WESTER ROSS AREA SALMON FISHERY BOARD
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E-Planning Department
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
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13th September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Scoping Application 18/03845/SCOP Marine Fish Farm (Atlantic Salmon) Installation of Additional 6 X 100m Circle Cages to Existing 10 X 100m Cages in Extended Planning Boundary

WRASFB has statutory duties in terms of the protection of salmonids in its district and, by way of executing responsibly those statutory duties, is obliged to respond to the above named scoping application.

In line with our remit, we would need to see greater detail in any future planning application for the Aird site.

The industry has already agreed to publish sea lice data on a farm by farm basis. Currently, the latest published data is for May so it is already three months out of date. We would suggest that the planning authority requires all full planning applications to be accompanied by up to date sea lice count data to give a better understanding of lice control efficiency.

MSS have sea lice data from the Sheildaig field station that goes back to the late nineties and covers the historic expansion of fish farming in Loch Torridon. We would suggest that the planning authority requires MSS to collate the historic sea lice data from the field station in conjunction with the expansion of fish farming to identify if there is any correlation in sea lice numbers.

SSC states that if consented, the extension would be synchronised with the other SSC sites in Loch Torridon. We would suggest that the planning authority seek assurances that synchronisation would be with all operators in Loch Torridon and not just SSC sites.

SSC have stated that wild fishery interests are broadly supportive of the draft EMP as supplied for scoping and screening, WRASFB had not seen the draft EMP. This document will require far more specific information to be supplied with any planning application.

Larval sea lice can drift for distances of 30km or more (Myksvoll et al 2018, Samsing et al 2017). Sea trout sampled in Loch Gairloch in past two production cycles have had higher lice levels (to predicted lethal levels) correlating with the 2nd year of the production cycle of existing SSC salmon farms within Loch Torridon (Cunningham *et al*, 2018 & 2016).
The applicant must provide information to demonstrate how further expansion in Loch Torridon can be achieved while, at the same time, reducing the overall cumulative threat via sea louse infestation

to migrating wild salmon and sea trout within the Inner Sound and Minch (c. Forseth *et al* 2017) and precisely how they will demonstrate this.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Peter Jarosz

Clerk to the Board

References:

Cunningham P, Moore I and Jarosz P (2018) Skye and Wester Ross Fisheries Trust Review February 2018 http://www.wrft.org.uk/files/SWRFT%20Review%20February%202018%20Final%20for%20web%20V2.pdf

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Myksvoll MS, Sandvik AD, Albretsen J, Asplin L, Johnsen IA, Karlsen Ø, et al. (2018) Evaluation of a national operational salmon lice monitoring system—From physics to fish. PLoS ONE 13(7): e0201338. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0201338

Samsing F, Johnsen I, Dempster T, Oppedal F, Treml EA (2017) Network analysis reveals strong seasonality in the dispersal of a marine parasite and identifies areas for coordinated management. Landscape Ecology. 2017;32: 1953–196 https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10980-017-0557-0