



John F. Robins  
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Our Reference: 202100132016  
Your Reference: SALMON FARMING

28 January 2021

Dear John F. Robins,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary For Rural Economy and Tourism dated 24 December 2020, in which you express dissatisfaction with the processes in place to inform the public that eating escaped farmed salmon is not advisable. I have been asked to respond on Mr Ewing's behalf.

The processes in place, as we have described previously, are intended to make the advice publically available. The dissemination of information on escapes to a range of interests including Local Authorities and River Trusts, who in turn will distribute the information further, captures a range of people who may inadvertently catch wild salmon. In addition we would expect that members of the public would exercise reasonable caution before deciding to eat any animal taken from the wild, and we do not expect their approach to differ with regards to caught salmon. We do not believe introducing legislation to require Aquaculture Production Businesses (the term used in the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Act 2009 to describe businesses engaged in aquaculture practices) would result in better dissemination to a wider audience than the processes already in place. While I expect this will not satisfy your concern, I regret that at this we cannot offer any additional information on this matter and it would seem that we have reached an impasse.

With regards to the quote to which you refer i.e. '*These measures will support the **sustainable** growth of our valuable aquaculture industry*', the phrase relates to the contribution that our ever-evolving policies and regulation of the industry can make to the way in which the sector grows. It is not intended as an assessment of the sector.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Yours sincerely

Panos Pliatsikas  
**ARF : Aquaculture Unit**

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