

Email 1

**From:** <redacted> <redacted>

**Sent:** 26 May 2021 12:11

**To:** <redacted> Communications Rural Economy & Environment <redacted>

**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Burial of salmon mortalities at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - Press enquiry to Local Authority

Thanks <redacted>, that's really helpful.

Kind regards,

<redacted>

<redacted> | **Communications: News (Environment, Climate Change and Energy)**

**Senior Media Manager**

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

E: <redacted>

**From:** <redacted> <redacted>

**Sent:** 26 May 2021 12:09

**To:** Communications Rural Economy & Environment

<CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; <redacted>

**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Subject:** Burial of salmon mortalities at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - Press enquiry to Local Authority

All

Forwarding for awareness. Comhairlie nan Eilean Siar (CnES) have received a press enquiry about the dumping of salmon carcasses at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd in North Uist. Follow up correspondence may come to SG.

The burial of salmon morts has been illegal under the animal by-product Regulations since 2016. However, we have allowed Whiteshore Cockles Ltd a derogation to allow burial to continue until they installed a legally compliant disposal route for salmon morts on their site in North Uist. Whiteshore Cockles Ltd expected their fish waste dryer to be operational in the summer of 2016 but to date it is still not operational.

Policy met with CnES on 19 March to raise concerns that Whiteshore Cockles are not operating to the terms of the Method Statement (one of the conditions to allow burial of salmon morts to continue). Policy have engaged with SGLD to look at legal options on how to address Whiteshore Cockles Ltd not complying with the Method Statement. A submission is being prepared for the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands on this issue.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government*

Tel. <redacted> | Mob: <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 26 May 2021 11:25

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Morning <redacted>

Any progress re this?

Please see attached press enquiry.

My thoughts of a Comhairle response are keeping it brief - something like:

The Comhairle are aware of the concerns around the facility and are in discussion with the Scottish Government to find an early resolution.

Give me a call if you want to discuss.

<redacted>

--

<redacted>

<redacted> | Manaidsear Seirbheisean Luchd-Cleachdaidh agus Arainneachd (Consumer and Environmental Services Manager)

Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Rathad Shanndabhaig | Steornabhagh | Eilean Leodhais | HS1 2BW

Communities Department | <redacted> | Sandwich Road | Stornoway | Isle of Lewis | HS1 2BW

| <redacted> | Ext <redacted> | <redacted> | [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk) | [Area Offices](#)

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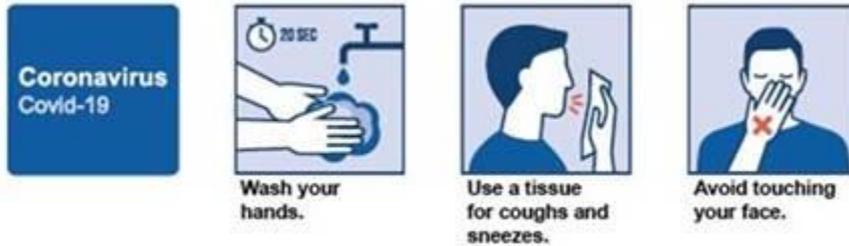
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[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2021 15:23  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

**WARNING: THIS EMAIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMHAIRLE; PLEASE TREAT HYPERLINKS OR ATTACHMENTS WITH CAUTION. CONTACT THE IT HELPDESK IF IN ANY DOUBT.**

Hi <redacted>

That statement on the derogation looks factual so I am happy with the content. I have updated my colleagues in in Animal Health and Welfare plus Marine Scotland on today's meeting. I will aim to get an update on Whiteshore Cockles to Minsters next week with a view to reviewing the conditions of the derogation and seeking a update on capacity/burial practices at the site.

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted> <redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2021 12:29  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Hi <redacted>

This is what planning are putting in their screening assessment report.

*The site is situated in a coastal location, on the machair, to the south-west of Paible, North Uist. The application site forms part of a larger site, which was granted planning permission for the burying and ensiling of fish morts in 2005.*

*It is understood that fish morts are classed as Category 2 animal by-products (ABPs) and that the disposal of fish morts by burial was conducted under a derogation for remote areas, for the disposal of ABPs, initially monitored through Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Animal Health); it was not considered to be a permitted operation regulated by SEPA.*

*In January 2016 the derogation for the disposal of salmon morts by this means ceased to be effective, through an amendment to the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Notwithstanding the Regulations, the Scottish Government (Animal Health and Welfare Division) granted its authority to allow the burial of fish morts to continue, initially for periods of six months and in October 2019, confirmed this burial activity could continue on this particular site, on condition that burial would end when a fish waste processing facility, planned for the site was granted a PPC permit from SEPA.*

*From the applicant's submitted BAT Assessment, it is understood that the aquaculture industry is now required to ensure that they dispose of their waste in accordance with the 2013 Regulations, so that it can no longer be landfilled.*

Thanks for today.

<redacted>



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## Email 2

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 29 August 2019 10:34  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Fish waste Site, North Uist.

Hi <redacted>

Given that this material will be disposed as landfill until the fish dryer is operational, I don't see any disease control reasons for not allowing it in extreme circumstances.

Won't this still be non-compliant with the legislation? Or does it make allowances for landfill disposal during disease outbreaks?

Regards

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 28 August 2019 17:38  
**To:** <redacted> **Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Fish waste Site, North Uist.

All

Update on Whiteshores. All seems good but they are looking for our thoughts on burial being an option in extreme circumstances. What are your thoughts?

Mine are as long as Council continue to supervise, possibly notify us when/if it ever happens, it could be allowed. Need guidelines/guidance on when it could be an option.

I am going to be on leave and will be back on 10 September, I'll send a holding reply to <redacted>

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 27 August 2019 12:28

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Fish waste Site, North Uist.

Dear <redacted>,

Hope all is well and life is treating you ok.

Everything is on track with the equipment etc for the Fish processing site in North Uist and we are hopeful that everything will be in place by the end of October and all the teething problems etc will be sorted and we will be in full production with the new system by the year end. We had a visit today from Jamie Hepburn the Minister for Business and he showed a great interest in our project.

We are very hopeful that we will eventually be processing all the morts from all the sites in the Western Isles and all the fish farming companies are keen to support this alternative to the mainland transportation that some sites are currently undertaken.

With so many people involved in the process i.e. Fish farm employees, transport drivers and our own staff I am keen to make up a Method Statement and Processing Flow Chart which will allow everybody to know exactly what they do , and cant do, in any situation that arises. We have had a couple of instances recently of staff not knowing or understanding some of the planning restrictions we work under e.g. no deliveries after 9 p.m. or on a Sunday ( to respect the religious practices on North Uist.) and we need to make sure that everyone involved knows the correct procedures.

To this end I have had discussions with <redacted>, Animal Health Officer for Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, and we have concerns about a possible disease or infection hitting a few or more of the sites simultaneously in which case we cannot cope with processing the tonnage within the SEPA time restrictions. We are in the process of building a shed with a storage pit which will more than cater for all the tonnage we can expect to get in normal circumstances based on our 14 years experience and the increase in the farming capacities.

If, and this is a big If, we get an extremely rare situation as explained above would it be possible to revert back to our previous burial method to clear any backlog and prevent mortalities having to be transported to a mainland waste site? We do not expect this situation to happen but we cannot control the forces of nature and possible mechanical breakdown.

Your thoughts on this matter would be appreciated. I have copied <redacted> into this email.

<redacted>

<redacted>

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### Email 3

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 27 May 2021 11:24

**To:** Scottish Ministers <[Scottish\\_Ministers@gov.scot](mailto:Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot)>; [publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk); <redacted> Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <[Directormarinescotland@gov.scot](mailto:Directormarinescotland@gov.scot)>; Media <[publicrelations@sepa.org.uk](mailto:publicrelations@sepa.org.uk)>; <redacted> Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <[Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot)>; [defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk); SM-APHA-Enquiries APHA <[enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** <redacted> Enquiries <[enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cne-siar.gov.uk)>; Ruskell M (Mark), MSP <[Mark.Ruskell.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mark.Ruskell.msp@parliament.scot)>; Beamish C (Claudia), MSP <[Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Claudia.Beamish.msp@parliament.scot)>; MSP <[Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot)>; Mountain E (Edward), MSP <[Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Edward.Mountain.msp@parliament.scot)>; Cameron D (Donald), MSP <[Donald.Cameron.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Donald.Cameron.msp@parliament.scot)>; [Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot)

**Subject:** EU Derogation for Whiteshore Cockles Must be Rescinded Now!

Please read a letter to the Scottish Government, DEFRA & SEPA (copied to the European Commission and Western Isles Council) re. a breach of EU law on the continued dumping of diseased salmon in landfill dated 27 May 2021 - [online here](#)

The basic question asked by Scottish Salmon Watch is this:

When will the UK and Scottish Government start adhering to EU law and stop the burial of diseased farmed salmon at Whiteshore Cockles in North Uist in the Outer Hebrides?

Read more background via:

[Video Exposes Mass Graves of Millions of Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

[The Times: "Islanders raise a stink over vast salmon graveyard"](#)

Thanks,

<redacted>

Director of Scottish Salmon Watch

Email 4

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 16:54

**To:** <redacted>(<REDACTED>) <redacted> <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Thanks <redacted>

Grateful to be kept updated. Will leave with the EQD as to whether they might wish to query with SEPA separately given current aquaculture sensitivities.

Best regards

<REDACTED>

Aquaculture Health, Welfare and Innovation Policy Manager  
Marine Scotland – Aquaculture, Crown Estate, Recreational Fisheries, EMFF and Europe

Tel: <redacted>

E-mail: <redacted>

Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

Mail: Scottish Government, 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ



**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 16:45

**To:** <redacted>(MARLAB) <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Hi <redacted>

I spoke to <redacted> from Whiteshore Cockles this afternoon. I asked him to formally write to me seeking an extension to their derogation to allow fish waste to continue to be buried at their site in North Uist.

Murdoch MacLeod (Deputy Director, Finance and Location Director for the Outer Hebrides) is arranging a meeting with Whiteshores and SEPA later this month. I am unlikely to raise this issue with SEPA directly but if we decide to grant an extension

to the derogation, I would want it to cover the time period for the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit to be completed.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Delivery | Scottish Government*  
Tel. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 14:40

**To:** <redacted>(MARLAB)<redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

**Importance:** High

Hi <redacted>

Thanks for this.

I am copying correspondence (below and attached) to EQD division and the wider aquaculture team as issue with delays to the issue of CAR licences has been raised recently by the aquaculture industry who have issued a letter of complaint to SEPA, and is frequently raised at the aquaculture industry leadership group – where this also has the potential to be raised.

I note the original feed in was from Financial Services Division/ Murdoch – are there plans for SG to respond, or is an action waiting with SEPA to respond? Has the SEPA position been confirmed?

Best regards

<REDACTED>

Aquaculture Health, Welfare and Innovation Policy Manager  
Marine Scotland – Aquaculture, Crown Estate, Recreational Fisheries, EMFF and Europe

Tel: <redacted>

E-mail: <redacted>

Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

Mail: Scottish Government, 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ



**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 13:13

To: <redacted>(MARLAB)<redacted>  
Subject: FW: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

For info. Further details on SEPA engagement with Whiteshores.

