

**SCOTTISH
SALMON WATCH**



WELFARE

To:
Animal & Plant Health Agency
Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Unit
Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate

Date: Monday 10 May 2021

Subject: Welfare Complaint re. RSPCA Assured Loch Spelve Salmon Farm (Dalnaha) operated by M&S supplier Scottish Sea Farms

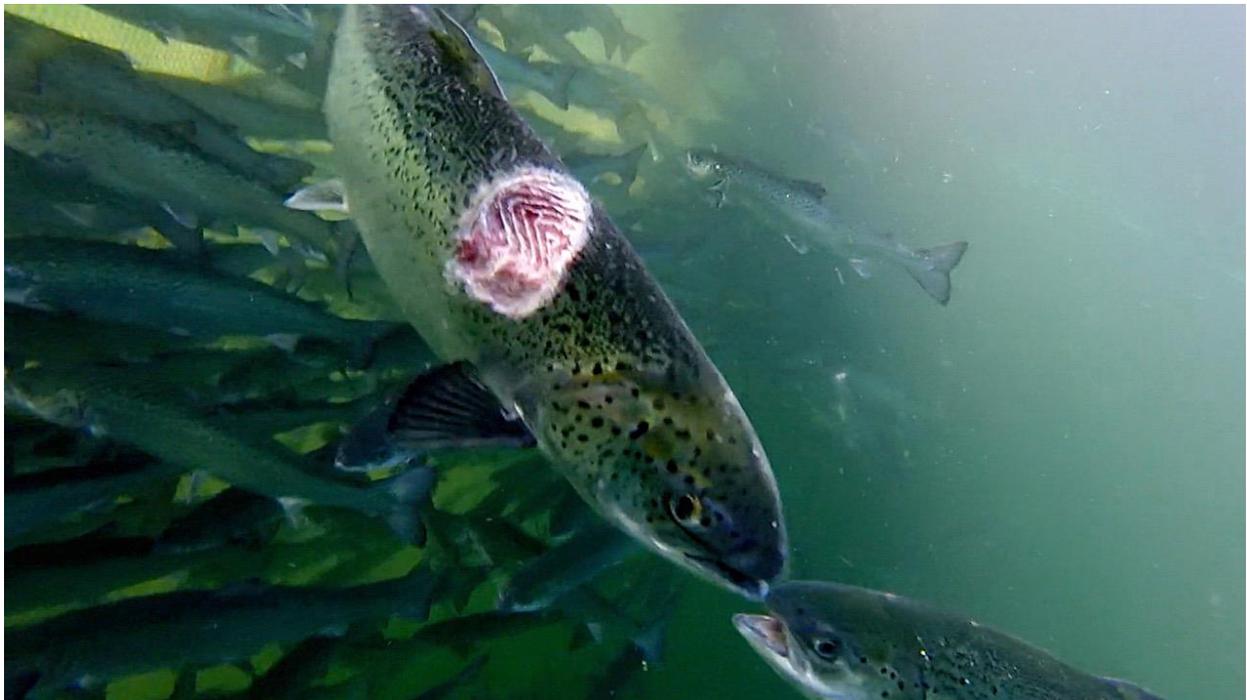
Please consider this an official welfare complaint against Scottish Sea Farms (Norskott Havbruk) for breaches of the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) in relation to their RSPCA Assured salmon farm in Loch Spelve (Dalnaha).

