South of Oban off the A816).

I visited Kames Fish Farm in Loch Tralaig - a freshwater loch with a dam operated by Scottish Power (the cages are located just by the dam with easy access out from a beach where a car can be parked close by).

At 8am on Thursday (10 September 2020) I witnessed horrific welfare abuse - with farmed salmon floating dead and dying on the surface of all four cages. When the Kames Fish Farm workers arrived at 9.30am they spent their time filling feeding containers and lifting one of the nets to apply carcinogenic Formaldehyde instead of dealing with the fish welfare problem. I watched and was shocked at their complete disregard for dying fish belly up on the surface of their farm.

Kames Fish Farm workers failed to safeguard animal welfare and promoted unnecessary suffering of the fish. Scottish Salmon Watch believes the actions - or the lack of them - by Kames Fish Farm represents a breach of the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Section 19 is "Unnecessary Suffering" and Section 24 is "Ensuring Welfare of Animals" - Kames Fish Farm are breaching both and must be prosecuted.

The welfare abuse by Kames Fish Farm occurs on a daily basis - and has done so since they stocked the farm in early July. Scottish Salmon Watch understands that the reason for Kames Fish Farm not to euthanize dying fish in clear pain immediately is because after the treatment with Formaldehyde many more mortalities occur.

Scottish Salmon Watch has video footage of the welfare abuse highlighted above and video footage of bins full of morts at Kames Fish Farm land base near Kilmelford.

Video footage and photographic evidence has been recorded on an almost daily basis by a local resident in Loch Tralaig (Save Our Lochs has posted regularly on Twitter). I understand the farmed salmon are suffering from Saprolegnia but may have other disease and pathogen problems.

Scottish Salmon Watch urges APHA, the Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit and the Fish Health Inspectorate to intervene immediately to end ongoing welfare abuse and unnecessary suffering at Kames Fish Farm in Loch Tralaig.

I am currently in the field but am on <REDACTED> if you require any other details. I can share video footage hopefully later today.

Please help stop further welfare abuse by Kames Fish Farm. The Loch Tralaig salmon farm is a crime against nature and one of the worst examples of welfare abuse Scottish Salmon Watch has ever encountered. If the fish - which have been shown to be sentient beings capable of experiencing pain and suffering - could speak then they would be screaming: "Kames Fish Farm is criminal".

Thanks,

<REDACTED>

<REDACTED> Scottish Salmon Watch

Scottish Government issued statement

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Following a joint inspection by the Fish Health Inspectorate and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the allegations relating to animal welfare concerns will be investigated by APHA.

“Our 10-year Farmed Fish Health Framework aims to significantly improve the health of farmed fish in Scotland and should lead to a significant reduction in mortality.

“The Framework commits industry, government, vets, trade associations and Scotland’s Aquaculture Innovation Centre to work together to provide a strategic, evidence-based approach to the short- and long-term improvement of fish health in Scotland.”