Ian

From: Macleod M (Murdoch) <<redacted>@gov.scot>  
Sent: 09 October 2019 12:57  
To: <redacted>  
Cc: <redacted>  
Subject: RE: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Hi there

Fed into the system

Take care

Murdoch

**Dr Murdoch M Macleod**

Deputy Director, Finance (Financial Services)  
and Location Director for the Outer Hebrides  
The Scottish Government  
Room 3A North, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

**Dr Murchadh M Macleòid**

Leas-Stùiriche an Iomhais  
agus Stùiriche Ionadail airson na h-Eileanan an Iar  
Rioghaltas na h-Alba  
3A Tuath, Cidhe Bhictoria  
Dun Eideann, EH6 6QQ

Fon: <redacted>

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 09 October 2019 12:37  
To: Macleod M (Murdoch) <<redacted>@gov.scot>  
Cc: <redacted>  
Subject: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Dear Murdoch,

As requested please find below a brief outline of our fish drying project to date and the possible consequences of SEPA requesting that we submit a Part A PPC application in order to begin operations.

We currently have a derogation in place to continue burying the fish mortalities until 31/12 /2019 which was granted by <redacted> , Directorate for Agriculture and Rural

Economy ( whom I have copied in to this email ) and our timescale for completion of this project has been dictated by this deadline. We have equipment already in situ in Manchester with various parts being shipped from Italy, Spain and Czechoslovakia within the next few weeks. The plant, at a total cost approaching two million pounds will then all be assembled in North Uist and ready for full scale processing by the end of the year.

We have kept in touch with the various governing and monitoring agencies to update them on our progress over the last few years since the project began and were aware that we required approval / certification from the Animal Health Plant Agency and SEPA. I met with AHPA yesterday in Inverness and we have started the application process which will lead to their approval. This will not hold up proceedings as the final approval cannot be given till they validate the plant whilst testing it in operation.

Our planning application ref no : 14/00333/PPD to "erect shed for drying of fish morts" received the following response from SEPA. ( I have only shown below the relevant points but the complete text is available on the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar website)

1. Comment Date: Tuesday 7 October 2014.

" We have no objection to this planning application. Consult the APHA for advice on how they will regulate the proposals."

1.2." Our local operation team has been in discussions with the operator regarding this proposal as it is novel technology for dealing with fish morts.'

1.3 " based on the information provided to date we **do not consider it is likely that the process will require a PPC permit from us. "**

They then mention that a permit is only required if there is an emission to air or give rise to an offensive smell outside the premises. We have been operating for 14 years whilst having the morts outside waiting for burial and the instances of any smell offending anyone ( the nearest house is about half a mile away) are rare. This can be checked with the local Animal Health Officer who monitors our operations. Our new system will have all the morts in a sealed building to contain any smells or odour.

1.4 " There may be role for a Waste Management Licence"

1.5 "From the local teams discussions with the operator it does seem likely that they will need require an authorisation from us under the Water Environment ( Controlled Activities ) (Scotland) Regulations (CAR) as the process gives rise to steam which is condensed and a liquid needs to be discharged. No information has been provided on likely quantity or quality of this discharge , however it is likely to be able to gain authorisation from us."

If SEPA continue to insist on a full Part A or B PPC application this could take up to eight months to complete and cost tens of thousands of pounds which we have not budgeted for and can barely afford. We have engaged <redacted>, Managing Director, Atmos Consulting , who is an environmental consultant to assist us with the applications to AHPA and what we believed to be the simple applications mentioned above in the SEPA response.

As mentioned above we have been dealing with the local SEPA officials who know how we operate and have local knowledge of the situation. **Why have they now been ignored and why has the advice given to us in 2014 ( which we have been following ) now been overturned? The advice given in 2014 would appear to be**

**appropriate in this case for the very low environmental impact and low emissions which our dryer system will generate.**

If our derogation expires and we are no longer allowed to receive mortalities for burial and SEPA do not allow us to use the new plant the environmental and economic impact on our island communities will be immense. The fish farms would then have to arrange collection of the morts from a mainland transport haulier, make a return journey on a ferry to the mainland ( if allowed, as there have already been murmurings of discontent for this practice to continue on the Stornoway - Ullapool route) and then travel hundreds of miles to a rendering plant in the south of the country. As we cater for all the Western Isles area and have an experienced and dedicated transport system in place to deal with all eventualities we can predict that this would be a logistical nightmare to arrange. During the summer months it is impossible to get a booking for a car on the ferries at short notice so a bulker lorry would be almost impossible. The scenario of hundreds of tons of fish mortalities lying around the Western Isles for days / weeks waiting to be collected and transported away is a distinct possibility. Instead of SEPA protecting the environment they will have created an environmental disaster which will receive national media coverage. The " One Show " on BBC last year made a damaging video clip of one lorry transporting morts from the north of Scotland to the Borders. The impact of what the media would show with scores of lorries transporting from the islands would cause huge damage to the salmon industry which is vital to Scotland's economy.

In terms of economic loss our company's huge financial investment could prove to be crippling if the morts were directed to the mainland for disposal. We are currently looking to engage more staff to help with the expected increase in business that the new plant will generate and these jobs will be lost as well as the current staff. The transport network we have created employs full-time and part time employees and these jobs would also be lost. The financial impact on the fish farms having to transport morts to the mainland could also affect their long term planning for expansion in the Western Isles as we have contracts with all the major companies which offer them very competitive terms and an excellent service for disposing of their mortalities.

As explained earlier we only have a matter of days to try and reach a solution to this problem as all the machinery is leaving the factories shortly and we will have to assess if it is still economically viable for us to continue with the project if a simple solution cannot be found.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to call me anytime.

Best regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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## Email 5

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 15 October 2018 16:10  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles Ltd  
(ANNEX 1)  
Dear <redacted>,

Please find attached letter updating you on all the plant and machinery etc we have ordered for the drier system.

As you previously advised we are hoping to have everything in place and operating by the end of march 2019.

Best regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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## Email 6

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 September 2018 12:48  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: SALMON DISPOSAL AT WHITESHORE COCKLES 6.9.18  
**Importance:** High

(ANNEX 2)

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 06 September 2018 17:39  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** FW: SALMON DISPOSAL AT WHITESHORE COCKLES 6.9.18

**Importance:** High

<redacted>, please find attached report – It would appear that ABP approval is still at least 4 months away.

<redacted> thanks for prioritising this today before going on leave.

<redacted>

**<redacted> BVM&S MRCVS**

APHA Veterinary Lead North Scotland

Telephone: <redacted> | Mobile: <redacted>

---

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 06 September 2018 16:35

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** SALMON DISPOSAL AT WHITESHORE COCKLES 6.9.18

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon <redacted>

Please find attached a quick report on the burial site at Whiteshores, North Uist that I hope answers your questions about the site.

Kind regards

*<redacted>*

Veterinary Officer

**APHA Inverness Field Services Office**

Longman House

28 Longman Road

INVERNESS

IV1 1SF

**T:** <redacted>

**M:** <redacted>

**F:** <redacted>

**E:** <redacted>

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Email 7

**From:** Macleod M (Murdoch) <<redacted>@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 15:35

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Hi <redacted>

I hope to arrange a meeting which I will facilitate between Whiteshore Cockles and SEPA later this month. In the meantime, I have spoken to my colleague <redacted> who is confident that Whiteshore Cockles have grounds for an extension of derogation until the PPC is complete (subject to confirmation at the meeting which I shall facilitate later this month).

You agreed to call me on 21 Oct to give me an update.

Take care

Murdoch

**Dr Murdoch M Macleod**

Deputy Director, Finance (Financial Services)  
and Location Director for the Outer Hebrides  
The Scottish Government  
Room 3A North, Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

**Dr Murchadh M Macleòid**

Leas-Stùiriche an Iomhais  
agus Stiùiriche Ionadail airson na h-Eileanan an Iar  
Rioghaltas na h-Alba  
3A Tuath, Cidhe Bhictoria  
Dun Eideann, EH6 6QQ

Fon: <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 12:37

**To:** Macleod M (Murdoch) <redacted>

Cc: <redacted>

Subject: Fish Drying Project , North Uist.

Dear Murdoch,

As requested please find below a brief outline of our fish drying project to date and the possible consequences of SEPA requesting that we submit a Part A PPC application in order to begin operations.

We currently have a derogation in place to continue burying the fish mortalities until 31/12 /2019 which was granted by <redacted> , Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy ( whom I have copied in to this email ) and our timescale for completion of this project has been dictated by this deadline. We have equipment already in situ in Manchester with various parts being shipped from Italy, Spain and Czechoslovakia within the next few weeks. The plant, at a total cost approaching two million pounds will then all be assembled in North Uist and ready for full scale processing by the end of the year.

We have kept in touch with the various governing and monitoring agencies to update them on our progress over the last few years since the project began and were aware that we required approval / certification from the Animal Health Plant Agency and SEPA. I met with AHPA yesterday in Inverness and we have started the application process which will lead to their approval. This will not hold up proceedings as the final approval cannot be given till they validate the plant whilst testing it in operation.

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1.5 "From the local teams discussions with the operator it does seem likely that they will need require an authorisation from us under the Water Environment ( Controlled Activities ) (Scotland) Regulations (CAR) as the process gives rise to steam which is condensed and a liquid needs to be discharged. No information has been provided on likely quantity or quality of this discharge , however it is likely to be able to gain authorisation from us."

If SEPA continue to insist on a full Part A or B PPC application this could take up to eight months to complete and cost tens of thousands of pounds which we have not budgeted for and can barely afford. We have engaged <redacted>, Managing Director, Atmos Consulting, who is an environmental consultant to assist us with the applications to AHPA and what we believed to be the simple applications mentioned above in the SEPA response.

As mentioned above we have been dealing with the local SEPA officials who know how we operate and have local knowledge of the situation. **Why have they now been ignored and why has the advice given to us in 2014 ( which we have been following ) now been overturned? The advice given in 2014 would appear to be appropriate in this case for the very low environmental impact and low emissions which our dryer system will generate.**

If our derogation expires and we are no longer allowed to receive mortalities for burial and SEPA do not allow us to use the new plant the environmental and economic impact on our island communities will be immense. The fish farms would then have to arrange collection of the morts from a mainland transport haulier, make a return journey on a ferry to the mainland ( if allowed, as there have already been murmurings of discontent for this practice to continue on the Stornoway - Ullapool route) and then travel hundreds of miles to a rendering plant in the south of the country. As we cater for all the Western Isles area and have an experienced and dedicated transport system in place to deal with all eventualities we can predict that this would be a logistical nightmare to arrange. During the summer months it is impossible to get a booking for a car on the ferries at short notice so a bulker lorry would be almost impossible. The scenario of hundreds of tons of fish mortalities lying around the Western Isles for days / weeks waiting to be collected and transported away is a distinct possibility. Instead of SEPA protecting the environment they will have created an environmental disaster which will receive national media coverage. The " One Show " on BBC last year made a damaging video clip of one lorry transporting morts from the north of Scotland to the Borders. The impact of what the media would show with scores of lorries transporting from the islands would cause huge damage to the salmon industry which is vital to Scotland's economy.

In terms of economic loss our company's huge financial investment could prove to be crippling if the morts were directed to the mainland for disposal. We are currently looking to engage more staff to help with the expected increase in business that the new plant will generate and these jobs will be lost as well as the current staff. The transport network we have created employs full-time and part time employees and these jobs would also be lost. The financial impact on the fish farms having to transport morts to the mainland could also affect their long term planning for expansion in the Western Isles as we have contracts with all the major companies which offer them very competitive terms and an excellent service for disposing of their mortalities.

As explained earlier we only have a matter of days to try and reach a solution to this problem as all the machinery is leaving the factories shortly and we will have to assess if it is still economically viable for us to continue with the project if a simple solution cannot be found.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to call me anytime.

Best regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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## Email 8

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 26 May 2021 11:25

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment  
(Email 8.1 attachment, see below)

Morning <redacted>

Any progress re this?

Please see attached press enquiry.

My thoughts of a Comhairle response are keeping it brief - something like:  
The Comhairle are aware of the concerns around the facility and are in discussion with the Scottish Government to find an early resolution.

