



Marine Scotland Intelligence Database

Surveillance and Enforcement Branch

Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 11/01/2018 provides that:

Two seals, a mother and a pup have allegedly been shot near Eilean Griannain fish farm, north of Carradale. One seal was found washed ashore at Port Righ and another along at Shore Road. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Both seals have since been washed back out to sea. From photographs taken It is difficult to see if each seal had been shot but both are badly mutilated.

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Surveillance and Enforcement Branch

Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:	3003912
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	07/06/2018 16:40

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 07/06/2018 provides that:

On 7/6/18 @ 13:15UTC, 2 RIB's operating off Findhorn Bay beach. One then landed and the other was off the beach with a seal, most likely a Bull Seal onboard - believed to be dead.

The crew of the rib on the beach are reported to have said they had permission for what they were doing.

Both Ribs were black and one was called [REDACTED] 6/7 people were involved.

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Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:	3003974
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	07/07/2018 20:40

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 07/07/2018 provides that:

Person with binoculars at Findochty Harbour view a vessel called [Redacted] with a [Redacted] number haul aboard a seal in his nets. Animal appeared to be dead and was cut and disposed overboard.
Vessel came into harbour where the observer saw the damaged net still aboard vessel.

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Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	09/07/2018 09:23:45	Spoke to master of [Redacted] Vessel was working single creels close to Findochty, got net stuck in propeller, lifted net, cut off part of net and returned rest to sea. Took part of net back to port to dump, monofilament, more than likely for targetting salmon. Reported that there was a dead seal in the net, returned to sea. No previous intelligence that [Redacted] is netting, vessel rigged for pots and handlines. Previous MSIRs have shown nets off Findochty.

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MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 16/08/2018 provides that:
Report recieved by the source regarding a seal being shot in the Ythan near where the A90 crosses the Ythan.

Request for information regarding seal licence 2017 including any seals shot.



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Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	22/10/2018 09:21:03	[Redacted] provided the information requested.

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DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:	3004110
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	03/09/2018 16:02

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
<p>Intelligence received on 03/09/2018 provides that: It has been reported that 4 seals were found shot on the coast of Basta Voe, Yell near Burray (Grid ref HU5514 9531) They were found by visitors on the weekend of 12th August. [Redacted] Contact had been made with MS Lot.</p>		

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SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Intelligence received on 03/09/2018 provides that: Confirmed with MS Lot that no reports were received by any fish farms in the area, this is a breach of their licence conditions (assuming they were shot at a fish farm) It also looks as though no attempt was made to recover the carcasses, again another breach of a licence condition.		



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Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
<p>Intelligence received on 12/09/2018 provides that: The carcass of a common seal was found under the Kylesku Bridge. It was taken to the SRUC lab in Inverness where a necropsy was undertaken including x-rays. The animal was found to have been shot. It might have been reported to Police Scotland but not MS</p>		



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SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
<p>Intelligence received on 12/09/2018 provides that: Contacted MS-lot, they have received no reports of any seals shot in the area (as required by all licences). [Redacted] [Redacted]</p>		



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Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	17/09/2018 12:39:46	Licence [Redacted] covers the area where this carcass was found. No reports of any returns being submitted against this licence were submitted to MS-LOT

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DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 04/10/2018 provides that:

Intelligence stated that seals are being shot under licence in the River Forss however there is no evidence that non-lethal methods are being used to deter seals. The intelligence suggested that the licensee may be in breach of the seal licence as the seals were not being shot as a last resort given the lack of evidence of non-lethal methods being used. The intelligence also questioned the information provided on the application for the licence in relation to the use of non-lethal methods.

Marine Scotland Intelligence Database

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Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	16/10/2018 12:14:31	I have checked the current licence which is only valid until the 13 October 2018 (end of the fishing season). The licence includes a condition requiring the licensee to adhere to the Scottish Seal Management Code of practice. The CoP states that the shooting of seals must be a last resort. 3 seals have been reported shot under the licence between 27 -29 September 2018 however they were reported late. The survey submitted with the application form for the licence stated that no non-lethal methods were used as the cost of ADD's was financially prohibitive. It also stated that there were no seal predation events at the fishery between 01 Oct 2016 and 30 Sept 2017.
[Redacted]	26/10/2018 16:54:46	.
	26/10/2018 16:59:44	Second call (25 Oct) from same person with same information. No ADD's - too expensive. River superintendant by passed and marksman called for by fisherman via administrator. Log on river details only 1 fish caught with evidence of seal predation suggesting low predation. No evidence of any other non lethal methods in use and therefore shooting is not a last resort. Contact details provided and willing to discuss with a compliance officer if appropriate.

