

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)> (MARLAB)

Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 11:01 AM

To: APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk

Cc: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>; <REDACTED - 11(2)>
<<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>

Subject: Cleaner fish mortality

Good morning

My colleague <REDACTED - 11(2)> visited the Tabhaigh site (FS1297) yesterday and raised concerns with me regarding mortality in the cleaner fish held on site. The site is located in Loch Erisort on the Isle of Lewis and is operated by Mowi Scotland Ltd (FB0119). Recent mortality has been lower (possibly due to reduced stock numbers), but there has been significant mortality since the wrasse were stocked last year. The wrasse are of farmed origin from Anglesey. Although the mortality does not appear to be on-going I thought I should bring it to your attention. The below summary has been provided by <REDACTED - 11(2)>:

‘During the inspection of cleaner fish records, increased mortalities were observed in the wrasse population. From week 37 to 41 2022, the site received weekly wrasse inputs of farmed and wild wrasse. Simultaneously, elevated mortality was occurring following these inputs, with percentages between 1.34% and 5.65% observed. Elevated mortality continued until week 10 2023, with average weekly mortality percentage at 6.66% and average weekly mortality count of 5334. Specifically, two spikes in mortality were noted; Wk 50 2022 with 19.75% (18681) and Wk 3 2023 with 19.68% (10099). The cause of mortality was attributed to poor quality on input, with these morts being classed as ‘without diagnosis- fresh’ in mortality reports. To date, from week 37 2022, an approximate total of 133,119 wrasse have been lost from an input total of approximately 164,109. Unfortunately, mortality reporting of cleaner fish is using estimates as a result of the site not being able to accurately determine stock numbers. This is due to wrasse morts disintegrating rapidly and therefore the site is unable to accurately quantify amount lost. From discussions on site, optimistic figures have been described to be ~250 wrasse in 8 stocked pens, suggesting that only 2000 fish remain.’

Please let me know if you need any more information.

Regards

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Fish Health Inspectorate Technical Manager

Marine Scotland - Science

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

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S/B: +44 (0)131 244 2500

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w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 11:44 AM
To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Welfare of cleanerfish and increased mortality in Salmon

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>

Just an update on this case.

My colleague <REDACTED - 11(2)> has just finished a call with the <REDACTED - 11(2)> from Gravir (FS0242) to look at the outstanding paperwork from last week's visit. The <REDACTED - 11(2)> confirmed that no effort had been made to remove cleanerfish from the pens prior to the freshwater treatments. There had been some internal discussions relating to a de-waterer being set up on the boat, but this was not in place during treatments.

Regards

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Technical Manager, Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

T: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

S/B: 0131 244 2500

M: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

E: [<REDACTED - 11\(2\)>@gov.scot](mailto:<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot)

The Scottish Government

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)>
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 4:00 PM
To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk
Subject: Welfare of cleanerfish and increased mortality in Salmon

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>

I hope you are well and have managed to take some time off over the summer.

I just wanted to make you aware of a couple of potential issues at a site in the Western Isles. <REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

During his inspection <REDACTED - 11(2)> noted that the site had experience 100% mortality of their cleanerfish in this cycle. <REDACTED - 11(2)> has provided the following information from his visit.

353 wild caught ballan wrasse were input on 21/10/2022 and 70,932 Lump fish were input between 02/11/22 and 07/12/2022. From inspection of the cleanerfish mortality records, the last recorded mortality for wrasse onsite was in week 7 of 2023 and for lumpfish week 15 of 2023. From the mortality records on Fishtalk, the cause of mortality for the cleanerfish had been recorded as AGD/environmental, however as the <REDACTED - 11(2)> wasn't present at the time of inspection <REDACTED - 11(2)> hasn't yet been able to review any previous reports detailing results of surveillance in relation to the cleanerfish to ascertain whether or not AGD was the driver for a 100% loss. The site's senior farm operative explained that the majority of the cleanerfish mortality was due to fish being lost during freshwater and FLS treatments which have been conducted regularly throughout the duration of this production cycle. Freshwater and FLS treatments have been conducted regularly since December 2023 this production cycle at Gravir, initially the site was treating with freshwater using one hour bath treatments increasing to 3 hour bath treatments around March/April.

From <REDACTED - 11(2)> discussion with the site representative there is some doubt over whether appropriate effort had been made to remove cleanerfish prior to treatment. There is obviously a slight discrepancy between what <REDACTED - 11(2)> was told by the site representative and what was recorded in the mortality record.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Technical Manager, Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

T: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

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M: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

E: <REDACTED - 11(2)>[@gov.scot](mailto:<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot)

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 1:47 PM

To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>[@apha.gov.uk](mailto:<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk)>

Subject: RE: Notification of a significant loss of lumpfish

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>,

Apologies, I can't quite remember exactly when the FW treatment occurred. There was a FW treatment in May but there may also have been one earlier in the year.

