

# **Salmon farming in Scotland**

## **Letter from Gael Force Group, 29 May 2024**

I am writing to you as a business owner and active participant in the Scottish salmon farming supply chain within the rural Highlands and Islands of Scotland. As a proud member of the local business community, I am keen to bring to your attention some work conducted by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee (RAIC) reviewing the Scottish salmon sector.

The Committee has outlined a comprehensive workplan for a continuation to the inquiry, which includes examining various aspects of the salmon farming sector and its implications for our economy, environment, and communities. As an active business in the supply chain, I am particularly invested in ensuring that the Committee recognises the vital role that businesses like mine play in supporting the success and sustainability of Scottish salmon production.

Our company, Gael Force Group, a supply partner of equipment, technology, and services, has been an integral part of the aquaculture supply chain for 40 years. We are proud to employ 160 hardworking individuals from the local community and have consistently strived to contribute positively to the growth and development of the sector. We also rely on hundreds of our own suppliers which, in turn, will be impacted by the success (or otherwise) of the Scottish salmon sector.

It is worth noting that the Scottish salmon supply chain comprises over 3,600 businesses, each playing a unique and essential role in supporting the success of the sector as a whole. Every constituency across Scotland has some link to aquaculture through the supply chain meaning that Scottish salmon farming has a positive impact on every community across the country.

From suppliers of equipment and feed to transportation services, boat builders and marketing agencies, businesses like ours are instrumental in ensuring the continued growth and prosperity of Scottish aquaculture.

In light of the upcoming Committee work, I kindly request your support in highlighting the importance of the supply chain to the Scottish economy. Your advocacy and representation on behalf of businesses like mine can help ensure that the Committee is fully informed about the significant contributions of the supply chain to the success of the sector.

Thank you for considering my request. I am hopeful that with your support, we can collectively work towards promoting the interests and prosperity of the aquaculture supply chain in Scotland