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Intelligence Report

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MSIR Ref:	3004358
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	20/02/2019 16:22

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 20/02/2019 provides that:
On 19 February source emailed 3 photographs pertaining to be shot and beheaded seals washed up at Dunnet Beach at the weekend. Source stated that photographs were sent from a third party. Source wanted official answers in covering email to the following questions;

Can I ask for comments please?
Is it legal to shoot seals at the moment with a licence?
Any thoughts on why they're beheaded?

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Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	21/02/2019 12:22:15	PDF added to Folder in G drive Photographs, Beheading of seals may be linked to behaviour of a Bull Seal, Also it should be noted that in past experience the "Belly Button" is the first area to deteriorate and can look like a gunshot wound.
[Redacted]	21/02/2019 14:04:49	FO's from Scrabster went to Dunnet beach and found the two seal carcasses in the photographs provided, both pups, which are more decomposed now. We spoke to one of the Council Rangers in the visitor centre who informed us that they had received a similar query from the same source. They did not have any concerns as headless seal pups will often wash up. She thought that the power of the waves could remove the head of a decomposing seal and that bird scavenging could create holes that may look like bullet wounds. The ranger who dealt with their initial query was not present but we left our contact details and asked if he could contact us should he have any more information.

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Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:	3004491
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	29/04/2019 11:24

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 29/04/2019 provides that:
A seal carcass with bullet holes has been found at the Wick of Belmont, Unst, Shetland. [Redacted] Carcass reported to be around 2 weeks old.

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DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 13/05/2019 provides that:

Source believes a common seal has been shot and is lying at Crosskirk beach, Forss.
 Local salmon board has a licence to shoot grey seals.
 Source believes that a legal marksman has shot the seal but claims it was a grey seal which was shot.
 Source would like clarification on who has to remove the seal.

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Intelligence Report**DISSEMINATION**

Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	14/05/2019 10:25:22	seal carcass recovered and is in cold storage at the vet lab near Scrabster. Scottish Rural College marine strandings unit are aware it is there and are keen to take it for analysis. Police Scotland are aware of the operation. MS LOT are being contacted to request copy of seal licence.
[Redacted]	14/05/2019 10:30:15	closed

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DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 02/09/2019 provides that:

Suspected seal shooting occurred around 2nd July 2019 in Uig bay. Animal recovered but no necropsy to confirm cause of death has yet been carried out.

Closest fish farm does not appear to have a seal shooting licence although another farm close by which is not stocked does have a licence. No recorded shootings under licence from that farm. [Redacted]

[Redacted] knew about seal being found but denied any involvement. He did however state that their normal marksman, name not given, did not currently have the required firearms licence. He was also under the impression that both sites did have a licence to shoot seals.

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE



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DISSEMINATION



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DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:	3004908
Grading Officer:	[Redacted]
Date and Time of Report:	28/10/2019 16:45

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 28/10/2019 provides that:
Over the weekend 18 & 19 october on a fish farm in Orkney - 15- 20 seals were observed dead in a net that is used as a buffer to prevent seals getting at salmon pens.
No further evidence available other than the "third" hand information supplied.



Marine Scotland Intelligence Database

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DISSEMINATION

Notes		
User	Date	Note
[Redacted]	11/11/2019 16:21:52	<p>predator nets are still used in some fish farm sites and are designed to stop seals attacking and killing or damaging salmon . they form a protective barrier to prevent the seals from accessing the inner netting in which the salmon swim. They are not designed to kill seals. Part 6 of the Marine Scotland act states that “Killing, injuring or taking a live seal (intentionally or recklessly) is an offence” and goes on to list certain exemptions.</p> <p>Local officers have not heard of any such incidents . Unless the source comes back with more detailed information. We are unable to further investigate.</p>

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Intelligence Report

DISSEMINATION

MSIR Ref:

Grading Officer:

Date and Time of Report:

SOURCE EVALUATION	INTELLIGENCE EVALUATION	HANDLING CODE
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Intelligence received on 14/02/2020 provides that:

