

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Environmental impacts of salmon farming

Written submission from Iona Barr

Many studies have shown that sea lice from farmed salmon adversely affect wild salmon.

The toxic chemicals used to attempt to control sea lice are polluting the sea and harming other creatures.

Effluent from salmon farms should not be allowed to pollute the sea. If this effluent were from a land based company it would not be allowed to flow into the sea. Thus salmon farms should not be exempt from regulations designed to protect the natural environment.

The acoustic deterrent devices used to deter seals are harming cetaceans.

Many tourists who come to Argyll, where I live, are put off by the unsightly fish farms when they have been drawn to the area because of claims of the natural wildlife and wild land and seascapes here. Tourism is a large income source for this area and people depend on it. Tourists must not be put off by large fish farms.

Rare species of skate and sea fans can be poisoned by effluent from fish farms.

My own family had a business selling fish and we therefore know about quality and health of fish. I would never buy farmed salmon in a shop or restaurant as they contain dye and are unhealthy and frequently diseased.

I urge the Committee to take these points seriously when considering the environmental impacts of salmon farming.

Iona Barr