

Disposal of Category 2 Waste in Shetland

Background

Shetland produces about 40,000T of head on gutted salmon per annum. This is equivalent to a live weight production of approximately 48,000T per annum. Annual category 2 waste produced during this process is estimated to be in the region of 2,000 to 3,000 tonnes per annum. Production of this waste is very volatile and in some months production is very low (~100T) and in others very large (>1,000T). To date this waste has been mainly disposed of to landfill. It is likely that this will no longer be an option after the 1st of January 2016 and an alternative route will need to be found. At present the only other routes are incineration at the waste to energy plant (3T/day, 750T/annum capacity) or transport to the Scottish mainland for disposal. Transport to the Scottish mainland is by road tankers travelling on the Northlink ferry, which is a passenger and freight (mostly food freight) ferry. The transportation of category 2 waste by this route, even in sealed tankers which are washed down prior to travel is clearly less than ideal. It is unknown if there is sufficient capacity on the ferry to accept tanker loads at all times.

Proposal

The three main salmon producers in Shetland, Scottish Seafarms, Cooke and Grieg Seafoods intend to set up a waste handling facility on the island which will allow the storage and disposal of ensiled category 2 waste by a specialist waste carrier in dedicated vessels. Each farming area will establish a macerating and ensiling point where fish waste can be rendered. Small storage facilities (~30T) will be available at each of these points. This waste will be transported by road to a central storage point on the island (>500T) from where the waste will be picked up by a specialist waste carrying vessel and taken to Norway directly for disposal. In order to achieve this aim the following milestones must be met:

- Identify a suitable central storage facility (by end Nov 2015)
- Order macerating and ensiling equipment and small storage tanks (by end Nov 2015)
- Gain planning permission for construction of central storage facility (by end Mar 2016)
- Establish local macerating and ensiling equipment (by end Apr 2016)
- Construct central storage facility (by end June 2016)

It is clear that it is not possible to establish the required facilities before the end of December 2015 when landfilling is expected to cease. We would therefore ask for a 6 month extension to landfilling in Shetland only to allow us to put the infrastructure in place to allow the industry a suitable alternative route of disposal for category 2 waste in Shetland.