

**Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee**

**Environmental impacts of salmon farming**

**Written submission from Caroline Younger**

As a resident of Loch Craignish in the Firth of Lorne Marine Protected Area I am writing about the impact of salmon farming on the environment. I believe this to have a negative effect on the health of our coastal waters and habitats.

The current open net salmon farms result in massive pollution from organic waste, and in the drugs used to combat sea lice infestation also poisoning the other crustaceans such as prawns, lobsters, and crabs on which sustainable creel fishing depends.

This spread of toxins into the waters surrounding fish farms, which are then further disseminated by the tidal flows, have a disastrous effect on wild salmon stocks, as does cross-breeding with escaped farmed fish.

Closed containment, preferably on shore, would stop this.

I personally no longer feel able to eat farmed salmon.

The jobs created by the aquaculture industry are getting fewer all the time as automation is increasing. The jobs threatened by this industry in wild life tourism and sustainable fishing are numerous and getting greater.

There should be no expansion of fish farms in the Marine Protected Areas and aquaculture industry should be responsible for the pollution it causes.

Caroline Younger