

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND

SUBMISSION FROM RIDGEWAY BIOLOGICALS LTD

The farmed salmon industry is currently managing a range of fish health and environmental challenges. Do you have any views on how these might be addressed?

Infectious diseases are a threat to all farmed animal species, including fish, through pathogen evolution and adaptation. We need to be vigilant to identify new disease threats as soon as possible and respond accordingly. The Scottish salmon industry as a whole is extremely proactive by continuously monitoring fish health and quantifying pathogen loads and threats on farm. By doing this companies can respond rapidly to new pathogens. We are directly involved in disease monitoring and are able to provide rapid vaccine solutions to new threats; this by working closely with all the main salmon producers in Scotland. We manufacture and supply autogenous vaccines, which are bespoke vaccines, formulated to the specific requirements of each farm. Such vaccines can be manufactured and supplied within 12 weeks of detection of pathogens on farm and this strategy enables the rapid deployment of vaccine thereby protecting fish from new threats without the undesirable recourse to antibiotics. This strategy is widely adopted by the aquaculture industries of Scotland in accordance with the industry aims of maintaining animal health and welfare with minimum impact on the environment and reduction in antibiotic usage.

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April 2018