Give me a call if you want to discuss.

<redacted>

--

<redacted>

<redacted> | Manaidsear Seirbheisean Luchd-Cleachdaidh agus Arainneachd (Consumer and Environmental Services Manager)

Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Rathad Shanndabhaig | Steornabhagh | Eilean Leodhais | HS1 2BW

Communities Department | [Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) | Sandwick Road | Stornoway | Isle of Lewis | HS1 2BW

[<redacted>](#) | [<redacted>](#) | Ext [<redacted>](#) | [<redacted>](#) | [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk) | [Area Offices](#)

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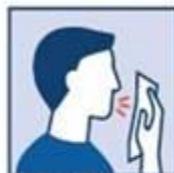
Consumer & Environmental Services welcomes your feedback. Please help us improve our service by taking our short customer survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c)

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Ag Obair Comhla airson na h-Eileanan Siar **COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR** Working Together for the Western Isles



Wash your hands.



Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes.



Avoid touching your face.

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

From <redacted>

Sent: 19 March 2021 15:23

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

**WARNING: THIS EMAIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMHAIRLE; PLEASE TREAT HYPERLINKS OR ATTACHMENTS WITH CAUTION. CONTACT THE IT HELPDESK IF IN ANY DOUBT.**

Hi <redacted>

That statement on the derogation looks factual so I am happy with the content. I have updated my colleagues in in Animal Health and Welfare plus Marine Scotland on today's meeting. I will aim to get an update on Whiteshore Cockles to Minsters next week with a view to reviewing the conditions of the derogation and seeking a update on capacity/burial practices at the site.

<redacted>

From: <redacted>

Sent: 19 March 2021 12:29

To: <redacted>

Subject: FW: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Hi <redacted>

This is what planning are putting in their screening assessment report.

*The site is situated in a coastal location, on the machair, to the south-west of Paible, North Uist. The application site forms part of a larger site, which was granted planning permission for the burying and ensiling of fish morts in 2005.*

*It is understood that fish morts are classed as Category 2 animal by-products (ABPs) and that the disposal of fish morts by burial was conducted under a derogation for remote areas, for the disposal of ABPs, initially monitored through Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Animal Health); it was not considered to be a permitted operation regulated by SEPA.*

*In January 2016 the derogation for the disposal of salmon morts by this means ceased to be effective, through an amendment to the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Notwithstanding the Regulations, the Scottish Government (Animal Health and Welfare Division) granted its authority to allow the burial of fish morts to continue, initially for periods of six months and in October 2019, confirmed this burial activity could continue on this particular site, on condition that burial would end when a fish waste processing facility, planned for the site was granted a PPC permit from SEPA.*

*From the applicant's submitted BAT Assessment, it is understood that the aquaculture industry is now required to ensure that they dispose of their waste in accordance with the 2013 Regulations, so that it can no longer be landfilled.*

Thanks for today.

<redacted>



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Email 8.1

Morning gents. Any guidance/thoughts on query below?

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 26 May 2021 09:45  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** The Times - Dumping of salmon carcasses

**WARNING: THIS EMAIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMHAIRLE; PLEASE TREAT HYPERLINKS OR ATTACHMENTS WITH CAUTION. CONTACT THE IT HELPDESK IF IN ANY DOUBT.**

Good morning <redacted>,

I wonder if you, or one of your colleagues, might be able to help me?

We are going to be running an article in tomorrow's edition about the continued landfill disposal of hundreds of thousands of unprocessed salmon carcasses by the firm Whiteshore Cockles beneath dunes on North Uist.

There have been complaints that the process is contrary to Scottish Government guidance and causes foul odours which affects the local community.

In 2018 <redacted> told the BBC "I'm not going to continue burial for much longer because I have a new state-of-the-art unit coming in."

Our understanding is that the promised unit has not been introduced and the landfill dumping of dead salmon continues to this day.

We also understand that planning permission was granted in March for the installation of a fish drying plant at the site,

However, concerns have been raised that it will take until 2022 or 2023 for any new drier unit to be installed and become operational.

My editor is very keen to get the Comhairle's take on this.

I'd be very grateful if you were able to send over a statement for publication before 4.30 today.

Many thanks and best wishes,

<redacted>

<redacted>, Scotland reporter, The Times

<redacted>

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Email 9

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 09:48

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Whiteshore Cockles Ltd

<redacted> and <redacted>,

I attended a meeting with SEPA, Dingwall and consultants representing Whiteshore Cockles Ltd on 25<sup>th</sup> September. I subsequently met with <redacted> yesterday.

<redacted> is working with Tidy Planet, who are supplying a continuous rendering plant, which will be integrated with a biomass incinerator. The equipment has been manufactured and is due for delivery to North Uist before the end of October.

Yesterday's meeting was arranged to discuss the plans and advise <redacted> on his ABP Application for processing/rendering. He is installing a continuous method 4 cooker, which will require validation. The biomass incinerator will be IED approved so will not require ABP Approval. There is some work to be done on internal layout, product flows, HACCP, clean/dirty separation and personnel movements. However in principle I see no major barriers to ABP Approval at this point.

SEPA consents are a different issue. I understand that due to an increase in the throughput of the proposed plant that it will now require a Part A, rather than Part B PPC Permit, as originally envisaged. Consultants had just been appointed to draft the PPC Application at the time of the meeting with SEPA. SEPA will take a minimum of 4 months from receipt of a satisfactory application to issue a permit. In reality the timescale will be more like 6-9 months (not including the time to write the application).

I understand that Whiteshore Cockles Ltd's derogation to allow burial of Category 2 salmon morts expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. Whilst the equipment could be installed and operational in November, the site will not have SEPA consent to operate until May/June 2020 at the earliest. Provisional ABP Approval should be possible before that, but both SEPA and SG Approval must be in place before the plant is commissioned. Validation will take place after that.

I expect that <redacted> will be in touch to request a further extension to his derogation. I understand that he is in dialogue with Ministers, in particular with regard to SEPA requirements and timescales.

Regards

<redacted>

<redacted> **BVM&S MRCVS**

Veterinary Officer

APHA Inverness Field Services Office

**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Telephone: <redacted> | Mobile: <redacted>

Please note my e-mail has changed to <redacted> (It no longer includes .gsi)

Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF

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Email 10

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 19 December 2017 16:57

To: <redacted>

Subject: Re: North Uist

Hi <redacted>

Yes I have updated all the interested parties. Everything should be up and running by May/June.

I have contacted SEPA and <redacted> in Inverness so we can start all the paperwork for any emissions ( only purified water) and the licence etc that <redacted> needs to approve.

It has taken us three years to get everything confirmed but thankfully we are now on the homeward run.

How did the other areas get on ? Haven't heard what Shetland decided on in the end .

The bad publicity that the "One Show" generated last week has highlighted the transport issues which makes our " local solution for a local problem" even more important.

Thanks again for your patience and will keep you updated.

<redacted>

> On 19 Dec 2017, at 16:42, <redacted> <redacted> wrote:

>

> <redacted>

>

> Thanks for the update. Are you keeping in regular contact with Western Isles council too? It is important that we progress this as quickly as possible as the derogation cannot go on indefinitely.

>

> Best wishes

>

> <redacted>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> <redacted> | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Disease Prevention Team  
> (TSEs and ABP Policy) P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |  
> EDINBURGH EH11 3XD Tel. No. <redacted> | email: <redacted>

>

> Working pattern Monday - Thursdays

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----  
> From: <redacted>  
> Sent: 13 December 2017 17:39  
> To: <redacted>  
> Subject: North Uist  
>  
> Dear <redacted>  
>  
> Hope all is well with you.  
>  
> Due to the current publicity regarding the transportation of salmon morts on the  
mainland I am giving the fish farms a report on our drier project and thought I should  
keep you updated.  
>  
> Our infrastructure is now completed and the construction of the building to hold the  
plant is well under way and will be completed by the New Year. Our drier system will  
be up and running by April hopefully with the commissioning being completed by the  
summer.  
>  
> The fish farms in Lewis and Harris are keen for us to treat their mortalities due to  
the recycling process and the extra quantity has meant that we have had to  
recalculate all our figures and upgrade the proposed facility to include a biomass  
burner. This has taken an age to arrange and the extra costs which are extreme  
have meant that we have had to rearrange finance which has also been a slow  
process.  
>  
> Thank you for your support and patience and I am sure that you are happy that we  
are on the final lap. I will also update SEPA and <redacted> with our completion  
timescale.  
>  
> Best regards  
>  
> <redacted>  
>  
>

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> Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

>

> Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

> \*\*\*\*\*

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Email 11

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 27 March 2019 11:40

To: <redacted>

Cc: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Derogation

Hi <redacted>

Thank you for forwarding on the update from <redacted> with his request to seek an extension to the fish waste dryer project completion date. We are satisfied with the reasoning behind the delay and can confirm that Scottish Ministers have agreed with the project extension, allowing fish mortalities to be buried at the Whiteshore Cockles site in North Uist until 31 December 2019.

Let me know if you need any further information.

<redacted>

<redacted>

Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division |  
Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government Tel. <redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 26 February 2019 14:23

To: <redacted>

Cc: <redacted>

Subject: FW: Derogation

<redacted>

As discussed.

<redacted> | G

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 22 February 2019 13:50

To: <redacted>

Subject: Derogation

[External Email]

Dear <redacted>,

Further to our conversation last week please find attached a letter from Tidy Planet Ltd outlining the delivery schedules for the equipment to use in our innovative system of drying the salmon mortalities.

As you are aware we have been three years in finalising the equipment and the total investment made by our company in the project will be almost £2m by the time the plant is installed. Due to the increase in the geographical area we intend to service and the ever expanding stocking densities of the fish farms we have had to increase the capacity of the processing plant greatly to cater for all possible mortalities. It seemed pointless going ahead with the smaller capacity which couldn't handle all the requirements of the main Fish Farming companies. This drying plant and storage facility will enable us to cater for all eventualities within the Western Isles for the foreseeable future. This will then stop all transportation of morts to the mainland and the environmental and logistical problems this creates.

Taking into consideration all the worst possible scenarios ( and Brexit) we will have the full plant operational by October 2019 at the very latest.

Could you on our behalf ask <redacted> for an extension to our derogation till the end of October. We can guarantee that we will have a full collection and disposal service in place by then and no further extensions will be asked / applied for.

We appreciate the problems that you and <redacted> had to deal with last Autumn but this project when completed will satisfy all requirements from the Fish Farm companies , Animal Health and SEPA.

If you require any further information including copies of quotations and lists of the machinery we have ordered please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards as always.

<redacted>

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Email 12

**From:** <redacted> **Sent:** 19 July 2018 16:58

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: FOI re. landfill, incineration, bio-gas, rendering and other disposal methods during 2018 (ANNEX 3)

Hi <redacted>,

(cc: <redacted> for info on your return; <redacted> as discussed/for further discussion next week)

I hope you've had a good break and are returning to work restored!

I've gone through the eRDM archive and come up with a very short line regarding the derogation that currently applies to the burial of aquaculture mortalities Whiteshore Cockles – see attached. However, <redacted> (<redacted>, cc'ed) and I have been discussing this case and we wonder if the provision of detail about the derogation is more than required by this FOI request? I will be out of the office next week (23<sup>rd</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> July) but <redacted> would be happy to discuss further if that would be helpful: x<redacted>. <redacted> will be back at work on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Best wishes,  
<redacted>

<REDACTED>

Animal Health and Welfare Division | Disease Prevention Team | P Spur | SH  
T: <redacted> | E: <redacted>

**From:** <redacted> **On Behalf Of** <redacted>

**Sent:** 18 July 2018 09:20

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** FW: FOI re. landfill, incineration, bio-gas, rendering and other disposal methods during 2018

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 08 July 2018 22:37

**To:** Central Enquiry Unit

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** FOI re. landfill, incineration, bio-gas, rendering and other disposal methods during 2018

Please provide information on disposal of farmed salmon via landfill, incineration, bio-gas and other disposal methods since 1 January 2018.

