

**Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board
The Harbour Centre
Gairloch
Wester Ross
IV21 2BQ**

Planning and Development Department
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

~~09 August 2017~~

17 April 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Site 2130m East Of Sconser Quarry, Sconser. ~~17/02707/FUL~~ 18/00993/FUL

This response has been prepared primarily with regard to the potential threat to wild salmon and sea-trout fisheries on the Scottish mainland, to the east of the Inner Sound, including those areas within the southern part of the Wester Ross Area Salmon Fishery Board (WRASFB) area.

After considering the existing published information relating to biomass and the management of existing fish farms in the area, the on-farm control of sea lice within the area as reported by SSPO, sea lice monitoring data held by S&WRFT and rod catches of wild salmon as reported by Marine Scotland, we conclude that the proposed Sconser fish farm has the potential to present further significant adverse impact within an area where there have been sea lice control issues.

The WRASFB, therefore, objects to this proposed fish farm application.

The nearest salmon river within the WRASFB area is the Applecross river which is approximately 20km from the site of the proposed Sconser fish farm. There are also several salmon rivers on the Isle of Skye, notably the Sligachan and Broadford rivers, from which wild salmon and sea-trout will pass close to the farm (see response from the SDSFB). Salmon smolts from rivers on the mainland of Scotland to the south and east of the proposed farm are also likely to pass within 20km as they migrate through the coastal waters where WRASFB has the responsibility for safeguarding wild salmon and sea-trout.

Larval sea lice are known to move downwind of their sources of origin and infectious stages are likely to be present within the water column up to 40km from the source of origin depending on wind and currents (See Johnsen *et al* 2016 <http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/aei/v8/p99-116/>). The prevailing wind in this area is from the southwest and it is likely that any larval lice from this proposed farm will drift to areas through which salmon smolts from other rivers, including the rivers Carron, Ling, Elchaig, Croe, Shiel, Glenmore, Glen Beag, Arnisdale and quite possibly rivers further south including those within Lochaber, will pass.

The general area of the proposed fish farm has been subject to high levels of infectious parasitic sea lice during the second year of production cycles in recent years. Some of the fish farms within the SSPO reporting area of Skye and Small Isles area North, are located less than 30km from some of the fish farms