

Salmon farming in Scotland

Letter from Inverlussa Marine Services

Dear Mr Carson,

As Managing Director of Inverlussa Marine Services, I am writing to you to highlight the importance of the upcoming work being conducted by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee in reviewing the Scottish salmon sector. As the review seeks to examine the implications of the Scottish salmon sector on the Scottish economy, environment and communities, it is key to understand the benefits local businesses like ours both gain from the salmon industry, and are also able to give back into the Scottish economy as a result.

Inverlussa Marine Services is a family owned and run business based in the Isle of Mull. We now own and operate 22 specialised aquaculture vessels, with a further 3 vessels due to join our fleet in the next 18 months. We value supporting our communities and as our business has expanded, so too has our ability to employ crew from our local Highlands and Islands. Our vessels are crewed and supported by our 135 employees, a number which continues to grow alongside the company. Our crew have an average salary of £47,400 and are also supported in training and certification alongside this. Inverlussa's ability to provide these skilled, well paid jobs reflects the growth of Scotland's aquaculture sector over the years and continuation of this sector success is essential to the communities in which we operate.

Inverlussa were the first company to introduce hybrid and low emission vessels into the sector in 2020. Since then, all of our new build vessels have been designed and constructed with hybrid systems and we have additionally converted a number of our vessels across to battery hybrid. We therefore now operate one of the cleanest fleets of vessels in the UK. Investments such as this drive developments within the sector which positively reflect environmental and social advancement.

Inverlussa were recently awarded Aquaculture Supplier of the Year 2024 and having invested £33 million in the past 2 years on new vessels for the aquaculture sector, our work evidently plays an integral part in the industry. Overall, the Scottish salmon supply chain comprises over 3,600 businesses, each playing a unique and essential role in supporting the success of the industry. With sustainability of the salmon farms and animal welfare being of highest priority to all those involved, every part of the supply chain works together to achieve this overarching aim. Every constituency across Scotland is linked to this supply chain in some way and so, Scottish salmon farming has a positive impact on every community across the country.

As a serious investor in the Scottish aquaculture sector, Inverlussa are proud to be a key supply chain member in such a successful Scottish product. However, our ambitions for growth and our long-term viability relies on the sector continuing to grow; the current restrictions being created by regulators are a risk to the sector and homegrown businesses like Inverlussa.

Therefore, in light of the upcoming Committee work, I kindly ask for your support in highlighting the importance of the aquaculture supply chain to the Scottish economy. Your representation on behalf of businesses like ours can help ensure everyone is fully informed on the significant contributions of the supply chain to the success of Scottish aquaculture and moreover, to the Scottish economy.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Wilson
Managing Director