Please include any data on disposal methods, correspondence with salmon farming companies (e.g. Marine Harvest and Whiteshore Cockles) and waste disposal operators; and any other information relating to the disposal of farmed salmon via landfill, incineration, bio-gas and other disposal methods since 1 January 2018.

As background, this FOI was prompted by the following [FHI Case Information report in March 2018](#) for Marine Harvest's Groatay salmon farm (#111) and Marine Harvest's Grey Horse Channel salmon farm (#112) which both detailed how farmed salmon were disposed of via "Landfill at Whiteshore Cockles":

Case No:	2018-0111		Site No:	FS1083	
Date of Visit:	28/03/2018		Inspector(s):	ALW	
<b>Registration/Authorisation Details</b>					
1. Business/site details summary checked by site representative?					Y
2. Changes made to details?					Y
<b>Site Details</b>					
Total No facilities	14	Facilities stocked	5	No facilities inspected	14
Species	SAL	WRS			
Age group	2017 Q3	Adult			
No Fish	522,801	20,013			
Mean Fish Wt	1.5kg	various			
Next Fallow Date (Site)	Dec 2018		Next Input Date (Site)	Q2 2019	
Recent (last 4 wks) disease problems?			Y	Any escapes (since last visit)?	
If yes, detail:			Pasteurella skyensis		
<b>Movement Records</b>					
1. Movement records available for inspection?					Y
2. Date of last inspection:					11/10/2018
3. Are records complete and correctly entered?					Y
4. Are movement records available for dead fish and waste?					Y
5. Are records complete and correctly entered?					Y
6. Are health certificates for introductions (outwith GB) available?					N/A
<b>Transport Records</b>					
1. Are any movements carried out by (or on behalf) of the business (not using a STB)?					Y
If yes, is there a system in place for maintenance of transportation records?					Y
<b>Mortality Records</b>					
1. Mortality records available for inspection?					Y
2. How are mortalities disposed of?					Other (detail)
If other detail:					Landfill at Whiteshore Cockles
3. Mortality records complete and correctly entered?					Y
4. Recent mortality (last 4 wks):					w/b 26/2 = 928, w/b 5/3 = 1622, w/b 12/3 = 1744, w/b 19/3 = 589
5. Evidence of recent increased/atypical mortalities?					Y
If yes, facility nos/no mortality per facility/no stock per facility/reason:					Cage 23 due to seal damage from early to mid March (~1,500 fish over 8 day period), issue resolved
6. Any other peaks in mortality during period checked?					Y
If yes, detail:					Mortality levels increased during December (range from ~100-700/day/cage, average 311/cage/day), attributed to infection with Pasteurella skyensis. Have lost 4.53% since start of December (24,822).
7. Have increased (unexplained) mortalities been reported to vet or FHI?					Y
If yes, detail action:					Removal of mortalities, but infection at low level so decided not to treat with antibiotics
8. Have 'mortality events' been reported to FHI? If no, add MRT case and enter on mortality events sheet.					N/A

FHI 059, Version 11 Issued by: FHI Date of issue: 12/09/2017

Case No: 2018-0112 Site No: FS1122

Date of Visit: 28/03/2018 Inspector(s): ALW

**Registration/Authorisation Details**

1. Business/site details summary checked by site representative?  N

2. Changes made to details?  N

**Site Details**

Total No facilities	14	Facilities stocked	7	No facilities inspected	14
Species	SAL	WRS	LUM		
Age group	2017 Q3	Adult	Adult		
No Fish	537,738	19,841	27,500		
Mean Fish Wt	1.8kg	Various	~20g		
Next Fallow Date (Site)	December 2018		Next Input Date (Site)	2019 Q2	

Recent (last 4 wks) disease problems?  Y Any escapes (since last visit)?  N

If yes, detail: Pasteurella skyensis

**Movement Records**

1. Movement records available for inspection?  Y

2. Date of last inspection: 11/10/2016

3. Are records complete and correctly entered?  Y

4. Are movement records available for dead fish and waste?  Y

5. Are records complete and correctly entered?  Y

6. Are health certificates for introductions (outwith GB) available?  N/A

**Transport Records**

1. Are any movements carried out by (or on behalf) of the business (not using a STB)?  Y

If yes, is there a system in place for maintenance of transportation records?  Y

**Mortality Records**

1. Mortality records available for inspection?  Y

2. How are mortalities disposed of? Other (detail)

If other detail: Landfill at Whiteshore Cocksles

3. Mortality records complete and correctly entered?  Y

4. Recent mortality (last 4 wks): w/b 28/2 = 119, w/b 5/3 = 586, w/b 12/3 = 381, w/b 19/3 = 381

5. Evidence of recent increased/atypical mortalities?  N

If yes, facility nos/no mortality per facility/no stock per facility/reason:

6. Any other peaks in mortality during period checked?  Y

If yes, detail: Mortality levels increased in December 2017 (range from ~150-300/day/cage, average of 264/day/cage), attributed to Pasteurella skyensis. Have lost 2.48% since start of December (13,899).

7. Have increased (unexplained) mortalities been reported to vet or FHI?  Y

If yes, detail action: No treatment for P. skyensis as infection at low level. Removing mortalities to reduce infection pressure

8. Have 'mortality events' been reported to FHI? If no, add MRT case and enter on mortality events sheet.  N/A

Via: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00537757.pdf> (p105)

Scottish Salmon Watch was under the impression that disposal of dead farmed salmon via landfill was not legal.

As context please read:

[European Commission complaint over dead fish dumping forces rule change](#)  
[Guidance on the Disposal of Aquaculture Animal By-Products](#)  
[Zero Waste Report - Finfish Mortalities in Scotland](#)

The latter included:



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Email 13

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 26 February 2019 14:25  
To: <redacted>  
Cc: <redacted>  
Subject: FW: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf  
<redacted>  
And again  
<redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 22 February 2019 13:50  
To: <redacted>  
Subject: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

[External Email]

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi fiosrachadh sochairichte/dìomhair an lùib a' phuist-dealain seo no ceangalachain sam bith. Ma chaidh a chur thugaibh ann am mearachd, cuiribh fios chun neach a chur thugaibh e agus dubh às an teachdaireachd-sa sa bhad. Chan eil beachdan no fiosrachadh sam bith eile nach eil ceangailte ri gnothachas na Comhairle ùghdarraichte leis a' Chomhairle agus chan eil an teachdaireachd seo na phàirt de chunnradh sam bith mur a h-eil seo ainmichte sa phost-dealain. Tha siostam post-dealain na Comhairle ga mheasadh agus ga chlàradh gu tuaireamach. Tha an teachdaireachd post-dealain seo agus ceangalachain sam bith air a bhith gan sganadh airson bhiorasan le MailCritical. Gidheadh, thathar a' comhairleachadh gu bheil sibh a' fosgladh cheangalachain sam bith aig ur cunnart fhèin.

---

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Email 14

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 05 October 2018 08:43  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Re: Correspondence from the Scottish Government

Dear <redacted>

Thanks for your letter requesting an update on the installation of the drier system.

The manufacturers whom we have ordered the plant from are back in Uist on the 11 th of this month to finalise positioning etc so we can get all the drainage , electrics in place before the machinery arrives.

I will get an update on delivery schedules from them then and send you a complete report on the equipment and timescales involved.

I have been in touch with <redacted> and I am currently completing the licence application as the manufacturers have now agreed a method system with her.

Thanks for your patience as I fully understand the pressures that have put on you.

Regards

<redacted>

On 4 Oct 2018, at 12:07, <redacted> wrote:

Dear <redacted>

Please see the attached letter seeking an update on the progress you are making towards installing a fish waste drying system at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd.

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>  
The Scottish Government  
Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy  
Animal Health & Welfare  
P-Spur, Saughton House,  
Broomhouse Drive,  
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Tel: <redacted>  
Fax: <redacted>

\*\*\*\*\*

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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil.

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

\*\*\*\*\*

<u204214\_04-10-2018\_11-51-46.pdf>

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Email 15

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 27 May 2021 10:56  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Thanks <redacted>

FYI

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/islanders-raise-a-stink-over-vast-salmon-graveyard-v6kbxj5hz>

<redacted>

# Islanders raise a stink over vast salmon graveyard

Marc Horne

Hundreds of thousands of diseased salmon from fish farms are being buried beneath sand dunes on the Western Isles, generating “stomach churning” odours for nearby residents.

Campaigners and islanders have raised concerns over the disposal of industrial quantities of unprocessed fish on a beach in North Uist by the firm Whiteshore Cockles.

Dumping carcasses is contrary to environmental guidelines and the stench is polluting the air for neighbours.

Don Staniford, the director of Scottish Salmon Watch, a group which opposes fish farming, has released a video from the site shot earlier this year.

It shows rotting fish awaiting disposal, with blood seeping out of one container near the crofting township of Kyles Paible.

“The authorities have turned a blind eye to the continued dumping of diseased farmed salmon in landfill at Whiteshore Cockles for well over a decade,” he said. “Scotland’s secret salmon graveyard stinks to high heaven and must be shut down now.”

Ewan Kennedy, an environmental campaigner and retired lawyer, added: “It’s extremely concerning to learn that massive quantities of diseased fish, many dead from viruses, are still being dumped in open landfill. It’s also concerning that post-Brexit there’s no possibility of the UK government facing the threat of enormous fines.”

The EU had previously raised concerns over the disposal of unprocessed fish in landfill and had urged the UK to comply with environmental legislation.

In 2016 the Scottish government

The firm conceded the process has caused problems for the community, noting in correspondence with Western Isles council: “The current system of burying the fish waste has one major drawback. The fish are all kept outside while the burial area is being prepared, and if there is a southwest wind then odours can be prevalent within the local community.

“The pits are covered with several layers of seaweed to allow for the natural regeneration of the ground but again, till the waste has settled, there is always the risk of smells dispersing widely.”

In 2018 Angus MacDonald, the firm’s owner, pledged that the problem would be resolved, stating: “I’m not going to continue burial for much longer because I have a new state-of-the-art unit coming in.”

Three years later the promised industrial drying system, which would turn the carcasses into fish oil and fish-meal, is still not operational. MacDonald insisted it had been delayed by the pandemic and planning requirements.

“I really don’t want to be burying these fish, believe you me,” he said. “I want to convert them into bio oil which is great for the environment.”

He pledged the new unit would be operational by next Easter “at the very latest”, adding: “I’d only be too happy to discuss, explain and apologise to the local community. I’m endeavouring to do away with the odour issues.”

Western Isles council said: “We are aware of the concerns around the facility.”

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency confirmed that Whiteshore Cockles would require a pollu-

--  
<redacted>

<redacted> | Manaidsear Seirbheisean Luchd-Cleachdaidh agus Arainneachd (Consumer and Environmental Services Manager)

Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Rathad Shanndabhaig | Steornabhagh | Eilean Leodhais | HS1 2BW

Communities Department | [Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) | Sandwick Road | Stornoway | Isle of Lewis | HS1 2BW

<redacted> | <redacted> | <redacted> | [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk)

Links to further service information:

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[Trading Standards](#)

[Food Safety](#)

[Health and Safety at Work](#)

[Licensing](#)

[Animal Health & Welfare](#)

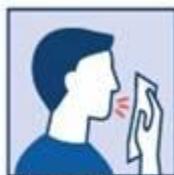
Consumer & Environmental Services welcomes your feedback. Please help us improve our service by taking our short customer survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c)

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Wash your hands.



