

John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern,  
Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.  
E-MAIL: [animals@jfrobin.force9.co.uk](mailto:animals@jfrobin.force9.co.uk) website: <http://www.animalconcern.org/>  
Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company  
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.  
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876

To supporters of Animal Concern, Animal Concern Advice Line and Save Our Seals Fund.

Dear Supporters,

I'll try to be brief for once.

About thirty years ago an Animal Concern Director and I attended one of the first annual conferences of the Scottish fish farming industry. It was held in a wee hall in Oban and there were perhaps a hundred people attending.

A student from University of Stirling gave a presentation. He had been working on a west of Scotland fresh water salmon farm raising smolts for transfer to cages in floating factory fish farms in sea lochs. His job was to monitor predator interactions at the farm. In three months he had filled three freezers with birds such as heron and diving ducks which had paid the ultimate price for trying to steal smolts from the fish farm.

From that moment on I knew that floating factory fish farms would be a dangerous blot on the Scottish environment. For three decades I have been trying to get politicians to admit that salmon farming is an environmental disaster. Most of them, especially Ministers in the Scottish Government, think I'm an eejit and that the sun shines out of every orifice of their mainly Norwegian fish farming friends.

If you take the link below to a recent article in the Sunday Herald you will see that I might not actually be the eejit the Government thinks I am. The article by Rob Edwards uses Government files obtained using Freedom of Information laws to show that filthy floating factory fish farms have indeed caused great damage to our marine environment.

The damage inflicted may have catastrophic long term effects as the chemicals used to kill sealice also kill plankton, the very base of the marine food chain which includes the spawn and fry of shellfish, crustaceans and many species of fish.

So what is the Scottish Government planning to do about it? They intend encouraging massive expansion of salmon farming in Scotland which will make Norway very happy as lots of the salmon farms are Norwegian owned so Norway will continue to get the profits while Scotland continues to get the pollution.

Once you have read the Herald article please lobby the Scottish Government for a moratorium on the expansion of salmon farms at least until the current environmental damage is fully assessed and action taken to clean-up our sea lochs and to stop salmon farms polluting them in future.

Read the Herald piece here:

[http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/environment/15118242.Revealed\\_\\_Scandal\\_of\\_45\\_Scottish\\_lochs\\_trashed\\_by\\_pollution/](http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/environment/15118242.Revealed__Scandal_of_45_Scottish_lochs_trashed_by_pollution/)

Once you've got your blood boiling head and if you live in Scotland please write to all your MSPs asking them to ask the Government to suspend all expansion of salmon farming in Scottish waters (<https://www.writetothem.com/> ). Remember to ask them for a copy of any reply they receive. If you live outside of Scotland please write to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon (FirstMinister@gov.scot ) and Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham (CabSecECCLR@gov.scot )

On 16th March we are going to have a joint protest in Edinburgh against salmon farming. Animal Concern, Compassion in World Farming, the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture and the Save Our Seals Fund are going to help the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation celebrate the 25th anniversary of Scottish Farmed Salmon being granted Label Rouge accreditation by reminding them that in Scotland a Red Label is a warning, a danger sign.

Hope you can make it! More about the protest here:

<http://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2017/02/protest-in-edinburgh-16-march.html>

A few days ago the BBC asked me to comment on the fact that the Scottish SPCA has over £600,000 invested in Shell, a company which carried out over 100,000 animal experiments last year. If you are a member of the SSPCA could you drop me a line please?

Cheers 4 now, John

PS:

There are a few petitions on the go which I hope you agree are worthy of your signature (remember you don't have to give your phone number on a petition and you don't have to give a donation every time a pop-up donor form appears).

This first one closes in 24 hours and is very important. Once we are out of Europe and we lose very important EU influence on animal welfare and environmental matters the Westminster Government allegedly intends changing the system so that the Government can create new laws without having to have them passed by Parliament.

[https://speakout.38degrees.org.uk/campaigns/1979?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=blast&utm\\_campaign=21\\_2\\_2017\\_brexit\\_laws\\_test&bucket=email-blast-21\\_2\\_2017\\_brexit\\_laws\\_test](https://speakout.38degrees.org.uk/campaigns/1979?utm_source=email&utm_medium=blast&utm_campaign=21_2_2017_brexit_laws_test&bucket=email-blast-21_2_2017_brexit_laws_test)

Ban hunting on National Trust land:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/end-all-hunting-on-national-trust-land?bucket>

Improve the Zoo Licensing system in the UK (long overdue):

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/894/272/893/crack-down-on-animal-misery-in-uk-zoos/?z00m=28884525&redirectID=2339881196>

Call on Westminster to properly ban all hunting with hounds:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/174713>