The source has called MS LOT on multiple occasions regarding the liecene to [Redacted]
[Redacted]

There are several concerns raised by the source:

- 1 - more seals shot than reported - source claims at least 5 shot in 2019 and only 2 reported.
- 2 - Management of licence - persons fishing on river call administrator if a seal is seen in the river, administrator calls licence holder(London based) who then calls out marksman. Source feels that this is an inappropriate way to manage the seals present in the area and they are not shot as a last resort, rather a first resort.
- 3 - Seals are shot on an outgoing tide with no attempt to recover the carcass, but more to allow the tide to take the carcass out to sea.
- 4 - Source states that there are only very occasional rogue seals that make thier way into the river and that seals are being shot within the bay un-necessarily.

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Christie N (Naomi)

From: McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser)
Sent: 02 February 2021 17:20
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Spads feedback required: Media enquiry: seal protection laws

Thanks [Redacted]

Lines are good but I don't think we need the background about MMPA.

Mairi

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 February 2021 17:01
To: McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Spads feedback required: Media enquiry: seal protection laws

Hi Mairi

Sorry to chase, just wondering if you've had time to consider my email below?

Many thanks

[Redacted]

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
m: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2021 14:57
To: McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural

Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; MS Marine Licensing @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; MS
<MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; MS
Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; Palmer MR
(Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted] @gov.scot>;
[Redacted] @gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>

Subject: Spads feedback required: Media enquiry: seal protection laws

[Redacted]
Thanks

Bringing in spads for feedback.

[Redacted] grateful for your thoughts on the following response to an enquiry from the Ferret regarding protection for seals – full enquiry in email chain below.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protection and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 has amended the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to remove two specific grounds for which Scottish Ministers can grant licences to kill or take seals. These are for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of farmed fish and for preventing serious damage to fisheries and fish farms.

“The Act also increased the penalties associated with the offence of killing, injuring or taking a live seal (intentionally or recklessly) in line with the most serious wildlife offences. Those found guilty of breaking the new laws could face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.

“We would urge anyone with any information about wildlife crime to contact the police.”

Background

The changes came into effect on 1 February 2021 at the end of the current licensing round. [The Scottish Government will be publishing guidance associated with the remaining licensable purposes in Section 110 of the Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010 shortly.](#)

The US Marine Mammal Protection Act which comes into force on 1 January 2023, requires nations exporting fish products to the USA to have measures in place for the protection of marine mammals, equivalent to those in the USA. This means that any fishery whose operations result in the intentional or incidental killing or serious injury of marine mammals occurring in a manner not permitted under US rules, will be prevented from exporting to the US. Exporting nations have to demonstrate compliance with the MMPA by 30 November 2021.

[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; MS Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted]
[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted]
[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>
Cc: [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; Communications Rural
Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Policy colleagues feedback required: Media enquiry: seal protection laws

Adding aquaculture policy and compliance colleagues.

Best Wishes

Marine Scotland – Marine Planning and Policy
Mob: [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>
Sent: 02 February 2021 13:11
To: [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; MS Marine Licensing
<MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>;
<[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; MS Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:gov.scot)>; Communications Rural
Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>
Subject: Policy colleagues feedback required: Media enquiry: seal protection laws

Policy colleagues

We have had an enquiry from the Ferret about enforcement of the new laws to protect seals.

Grateful for feedback on the lines below.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protection and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 has amended the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to remove two specific grounds for which Scottish Ministers can grant licences to kill or take seals. These are for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of farmed fish and for preventing serious damage to fisheries and fish farms.

“The Act also increased the penalties associated with the offence of killing, injuring or taking a live seal (intentionally or recklessly) in line with the most serious wildlife offences. Those found guilty of breaking the new laws could face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both. We would urge anyone with any information about wildlife crime to contact the police.”

Background

The changes came into effect on 1 February 2021 at the end of the current licensing round. [The Scottish Government will be publishing guidance associated with the remaining licensable purposes in Section 110 of the Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010 shortly.](#)

The US Marine Mammal Protection Act which comes into force on 1 January 2023, requires nations exporting fish products to the USA to have measures in place for the protection of marine mammals, equivalent to those in the USA. This means that any fishery whose operations result in the intentional or incidental killing or serious injury of marine mammals occurring in a manner not permitted under US rules, will be prevented from exporting to the US. Exporting nations have to demonstrate compliance with the MMPA by 30 November 2021.