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Avoid touching your face.

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

From: <redacted>

Sent: 26 May 2021 11:43

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

**WARNING: THIS EMAIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMHAIRLE; PLEASE TREAT HYPERLINKS OR ATTACHMENTS WITH CAUTION. CONTACT THE IT HELPDESK IF IN ANY DOUBT.**

Morning <redacted>

I am happy with that response. I will alert my own communications team that there is some press interest in Whiteshore Cockles.

I had been seeking legal advice on this from my colleagues and never managed to get an update to Ministers in time before the Scottish Parliament elections. A submission on this will be going to Mairi Gougeon, the new Cabinet Secretary for

Rural Affairs and Islands, hopefully next week. We should be able to come back with a formal response soon.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government*  
Tel. <redacted> | Mob: <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 26 May 2021 11:25

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Morning <redacted>

Any progress re this?

Please see attached press enquiry.

My thoughts of a Comhairle response are keeping it brief - something like:

The Comhairle are aware of the concerns around the facility and are in discussion with the Scottish Government to find an early resolution.

Give me a call if you want to discuss.

<redacted>

--

<redacted>

<redacted> | Manaidsear Seirbheisean Luchd-Cleachdaidh agus Arainneachd (Consumer and Environmental Services Manager)

Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Rathad Shanndabhaig | Steornabhagh | Eilean Leodhais | HS1 2BW

Communities Department | [Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) | Sandwick Road | Stornoway | Isle of Lewis | HS1 2BW

<redacted> | <redacted> | <redacted> | <redacted> | [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk) | [Area Offices](#)

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[Animal Health & Welfare](#)

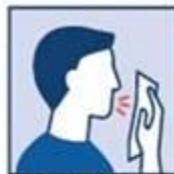
Consumer & Environmental Services welcomes your feedback. Please help us improve our service by taking our short customer survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c)

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Avoid touching your face.

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

From: <redacted>

Sent: 19 March 2021 15:23

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

**WARNING: THIS EMAIL CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COMHAIRLE; PLEASE TREAT HYPERLINKS OR ATTACHMENTS WITH CAUTION. CONTACT THE IT HELPDESK IF IN ANY DOUBT.**

Hi <redacted>

That statement on the derogation looks factual so I am happy with the content. I have updated my colleagues in in Animal Health and Welfare plus Marine Scotland on today's meeting. I will aim to get an update on Whiteshore Cockles to Minsters next week with a view to reviewing the conditions of the derogation and seeking a update on capacity/burial practices at the site.

<redacted>

From: <redacted>

Sent: 19 March 2021 12:29

To: <redacted>

Subject: FW: WHITESHORE - Screening assessment

Hi <redacted>

This is what planning are putting in their screening assessment report.

*The site is situated in a coastal location, on the machair, to the south-west of Paible, North Uist. The application site forms part of a larger site, which was granted planning permission for the burying and ensiling of fish mortis in 2005.*

*It is understood that fish morts are classed as Category 2 animal by-products (ABPs) and that the disposal of fish morts by burial was conducted under a derogation for remote areas, for the disposal of ABPs, initially monitored through Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Animal Health); it was not considered to be a permitted operation regulated by SEPA.*

*In January 2016 the derogation for the disposal of salmon morts by this means ceased to be effective, through an amendment to the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. Notwithstanding the Regulations, the Scottish Government (Animal Health and Welfare Division) granted its authority to allow the burial of fish morts to continue, initially for periods of six months and in October 2019, confirmed this burial activity could continue on this particular site, on condition that burial would end when a fish waste processing facility, planned for the site was granted a PPC permit from SEPA.*

*From the applicant's submitted BAT Assessment, it is understood that the aquaculture industry is now required to ensure that they dispose of their waste in accordance with the 2013 Regulations, so that it can no longer be landfilled.*

Thanks for today.

<redacted>



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\*\*\*\*

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Email 16

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 11 October 2019 15:13

**To:** <redacted> Voas S (Sheila) <redacted> Gallego J (Jesus) <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles - Extension to derogation to allow burial of fish waste

Hi <redacted>

Extension would appear to be the correct thing to do under the circumstances, and ultimately Ministers will take the final decision. Happy with your approach.

Have a good weekend when it comes.

Best regards

<REDACTED>

Aquaculture Health, Welfare and Innovation Policy Manager

Marine Scotland – Aquaculture, Crown Estate, Recreational Fisheries, EMFF and Europe

Tel: +44 (0)131 244 7007

E-mail: <redacted>

Web: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

Mail: Scottish Government, 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ



**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 11 October 2019 14:49

**To:** <redacted> Voas S (Sheila) <redacted> Gallego J (Jesus) <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles - Extension to derogation to allow burial of fish waste

Hi all

As expected, following the SEPA requirement for the site to have a [Part A PPC application](#), Whiteshores have requested an extension to their burial derogation to cover this process. <redacted> stated this process has added extra costs to the fish dryer project and explained if the site had to stop burying waste, they would struggle to finance and complete the project. He had reiterated this <redacted> Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy when she was at the site last week, hence the involvement of <redacted> (Deputy Director, Financial Services Division).

Given the circumstances, I would be content to extend the derogation to cover the PPC application. Does anyone have any comment to make on this?

I will update ministers of our plans going forward. I would expect ministers will have to make a decision on the future of the site if Whiteshores fails to get a permit from SEPA, but for now the decision to extend the derogation can sit with officials.

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Delivery | Scottish Government*  
Tel. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 16:10

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted> <<redacted> <redacted>

**Subject:** Extension to derogation

Dear Mr <redacted>,

Further to our telephone conversation today and your discussion with <redacted> I would greatly appreciate it if you could grant us an extension to our derogation allowing us to bury salmon mortalities as per the current practice.

The current derogation expires on 31/12/2019 and as you requested we will have all the new plant and machinery in place by this date ready for processing the mortos. Unfortunately, as you are now aware SEPA are demanding that we now complete a Part A PPC application which means we cannot operate the drier system until this is completed.

We are getting different timescales quoted to us for completing this application and therefore I would be obliged if the derogation could be extended until the PPC process is completed. We have engaged an environmental consultant to process the application so it will be completed as quickly as SEPA allow.

Once again thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.

Regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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Email 17

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 27 September 2018 11:16

**To:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Morning <redacted>

As <redacted> mentioned we are aware current issues regarding Whiteshores and are monitoring the situation closely to ensure compliance with the temporary derogation. In fact I was down there on Monday this week monitoring the site and it appears they are complying with the agreed methods of disposal. The picture was also forwarded to us 2-3 weeks ago alleging that the disposal site was Great Berneray although it definitely is the site in North Uist. I suspect the information was obtained third-hand and confused the area where the salmon were reared with the area of disposal. At the moment we have no concerns about the operation. This method of disposal is due to end in March 2019. Let me know if you require any further information

<redacted>

<redacted>

Animal Health Inspector  
Consumer and Environmental Services  
Development Department  
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar  
Sandwick Road  
Stornoway  
Isle of Lewis.  
HS1 2BW

Tel: <redacted>, Fax: <redacted>, Mob: <redacted>  
[www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk)

**From:** APHA Corporate Correspondence  
[<mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 25 September 2018 08:12  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** APHA Corporate Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Good Morning <redacted>,

APHA received an enquiry from "Visit Scotland" following a complaint from a visitor about salmon being buried on a beach at Great Bernera. "Visit Scotland" are seeking guidance on what they should advise any other visitors who might contact them about this.

I am in the process of producing a draft response to them and the Animal by Products team (ABP) suggested that I notify you of this complaint to find out if you have any comments or wish to provide input to this.

(See email chain for history.)

Many thanks

<redacted>

Complaints & Correspondence Manager.  
Executive Support & Correspondence Management  
email: [APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**  
Email: <redacted> Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)  
Address: APHA, Room B1, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

**From:** APHA Corporate Correspondence  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 14:02  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** <redacted> APHA Corporate Correspondence  
<[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Hi <redacted>,

Thanks for this.

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 13:24  
**To:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Hi <redacted>

I would support the advice from <redacted> to notify the local council, Comhairle nan Eilean Sair (CnES), about this complaint. The best person to contact is <redacted> by email at <redacted> or by phone on <redacted>.

The legal position on disposing of fish mortalities is to use an approved animal by-product (ABP) disposal route. At the start of January 2016 we amended the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 to stop aquatic ABP being sent to licensed landfill sites for disposal. This was following a complaint made to the European Commission that the UK was making use of a derogation for remote areas in such a way that the majority of the aquaculture industry in Scotland takes place within the derogated remote areas (The remote areas derogation allows burial or burning of ABPs 'on site' rather than by via authorised routes such as incineration or rendering, or anaerobic digestion).

The picture below looks like it is from Whiteshore Cockles in North Uist. Whiteshore Cockles is currently operating under a derogation (approved by the European Commission) to allow the burial of salmon mortalities until a legally ABP compliant disposal route is put in place on site. This is the only site in Scotland that can bury aquatic ABP.

Scottish Government are keen that the use of the Whiteshore Cockles burial site should not continue indefinitely because there are several distinctly preferable disposal options available to the salmon producers of the Western Isles. However, we recognised that CnES is acting to improve the current situation and allowed CnES to supervise the site with an ultimate objective for changing to better (and fully legal) disposal methods, in mind.

At present the ABP compliant disposal route is still not operational. Whiteshore Cockles continues to operate as a burial site for fish waste under the supervision of CnES.

Let me know if you need more information.

<redacted>

<redacted>

The Scottish Government  
Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy  
Animal Health & Welfare  
P-Spur, Saughton House,  
Broomhouse Drive,  
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Tel: <redacted>

Fax: <redacted>

**From:** APHA Corporate Correspondence  
<[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 12:46  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Hi <redacted> & <redacted>,

Are you able to provide a comment on this issue.

Thanks

<redacted>

Complaints & Correspondence Manager.  
Executive Support & Correspondence Management  
email: [APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Email: <redacted>

Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: APHA, Room B1, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 12:40  
**To:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

<redacted>.

I think we need a lead from Scottish government on this. The two contacts dealing with mass  
morts in Salmon farms are <redacted> (<redacted>[@gov.scot](mailto: <redacted>@gov.scot)) and <redacted>  
(<redacted>[@gov.scot](mailto: <redacted>@gov.scot)).

The picture does not look great and seems to be fly tipping but if we run it by SG and then  
refer to APHA and LA to investigate

<redacted>

**From:** APHA Corporate Correspondence  
**Sent:** 24 September 2018 12:26  
**To:** <redacted> (APHA) <<redacted>>  
**Cc:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Salmon - disposal on beach - Isle of Lewis.

Hi <redacted>.

Please see email chain.

I have been led to believe that there is a temporary concession to allow the disposal of dead fish from salmon farms by burial due to the excessive distances to travel to dispose by normal means.

Before I respond to this enquiry from Visit Scotland, tourist board. Are you aware of an agreement to allow for the burial of dead salmon on the beach at Bernara, Isle of Lewis? Or would this be a local arrangement?

Regards

<redacted>

Complaints & Correspondence Manager.

Executive Support & Correspondence Management

email: [APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Email <redacted> Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: APHA, Room B1, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

**From:** APHA Scotland (APHA)

**Sent:** 11 September 2018 13:56

**To:** APHA Corporate Correspondence <[APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Further info: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Good afternoon

Following on from the email forwarded to you this morning, please see below.

Kind regards

**Scotland Mailbox**  
**Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Telephone: 03000 600703 Email: [apha.scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:apha.scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk) | Website:

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 11 September 2018 12:55

**To:** APHA Scotland (APHA) <[APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Further info: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Morning,

For information from colleagues at the FHI and relating to the case above:  
Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon.

