

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND

SUBMISSION FROM ALASDAIR POLSON

I write to you as a concerned member of the public with some general views on the current state of the farmed salmon industry in Scotland.

The level of pollution created from the faeces, waste food and chemical treatments falling through these overcrowded cages into the sea is unacceptable. The recent comparisons to equivalent volumes of untreated human waste from large towns are disgusting. It is indefensible that we are allowing our sea lochs to be used as an open sewer. There can be no question that this is damaging to the wider environment and furthermore rather than recognising and addressing this situation the salmon farming industry intends massive expansion using these methods of aquaculture over forthcoming decades.

Many salmon farms are located in popular tourist areas renowned for scenic beauty. None are sympathetic to their surroundings or even discreet and some could be regarded as eye sores. Damage to angling tourism must also be considered. It is alleged that the unnatural levels of sea lice in the vicinity of the cages are a major contributing factor in the collapse of nearby wild salmon and sea trout stocks.

I am a father to two young children. When we see images of the oceans with discarded plastic stretching for miles I am ashamed and embarrassed. Although perhaps less visible on the surface salmon farming in it's current state is likewise environmental vandalism. My wish would be for the Scottish Government to recognise this and take measures to ensure salmon farming is moved into closed containment systems as soon as possible.

Alasdair Polson
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