



	Initial	Date
Assessment		
US resolved		
Further Action		

## Fish Farm Welfare Inspection Report

### General details (Refer to Guidance Notes (WF153))

1. Reference number	FS1091	2. Date of Visit	05/09/2018
3. Name and address	Scottish Salmon Company, Vacasay site Breascleit Pier Breascleit Isle of Lewis  Postcode HS2 9DY		
4. Location of Fish (if different from above)	Vacasay  Postcode		
5. Category	farm- sea site	6. Visit Type	T
7. Visit sub type (Targeted only)	complaint	8. Target date	06/09/2018
9. Name and contact details of Private Veterinary Advisers:	[Redacted] The Scottish Salmon Company 8 Melville Crescent Edinburgh, EH3 7JA		

10. Have the Veterinary Advisers been contacted before the visit? Yes  No

11 & 12. List enterprises which were inspected at this visit and record details of any non-compliance in the appropriate section overleaf.

Enterprise Type	No of fish present	No of fish inspected	No of fish on which action was taken	Overall assessment for enterprise (compliant or non-compliant)
OT1	270,847 salmon			
OT2	9522 lump fish			

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13. Welfare Compliance Levels:

- Record further information including details of any non compliant enterprise
- Record the enterprise code and whether compliant or non-compliant for each enterprise for each issue

Record overall compliance or non-compliance score for each issue

Enterprise Codes	OT1	OT2						C
Staffing STF	A	A						C
Inspection INS	A	A						C
Disease treatment DIS	A	A						C
Records REC	A	A						C
Housing HOU	A	A						C
Environment ENV	A	A						C
Equipment EQP	A	A						C
Freedom of Movement	A	A						C
Feed FDW	A	A						C
Mutilations MUT	A	A						C
Breeding Procedures BRE								
Compliant or non-compliant								

14. Action

Welfare complaint received on 30/08/18 alleging poor welfare due to sea louse infestation.  
 Visit to site arranged with FHI and site operator. Company veterinary surgeon, [REDACTED] was also present at the visit on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018.  
 FHI conducted a health visit and I accompanied the inspector. Mortality, treatment and sea lice number records were checked. At the time of the visit the fish on the site were receiving a fourth 'Hyrdolicer' treatment. 10 of the 12 cages on site were stocked, five cages were receiving in feed 'Slice' treatment, all stocked cages will have received a fourth 'Hydrolicer' treatment by 7/9/18.

15. Further action

Letter sent to confirm findings and advice

16. Date unnecessary suffering resolved (if applicable)

	How was unnecessary suffering resolved?	
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17. Assurance Schemes

GlobalG.A.P cert no: 00059-KPPXN-0002

Inspectors Signature

[REDACTED]

Date 10/09/2018

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

[REDACTED]

Grade VO

APHA office

APHA Inverness  
 Longman House  
 28 Longman Road

M/F Mark forward for 'non-compliance'

n/a

	Inverness IV1 1SF		
Non-compliance assessment	High	Medium	Low

Summary information detailing farming type and overall management together with the reason for visit, summary of findings, description of decisions and actions taken with reasons

Detail letters sent, notices served and other action regarding any identified non compliances

Give mark forward date with justification

Use additional pages if necessary to record findings.

Manuscript/Report and additional comments

**BACKGROUND:-** The Vacasay sea site situated in Loch Rog an Ear, Lewis is owned and operated by the Scottish Salmon Company has 12, 90m round cages. The cages are 15m deep with an 8m net cone at the bottom. Ten of the 12 cages were stocked with approximately 27,000 salmon, average weight 3.1Kg (2017 S1 fish) and 950 Lumpfish in each cage at the time of the visit. The fish were fed automatically via pipes from a feed barge moored near by. The site is due to be emptied/harvested by 31/10/18, followed by a 5-6 month fallow period until March/April 2019 when it will be restocked. At present all mortalities are being disposed of at Whiteshores, North Uist.

A welfare complaint was received on the 30<sup>th</sup> August alleging that the fish were badly affected with sea lice. A joint visit was arranged and carried out on the 5<sup>th</sup> September with [REDACTED], FHI and the company veterinary surgeon [REDACTED] to assess the situation.

**FINDINGS:-** When the level of adult female sea lice found reaches 3 or more per fish, this should be reported to the FHI. Ten fish per cage are routinely examined every week and any sea lice counted and categorised (species, stage of development). Treatment for sea lice is given when the numbers of lice seen doubles in a week or exceed an average of 1.5 adult female lice per fish to try prevent the fish becoming seriously affected. The company have a site specific sea lice management procedure which involves a number of different strategies to control lice numbers. At present they were using the Hydrolicer (4 treatment to date), early harvest (2 cages had already been depopulated), in feed Slice treatment (5 cages with smaller fish being treated at time of visit) and bath treatment with either azamethiphos or deltamethrin (will be used in the worst affected cages).

The fish were treated in May and apparently there was good clearance of lice. In June the lice levels were low however in mid July the numbers had risen ten fold in a week and were over the reporting level. On 22/07/18 the whole site was treated using the Hydrolicer and this was repeated in weeks commencing 06/08/18, 27/08/18 and 04/09/18. 2-3 cages can be treated in a day so the whole site would be treated within 4-6 days. Treatment was underway during the visit and we were able to observe the fish leaving the dewatering part of the Hydrolicer and I did not see any badly affected fish (white heads). The fish were crowded carefully before being treated and the water in the crowded area was being oxygenated to reduce the stress on the fish. At this point badly affected fish were removed and euthanased (Tricaine in waterbath). I was able to see that a high proportion of the fish had significant numbers of lice and there were a few fish with some lice damage visible on their heads ('white heads'). Treatment of whole site due to be completed by 07/09/18.

In the worst affected cage (3), I counted approximately 60 visibly affected salmon swimming near the surface of the cage which contained approximately 27,000 salmon. The salmon taken for post mortem were taken from this cage.

As part of the health check visit by the FHI, five fish were euthanased and a post mortem examination carried out on site by [REDACTED], FHI. The site manager and vet had previously confirmed that there had been a low level of gill problems and the PM confirmed that. Samples were taken for histopathology, virology and bacteriology and a full report will be produced but was not available at time of writing. There was slight gill damage, some moderate to severe sea lice damage and both species of sea lice were seen. Internally the fish did not have any gross pathology and were in good condition, judging by the level of abdominal fat seen.

Mortality level peaked at 2.56% (7516) during the week commencing 27/08/18 which coincided with the third Hydrolicer treatment. Mortality level the following week it had reduced to 1.46%. The reporting level for mortality is 1% for fish over 750g.

**CONCLUSION:-** The site has experienced a high level of lice infestation but the fish have been under veterinary supervision and have received suitable treatment in line with the site treatment strategy. I am content that the treatment of the fish at this site has been appropriate and timely. I do not intend to revisit the site.



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