

To Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

At the time of writing, a number of letters have been submitted by various groups to the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee in advance of the planned sessions updating on progress made by the salmon farming industry. All those mentioned above writing to the committee are in favour of increased controls of one form or another on salmon farming in Scotland. However, all those writing their letter all have another thing in common. None are willing to engage in discussion with the salmon industry or those connected to it. They are not interested in hearing why the facts would indicate they may be wrong. Two of those writing letters have said to me that they are not interested in any discussion, as their only interest is to remove all salmon farming from Scotland.

Sadly, even politicians, who one might hope would try to take a balanced view are unwilling to enter into a discussion as to the future of salmon farming as can be seen from the following Green Party campaign.

SCOTTISH GREENS

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PROTECT SCOTLAND'S WATERS – PAUSE NEW SALMON FARMS

**PROTECT SCOTLAND'S WATERS
PAUSE
NEW SALMON
FARMS
ADD YOUR VOICE**

Scotland's coastal waters are at risk. There's mounting evidence of the damage caused by industrial salmon farming, including a quarter of fish dying before they reach your plate, pollution to our seas, and threats to wild salmon.

A parliamentary report found that Scotland's marine ecosystem

**Tell the Scottish Government to
Protect Scotland's Waters**

First Name * Last Name *

Email * Postcode *

Email Text *

Dear Mairi Gougeon,

Urgent Need for a Pause on New and Expanding Salmon Farms

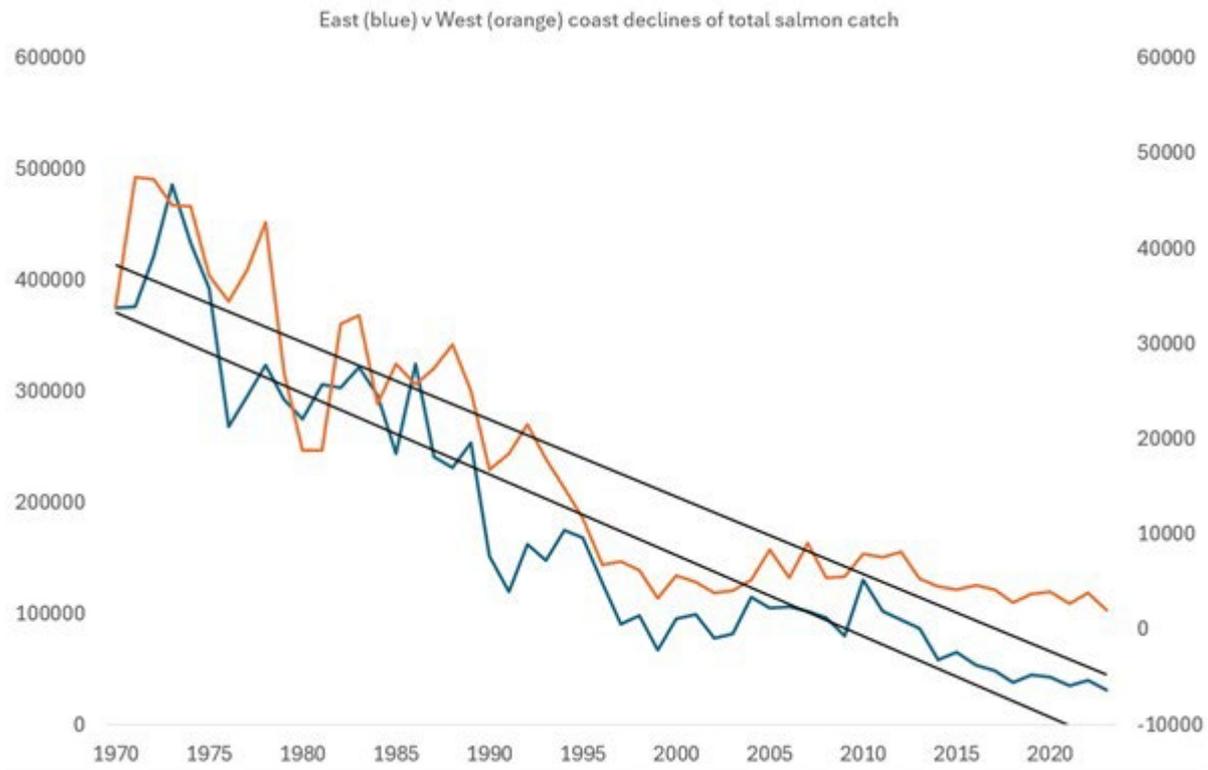
I am writing to ask you to implement a temporary pause on the development of new salmon farms and the expansion of existing ones. The recent Rural Affairs and

This message will be sent to CabSectorRAU@legov.scot marked with your email address

Yes, keep me informed of Scottish Greens campaigns and events

It might even be suggested that the format adopted by the committee means that certain issues are not fully addressed. For example, the original inquiry was promoted by a petition about sea lice submitted by the angler's organisation Salmon & Trout Conservation (now Wild Fish) yet, the committee have managed to avoid discussion as to whether the claims

made about sea lice are actually true or not. What is clear from Scottish Government catch data is that wild salmon catches are declining at an almost similar rate from rivers on the west coast where there are salmon farms and from the east coast, where there are no salmon farms.



If salmon farms are responsible for the decline in the west, as critics claim, then what is causing the almost parallel decline on the east coast. I have sent this graph to scientists in Norway and Scotland as well as anglers organisations in both countries asking for their view. So far, no-one has responded. Yet this is a fundamental question in the case against salmon farming.

The committee needs to decide if they wish to base their decisions on the views of a small, but very vocal minority, who are not willing to stand up and face those they criticise or would rather encourage open discussion to ensure that one of Scotland's most important sectors operates in the best way possible.

Dr Martin Jaffa

Callander McDowell

