



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Tavish Scott  
Chief Executive  
Salmon Scotland

**9 October 2024**

Dear Tavish,

### Follow-up points from salmon industry evidence session

Thank you for attending a meeting of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee on Wednesday 2 October 2024 to give evidence on the Committee's follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland.

As you will recall, there were a number of points during our evidence session in which panellists agreed to provide further information to the Committee via follow-up correspondence. I have noted these points below:

1. Dr Ralph Dickerdike undertook to confirm the survival rate before and after the removal of dead fish as reported by the media from Scottish Sea Farms' Dunstaffnage site.<sup>i</sup>
2. Dr Ralph Dickerdike committed to clarifying whether the 0.55% mortality rate reported on the Dunstaffnage farm during the week of the Committee's visit was based on the farms current number of fish or the initial stock.<sup>ii</sup>
3. Dr Ralph Dickerdike said he would provide details of the timetable for the stages of the 2022 production cycle at Dunstaffnage fish farm.<sup>iii</sup>
4. The Committee would welcome an update on discussions regarding the future of Bakkafrost processing site in Stornoway and what steps are being taken to ensure jobs are being protected.<sup>iv</sup>
5. You agreed to provide figures regarding the local economic output of salmon farming across individual local authority areas.<sup>v</sup>
6. In response to a question from Emma Roddick MSP, you undertook to share further information on the ongoing review of the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.<sup>vi</sup>
7. You agreed to respond to concerns highlighted by a respondent regarding the accuracy of mortality data.<sup>vii</sup> [A link to the submission can be found here.](#)
8. Dr Ralph Dickerdike said he would clarify mortality figures at Scottish Sea Farms' Dunstaffnage site.<sup>viii</sup>

In addition, following the conclusion of the evidence session, the Committee agreed to write with further questions arising from its discussion of the evidence.

Contact: Rural Affairs and Islands Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email: [rural.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rural.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

9. What interventions and monitoring are applied by producers at sites reporting a high mortality event or above average mortality rates to prevent reoccurrence.
10. Examples of “long-term strategic changes” fish farmers are introducing in accordance with the commitment under Salmon Scotland’s Fish Health Plan.
11. Further to comments made in relation to Salmon Scotland’s commitment to be open and transparent, whether calculations for industry reported mortality rates for each farm take into account the following:
  - a. the presence of disease or other health issues;
  - b. fish added as replacement stock throughout the production cycle to bring pens in line with optimal stocking density.

The Committee would appreciate a response to the above points by **25 October 2024**.

Yours sincerely,



**Finlay Carson MSP**  
**Convener**

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- <sup>i</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 7.
  - <sup>ii</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 10.
  - <sup>iii</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 21.
  - <sup>iv</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), cols 32-33.
  - <sup>v</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 37.
  - <sup>vi</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 58.
  - <sup>vii</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), cols 59-60.
  - <sup>viii</sup> Rural Affairs and Islands Committee. [Official Report, Wednesday 2 October 2024](#), col 63.