

Case No: 2024-0255 Date of visit: 04/07/2024

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?
Clinical signs of disease observed?
Gross pathology observed?
Diagnostic samples taken?

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

Additional Case Information:

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

Farm containment and escape response procedure, fish intake SOP, smolt transfer SOP, Vaki service report, Dive inspection of nets in place to receive fry intake and net certificates of inspection were all available for inspection.

Nets were serviced on 28/03/24 and 23/05/24 with only minor repairs carried out. Dive report from 1/07/24 details that no holes were observed in any of the nets in advance of the intakes on 2nd, 4th and 6th July. The Vaki counter was serviced in February 24 when a small fault with the visibility was noted, causing issues with calibration. It was suggested that the mirror should be cleaned regularly.

298, 928 fish were input last crop over 3 inputs (108,593, 110,151 and 80,184) on the 26th, 27th and 28th October 2023 at 47g. Fish are only held on this site for a couple of months before moving off to a SW site for ongrowing. A total of 299,498 (count from wellboat at discharge) fish from last crop were moved off to Vestness (FS1210). However, the Vaki count of fish being loaded onto the lorry was 299,812, a discrepancy of 314 fish between being loaded onto the lorry at site, and being discharged at Vestness. This was attributed to counter inaccuracies.

Total mortality for the site was 3,303 (1.1% total of input). A total discrepancy for fish on and fish off the site was 3,873 (1.3% of the wellboat count). This discrepancy has been attributed to variations in counter accuracies and is deemed acceptable.

Stocking procedure: Cages are not towed and remain in place during stocking. Pipes run from the cages to the shorebase and are visually checked at the cage side and at the shorebase but the floating lines are not inspected at regular intervals. A suggestion for improvement would be to incorporate regular visual inspections of the floating transfer pipes in order to detect any faults or failures and that these be recorded, along with any repair work that is undertaken.

Lorries reverse into shorebase and the transfer pipe is connected to the outlet of each tank on the lorry in turn. The pipes are not secured to the outlet on the tank, but is placed over the outlet and secured by a rope. Failure of this rope would result in the pipe being forced away from the lorry, resulting in a failure in containment. A suggestion for improvement was made to include the addition of a catch net under the outlet so that if a failure was to occur, any fish that are spilled, would be captured and could be returned to the tank. The valve for each tank is opened and fish are gravity fed into the cages. The lorry driver supervises the discharge from above the tank and confirms when all the fish have been discharged. The pipe is then flushed with water to ensure no fish remain in the transfer pipe, before it is disconnected and moved onto the next tank.

The pipe that discharges into the cage, is secured with a single rope to the cage structure and is placed across the lowered side net and submerged in the water within the cage. Using radios, site staff located at cage side confirm with staff at the shorebase when the discharge pipe is in position and secure before fish are discharged into the cage. Cage side staff supervise the discharge of the fish into the cage and notify shorebase staff when no more fish are coming through and to begin flushing the pipe to ensure any fish remaining in the transfer pipe are flushed out and into the cage before the pipe is

The transfer pipe is made up of several sections of pipe which are attached by secure locks and supported by ratchet straps to ensure contingency if the locks were to fail.

Evidence that the recommendations in relation to the case were made for implementation was submitted by 06/09/24.



FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| BUSINESS No | FB0235 | DATE OF VISIT | 04/07/2024 |
| SITE No | FS0887 | SITE NAME | Sallachy Site |
| CASE No | 20240255 | 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 procedures for the transfer of stock onto the site. On this occasion recommendations were issued in relation to the procedure and contingency measures in place for the stocking of fish. The following recommendations are made for improvement:

- As the floating transfer pipeline had not been inspected prior to being used, it is recommended that a review of the stocking procedure is undertaken to ensure compliance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 3, point 4.28); where fish are to be handled, it is recommended that the integrity of all handling equipment be checked, including: pipelines, pumps, transport tanks, graders, counters and vaccination stations.
- It was also observed that no safety nets were in place at transfer pipe joints or at the attachment to the transfer tanks. It is recommended that a documented review of whether safety nets, secondary pipe joint security devices or other forms of bunding are required to be put in place at potential risk points, to ensure compliance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 3, point 4.30).

Further Action

Please ensure that these points have been addressed by 30th August 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:

Date: 23/07/2024

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 \(www.gov.scot\)](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 06/09/24. 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/)

Case No:

Time spent on site: Main Inspect

Site No: Site Name:
 Business No: Business Name:

Case Types: 1 2 3 4 5

Water Temp (°C): Thermometer No:

Observations: Region: ST Water type:

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