FULL ENQUIRY

I'm writing a report for The Ferret about a charity called Animal Concern which is offering a £5,000 reward for "information leading to the first successful prosecution under new legal protection for seals".

John Robins, Secretary of Animal Concern, said: “Most salmon farms are in remote areas and the shooting of seals was never monitored while it was legal and I am sure it will still not be policed now it is illegal. The only successful prosecution of a salmon farmer for killing seals was as a result of one of our campaigns. The farmer involved was fined £200 on 1st August 1989 for using a shotgun instead of a rifle to kill seals at his farm on Skye. That prosecution was only possible because farm workers turned whistle blowers and gave me the evidence needed to gain a conviction.”

“Scottish Government Ministers and officials have bent over backwards to protect fish farmers and keep their persecution of wildlife and environmental damage out of the public eye. Last year there were at least two incidents where Police Scotland officers abused their power to stop campaigners legally gaining evidence of the suffering caused to salmon in these floating factory farms.”

“Fish farms are in remote areas and with Covid restrictions there are even fewer people likely to see what is happening around the salmon cages. Farm workers and local people may be afraid to speak out for fear of reprisals. They can pass information to us in strict confidence and we will take whatever action we can to secure a prosecution. If we obtain a successful conviction we will gladly pay the £5000 reward to the person who supplied the information.”

“Shooting is no longer the cheap option for dealing with seals. Salmon farmers will now have to use some of their profits to create new jobs installing and

maintaining the predator exclusion nets we have been asking them to use for the last thirty years. These are expensive but not as costly as a very heavy fine and/or five years in jail.”

I wondered if anyone would comment in response to Mr Robins? We'd be grateful for a comment by 5pm today to meet the deadline.

[Redacted]

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)

m: [Redacted]

RE: To clear: media enquiry - protection for seals

03 February 2021 08:28

Subject	RE: To clear: media enquiry - protection for seals
From	[Redacted]
To	[Redacted] Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Cc	Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism; [Redacted]); Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [Redacted] MS Marine Licensing; [Redacted] ; MS Communications; [Redacted] [Redacted] ; Palmer MR (Mike); [Redacted] [Redacted] News Desk; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser); [Redacted]
Sent	02 February 2021 19:12

[Redacted]

[Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment](#)

The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot

Tel: [Redacted] | Mobile: [Redacted] | Email: MinisterRANE@gov.scot

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From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Sent: 02 February 2021 17:42

To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform <CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

[Redacted] ; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] MS Marine Licensing

<MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

[Redacted] MS Communications

<MS.Communications@gov.scot>;[Redacted]
[Redacted] ; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>;[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] News Desk
<Newsdesk@gov.scot>; McAllan M (Màiri) (Special Adviser) <Mairi.Mcallan@gov.scot> [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Subject: To clear: media enquiry - protection for seals

Hi [REDACTED]

We have been approached by the Ferret with a query regarding protection for seals.

Comms, spads and policy are content with the lines below.

Grateful for Mr Macpherson's clearance.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"The Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protection and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 has amended the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to remove two specific grounds for which Scottish Ministers can grant licences to kill or take seals. These are for the purpose of protecting the health and welfare of farmed fish and for preventing serious damage to fisheries and fish farms.

"The Act also increased the penalties associated with the offence of killing, injuring or taking a live seal (intentionally or recklessly) in line with the most serious wildlife offences. Those found guilty of breaking the new laws could face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.

"We would urge anyone with any information about wildlife crime to contact the police."

Background

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public eye. Last year there were at least two incidents where Police Scotland officers abused their power to stop campaigners legally gaining evidence of the suffering caused to salmon in these floating factory farms.”

“Fish farms are in remote areas and with Covid restrictions there are even fewer people likely to see what is happening around the salmon cages. Farm workers and local people may be afraid to speak out for fear of reprisals. They can pass information to us in strict confidence and we will take whatever action we can to secure a prosecution. If we obtain a successful conviction we will gladly pay the £5000 reward to the person who supplied the information.”

“Shooting is no longer the cheap option for dealing with seals. Salmon farmers will now have to use some of their profits to create new jobs installing and maintaining the predator exclusion nets we have been asking them to use for the last thirty years. These are expensive but not as costly as a very heavy fine and/or five years in jail.”

I wondered if anyone would comment in response to Mr Robins?

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