

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Environmental impacts of salmon farming

Written submission from Helen Dobb

I am writing to you regarding the Scottish Government's view on open net fish farms. It is my understanding that the Scottish Government is in favour of open net fish farms despite overwhelming evidence that they are detrimental to the environment both off and on shore.

Off shore, the seas are being polluted by the chemicals used and the waste products created, to such an extent that the sea bed beneath a fish farm is a barren wasteland. The audio deterrents that are used to fend off seal attacks create problems for dolphins, porpoises and whales far beyond the confines of the farm.

On shore, the lorries carrying the dead fish for disposal, drip polluted water into water courses the full length of the country.

If the Government were to consider closed container fish farms this could solve all the problems. Closed container fish farms can be sited on or off shore and therefore can be located where employment is needed. No pollution escapes so sea life is not harmed and audio deterrents are not required.

This forward thinking approach would put Scotland at the forefront of innovation. The waste products could be recycled, on-site, to provide fertiliser for aquaponic farming. One large site could be used for tourism – salmon and salad all from the same source. It could also be used to educate others wanting to start a closed container fish farm anywhere in the world (see <http://www.humblebynature.com/>).

Surely this Scottish Government would rather be remembered for being forward thinking rather than backward looking.