

Case No: 2024-0185 Date of visit: 08/08/2024

Time spent on site: 2hrs Main Inspector:

Site No: FS0887 Site Name: Sallachy Site

Business No: FB0235 Business Name: Cooke Aquaculture (Freshwater) Ltd

Case Types: 1 OTH 2 3 4 5 6

Water Temp (°C): Thermometer No: FHI 045 completed N/A

Observations: Region: HI Water type: F CoGP MA:

Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present? If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.

Clinical signs of disease observed? If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.

Gross pathology observed? If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.

Diagnostic samples taken?

UNI/REG only - if unable to carry out intended visit detail reason below:

Additional Case Information:

Site inspection undertaken to observe vaccination procedures of stock on site, following reports of feral farmed fish being caught in Loch Shin.

Third party, Highland Aqua, are contracted for vaccinations at the site. Vaccination with Microject6 and PD1. Historic stocks on site were vaccinated by hand, however this is the first stock to be machine vaccinated. Training and cleaning and disinfection certificates were inspected and approved prior to access to the site. Divers were on site the week of the handling event to inspect nets for any damage and to complete repair work where required. Dive reports dated 1/7/24 stated that no holes were observed in any of the nets. Vaccination machine was set up in a shipping container that is lifted from the back of a lorry and placed on a raft before being towed out to the site and tethered to the cages.

Nets are lifted one cage at a time to crowd the fish. An inlet pipe is positioned in the crowd and fish are pumped through the pipe and into an anaesthetic bath prior to moving over a de-waterer and into a large steel tray where 4 members of staff (2 at each side) manually position the fish into wells within a conveyor that passes them through the vaccination machine for injection. Following vaccination, the fish are fed into a discharge pipe that transfers them back into the same cage, albeit within the other half which hasnt been crowded and which is separated by the net being raised.

The pipes going into and out of the cage were tied with at least one, but normally two ropes to secure it to the cage. The inlet pipe was also wrapped in netting and was also placed on top of a catch net to ensure contingency should the pipe fail or come loose. This is in accordance with the sites vaccination SOP. However, there were no catch nets or net tubing used around and under the discharge pipes, including the section located between the vaccination raft, the walkway and the cage. This was raised as a potential weakness with the site manager and the use of a catch net and net tubing was recommended. The SOP was missing information in relation to chapter 3, points 3.66 and 3.76 in the CoGP and should be updated to include these details where a contractor is engaged.

The vaccination machine itself was located inside a shipping container so if any breaches in containment were to occur, the fish would spill onto the deck but would be unlikely to enter the loch due to the distance and number of physical barriers. However, improvements could be made by bunding the floor of the container to ensure that any breaches would be contained.

Fish were pumped up and into the machine, through the machine and discharged again within a short time. Mortalities at the site were below 200 fish per week and no movements on or off the site had been completed since the last inspection on

Evidence that the recommendations in relation to the case were made for implementation was submitted by 14/10/24.



FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS No	FB0235	DATE OF VISIT	08/08/2024
SITE No	FS0887	SITE NAME	Sallachy Site
CASE No	20240185	INSPECTOR	[REDACTED]

The site was inspected in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 with respect to section 5 regarding containment and escapes, following reports of feral farmed fish being caught in Loch Shin.

An inspection was conducted of the handling procedures during the vaccination of stock on the site. It was observed that bunding and safety nets were not in place at potential risk points around the vaccination equipment or discharge pipe to ensure containment if a breach occurred. In addition, the standard operating procedures for vaccination did not indicate the responsibilities of the parties involved by mutual agreement, nor the regime for monitoring fish welfare during the automated vaccination process. On this occasion the following recommendations were made for improvement:

- It is recommended that a documented review is undertaken of the handling equipment used during vaccination to ensure the appropriate safety netting and bunding is in place in accordance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 3, point 4.30).
- It is recommended that a documented review is undertaken of the vaccination procedures and any supporting documents to ensure that SOP's are mutually agreed with the vaccination contractor, specifying the responsibilities of all parties involved and that they include an appropriate regime for monitoring fish welfare during automated vaccination in accordance with the CoGP chapter 3, points 3.66 and 3.76, respectively.

Further Action

Please ensure that these points have been addressed by 14th October 2024. Records or documentation demonstrating that these points have been addressed should be sent to the Fish Health Inspectorate (contact details below). The site may be subject to further inspection or enforcement action should the appropriate action regarding the above points not be taken within the time period stipulated.

Please contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any assistance or clarification in implementing any requirement or recommendation detailed in this report.

Signed:



Fish Health Inspector

Date: 29/08/2024

The Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter detailing standards of service is available on the Scottish Government website at [Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science).

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Case completion report

Recommendations in relation to the above case were made for implementation by 14/10/2024. Following submission of the required documentation, evidence has now been provided to the Fish Health Inspectorate to demonstrate that the recommendations have been implemented.

This case will now be closed. This site may be subject to further audit and recommendations in the future.

Please contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any further information or have any queries regarding this report.



Signed:

Date: 03/09/2024

Fish Health Inspector

The Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter detailing standards of service is available on the Scottish Government website at [Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/policies/fish-health-inspectorate/)