

Salmon farming in Scotland

Letter from Tim Bowie and family, 3 June 2024

Dear all,

Please excuse a single email addressed to you all collectively. Our family own, manage and are seeking to restore the natural capital and biodiversity of a small area of land in Wester Ross. This is sided on one side by a sea loch with four open feedlot salmon farms. We ask that you kindly take into consideration the impacts we have witnessed in the presence and operation of multiple open feedlot salmon farms in close proximity to us. One of these was subject to an expose by the Guardian newspaper and Viva because of significant welfare breaches and another has had its Organic Accreditation recently withdrawn by the Soil Association.

In addition to the welfare and environmental impacts which are well reported we just spent a day (Friday) last week collecting waste such as large polystyrene blocks and feed pipe from our shoreline. Not all this ocean waste is from the farms (some from nets/creels) but these fishing operations have not led to the effective extinction locally of wild salmon from nearby rivers. As a species now recorded as endangered and an indicator species for the health of our environment/nature we ask you to consider with great care the impact of this farming on our oceans and those living close by.