

## **RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

### **SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND**

#### **SUBMISSION FROM WESTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

##### **Salmon Farming in Westray**

The Aquaculture industry has been established in Westray since 1988, over this time it has created stable employment for many people over a significant period of time. In recent years the continued growth & investment from Cooke Aquaculture has provided many benefits to the local community here in Westray. Examples of the benefits are as follows:

- Providing employment, which has bucked the trend of depopulation, especially in younger people. This has led to an increase in the local school numbers and has in turn created additional jobs in other sectors.
- Helped Justify a major capital investment project in the local pier, which will benefit many more employers/employees.
- Provided unprecedented levels of sponsorship and donations to many local groups & charities.
- Provided a boost to the supply chain in Westray, helping facilitate investment in other local businesses.
- Due to the effective management of the sites here in Westray, there has been very little impact upon wildlife, various seabirds, dolphins, whales etc can frequently be seen in and around the vicinity of the aquaculture sites.

In summary, the Westray Community council is in full support of the current aquaculture activities taking place within the waters surrounding our island and appreciate the massive social and economic benefit which it has brought with it to our community, it also fully supports current planned expansion which will no doubt continue to magnify the benefits as described above.

Westray Community Council  
April 2018