Kind regardsm

<redacted>

<redacted> | Communications Manager | Marine Scotland |  
Scottish Government | 1 B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 11 September 2018 09:20

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Morning

I don't know if you saw the report on The One Show last night about Vacasay, but below is a still image from Whiteshore Cockles, the waste disposal site, which is identical to the photo that was sent to Visit Scotland and reported to have been taken at a beach on Bernera.

It might be worth forwarding this to APHA and the LA in case they didn't see the show

Cheers

<redacted>



**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 15:16

**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

I'll just forward to the generic APHA mailbox and ask them to deal with it.

Thanks, <redacted>

<redacted>

<redacted> | Communications Manager | Marine Scotland |

Scottish Government | 1 B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 15:13

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hi

They have a generic email address [APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk), but it is the Inverness office that covers Western Isles. I was on Lewis with <redacted> from the Inverness office last week, her email address is <redacted>, but I'm not sure if she has a specific role in relation to disposal of fish.

I don't have an email address, but I was speaking with <redacted> from WI council last week and he is one of their Environmental Health Officers who I think has been dealing with the disposal of fish from the some of the farms. His phone number is <redacted>

Cheers

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:32

**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Next daft question, do you have a name in APHA or do they have a mailbox?

<redacted>

<redacted> | Communications Manager | Marine Scotland |  
Scottish Government | 1 B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:20

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hi <redacted>

I think that this should be passed to APHA and the LA as they deal with disposal of dead fish. We would be interested if they establish which farm the fish have originated from in case there is a health issue on site.

Thanks

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:00  
**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hello,

Apologies, I'm not sure if this is for us, APHA or the LA.

Can you help, please?

Thanks,

<redacted>

<redacted> | Communications Manager | Marine Scotland |  
Scottish Government | 1 B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>  
Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** <redacted> **On Behalf Of** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 10 September 2018 13:58  
**To:** Marine Scotland Mailbox <[Marine\\_Scotland\\_Mailbox@gov.scot](mailto:Marine_Scotland_Mailbox@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Good afternoon

I am hoping you can give some guidance on the following matter. Our CEO was recently contacted by a visitor to Lewis who had encountered a large deposit of dead salmon on the beach at Great Bernera. I have attached a copy of a photo taken by the visitor.

Given recent news coverage regarding salmon farming in the area, I would be grateful if you were able to give some guidance on what we should advise any other visitors who may contact us about this matter.

Yours sincerely

<redacted>

Partnerships Operations Executive

VisitScotland  
Great Glen House  
Inverness  
IV3 8NW  
Email: <redacted>  
Tel: <redacted>

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For information on [Travel trade](#)

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Dh'fhaodadh beachdan pearsanta a bhith gan cur an cèill sam post-d seo nach eil a' riochdachadh beachdan VisitScotland. Tha siostam post-dealain VisitScotland (an teachdaireachd sam post-dealain seo agus ceangalachain sam bith) ga mheasadh agus ga chlàradh gu tuairreamach airson adhbharan tèarainteachd agus trèanadh.

Tha VisitScotland a' comhairleachadh gu bheil sibh a' fosgladh puist-d agus cheangalachain aig ur cunnart fhèin.

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\*

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neach a chur thugaibh e agus dubh às an teachdaireachd-sa sa bhad. Chan eil beachdan no fiosrachadh sam bith eile nach eil ceangailte ri gnothachas na Comhairle ùghdarraichte leis a' Chomhairle agus chan eil an teachdaireachd seo na phàirt de chunnradh sam bith mur a h-eil seo ainmichte sa phost-dealain. Tha siostam post-dealain na Comhairle ga mheasadh agus ga chlàradh gu tuaireamach. Tha an teachdaireachd post-dealain seo agus ceangalachain sam bith air a bhith gan sganadh airson bhiorasan le MailCritical. Gidheadh, thathar a' comhairleachadh gu bheil sibh a' fosgladh cheangalachain sam bith aig ur cunnart fhèin.

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Email 18

From: <redacted>>  
Sent: 26 February 2019 14:23  
To: <redacted>>  
Cc: <redacted>  
Subject: FW: Derogation

<redacted>  
As discussed.  
<redacted> | G

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 22 February 2019 13:50  
To: <redacted>>  
Subject: Derogation

[External Email]

Dear <redacted>,

Further to our conversation last week please find attached a letter from Tidy Planet Ltd outlining the delivery schedules for the equipment to use in our innovative system of drying the salmon mortalities.

As you are aware we have been three years in finalising the equipment and the total investment made by our company in the project will be almost £2m by the time the plant is installed. Due to the increase in the geographical area we intend to service and the ever expanding stocking densities of the fish farms we have had to increase the capacity of the processing plant greatly to cater for all possible mortalities. It seemed pointless going ahead with the smaller capacity which couldn't handle all the requirements of the main Fish Farming companies. This drying plant and storage facility will enable us to cater for all eventualities within the Western Isles for the foreseeable future. This will then stop all transportation of morts to the mainland and the environmental and logistical problems this creates.

Taking into consideration all the worst possible scenarios ( and Brexit) we will have the full plant operational by October 2019 at the very latest.

Could you on our behalf ask <redacted> for an extension to our derogation till the end of October. We can guarantee that we will have a full collection and disposal service in place by then and no further extensions will be asked / applied for.

We appreciate the problems that you and <redacted> had to deal with last Autumn but this project when completed will satisfy all requirements from the Fish Farm companies , Animal Health and SEPA.

If you require any further information including copies of quotations and lists of the machinery we have ordered please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards as always.

<redacted>

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Email 19

From: <redacted>

Sent: 11 March 2019 10:28

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

Morning <redacted>

Sorry for delay but just back from leave.

Yes, as far as I am aware he is funding the project privately.

Cheers

<redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 01 March 2019 13:59

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

[External Email]

Hi <redacted>

Just a quick question hopefully you can answer. Has the fish waste dryer at Whiteshores been funded privately? I am pretty sure the answer is yes which has been one of the reasons for the delay i.e. they had to find money to resource the project.

<redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 28 February 2019 09:07

To: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

Thanks <redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>

Sent: 27 February 2019 17:15

To: <redacted>

Cc: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

[External Email]

Thanks <redacted>

I will discuss extending the derogation with my colleagues but ultimately we will need Ministerial approval on this. I should have a formal response to you hopefully within the next 3 weeks.

<redacted>

<redacted>

Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division |  
Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government Tel. <redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 26 February 2019 14:25  
To: <redacted>  
Cc: <redacted>  
Subject: FW: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

And again  
<redacted>

-----Original Message-----

From: <redacted>  
Sent: 22 February 2019 13:50  
To: <redacted>  
Subject: Letter SW 22.02.2019.pdf

[External Email]

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Email 20

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 04 October 2018 12:30

**To:** <redacted>>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Scottish Government letter to Whiteshore Cockles seeking update on installation of fish waste drying system

(Annex 5)

Dear all

Please see the attached letter for information. Hopefully I have all the relevant contacts but please forward this letter to others who may have an interest.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government*  
Tel. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 04 October 2018 12:07

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Correspondence from the Scottish Government

Dear <redacted>

Please see the attached letter seeking an update on the progress you are making towards installing a fish waste drying system at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd.

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>

The Scottish Government  
Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy  
Animal Health & Welfare  
P-Spur, Saughton House,  
Broomhouse Drive,  
Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Tel: <redacted>

Fax: <redacted>

Email 21

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 13 December 2017 17:39

**To:** <redacted>

Subject: North Uist

Dear <redacted>

Hope all is well with you.

Due to the current publicity regarding the transportation of salmon morts on the mainland I am giving the fish farms a report on our drier project and thought I should keep you updated.

Our infrastructure is now completed and the construction of the building to hold the plant is well under way and will be completed by the New Year. Our drier system will be up and running by April hopefully with the commissioning being completed by the summer.

The fish farms in Lewis and Harris are keen for us to treat their mortalities due to the recycling process and the extra quantity has meant that we have had to recalculate all our figures and upgrade the proposed facility to include a biomass burner. This has taken an age to arrange and the extra costs which are extreme have meant that we have had to rearrange finance which has also been a slow process.

Thank you for your support and patience and I am sure that you are happy that we are on the final lap. I will also update SEPA and <redacted> with our completion timescale.

Best regards

<redacted>

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Email 22

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 28 October 2019 15:16

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Extension to derogation

(Annex 5)

Dear <redacted>

Apologise in the delay in getting back to you. Attached is a letter extending the burial derogation at your site which will cover the time period to apply for a PPC permit from SEPA. The burial derogation will no longer be valid once your site has been granted a PPC permit.

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Delivery | Scottish Government*

Tel. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 09 October 2019 16:10

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** Macleod M (Murdoch) <redacted>

**Subject:** Extension to derogation

Dear Mr <redacted>,

Further to our telephone conversation today and your discussion with Dr Murdoch MacLeod I would greatly appreciate it if you could grant us an extension to our derogation allowing us to bury salmon mortalities as per the current practice.

The current derogation expires on 31/12/2019 and as you requested we will have all the new plant and machinery in place by this date ready for processing the mortos. Unfortunately, as you are now aware SEPA are demanding that we now complete a Part A PPC application which means we cannot operate the drier system until this is completed.

We are getting different timescales quoted to us for completing this application and therefore I would be obliged if the derogation could be extended until the PPC process is completed. We have engaged an environmental consultant to process the application so it will be completed as quickly as SEPA allow.

Once again thank you for your cooperation and assistance with this matter.

Regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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## Email 23

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2019 09:19  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Whiteshore Cockles - Today's catch up

Hi <redacted>

Please see attached email from SEPA.

Apparently we will be in breach of the law and could be fined £50k if we run a test with fish to allow your team to approve the system before the PPC permit is issued.

Madness!

Will give you a call later as I would like to pick your brains about the possibility of classifying our finished product as fuel and not waste.

Regards

<redacted>

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "<redacted>  
**Date:** 17 October 2019 at 16:16:31 BST  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles - Today's catch up

Hi <redacted>

Thanks for today's catch-up providing an update on progress with the Whiteshore Cockles Salmon Morts processing facility. The following summarises the key points that we covered.

### 1. Commissioning

We discussed the forthcoming arrival of the processing plant and its commissioning. It was emphasised that until a PPC permit has been determined and issued to Whiteshore Cockles that no animal by-product material should be processed in the facility. This includes the period of commissioning to prove the effective operation of the plant and as the PPC Regulations apply from

the moment that this material will start to be used within the plant (the PPC activity has effectively commenced operation). This position is taken to ensure that the potential environmental impacts are adequately controlled to prevent and minimise emissions that could be caused by the commissioning activities. It was also clarified that this does not apply to any dry or wet water functional testing to prove the integrity or operational capability of the plant.

For clarity, if Whiteshore Cockles operates the plant with any animal by-product material without a PPC permit in place then this would be a clear breach of Regulation 11 of the PPC (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (see excerpt below). SEPA would consider undertaking enforcement action in line with its enforcement policy and guidance (<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/enforcement/>). As this would be the operation of an unlicensed activity this could include seeking an interim interdict to prevent operations, reporting to the Procurator Fiscal or issuing variable monetary penalty (the latter two options involve fines up to £40,000 per offence).

**“Permits: requirement for a permit**

—(1) This regulation applies to—

- (a) a Part A installation,
- (b) a Part B installation
- (c) any mobile plant, and
- (d) a solvents installation.

(2) No person may operate an installation or any plant to which this regulation applies except under, and to the extent, authorised by a permit.”

