

Salmon farming in Scotland

Correspondence from Ewan Kennedy, 2 September 2024

Good Morning,

I was watching the session today and Ms Grahame's questions about the percentages of mortalities at Dunstaffnage, then decided to check the figures from the government's website. It's incredibly difficult to navigate this site, and the link to the relevant page is here:

[Scottish Government aquaculture webpage on Fish Farms Monthly Biomass and Treatment Reports](#)

Committee members should know that Dunstaffnage is one of the worst sites of all for mortalities. Two competing figures keep getting mentioned, 56.5 % for the previous cycle and 3% for the current one.

Dunstaffnage holds licence number CAR/L/1009031 with a maximum permitted biomass of 2,350 tonnes. It's notable that substantial mortalities have accrued with total biomass on site far less than this.

From the reported figures I've extracted the data for the previous complete cycle, a very short one that followed it, and the current one. Publication of figures is very slow, nothing has been posted since June 2024. A spreadsheet is annexed.

The short cycle is puzzling, and the operators should be asked to explain it. It looks as if 706 tonnes of reasonably mature salmon have been brought in from elsewhere, and survivors removed after very high mortalities.

I fully accept that there may be an explanation for the discrepancies highlighted here, and I hope that there's time to request an explanation.

Yours

Ewan Kennedy