

E-MAIL FROM: John F. Robins, Secretary, Save Our Seals Fund (SOSF), C/O Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel: 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521. Fax: 0870-7060327. SOSF is a recognised Scottish charity: RCNo. SC025489.

E-MAIL: sosf@jfrobin.force9.co.uk website: <http://www.saveoursealsfund.org/>

Ms Helen Coen,
Digital Communications Manager,
Freedom Food,
RSPCA,
Horsham

Dear Ms Coen,

I recently received a copy of an e-mail you had sent out on the subject of Freedom Food endorsed salmon farms in Scotland.

You say the shooting of seals only takes place as a last resort. Please tell me how many RSPCA Freedom Food endorsed salmon farms have properly maintained tensioned predator exclusion nets to keep seals well away from the cage nets holding the salmon?

Like all livestock farmers, to meet their legal requirements under the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2009 salmon farmers must protect the welfare of their stock by ensuring they are spared the attention of predators. This does not simply mean stopping predators from physically attacking the salmon; the salmon farmers have to stop predators getting close enough to cause the fish fear and stress.

Unless salmon farmers have the ability to shoot seals 24/7 no matter the light, water, tide and weather conditions they cannot comply with current farm animal welfare legislation in Scotland without installing and maintaining tensioned predator exclusion nets.

As well as telling me how many Freedom Food endorsed salmon farmers have properly maintained tensioned predator exclusion can you tell me how those without such nets are complying with Scottish farm animal welfare legislation far less the higher standards which should be required under Freedom Food policies?

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins.
Save Our Seals Fund