

Salmon farming in Scotland

Letter from Cooke Scotland, 30 May 2024

I am writing to you to bring attention to the upcoming inquiry into Scottish salmon farming conducted by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee (RAIC). With the inquiry approaching, I believe it is crucial to highlight the significant contributions of the salmon farming sector to the Scottish economy, employment, and sustainable food production.

The Scottish salmon sector directly employs over 2,500 people, sustaining a further 10,000 directly-dependent jobs across Scotland. The sector's supply chain is extensive, involving over 3,600 Scottish companies based across the country. These businesses play a vital role in supporting the success of the salmon farming sector and are conducive to making Scottish salmon the most valuable UK food export, contributing in excess of £760 million to the Scottish economy.

As one of the leading producers of world-renowned Scottish salmon, and the largest producer of organic Scottish salmon, Cooke Scotland keeps remote communities viable by providing skilled, well-paid, and rewarding jobs throughout our operations in the north and west of Scotland, and the north of England. As one of the largest employers on Scotland's Northern Isles, our local investment keeps people and their families on the islands, attracts new people to live there, helps businesses to thrive and schools to stay open, while further sustaining the uptake of local shops, cafes and ferries.

At Cooke, sustainability and the health and welfare of our fish are at the heart of everything we do. We invest significantly in ensuring the health and welfare of our salmon as we continue to grow responsibly by maintaining consistently high standards. Our commitment to responsible aquaculture practices further ensures that we deliver high-quality, sustainable seafood while safeguarding the environment and supporting local communities.

As the inquiry approaches, I ask for your support in highlighting the importance of Scottish salmon farming to our economy and communities. Your support on behalf of our sector can help ensure that the Committee fully understands the valuable contributions of salmon producers like us and the critical role we play in Scotland's food and drink industry.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to work together to support the continued success of the Scottish salmon farming sector.