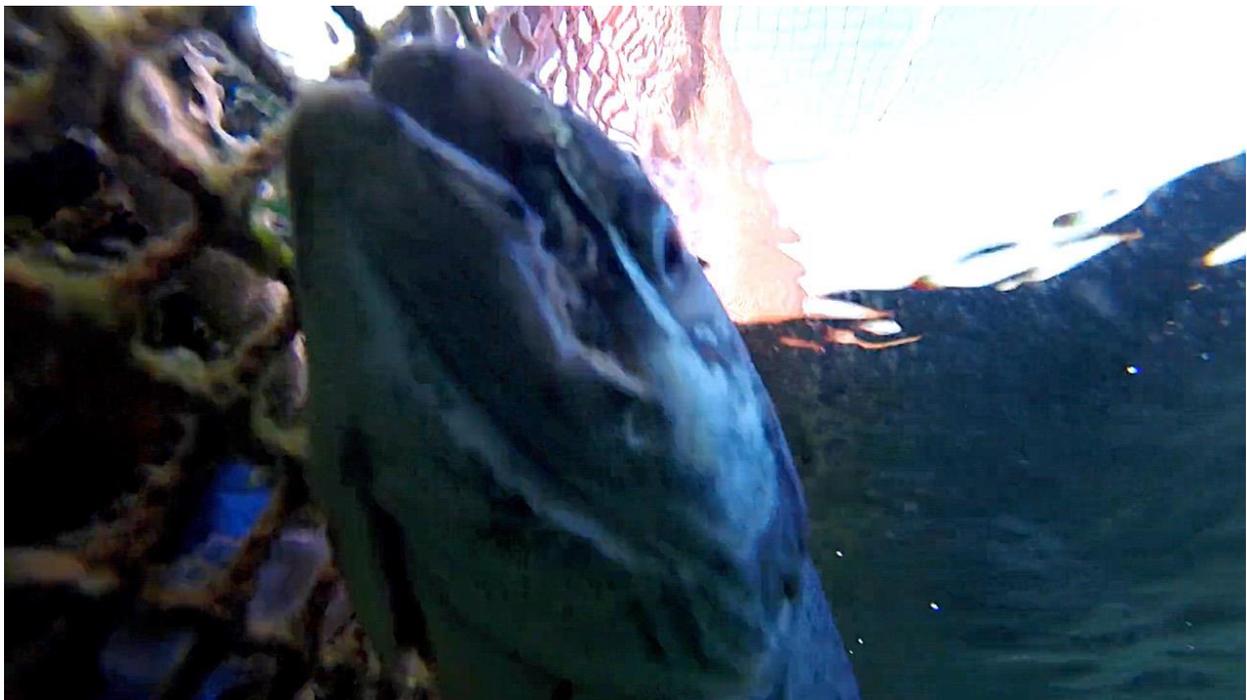
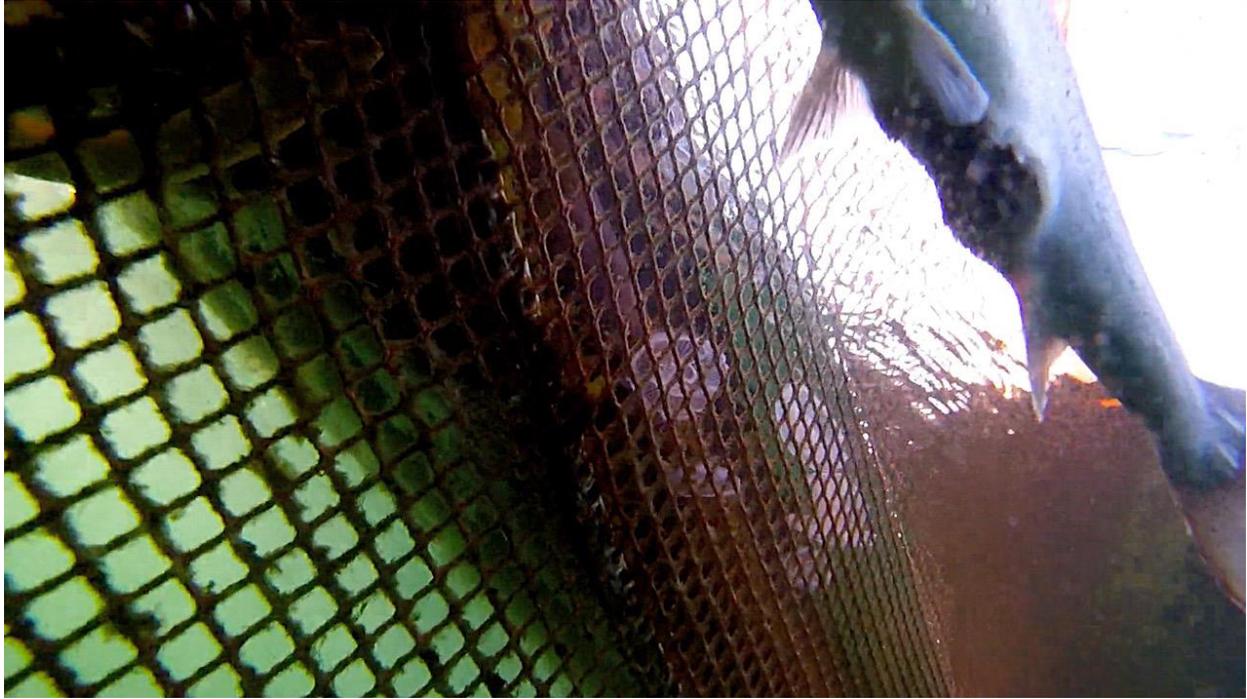
Scottish Salmon Watch filmed at the site – which supplies Marks & Spencer with ‘Lochmuir’ “responsibly sourced” salmon and is accredited via RSPCA Assured (formerly Freedom Food) – on Friday evening ca. 7pm (7 May 2021). Video footage gathered from one of the cages – we only filmed at 2 out of the 12 cages – detailed what we believe constitutes a breach of [Section 19](#) (“Unnecessary suffering”) and [Section 24](#) (“Ensuring welfare of animals”).

Video footage clearly shows fin damage, skin lesions, open wounds (which may be Winter Ulcer), mouth rot, lice infestation and indicates welfare and disease problems.



Here's photo stills from the [video footage](#) so you can make a judgment about the state of welfare inside the RSPCA Assured salmon farm:





Scottish Salmon Watch only filmed at 2 cages out of the 12 cages and our filming lasted less than an hour and was at a depth of less than 3 metres (mostly shot at 2 metres depth). We filmed at the Eastern cages towards the entrance to Loch Spelve and the middle cage produced the worst video footage – watch [online here](#)

Compassion in World Farming [filmed at 22 salmon farms from September to December 2020](#) and it is understood ([via a FOI disclosure by the Animal & Plant Health Agency in April 2021](#)) that Loch Spelve salmon farm was subject to a welfare complaint in October 2020.

Last month, Scottish Salmon Watch [wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) raising serious concerns about the quality and quantity of salmon farm 'inspections' including evidence of prior knowledge of welfare inspections by the Animal & Plant Health Agency. Our concerns included documentary evidence (via emails) of salmon farming companies being tipped off in advance of 'inspections' including Kames and Scottish Sea Farms.

Scottish Salmon Watch therefore ask that inspectors assign this complaint as 'High Priority' and inspect the Loch Spelve salmon farm this week and do not alert Scottish Sea Farms prior to any visit. In media messaging we will redact the name of the salmon farm in the hope that Scottish Sea Farms do not have time to clear the site and harvest diseased and abused fish before any inspection (as has been the case previously).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Please acknowledge receipt of this welfare complaint against RSPCA Assured Scottish Sea Farms.

Thanks,

Don Staniford

Director, Scottish Salmon Watch