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Have a lovely Christmas when it comes,

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 9:59 AM

To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Notification of a significant loss of lumpfish

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>,

Many thanks for sending this through we will have a look into this.

Can you advise when the fresh water treatment took place which contributed to the loss of the lumpfish? Also if they lost all 50000 at the time of the FW treatments?

Any other concerns about the sites during inspection or the salmon looking ok?

Just so I have a few more details prior to contacting the company.

Many thanks

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

APHA Perth Field Services

Veterinary Advisor Perth – Field Delivery

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Telephone: <REDACTED - 11(2)> or <REDACTED - 11(2)> | Mobile: <REDACTED - 11(2)> | Email: <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>

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

Address: APHA Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RX

From: <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>

Sent: 14 December 2023 13:38

To: SM-APHA-APHA Scotland (APHA) <<APHA.Scotland@apha.gov.uk>

Cc: <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>

Subject: Notification of a significant loss of lumpfish

Dear APHA,

Following a routine site inspection at Scottish Sea Farms Ltd site; Fishnish (B) (FS0694) and a diagnostic inspection at Fishnish (A) (FS0427), I was made aware of a significant loss of Lumpfish from the sites during a combined FW treatment.

Fishnish (A) received 50,000 lumpfish from Ireland in Dec 22. One cage was transferred to Fishnish (B) and a 12hr FW treatment was conducted at both sites.

The <REDACTED - 11(2)> told me that they tried to remove the lumpfish in advance of the FW treatment, but were unsuccessful and so lost their entire stock from both sites as a result.

My colleague, <REDACTED - 11(2)>, informed me that I should make you aware of instances like this. Hopefully you find the information useful.

Kind regards,
<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>
Senior Fish Health Inspector

Scottish Government | Marine Laboratory | 375 Victoria Road | Aberdeen | AB11 9DB

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w: <https://www.gov.scot/marine-and-fisheries/>

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 3:51 PM
To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>
Cc: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot>; MS FishHealth <MS.FishHealth@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: MOWI BDNC

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>

I hope you are well. Just picking up on this one after returning from leave. I don't have anything in my sent items and can't find a record of APHA being notified of this one in our records management system. I think this was around the time I took over the notifications from <REDACTED - 11(2)> so I suspect it may have been a miscommunication at our end resulting in no notification being sent.

I have copied in a couple of colleagues as we will need to re-open the case to update and re-publish to indicate that you weren't informed. Is there anything else you would need from us for the FOI response?

Regards

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Technical Manager, Fish Health Inspectorate, Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

T: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

S/B: 0131 244 2500

M: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

E: <REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot

From: MS FishHealth

Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 11:50 AM

To: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Official Sensitive: MOWI BDNC

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>,

I have asked around the inspectorate and checked our record management database and so far cannot find any written communication confirming that APHA were notified.

<REDACTED - 11(2)> may have written documentation. However, as you have stated, <REDACTED - 11(2)> and won't be able to check her emails until June 17th. Unfortunately, we may have to wait until this date to find any written confirmation.

Regards

Duty Inspector

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

Senior Fish Health Inspector, Marine Directorate,

Scottish Government, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

T: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

M: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

E: <REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot

From: <REDACTED - 11(2)> <<REDACTED - 11(2)>@apha.gov.uk>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:55 AM

To: MS FishHealth <MS.fishhealth@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Official Sensitive: MOWI BDNC

Good morning,

Just forwarding this on following <REDACTED - 11(2)> out of office – any help would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

APHA Perth Field Services
Veterinary Advisor Perth – Field Delivery
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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From: <REDACTED - 11(2)>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:54 AM

To: <REDACTED - 11(2)>@gov.scot

Subject: Official Sensitive: MOWI BDNC

Hi <REDACTED - 11(2)>

Hope this finds you well, I am just catching up on emails etc after <REDACTED - 11(2)>.

<REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE>

I just have a quick question – we have received an FOI in relation to MOWI BDNC regarding large numbers of cleaner fish deaths back in November 2022 quoting your reports and stating it was reported to APHA.

“The attached FHI case report details the deaths of 31,484 wrasse and all 182,756 lumpstickers during one production cycle, at a single salmon farm in Argyll.

Of the lumpfish, 86,614 mortalities were recorded and the rest (almost 100,000) were not recorded by the farm operator, Mowi.

As a result FHI noted that "as ~100,000 mortalities of lumpfish were not recorded, these were not reported to the FHI, or the company vet."

I have had a look through our reports and I don't see this having been recorded anywhere – could you please let me know when/who it was reported to just so I can do some digging to see what happened with it – I don't see it in any of my notes from our catch ups either. This would have occurred during our peak AI season so I am just trying to check it wasn't missed.

Many thanks

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

<REDACTED - 11(2)>

APHA Perth Field Services
Veterinary Advisor Perth – Field Delivery
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

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