



NEWS RELEASE

26 April 2018

Demand for immediate moratorium on salmon farm expansion

Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland (S&TC Scotland) is today leading a call for an immediate moratorium on any new open cage marine salmon farms in Scotland or any expansion of existing sites.

The call is supported by a wide cross section of 27 environmental NGOs and other bodies, demanding that:

Until the current failings in the regulation of the salmon farming industry and the environmental problems the industry causes, as identified by the Scottish Parliament's Environment Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee, are resolved, there must be an immediate moratorium on any new marine open cage fish farms or any expansion of existing fish farm sites, including any increases in farmed fish biomass at existing sites, as any expansion of the industry now will be unsustainable and may cause irrecoverable damage to the environment.

The call for an immediate moratorium is supported and endorsed by Angling Trust, Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board, Argyll Fisheries Trust, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Community of Arran Seabed Trust, Fauna & Flora International, Fish Legal, Friends of Loch Etive, Friends of the Sound of Jura, Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board, Lochaber Fisheries Trust, National Trust for Scotland, Orkney Trout Fishing Association, Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, Scottish Anglers National Association, Salmon Aquaculture Reform Network Scotland, Save Seil Sound, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation, Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network, Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust, Scottish Salmon Think-Tank, Skye District Salmon Fishery Board, Skye & Lochalsh Environment Forum, Skye & Wester Ross Fisheries Trust, Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board and Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

Andrew Graham-Stewart, Director of S&TC Scotland, said:

“The all-party ECCLR Committee of the Scottish Parliament unanimously agreed their report in March and concluded that the current consenting and regulatory framework for the salmon farming industry is inadequate to address the environmental issues. They were not convinced the sector is being regulated sufficiently, or regulated sufficiently effectively, and made it clear that this needs to be addressed urgently because further expansion must be on an environmentally sustainable basis.

They also said that if the current issues are not addressed this expansion will be unsustainable and may cause irrecoverable damage to the environment, concluding ‘*the status quo is not an option*’.

As it stands, these issues remain completely unresolved and, as the oral evidence given on April 18 to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee by SEPA, the Crown Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Highland Council shows, we are a very long way from addressing them”.

Last week alone, the Highland Council granted planning permission for two new salmon farms on Skye and the Argyll and Bute Council permitted an increase in biomass of farmed fish on two farms on Loch Fyne, where the record of sea lice control and mortalities on The Scottish Salmon Company farms over the last two production cycles has been amongst the worst in Scotland.

Guy Linley-Adams, Solicitor for S&TC Scotland, said:

“If planning departments don’t believe that the firm conclusions of the ECCLR Committee’s report are sufficient to enable them to refuse such applications and so are carrying on with business as usual, then we need a moratorium now.

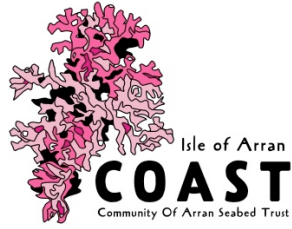
If we agree with the MSPs on the ECCLR Committee that further expansion must be sustainable and that, unless current issues are addressed, any expansion will be unsustainable and may cause irrecoverable damage, there can be no other logical conclusion.

Nobody, not even the salmon farmers themselves, should be supporting expansion while current environmental issues are still to be addressed.”



Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board





Lochaber District Salmon Fishery Board



Lochaber Fisheries Trust



Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust



Salmon Aquaculture Reform Network Scotland

Save Seil Sound





Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust



Skye District Salmon Fishery Board



SKYE & LOCHALSH ENVIRONMENT FORUM

a Bridge to Biodiversity



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Issued by Andrew Graham-Stewart (telephone 01863 766767 or 07812 981531) on behalf of Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland.

Notes for editors

1) **Salmon & Trout Conservation (S&TC)** was established as the Salmon & Trout Association (S&TA) in 1903 to address the damage done to our rivers by the polluting effects of the Industrial Revolution. Since then, S&TC has worked to protect fisheries, fish stocks and the wider aquatic environment for the public benefit. S&TC has charitable status in both England and Scotland (where it operates as S&TC Scotland) and its charitable objectives empower it to address all issues affecting fish and the aquatic environment, supported by robust evidence from its scientific network, and to take the widest possible remit in protecting salmonid fish stocks and the aquatic environment upon which they depend. www.salmon-trout.org www.salmon-troutscotland.org

2) S&TCS lodged a formal Petition with the Scottish Parliament in 2016, to urge the Scottish Government to strengthen Scottish legislative and regulatory control of marine fish farms to protect wild salmonids of domestic and international conservation importance. In 2017, the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee decided to hold an Inquiry into the issues raised by S&TCS. S&TCS has given both written and oral evidence to the Petitions Committee, Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee and Rural Economy and

Connectivity Committee over the last two years. For more information guy@linley-adams.co.uk

3) The issue of salmon farming expansion, in light of the current concerns, was discussed at the meeting between the Scottish Parliament's Conveners Group and the First Minister on April 18. See <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/meeting/conveners-group-april-18-2018> The relevant exchange starts at 13.21 minutes.