

Salmon farming in Scotland

Letter from Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd, 27 May 2024

I am writing to you as a business owner and active participant in the Scottish salmon farming supply chain within your constituency. Specifically, I represent:

- Inverkerry Hatchery, Gairloch, Wester Ross
- Ormsary Fish Farm, Lochgilphead, Argyll
- Clachbreac Fish Farm, Lochgilphead, Argyll

I have written in similar terms to Maree Todd MSP given that our business covers both your constituencies.

I would like to bring to your attention the work conducted by the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee (RAIC) in reviewing the Scottish salmon sector. The Committee has outlined a comprehensive workplan for continuing 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, Landcatch Natural Selection, has been an integral part of the aquaculture supply chain since the 1980s. We are a breeding company that provides services to domestic and international companies, selecting and fertilising salmon for generational improvement. With our unique sites on the West coast of Scotland, we rear a unique nucleus strain for Bakkafrøst Scotland, named Native Hebridean. Additionally, we provide the Scottish salmon industry with five million juvenile salmon grown in our freshwater hatcheries, which are then transferred to the sea to be grown for human consumption.

We are proud to employ 27 hardworking individuals from the local community and have consistently strived to contribute positively to the growth and development of the sector. Over the past five years, we have invested £4 million in capital infrastructure, and we plan to invest another £4 million in 2024 and 2025. We also rely on many local businesses which, in turn, are impacted by the success of the Scottish salmon sector. Some of these include:

- Ormsary Farmers and Inver Farmers: They generate hydroelectric power to run the fish farms and have constructed and maintained 47 houses for their and our staff. They also employ five engineers who cover work on our sites as well as the hydropower stations.
- MacKinnon: A transport company moving feed and equipment across Scotland.
- Migdale Smolt and Migdale Transport: They have a fleet of specialised fish lorries.
- Ewos and Biomar: Based in Scotland, they supply the entire sector and export

to Europe and abroad.

- BOC: Supplies us with oxygen, vital in the production of freshwater juvenile salmon.
- Argyll County Kitchen: Provides our staff and visitor lunches.
- GroAqua: Supplies us with the equipment to run our operations to new industry standards.
- Local hotels and restaurants: We welcome visitors to our sites, including groups of students who stay for a few weeks or months for work experience.
- Numerous self-employed tradesmen and tradeswomen: Local electricians, plumbers, joiners, welders, and divers who sometimes respond at short notice to help us.

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 sector's success. Every constituency across Scotland has some link to aquaculture through the supply chain, meaning that Scottish salmon farming positively impacts 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 sector's success.

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.

Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd