

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND

SUBMISSION FROM MID YELL & UYEASOUND PUBLIC HALLS

As community halls which rely heavily on public support and donations from local business we feel that as recipients of support from the fish farming industry we should compile a response to the consultation.

Fish farming has been active in the North Isles of Shetland since the early 80's and has evolved dramatically since then. As the biggest independent employer in the area Cooke Aquaculture and the other operators in Shetland need to be supported in their works. Without the continued employment in the isles community halls such as ours would be unable to survive.

Cooke support us both from financial support for the purchase of new equipment and more importantly through the use of the halls in the isles for their events such as Christmas parties, meetings and other events they are hosting.

In both Uyeasound & Mid Yell the churches have recently closed so the halls are now used for a large variety of events from weddings to funerals, youth clubs to disco's, private parties to plant sales. The community halls are run entirely by a committee of volunteers who are responsible for the safe functioning of the premises from fundraising, maintenance, hosting events and the health & safety. Although the areas have declining and ageing populations the employment of local people in fish farming allows these to be members of the committee, and by nature these tend to be younger and more able people who can undertake a few extra voluntary hours in the evenings & weekends.

It would be a great loss to our halls if there was no fish farming in the area to both support us and allow employees the financial wherewithal to spend their disposable income at events within the hall.

Mid Yell & Uyeasound Public Halls
April 2018