2. Planning

Providing a PPC application, as enquired in your email of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019, will not address SEPA’s objection to the current planning application being considered by the local authority. Planning and PPC consentability are linked in that SEPA must ensure that any proposed development subject to planning approval should be capable of gaining the appropriate level of authorisation. We are currently not in that position at the moment as we have not received enough evidence to assure SEPA that the appropriate physical infrastructure, where planning approval is required, is in place to ensure the facility is able to be operated meeting subsequent permit conditions. The standard of this submission is outlined in my email of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

3. Continued operation of the burial activities

Thank you for the update regarding Scottish Government’s verbal indication that the burial activities will continue to past 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until a PPC permit is issued.

4. Continuous emissions monitoring

I understand your concerns about the cost involved with implementing a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) but these are deemed to be necessary due to the potential environmental risk if the combustion plant is not operated properly. Combustion conditions for animal by-product co-incineration facilities can produce pollutants of significant concern (dioxins, acid gases, particulate etc) if they are not adequately managed. The use of CEMS is specified in the animal by-products BAT reference (“BREF”) document and associated UK guidance which apply to this proposal. This is a European requirement which has been brought in Scottish Regulations by the Scottish Government to provide assurance that such activities are managed to a high standard. As

already indicated in previous correspondence this is due to the scale of the proposed activities being above the Part A activity threshold set out in the PPC Regulations and associated ABP BREF.

#### 5. ABP fish meal as a fuel

My understanding from the position relayed by Animal Health is that for Category 2 material that continue to be ABP until they are subject to the combustion conditions specified with the relevant animal by-product regulations. This means that the Whiteshore Cockles plant will be still subject to Part A PPC controls and meet its relevant standards (including those covered above in Section 3). Should the ABP based fish meal be sent for use as fuel off-site, it will have to be undertaken in a conditions specified in the ABP regulations. An end of waste case for a ABP fish meal fuel is unlikely to be accepted by SEPA unless there is an appropriate product standard that such material can meet.

#### 6. Weekly updates

It would be very welcome if the Whiteshore Cockles team could provide updates regarding progress with the project at least once per week. This request is made to help ensure that all relevant parties are aware of any potential requirements that may need to be considered to help ensure that the relevant regulations are complied with. We understand that the project is at a delicate stage at the moment and SEPA does wish to help as much as it can do within its remit as an environmental regulator. The offer of having discussions to provide feedback around specific proposals to deliver compliance with any potential permit conditions outside of this update still stands.

As ever, do get in touch if you have any further queries.

Kind regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

Specialist I (PPC & COMAH)  
National Technical Support Unit  
Environmental Performance Function  
Compliance and Beyond Portfolio  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Graesser House  
Fodderty Way  
Dingwall Business Park  
Dingwall  
IV15 9XB

Tel:

<redacted> (direct dial)

01349 862021 (reception)

<redacted> (Mobile)

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[postmaster@sepa.org.uk](mailto:postmaster@sepa.org.uk)

Oifis chlàraichte: Taigh Srath Alain, Pàirc Gnothachais a' Chaisteil, Sruighlea FK9 4TZ. Fo Achd Riaghladh nan Cumhachdan Rannsachaidh 2000, dh'fhaodadh gun tèid an siostam puist-d aig SEPA a sgrùdadh bho àm gu àm

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## Email 24



Fish - North Uist -  
Whiteshore Cockles (Annex 6)

## Email 25

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 19 November 2019 15:19

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Official sensitive: Whiteshore Cockles question on project completion

Hi <redacted>,

I haven't been able to speak to <redacted> today, but from my involvement I am as confident as I can be that this project will be completed.

I understand that <redacted> has invested in the region of £2 million in this project so far. I attended a meeting with SEPA and his suppliers and consultants on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The equipment is being supplied by Tidy Planet, who have been involved in a number of major ABP projects - [www.tidyplanet.co.uk/](http://www.tidyplanet.co.uk/) From that meeting I understood that the manufacture of the equipment, a rendering plant and biomass boiler/incinerator plus ancillary equipment, was at an advanced stage. Delivery was planned before the end of October. The building to house it all has already been built, and a minor alteration to accommodate the incinerator had received planning consent and was being completed. I don't have an update on delivery.

At the meeting it became clear that the impact that increasing the potential throughput would have on PPC permitting had not been appreciated by <redacted>. He was at that point just starting the Part A PPC application process, having recently found and appointed environmental consultants to work on his behalf.

<redacted> submitted a very basic draft ABP Application at the end of last year. Since the meeting in September, which <redacted> didn't attend, I have met with him, and had a few telephone

discussions. I await a revised draft. I am nevertheless hopeful that with the aid of his consultants <redacted> should be able to submit a satisfactory application. From the plans I have seen the initial Approval process should not be too problematic. There are some issues with water supply, drainage and the lack of mains electricity on site, but I believe these can be overcome. The biomass boiler/incinerator will be IED approved by SEPA, so will not require APHA/SG Approval.

So in summary, we have a way to go, but I have confidence in the suppliers and consultants appointed to pursue this project to completion.

Regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

Veterinary Officer

APHA Inverness Field Services Office

**Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

Telephone: <redacted> | Mobile: <redacted>

Please note my e-mail has changed to <redacted> (It no longer includes .gsi)

Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha) | Twitter: [@APHAgovuk](https://twitter.com/APHAgovuk) | Facebook: [aphagov](https://www.facebook.com/aphagov)

Address: Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 18 November 2019 12:44

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles question on project completion

Hi <redacted>

We received a question from special advisors asking how confident we are that the fish waste drier is in fact in development and being built currently. From my last conversation with <redacted> a couple of weeks ago he stated that the equipment for the fish waste dryer is on its way. Your update email from the start of October also confirmed that the equipment was due to arrive at the end of October.

I would say we are confident the project will be completed. This is based on private investment from the company and continued dialogue on progress, or lack of it. Can I ask for your thoughts on this please? I also think it is worthwhile seeking an update from <redacted> at CnES.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Delivery | Scottish Government*

Tel. <redacted>

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## Email 26

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 13 November 2019 09:11  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Re: Whiteshore

Hi <redacted>

Thanks for this.

It doesn't look like we can get anywhere with this as SEPA say it is an Animal Health legislation that can designate our "end of waste" product as a fuel.

Back to the drawing board.

I am still updating Murdoch MacLeod on developments ( or lack of) to see if a common sense approach could be taken with approving or testing our plant but once again I have my doubts.

Thanks again and I will keep you updated.

Best regards

<redacted>

On 12 Nov 2019, at 17:53, <redacted> wrote:

Hi <redacted>

Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. I may have misunderstood your original question about fishmeal being used as fuel no longer being a waste product. The animal by-product (ABP) legislation introduces an "end point" in the manufacturing chain. This end point is for ABPs that have been treated or tested in a way which ensures that the remaining risks are minimal. If these conditions are fulfilled, the processed ABP would no longer be subject to any specific health rules. Instead, under product safety rules, there is an obligation of the manufacturer to place only safe products on the market.

The EU ABP implementing regulation (EC No.142/2011) sets out end points in the manufacturing chain for certain derived products at Article 3. Biodiesel, gasoline and fuels are covered under this article. These are pretty specific and set out the conditions which have certain products have to meet before they can be placed on the market. I think this is slightly different to an end of waste product which SEPA are the experts for. My thinking is that SEPA will still view the processed fishmeal you are producing as a waste even though you are using it as a fuel.

Sorry I am unable to be more helpful.

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 11 November 2019 15:01

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Whiteshore

Hi <redacted>,

Hope all is well.

Just a quick email to ask if your colleague managed to get anywhere with getting our fishmeal designated as a fuel at "end of waste.?"

Could be very important in our "discussions" with SEPA.

Thanks again for your assistance - all the plant is on its way from different parts of Europe.

Best regards

<redacted>

<redacted>

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Email 27

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 05 February 2020 15:26

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Re: Contingency plans

Thanks for this <redacted> it covers everything I need - basically an emergency situation.

It is very unlikely that we would ever have to go down the contingency route. We thought (although nobody knows where the thought came from) that there was a timescale for us to have to get rid of the mortos once we collect them. However I spoke to <redacted> and he confirmed that this isn't the case. We basically make up a preferred method statement with our projected timescales. This takes a lot of pressure off us. Due to ferry timetables and weather conditions it would be impractical to have a rigid timeframe for anything out here anyway.

Thanks once again for your assistance. We are nearly there!

Regards

<redacted>

On 5 Feb 2020, at 15:07, <redacted> wrote:

Hi <redacted>

Sorry for this dropping off my work list before Christmas. I have managed to discussed this with my colleagues and in short, we would allow burial of fish mortos as an option for your site's contingency plan. However, it must be clear that the burial of fish mortos would not be allowed as a day to day management tool and used only in emergency situations.

This would need to be approved, if the contingency option was needed in an emergency, by the Scottish Government and carried out under official supervision. That official supervision may be via the local authority, APHA or an authority approved as authorised persons by Scottish Ministers under the Animal By-Product Regulations depending on circumstances and what measures are put in place.

With regards to monitoring, during an instance of 'a possible disease or infection hitting a few or more of the sites simultaneously', assuming that the disease is listed, it will be for the farm producers to seek permission from Marine Scotland to move their mortalities and that route of disposal would need to be identifiable as bio secure. Again, burial of fish mortos at the site would need to be dealt with by a case by case basis if such an outbreak was to occur.

I hope this helps for completing the scoping document and I am happy to discuss this further if needed.

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Delivery | Scottish Government*

Tel. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 04 February 2020 11:04  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Contingency plans

Hi <redacted>,

Hope all is well.

Sorry for bothering you but have you got any further with your thoughts / our idea for burial with our contingency plan?

I am getting hassled to produce answers so we can get a " draft scoping document" submitted this week.

All the best

<redacted>

<redacted>

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## Email 28

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 27 May 2021 10:59  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** Re: Correspondence from the Scottish Government

<redacted>,

Thanks - you should check out:

[The Times: "Islanders raise a stink over vast salmon graveyard"](#)

[Video Exposes Mass Graves of Millions of Diseased Scottish Salmon](#)

Your name crops up I think in the press release and media backgrounder (via the previous FOI on this issue - <redacted> too): [online here](#)

Please also pass this Letter to Scottish Government, DEFRA & SEPA re breach of EU law dated 27 May 2021 - [online here](#)

I will copy you into the email officially sending it (in a few minutes).

Thanks,

<redacted>

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 10:53 AM <<redacted>> wrote:

Dear Mr <redacted>

Please see the attached correspondence from the Scottish Government.

<redacted>

Tel. <redacted> | Mob <redacted>

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Email 29

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 11 March 2021 07:49  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - fish waste processing site

Hi <redacted>

Just to let you know SEPA have confirmed that they have been in touch with Mr <redacted>

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>  
Sponsorship Manager Environment and Forestry Sponsorship Hub  
Future Environment Division  
Scottish Government  
M: <redacted>  
<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 10 March 2021 09:32  
**To:** <redacted> **Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - fish waste processing site

Thanks <redacted>. Hopefully we get to see some progress on the site in the near future.

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 March 2021 09:30

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - fish waste processing site

<redacted>

I have contacted SEPA and they have already been approached about this and will pick up directly with Mr <redacted> to assist with his application.

I hope that is useful.

Please get in touch if you have any further questions

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>

Sponsorship Manager Environment and Forestry Sponsorship Hub

Future Environment Division

Scottish Government

M: <redacted>

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted> **Sent:** 08 March 2021 17:48

**To:** <redacted>

**Cc:** <redacted>

**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist - fish waste processing site

<redacted>/<redacted>

I understand that all SEPA queries are to be directed to the sponsorship team in the first instance.

