



Loch Long Salmon Ltd.

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Finlay Carson MSP

Convener Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

12th November 2024

Dear Convener,

Loch Long Salmon is a new Scottish salmon farming company developing new salmon farms across Scotland which will all use semi-closed containment (also known as closed containment at sea) technology. Our projects will be the very first in Scotland to use this innovative technology.

This technology has been designed and proven to significantly reduce environmental impact by catching waste and keeping out sea lice, whilst also improving the welfare of the farmed fish. Our first project, Beinn Reithe, in Loch Long, is currently with Ministers for a planning decision.

We have been following the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee's inquiry into the salmon farming sector and are aware that the final session will take place on 13th November 2024. We believe our project demonstrates innovation in the sector but is being severely hindered by planning delays. Our initial project appeal was under review by the Scottish Government Reporter for 52 weeks, and it has since been with Scottish Ministers for an additional 39 weeks without resolution. This comes after an original planning application that took 56 weeks. Altogether, our project has endured 147 weeks of review and counting.

The project has received broad support, including from the local community and Salmon Scotland. The Scottish Government have labelled the project one of strategic significance for Scotland and SEPA, when awarding the project its CAR licence, said that technologies such as those we are proposing "have the potential to play a significant role in enhanced sustainability through reduced medicine use and discharge".

Such extensive planning delays pose a serious threat to innovation and risk undermining Scotland's aims as a forward-thinking, investment-friendly nation. To ensure that groundbreaking projects like ours can contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future for the salmon farming industry, it is crucial that the planning process becomes more efficient and responsive.

Yours sincerely,

Stewart Hawthorn

Managing Director, Loch Long Salmon

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