

MSPs KICK UP A STINK OVER FISH

Salmon farms 'eco threat'

By **CHRISTINE LAVELLE**
Scottish Political Reporter



Environmental fears . . . fish in pen

SCOTLAND'S salmon industry is risking "irrecoverable damage" to the environment, a scathing Holyrood report says.

Bosses want to ramp up intensive farming around coastlines but MSPs are concerned about the impact on pollution, fish health and wild species.

The Scottish Parliament's Environment Committee heard of issues such as sea lice infestations and poo from crammed pens covering the seabeds.

A report following its inquiry said plans to grow production from 163,000 tonnes in 2016 to up to 400,000 by 2030 places "huge pressures" on our oceans.

It said: "The committee is concerned that the growth is taking place without an understanding of the environment.

"If the issues are not addressed this expansion will be unsustainable and may cause irrecoverable damage." MSPs

found a lack of knowledge and research relating to the industry and were not convinced it was regulated properly. Campaigner Don Staniford claimed: "Expansion plans are dead in the water along with the millions of diseased salmon which die each year."

But the Scottish Salmon Producers' Association, which contributes £2billion to the economy, said it spends over £60million annually "managing health and environmental problems". The Nats say all evidence will be considered.

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Pupil, 7 walks off

A BOY of seven walked out of school and went home two miles away before staff even knew he had gone.

Kris James had to navigate busy main roads after exiting the gates during school hours.

His dad Colin, 31, from Stockport, said: "It has knocked us sick. It looks like they didn't even realise he was missing until we made them aware."

A spokesman for Larkhall primary said it launched an immediate investigation and put into place measures so it could not happen again.

He added: "The head-teacher has apologised profusely to the parents."

Working on grief

MORE than half of people feel pressured to return to work after a bereavement, a survey claims.

Some 58 per cent said they were not given enough time to grieve by their employers.

Almost a third (30 per cent) said they needed more than two weeks off before they were ready to go back.

A similar number (31 per cent) felt they had to justify their grief when someone outside of their immediate family died.

Almost half (46 per cent) said people avoided them after they were bereaved, according to a poll of 2,000 adults for Co-op Funeralcare.

FAIL HITTLER

By GARY O'SHEA

'ALLO 'Allo, what's all this then? An Adolf Hitler impersonator and his Nazi henchmen are out of goose-step with good taste as they drive a jalopy at a carnival in the Dominican Republic. They might think it's Sieg Heil-y funny, but it's really not all Reich.

Gestap-no . . . Nazis in parade car

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