I have been contacted by <redacted> who is the owner of Whiteshore Cockles Ltd. Mr <redacted> is in the process of developing a fish waste dryer that will dispose of fish mortalities from salmon farms. Whiteshore Cockles Ltd had been burying fish waste at their site in North Uist but following a complaint to the European Commission in 2014, we changed our animal by-products legislation in 2015 to stop the burial of fish waste in Scotland. However, we had a derogation in place that was agreed by the European Commission for Whiteshore Cockles to continue to bury fish waste at their site in North Uist until the fish dryer was operational.

The dryer has been under development/construction for a few years and we expected it to be running by the summer of 2018. However, this timeline has extended due to multiple issues (mainly funding, sourcing equipment and EU Exit), one of which was the deviation from their original plans to increase the dryer capacity meaning the site needed a Part A PPC permit from SEPA. Mr <redacted> has stated he has nearly completed the Part A PPC application (see email below) which needs to be in place before the site can be approved to operate under the Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. We are keen to see the site operational in a manner that is compliant with this legislation.

Mr <redacted> is looking for an update on when this work will be able to start once his application is submitted to SEPA. Are you able to provide me with an update that I could feedback to Mr <redacted>?

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government*  
Tel <redacted> | Mob: <redacted>

**Subject:** Whiteshore

Good morning <redacted>,

Hope you are surviving these strange times.

Could you give me a time to call you when it is convenient or could you call me if you get a minute.

No problems to report you will be glad to hear ( apart from SEPA being kaput ) but I can give you an update and I just need a contact to start the ABP application as <redacted> is now retired and I cant seem to find the person who has replaced him.

We have 95% of the Part APPC application completed ( two consultants for 16 months work) and as I believe all the documentation for this will cover nearly everything your dept will require we are now in a position to submit / complete the application.

Best regards

<redacted>

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

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Email 30

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2021 16:49  
**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>  
**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <<redacted>>  
**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles - ABP Policy meeting with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 19 March 2021

Thanks <redacted> and <redacted>,

Stating the obvious but based on this I am supportive of increasing pressure in whatever way we can to force completion of the new plant, and to ensure that in the interim that the method statement is adhered to. It also looks like CnES need support and we need SEPA on board.

Surely the aquaculture sector must be concerned about damage from media coverage, do we have any levers we can use to alter their choice of disposal route?

A coordinated plan of action would help us get our thoughts and actions in the right order.

<redacted>

<redacted>

Animal Health - Disease Prevention | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy |  
Scottish Government | Tel. <redacted> | Mob. <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 19 March 2021 16:02

**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <<redacted>>

**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles - ABP Policy meeting with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 19 March 2021

Thanks <redacted>

The ensiled fish waste is definitely not helping with the problem. It has potentially been sitting for weeks already before it gets to Whiteshore so the smell will be intensified. You are also right that if you separate the liquid part it still needs to be disposed of via an approved route.

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 19 March 2021 15:49

**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <<redacted>>

**Subject:** RE: Whiteshore Cockles - ABP Policy meeting with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 19 March 2021

<redacted>,

Thanks for this update.

As this issue has run on for years now, the lack of an end date for the derogation and lack of strict enforcement mean there is little incentive to progress at pace with the facility, and it does not help with the industry's reputation.

I am supportive of exploring what powers are available to ensure that the landfill site operates according to set criteria and the dryer facility is progressed without further delay.

With regard to the ensiling method – presumably there is no option of separating off any liquid prior to burial as it would still have to be disposed of by an approved route, even if it has not been subjected to maceration & turned to mush.

Kind Regards

<redacted>

<redacted> BVM&S, MRCVS

Veterinary Adviser

Veterinary and Science Team,  
Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Delivery Directorate  
The Scottish Government, Saughton House, P Spur  
Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD.

Mobile <redacted>  
Email <redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 19 March 2021 15:23

**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Cc:** Voas S (Sheila) <<redacted>>

**Subject:** Whiteshore Cockles - ABP Policy meeting with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 19 March 2021

All

Myself and <redacted> met with <redacted>, <redacted> and <redacted> from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) to discuss the burial of fish mortalities at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist.

I explained the derogation to allow the site to continue to bury fish mortalities on site was still in place due to a delay with obtaining a Part A Pollution Prevention Certificate (PPC) from SEPA. We had updated Ministers about this delay in 2019, but as the site has not been able to obtain a Part A PPC, burial on site could continue.

CnES have very valid concerns that the site is not operating to the terms of the Method Statement (I need to dig this out of eRDM). They are also starting to receive complaints from members of the public about the smell from the site. By all accounts local residents quality of life are being severely hampered by the current practices at Whiteshore.

I have attached a link to an email with pictures from a recent visit by CnES:

Click on the link to open 'Fish - Whiteshore Cockles - site pictures - March 2021' –

(Email 30.1) <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A32553155/details>

The pictures show open pits with liquefied/ensiled fish morts. The pits themselves have been made out of sand from the beach as CnES assuming capacity to bury more fish morts on the site is running out. The pits are remaining uncovered for weeks with little seaweed cover, which is producing a smell locals are complaining about. According to the original Method Statement, Whiteshore would cover pits with seaweed and sand within a day. CnES reported that due to the liquid content of the fish waste, it was difficult to cover the pits in sand. Basically sinking to the bottom of the liquid fish waste.

CnES are concerned about:

- How Whiteshore are burying waste – not being done to original Method Statement as described above.

- How much fish morts are being disposed of – record keeping is not great. Hand written notes being provided to CnES. Fish morts from all over Western Isles and even mainland going to site.
- How much capacity is left at the site – current disposal practice raises questions about capacity. Building pits with sand from out with the site and shoring them up with hard-core rock. Evidence of seepage from the side of pits.
- Legal options for enforcing change/better practice – definition of derogation to allow burial being vague i.e. states it is legal but clearly causing an environmental nuisance. SEPA will not action when it is an ABP disposal site. CnES relying on issues being resolved when PPC in place.

CnES will probably admit that official supervision has not been conducted very well on their part. In their defence, they feel limited to what enforcement action can be taken when we say burial is legal and SEPA will not get involved as it is an ABP issue.

I had already agreed to update Ministers following this meeting. I wanted to raise the delay with obtaining a Part A PPC still on-going. Now after meeting with CnES, I feel we should seek agreement to challenge Whiteshore about how they are burying fish waste, how much fish waste is being disposed of and where it is coming from. The derogation was only meant to be short term and to provide local fish farms with a local disposal option until a legally compliant option was available to them. I feel in its current state, Whiteshore are taking advantage of derogation by extending their scope or range to bring in more income. We have tried to police this by stopping new fish farms from citing Whiteshore as their disposal route. It should not be a cheap disposal route for the industry's salmon mortalities.

If the derogation is to continue to be in place, it should be time limited and used as a disposal route for local fish farms only. What is local will need to be up for discussion. Depending on the response from Whiteshore, it may need to be limited to the capacity they can dispose of. Again this would need to be up for discussion. Other options could be leaving burial for event mortalities only. This was some of the reason for the site to continue burial in the first place.

Happy for anyone else's thoughts on moving forward with this. <redacted> can also add anything I might have missed.

Thanks

<redacted>

<redacted>

*Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government*  
Tel. <redacted> | Mob: <redacted>

Email 30.1

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 March 2021 11:23  
**To:** <redacted>  
**Cc:** <redacted>  
**Subject:** photos

(Annex 7)

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<redacted>

<redacted> | Manaidsear Seirbheisean Luchd-Cleachdaidh agus Arainneachd (Consumer and Environmental Services Manager)  
Roinn nan Coimhearsnachdan | Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | Rathad Shanndabhaig | Steornabhagh | Eilean Leodhais | HS1 2BW  
Communities Department | [Comhairle nan Eilean Siar](#) | Sandwick Road | Stornoway | Isle of Lewis | HS1 2BW  
[<redacted>](#) | [<redacted>](#) | Ext [<redacted>](#) | [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk)

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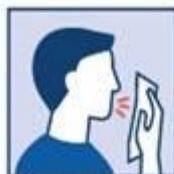
Consumer & Environmental Services welcomes your feedback. Please help us improve our service by taking our short customer survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cnes-ces-c)

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Ag Obair Comhla airson na h-Eileanan Siar **COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR** Working Together for the Western Isles



Wash your hands.



Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes.



Avoid touching your face.

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

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Email 31 – Marine Scotland

**From:** <redacted>  
**Sent:** 11 September 2018 12:03  
**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hiya,  
Yes, I did.  
I'll forward this on for info – and thanks.

<redacted>  
<redacted> | Communications Manager | Marine Scotland |  
Scottish Government | 1 B South | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ  
Tel: <redacted>  
Blackberry: <redacted>  
[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 11 September 2018 09:20

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Morning

I don't know if you saw the report on The One Show last night about Vacasay, but below is a still image from Whiteshore Cockles, the waste disposal site, which is identical to the photo that was sent to Visit Scotland and reported to have been taken at a beach on Bernera.

It might be worth forwarding this to APHA and the LA in case they didn't see the show

Cheers

<redacted>



**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 15:16

**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

I'll just forward to the generic APHA mailbox and ask them to deal with it.

Thanks, <redacted>.

<redacted>

<redacted> I Communications Manager I Marine Scotland I

Scottish Government I 1 B South I Victoria Quay I Edinburgh I EH6 6QQ

Tel <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 15:13

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hi

They have a generic email address [APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.Scotland@apha.gsi.gov.uk), but it is the Inverness office that covers Western Isles. I was on Lewis with <redacted> from the Inverness office last week, her email address is <redacted>, but I'm not sure if she has a specific role in relation to disposal of fish.

I don't have an email address, but I was speaking with <redacted> from WI council last week and he is one of their Environmental Health Officers who I think has been dealing with the disposal of fish from the some of the farms. His phone number is 01851 822694

Cheers

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:32

**To:** <redacted> (MARLAB) <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Next daft question, do you have a name in APHA or do they have a mailbox?

<redacted>

<redacted> I Communications Manager I Marine Scotland I

Scottish Government I 1 B South I Victoria Quay I Edinburgh I EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** MS FishHealth

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:20

**To:** <redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hi <redacted>

I think that this should be passed to APHA and the LA as they deal with disposal of dead fish. We would be interested if they establish which farm the fish have originated from in case there is a health issue on site.

Thanks

<redacted>

**From:** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 14:00

**To:** MS FishHealth <[MS.FishHealth@gov.scot](mailto:MS.FishHealth@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** FW: Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Hello,

Apologies, I'm not sure if this is for us, APHA or the LA.

Can you help, please?

Thanks,

<redacted>

<redacted> I Communications Manager I Marine Scotland I

Scottish Government I 1 B South I Victoria Quay I Edinburgh I EH6 6QQ

Tel: <redacted>

Blackberry: <redacted>

[www.gov.scot/marinescotland](http://www.gov.scot/marinescotland)

**From:** <redacted> > **On Behalf Of** <redacted>

**Sent:** 10 September 2018 13:58

**To:** Marine Scotland Mailbox <[Marine\\_Scotland\\_Mailbox@gov.scot](mailto:Marine_Scotland_Mailbox@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Our Ref: 658-26282 / 65506 – Salmon

Good afternoon

I am hoping you can give some guidance on the following matter. Our CEO was recently contacted by a visitor to Lewis who had encountered a large deposit of dead salmon on the beach at Great Bernera. I have attached a copy of a photo taken by the visitor.

Given recent news coverage regarding salmon farming in the area, I would be grateful if you were able to give some guidance on what we should advise any other visitors who may contact us about this matter.

Yours sincerely

<redacted>

Partnerships Operations Executive

VisitScotland

Great Glen House

Inverness

IV3 8NW

Email <redacted>

Tel: <redacted>

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Tha VisitScotland a' comhairleachadh gu bheil sibh a' fosgladh puist-d agus cheangalachain aig ur cunnart fhèin.

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