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Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

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Dear Finlay,

Publication of Chief Scientific Adviser Marine report “SEPA’s Sea Lice Regulatory Framework”

Further to the recent Committee evidence session on Salmon Farming in Scotland, I am writing to inform you that the Chief Scientific Adviser Marine’s (CSA Marine) report [SEPA’s Sea Lice Regulatory Framework](#) has been published today.

The Committee is aware that as a result of concerns being raised with Ministers by fish farmers about the scientific underpinning of SEPA’s sea lice regulatory framework, introduced in February 2024, I commissioned CSA Marine to consider whether any science exists which would have a significant bearing on the development and implementation of the framework to date. Professor Inall’s report concludes that while SEPA’s sea lice risk assessment framework is scientifically defensible, implementation and documentation require improvement. In response to discussions with representatives of the salmon farming industry in Scotland and SEPA, and a review of the available documentation, the CSA Marine has produced five recommendations.

I have requested CSA Marine’s appointment as the independent chair to facilitate discussions with SEPA and the fish farming sector to implement the recommendations. I anticipate this work will be completed within 12 months. I hope this update is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON