

Loch Duart's 'Sustainable Salmon' Scam Exposed

Major parts of Don Staniford's research on Loch Duart Ltd.

Fri, 2012-03-30

For the full blog view

- [Don's blog](#)



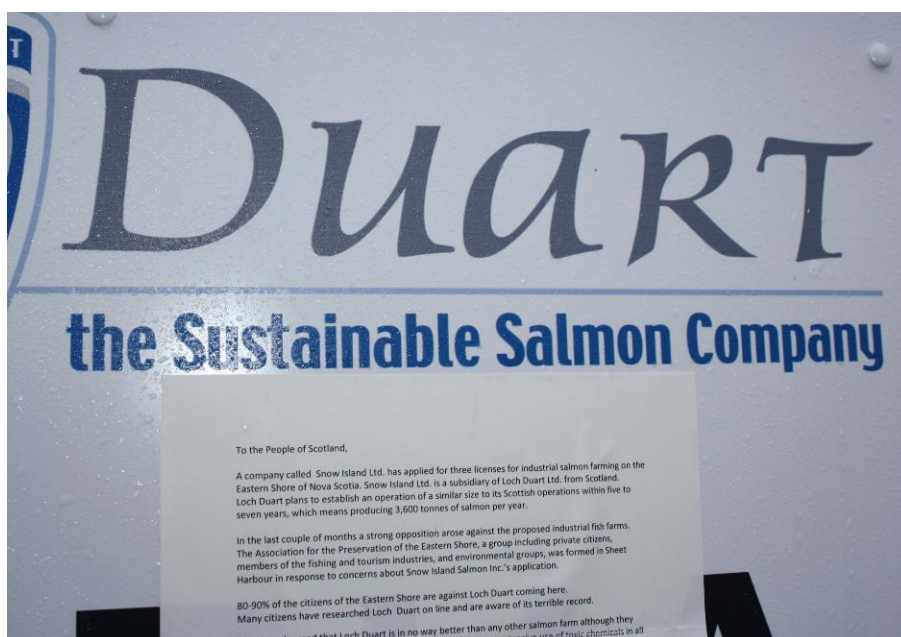
Scotland's "sustainable salmon company" [Loch Duart](#) is caught between a rock and a hard place as [plans to expand](#) across the Atlantic in Eastern Canada encounter [growing community opposition](#).

Loch Duart's use of a cocktail of toxic chemicals is provoking outrage on both sides of the pond - as people realize that "the Sustainable Salmon Company" is behaving very badly indeed.

For many people in Canada and Scotland, "the Sustainable Salmon Company" sucks like sea lice!



A letter from opponents in Nova Scotia hand-delivered yesterday (29 March) to Loch Duart's head office in Scotland illustrates the depth of resentment across the pond in Canada and the rocky road ahead.



"80-90% of the citizens of the Eastern Shore are against Loch Duart coming here," wrote Karen Elfendahl-Taetz and Karin Cope of the Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore in the letter addressed to 'The People of Scotland' and hand-delivered yesterday morning by Don Staniford to Loch Duart's office at Badcall Bay.

"Many citizens have researched Loch Duart online and are aware of its terrible record," continued the letter. "They have learned that Loch Duart is in no way better than any other salmon farm although they always claim to be. They are among the companies with most extensive use of toxic chemicals in all of Scotland. It's also widely known that Loch Duart Ltd has an appalling track record on escapes. The people of the Eastern Shore do not want Loch Duart despoiling their pristine coastline, polluting their coastal waters and spoiling their sustainable fisheries and industries."

The full text of the letter is as follows:

29 March 2012

To the People of Scotland,

A company called Snow Island Ltd. has applied for three licenses for industrial salmon farming on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. Snow Island Ltd. is a subsidiary of Loch Duart Ltd. from Scotland. Loch Duart plans to establish an operation of a similar size to its Scottish operations within five to seven years, which means producing 3,600 tonnes of salmon per year.

In the last couple of months a strong opposition arose against the proposed industrial fish farms. The Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore, a group including private citizens, members of the fishing and tourism industries, and environmental groups, was formed in Sheet Harbour in response to concerns about Snow Island Salmon Inc.'s application.

**80-90% of the citizens of the Eastern Shore are against Loch Duart coming here.
Many citizens have researched Loch Duart on line and are aware of its terrible record.**

They have learned that Loch Duart is in no way better than any other salmon farm although they always claim to be. They are among the companies with most extensive use of toxic chemicals in all of Scotland. It's also widely known that Loch Duart Ltd has an appalling track record on escapes.

The people of the Eastern Shore do not want Loch Duart despoiling their pristine coastline, polluting their coastal waters and spoiling their sustainable fisheries and industries.

The Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia is advertised as an area of sustainable tourism. Industrial fish farms would discourage tourists from coming to this area which is popular amongst sea-kayaking tourists, sports fishermen and nature lovers.

How will algae blooms, marine mammal deaths and waste deposits on the ocean floor caused by open-net salmon farming fit into this picture? Nobody is going to come to the Eastern Shore (or Nova Scotia for that matter) to see a polluted, deserted ocean. They come to see a clean, pristine environment.

Loch Duart sets the quality of life on the Eastern Shore, the jobs and livelihoods of the people living here at risk.

The people living on the Eastern Shore are convinced that the Scottish people will understand them. They also want to protect their environment and their living on the coast. Maybe they do also worry about what kind of light it throws on Scotland having a Scottish company destroying the environment in Canada

In an interview about the proposed fish farms and why he chose Nova Scotia for expanding his business Nick Joy said: "It's very easy to be in a room full of Canadians."

The people of the Eastern Shore will not make it easy for you, Mr. Joy!

Yours Very Truly,

Karen Elfendahl-Taetz
Karin Cope

Members of APES (Association for the Preservation of the Eastern Shore)

The message is crystal clear - Loch Duart is not welcome in Canada.

Loch Duart's head office is located on the West coast of Scotland in Badcall Bay near Scourie where visitors are welcomed by a 'No Unauthorized Access' sign.



So what does Loch Duart - who aggressively market themselves as "The Sustainable Salmon Company" - have to hide from the public?



During a visit to their site yesterday (29 March) - to hand-deliver a letter from opponents in Canada - it became immediately obvious why Loch Duart wants to keep visitors out. Out of the sight from the main road and tucked away in a corner of the site were vats of corrosive chemicals and nets (which Loch Duart states do not contain anti-fouling chemicals).





The vats of chemicals were marked "corrosive" and "harmful".





Another stash of chemicals were hidden out of sight around the corner of Loch Duart's office.



Warning labels screamed out from behind the fence.



Other warnings advised people against smoking.



Through the chemical haze, Loch Duart's salmon farming operations were only just visible offshore in yesterday's morning mist.



Piled up behind the building were totes (plastic containers) used for transporting morts (dead fish) back from the site.



Loch Duart needs mort containers to deal with significant disease and sea lice infestation problems. Information obtained via Freedom of Information revealed back in 2004, for example, that Loch Duart reported [95,484 kg](#) of morts. In [2007](#), Loch Duart also reported the following infectious diseases at various sites in Scotland - Gyrodactylus derjavini, Epitheliocystis, Flavobacterium, Adhesions and Aeromonas hydrophila. In [2006](#), Loch Duart also reported Bacterial gill disease and Flavobacterium psychrophila (RTFS) - read more data [online here](#).

More details via '[Salmon Farming's 'Foot-and-Mouth' - Scotland's Secret Disease Epidemic Exposed](#)'

The 'mort mountain' was stacked so high behind Loch Duart's building yesterday (29 March) it almost reached the chimney stack!



Other salmon farming sites in the area littered not only the coastline but also the shoreline.



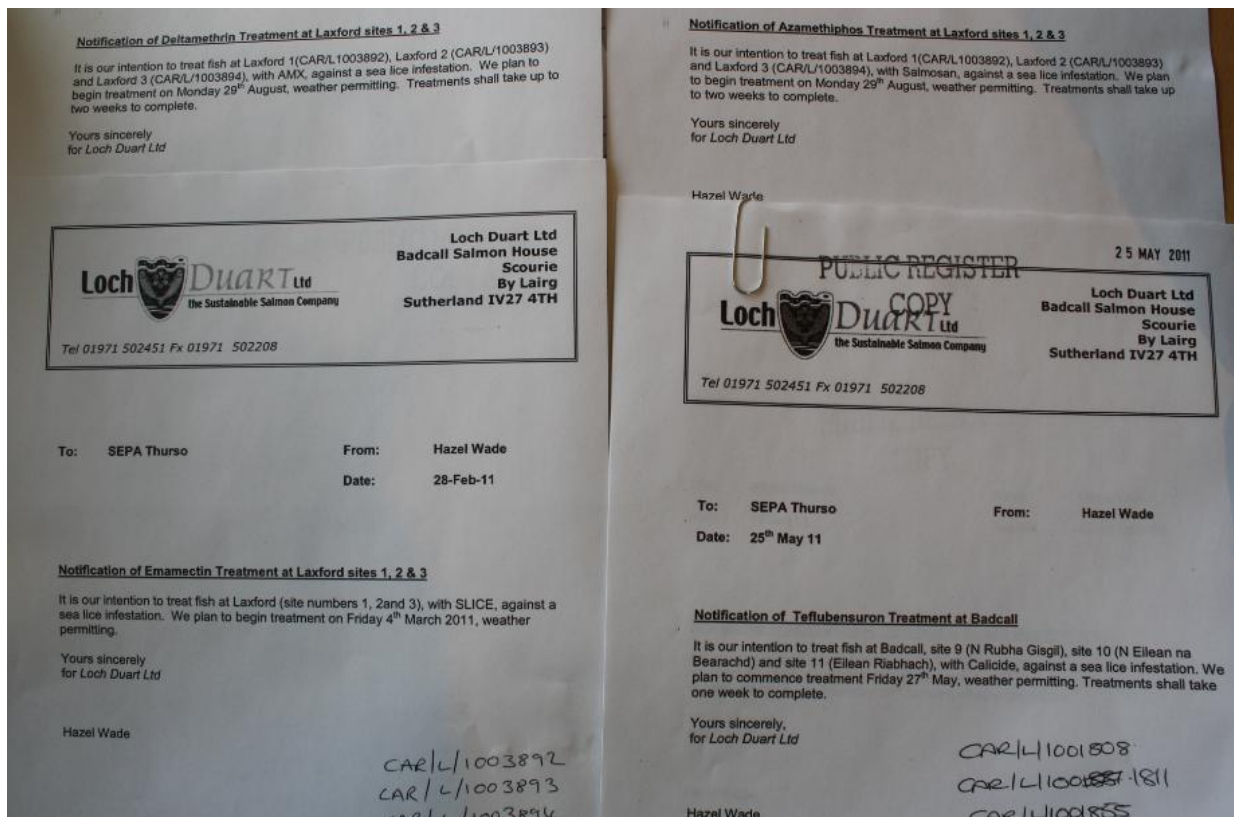


Such litter is only the tip of the iceberg - watch more via '[The Shame Below the Waves](#)'

A closer inspection of Loch Duart's track record reveals a sea lice infestation problem so serious that "the Sustainable Salmon Company" is using a cocktail of toxic chemicals at various sites across Scotland.



Documents obtained this week via the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) public register in Dingwall reveal an alarming use of hazardous and toxic chemicals by Loch Duart (the public can also search online via the '[Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory](#)').



Loch Duart's trigger-happy use of toxic chemicals includes the use of Azamethiphos, Deltamethrin, Emamectin benzoate and Teflubenzuron at sites in Badcall Bay, Loch Laxford and Oldany during 2011 and 2012.





Loch Duart Ltd
Badcall Salmon House
Scourie
By Lairg
Sutherland IV27 4TH

Tel 01971 502451 Fx 01971 502208

To: SEPA Dingwall

From: Hazel Wade

Date: 10-Jan-12

Fax No: 01847 893365

Notification of Emamectin Benzoate Treatment at Badcall sites

It is our intention to treat fish at Badcall 9 (CAR/L/1001811), Badcall 10 (CAR/L/1001812) and Badcall 11 (CAR/L/1001808), with SLICE, against a sea lice infestation. We plan to begin treatment on Thursday 12th January, weather permitting.

Yours sincerely
for Loch Duart Ltd

Hazel Wade

24 AUG 2011



Loch Duart Ltd
Badcall Salmon House
Scourie
By Lairg
Sutherland IV27 4TH

Tel 01971 502451 Fx 01971 502208

To: SEPA Thurso

From: Hazel Wade

Date: 24 Aug 11

Fax No: 01847 893365

Notification of Deltamethrin Treatment at Laxford sites 1, 2 & 3

It is our intention to treat fish at Laxford 1 (CAR/L/1003892), Laxford 2 (CAR/L/1003893) and Laxford 3 (CAR/L/1003894), with AMX, against a sea lice infestation. We plan to begin treatment on Monday 29th August, weather permitting. Treatments shall take up to two weeks to complete.

Yours sincerely
for Loch Duart Ltd

Hazel Wade

PUBLIC REGISTER
COPY



Duart Ltd
the Sustainable Salmon Company

Loch Duart Ltd
Badcall Salmon House
Scourie
By Lairg
Sutherland IV27 4TH

E-mail: hazel@lochduart.com

Tel 01971 502451 Fx 01971 502208

PUBLIC REGISTER COPY

To: **SEPA Dingwall**

From: **Hazel Wade**

Date: **28 Nov 11**

Fax No: **01847 893365**

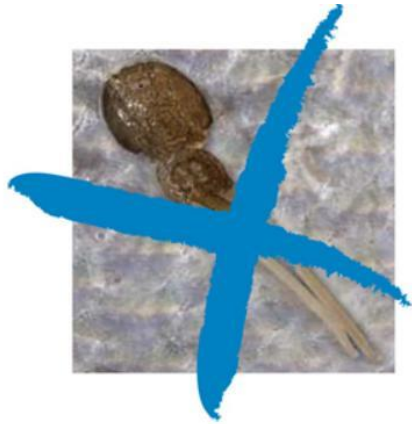
Notification of Teflubensuron Treatment at Oldany site

It is our intention to treat fish at Oldany (CAR/L/1015768), with Calicide, against a sea lice infestation. We plan to begin treatment on Thursday 1st December, weather permitting.

Yours sincerely
for *Loch Duart Ltd*

Hazel Wade

Azamethiphos is a highly toxic organophosphate marketed in Scotland, Ireland, Norway and Canada under the trade name Salmosan.



- Highly effective against mobile stages particularly gravids
- Safe
- Short treatment time
- Low environmental impact
- Cost effective

www.salmosan.net

Salmosan is distributed by Vet-Aqua
in Ireland, VESO in Norway and Aqua Vet Services
International in Canada

Break the cycle with Salmosan®...

Fish Vet Group has returned Salmosan to the market in response to the serious and growing problems with sea lice control facing the global industry. With the arrival of Salmosan there is now the opportunity to significantly improve the strategic control of sea lice infestations.

Contact us on **+44 (0) 1463 717 774** for more information and for news about training courses on the safe and effective use of sea lice medicines.

Peer-reviewed [scientific research](#) from the Department of Fisheries & Oceans in Canada shows that Azamethiphos can be lethal to lobsters and can have a [negative impact](#) on spawning.

Read more via '[Salmon Farming Kills Lobsters](#)'

According to the [Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#) (SEPA), Azamethiphos is "highly toxic to birds and to aquatic species (particularly larvae)".

In terms of human health impacts, SEPA advises:

"Inhalation of air containing azamethiphos may cause a number of adverse health effects including headache, weakness, nervousness, sweating, vomiting and difficulty swallowing. Exposure to extremely high levels may result in muscular twitching, eye pain, slurred speech, colic, hypersalivation, heart complaints, breathing difficulties, convulsions and unconsciousness. Ingestion of azamethiphos can lead to effects similar to those for inhalation. Dermal contact with azamethiphos may cause skin irritation and sensitisation. Absorption of azamethiphos through the skin may cause similar effects as those for inhalation and ingestion. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has not designated azamethiphos in terms of its carcinogenicity."

Deltamethrin is marketed under the trade name Alphamax and, according to the Norwegian group Bellona, is "acutely toxic to crustaceans (salmon lice, copepods, shrimp, crab)" (read more [online here](#)). According to Gerald McEachern:


"Alphamax is based on deltamethrin, which is a replacement to DDT, and has been around in some form since the 1970s. It is a neurotoxin, and is not soluble in water, and is deadly to fish in high concentrations, and especially to crustaceans such as lobsters. It can also be hazardous to the humans who handle it. Deltamethrin is used on everything from pet parasites to bed bugs, and recent studies show that some parasites are quickly building up a genetic resistance to the chemical due to its over-use."

Read more via '[A bit more Alphamax on your salmon, sir?](#)'

Emamectin benzoate is marketed under the trade name SLICE with the catchy tag-line '[SLICE kills lice](#)'. Sadly however, SLICE is not nice and the active ingredient Emamectin benzoate also [highly toxic](#) to other crustacea such as lobsters.

Read more via '[Aquaculture Pesticides Are Killing Lobster](#)'

24 AUG 2011



Loch Duart Ltd
the Sustainable Salmon Company

Loch Duart Ltd
Badcall Salmon House
Scourie
By Lairg
Sutherland IV27 4TH

E-mail: hazel@lochduart.com

Tel 01971 502451 Fx 01971 502208

To: SEPA Dingwall	From: Hazel Wade
Date: 27 Jun 11	Fax No: 01847 893365

Notification of Emamectin Treatment at Oldany site

It is our intention to treat fish at Oldany (CAR/L/1015768), with SLICE, against a sea lice infestation. We plan to begin treatment on Thursday 30th June, weather permitting.

Yours sincerely
for *Loch Duart Ltd*

Hazel Wade

PUBLIC REGISTER
COPY

Read more data on the use of Emamectin benzoate by Loch Duart and other companies in Scotland - [online here!](#)

Data compiled by the [Pure Salmon Campaign](#), for example, shows that Loch Duart was the biggest user of SLICE in Scotland (per tonne of feed produced) in 2006 - using more of the toxic chemical than even Scotland's largest salmon producer (Marine Harvest):

Top 10 Scottish Salmon Farm SLICE Use By Site

134 Scottish salmon farm sites reported using SLICE in 2006

ABSOLUTE RANK			
Rank	Company	Site	Slice (kg)
1	Fjord Seafood Scotland	Vacasay	626,800
2	Drumbeg Salmon Ltd	Oldany Island	552,321
3	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd	Mid Strome	440,352
4	Scottish Sea Farms (Main) Ltd	Fiumary	432,500
5	Fjord Seafood Scotland	Kyles Vuia East	412,500
6	Scottish Sea Farms (Main) Ltd	Fishnish B	370,000
7	Scottish Sea Farms (Main) Ltd	Fishnish A	360,000
8	Hoganess	Hogan site	332,181
9	Hoganess	Holm site	306,158
10	Scottish Sea Farms (Main) Ltd	Bloody Bay	292,500

NORMALIZED RANK			
Rank	Company	Site	Slice (kg)/ tonne feed used
1	NAFC	Lea of Trondra	1,067
2	Drumbeg Salmon Ltd	Loch Droighniche	415
3	Pan Fish Scotland Ltd	Mid Strome	395
4	Scottish Sea Farms (Main) Ltd	Allt a Chois, North Shore	385
5	Fjord Seafood Scotland	Vacasay	367
6	Drumbeg Salmon Ltd	Oldany Island	356
7	Loch Duart Ltd	Foindie East, Site 1	331
8	Loch Duart Ltd	Eilean a Mhadaidh, Site 2	322
9	Loch Duart Ltd	Calbha Beag, Site 5	286
10	Fjord Seafood Scotland	Kyles Vuia East	276

Loch Duart (incl. Drumbeg) operated half of the Top 10 sites for SLICE use per tonne of feed in 2006

Reported Use of SLICE (emamectin benzoate) 2005 - June 2007

Company	Reported SLICE Use (g)		2007 Thru June
	2005	2006	
Aish	0	0	0
Agus Farm Ltd	0	0	0
Atlantic West	0	0	0
Balta Island Seafood Ltd	0	0	0
Bound Skerries Ltd	0	0	0
Carlway Salmon	0	0	0
Cellaferla (Green Island Organics)	0	0	0
D&J Salmon	0	0	0
Drumbeg Salmon Ltd	401,789	757,306	251,010
Dury Salmon Ltd	242	300	0
Faifish Ltd	0	0	0
Fjord Seafood Scotland	1,744	1,475,853	1,203,360
G Duncan (Salmon) Ltd	223	0	0
Glendale Salmon	0	0	0
Green Island Organics Ltd	0	0	0
Greenholme	35,000	0	0
Havivale, North Atlantic Seafoods (aka)	275,000	4,800	0
Hebrides Fishery (Salmon Co Ltd)	0	0	0
Highland Seafoods Ltd	352,750	484,200	956,300
Hogane Salmon Ltd	304,690	693,339	318,650
Johnson Seafoods (Marine Ltd)	0	0	700
Kames Fish Farming Ltd	43,750	15,000	35,000
Lakeland (Marine & Unst) Ltd	293,680	454	275,700
Lado Farming Enterprises Ltd	0	0	0
Lewis Salmon Ltd	40	24	0
Loch Duart Ltd	469,390	676,923	438,161
Mainstream Scotland Ltd	800,220	503,025	256,000
Marine Harvest (not inc: FinFish, Fjord)	7,712,907	671,844	5,668,555
Millburn	0	0	0
MJM Salmon Ltd	14	0	279
NAFC	33,929	5,000	0
North Atlantic Salmon - Westside Salmon	321,400	0	0
North Isles Sea Farms Ltd	0	0	0
North Uist Fisheries	0	0	0
Orkney Seafoods Ltd	0	0	0
Pan Fish Scotland Ltd	2,174,200	2,942,129	1,685,190
Ryan Salmon Ltd	0	0	0
Scottish Seafoods Ltd	3,258,021	3,168,934	1,312,119
Skeldia Salmon	57	0	0
Skett Salmon Ltd	0	0	0
Stolt Sea Farms	1,338,013	0	0
Sweeting Salmon	0	0	0
Thompson Brothers Salmon Ltd	0	0	0
Uyeasound Salmon	0	0	0
Waddell Fish Farms	0	0	0
West Minch (Sidaish)	0	0	50,400
Wester Ross Fisheries Ltd	297,587	223,307	17,711
Westray Salmon	0	0	0
Whitney	54,000	0	0
TOTAL	10,160,645	11,622,430	12,570,135

Empty = No reported submitted

Highlight = Reported only Q1

Marine Harvest - with Pan Fish and Fjord - used 44 % of SLICE in 2006

Loch Duart - "The Sustainable Salmon Company" reported using more SLICE than Marine Harvest in 2006

Loch Duart's Reported Data



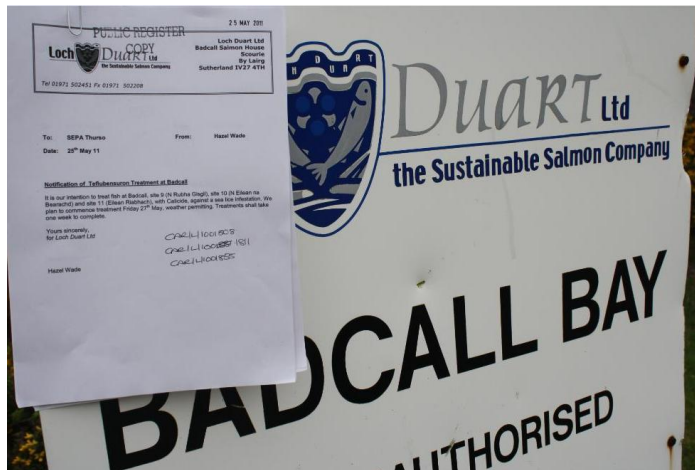
Loch Duart ranked as one of the top users of the sea lice chemical SLICE (emamectin benzoate) in 2005 through 2007

- 2005 - it was the 4th highest user of SLICE per tonne of feed
 - Fjord Seafood used 800 times less SLICE than Loch Duart
- 2006 - it was the #1 user of SLICE per tonne of feed (4th in absolute terms)
 - Drumbeg's Oldany site reported the highest use of SLICE than any other farm site in Scotland
 - In 2006, Loch Duart reported using more SLICE than Marine Harvest
- 2007 (through June), it is the #1 user of SLICE per tonne of feed
 - Yet 52% of active companies in 2007 reported using no SLICE

The manufacturer of SLICE classifies it as a "Marine Pollutant"

Read more details from a 2008 report on Loch Duart [online here](#)

Loch Duart shamefully also uses the controversial chemical Teflubenzuron which is not authorized in Canada - and was not used in Norway (until recently) due to concerns over potential carcinogenicity (read more [online here](#)). Even the chemical manufacturers of Calicide (the trade name for Teflubenzuron) admit that it is "dangerous for the environment", "very toxic to aquatic organisms" and "may cause adverse long term effects in the environment" (read more [online here](#)).



For more background on the impacts of the chemicals used on salmon farms read '[Silent Spring of the Sea](#)'

Escapes are also an ongoing problem at Loch Duart with at least 8 escapes since 2000 involving over 50,000 farmed salmon - including the following officially reported incidents:

April [2011](#): "Up to 100 fish" from Loch Duart's Loch Carnan site (later officially reported as [40](#))

December [2008](#): 6,500 from Loch Duart's Oldany site (more details [online here](#))

November [2007](#): 10,400 from Loch Duart's Loch Laxford site

October [2005](#): 3,000 from Loch Duart's Badcall Bay site (according to the Scottish Government, the escapees had also been treated with EXCIS - Cypermethrin)

May [2004](#): 200 from Loch Duart's Torgawn site

August [2003](#): 18,416 from Loch Duart's Calva Bay (Calbha Beag) site (according to the Scottish Government, the escapees also came from a site affected by "Clinical Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis")

June [2002](#): 8,147 from Loch Duart's Badcall Bay site (according to the Scottish Government, the escapees had also been treated with SLICE - Emamectin benzoate)

In [2000](#), Loch Duart also reported an escape of 9,108 salmon from a site in Loch na Thuille

Asked to comment on the 2008 escape, respected angling writer Bruce Sandison told [The Northern Times](#): "Yet again we are hearing more crocodile tears from Nick Joy. Over the past few years there has been a succession of escapes from his cages and all of these escapes are inevitably put down to severe weather conditions, attacks by seals or attacks by otters. There is no doubt in my mind that the only way to properly protect our coastal waters is to get the farms out of the water and bring them on shore where they can continue their business and not damage our environment."

There's no escaping the fact that Loch Duart's operations are neither sustainable nor environmentally responsible.

Sadly, the reality of Loch Duart's salmon farming operations does not match the rhetoric of their public relations (read their web-site [online here](#)).

Welcome to Loch Duart

Site updated 18-01-12

The finest Scottish Salmon comes from the cold, clear waters of Sutherland where a unique, low-volume and sustainable rearing system produces lean, fit fish of exceptional quality.

 After 3 years of pioneering fish welfare work, Loch Duart became the first salmon producer to be approved under the RSPCA welfare scheme.

 (Click logo to enter)

 Loch Duart won the first Gold Award for Best Food in the Daily Telegraph Taste of Britain Awards. Read the whole article

Loch Duart trumpets a policy of "no antifouling treatments on nets or moorings" and "no antibiotics" (read [online here](#)) yet fails to reveal the use of toxic chemicals such as Azamethiphos, Deltamethrin, Emamectin benzoate and Teflubenzuron.

In fact, An analysis of SEPA's Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (using data obtained by FOI - reported by Scottish salmon farming companies) reveals that:

- Loch Duart was the #1 user of SLICE (Emamectin benzoate) per tonne of feed in 2006 (#4 in absolute terms) in 2006
- In 2007 (data up to June) Loch Duart was the #1 user of SLICE per tonne of feed
- In 2005 and 2006, Loch Duart was the #1 user of EXCIS (Cypermethrin) per tonne of feed
- In 2008 (data up to June), Loch Duart reported the use of EXCIS (Cypermethrin) at five sites and SLICE (Emamectin benzoate) at four sites with Drumbeg Salmon reporting the use of EXCIS at a further three sites and SLICE at one

Loch Duart's Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory data returns to SEPA for 2007 (obtained from SEPA via FOI in May 2008), for example, list the following in the 'Antimicrobials' section:

- 115665 grams of Panacur 4% Powder (active ingredient: Fenbendazole) at Loch Duart's N Calbha Bay, Site 7
- 73605 grams of Panacur 4% Powder (active ingredient: Fenbendazole) at Loch Duart's East Rubh a Mhucard, Site 6
- 94896 grams of Panacur 4% Powder (active ingredient: Fenbendazole) at Loch Duart's Calbha Beag, Site 5

Furthermore, Drumbeg Salmon's Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory data returns to SEPA for 2007 (obtained from SEPA via FOI in May 2008 - signed off also by Hazel Wade of Loch Duart on 25th January 2008) list the following in the 'Antimicrobials' section:

- 129600 grams of Panacur 4% Powder (active ingredient: Fenbendazole) at Reintraid
- 76000 grams of Panacur 4% Powder (active ingredient: Fenbendazole) at Torgawn

When this damning information was put to Loch Duart's Managing Director Nick Joy in January 2009, he replied "I am not ashamed to say that we could do better. I wish we were perfect but we are not." Read the email reply in full below:

From: [Nick Joy](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 7:52 PM

To: dstaniford@puresalmon.org

Subject: Fw: [SPAM] - Loch Duart: Chemical use, diseases and escapes - Found word(s) farm in the Text body

Dear Don,

Thanks for this. I appreciate the amount of work that must have gone into it.

It is Loch Duart's intent to always be ethical in its decision making, so of course we are investigating the interaction between our different operations.

This is what makes the advent of polyculture so difficult. There is a huge body of environmentalists and scientists pushing for polyculture but there are so many things to analyse and so much to do.

I am glad that you appreciate what we are doing and even applaud it.

I have read your e mail with interest. However I do have some problems with answering you.

I have been involved in dialogues with many groups and environmentalists and have always tried to answer and discuss what we do but it is only worthwhile with those who wish the process to be constructive and who do not have hidden agendas.

I am trying to equate what you have written with your stated aim, in the past, of getting rid of salmon farming.

I would truly like to hear that your view has changed and then we could perhaps have a constructive dialogue about how to improve Loch Duart's performance. [I am not ashamed to say that we could do better. I wish we were perfect but we are not.](#)

Perhaps we ought to meet sometime and discuss what has gone before because I really hope that you have changed your views.

All the best

Nick

Nick Joy also admitted publicly during the [Seafood Summit](#) in Florida in 2007 that Loch Duart routinely kills seals.

The slaughter in Scotland continues with over [1,000 licences issued to kill seals](#) in 2011 alone (read more background [online here](#)). And when questioned on the use of toxic chemicals, Mr. Joy attempted to justify their use by saying that the same chemicals are also used on dogs and cats. "But we don't eat dogs and cats," retorted one member of the audience who wouldn't feed farmed salmon to her dog or cat.

Meanwhile, chefs and restaurants continue to naively fall hook, line and stinker for Loch Duart's claims.

Feng Sushi for example proudly (and wrongly) claim on their [web-site](#):

"At Loch Duart they operate a fallow system taking one farm out of production each year, this cuts down on loch bed pollution and means they don't use any chemicals on their pens"

feng sushi

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sustainable salmon from loch duart

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Award-winning chef (and prize chump) Raymond Blanc claimed on his '[Le Blog](#)' in 2010 that Loch Duart was the "gold-standard":

Raymond Blanc: Le Blog

Loch Duart Salmon

By Raymond Blanc on December 9, 2010 2:19 PM | 1 Comment | No TrackBacks

Loch Duart
the Sustainable Salmon Company

I have used Loch Duart salmon for many years, because I believe they are the gold standard in fish farming. I have always believed them when the guys at Loch Duart say they are committed to running their salmon farm on the northwest coast of Scotland sustainably. Their product is very good, the ownership is Scottish and they contribute a lot to employment in their local community. Their business is run on ethical lines, and their care for their surroundings has won them ISO 14000 certification, meaning that they are compliant with very high international standards for reducing their negative impact on the environment, and comply with all local and national legislation.

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Carnan Smokehouse claim on their [web-site](#) that "Loch Duart's approach to rearing salmon gives priority to the health and welfare of the fish, to the long term protection of the environment and to the delivery of an outstanding product to the consumer

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Loch Duart's approach to rearing salmon gives priority to the health and welfare of the fish, to the long term protection of the environment and to the delivery of an outstanding product to the consumer. A major feature of Loch Duart salmon is the strong similarity in appearance and structure to wild salmon. The fish are slim and torpedo-shaped with fully developed fins and large


AWARDS






SEAFOOD
PRIX D'ELITE

Winner of 'Best New Product Line' at The European Seafood Exposition 2011.

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Chefs in the United States have also fallen for Loch Duart's dubious claims which have been marketed by the company Cleanfish as "[setting the gold-standard](#)". Cleanfish boasts on its [web-site](#) that Loch Duart uses "No hormones, antibiotics, growth promoters, grow-lights or GMOs" yet is coy about the use of the toxic chemicals Azamethiphos, Deltamethrin, Emamectin benzoate and Teflubenzuron.







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Bioregion: Europe

France Turbot

Gigha Island Halibut

Loch Duart Salmon

JC David Smoked Line

Sea Whistle Organic Salmon

Sea Whistle Organic Sea Trout

Arctic Char

Branzini

Claresse

Dorade


Halibut

Bioregion: North America

Blackburn's Cod

Blackburn's Haddock

Loch Duart Salmon (Fresh) — Scotland




See where this fish comes from: [Map it](#)

- No hormones, antibiotics, growth promoters, grow-lights or GMOs
- Salmon have plenty of room to grow: 98.5% water to 1.5% fish, roughly 30%-50% lower than industrial farms
- First salmon to be "Freedom Food" certified by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)
- Pioneers of integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA), raising companion species for an enhanced natural ecology

Loch Duart's Andy Bing holding one of his Label Rouge certified salmon — healthy and strong like an Atlantic salmon should be.

In the cold, clear waters of Northern Scotland, Loch Duart uses artisan techniques and an ethic of continuous innovation to raise what is widely



Thankfully, not everyone has been conned. Writing in [News Review](#) in 2010 Alistair Bland said:

"Throughout the world, Loch Duart thrives on a reputation for producing "sustainable" and "artisanal" salmon and has been commended by some of the most esteemed chefs in the world. Stewart at Spice Creek Café says her wholesaler, American Fish in Sacramento, has assured her the product is "organic."

It is not, however. According to records from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Loch Duart treats its fish with Slice, Panacur and Excis, all common parasite treatments, and the farm is not certified organic. When the CN&R contacted representatives of Cleanfish, a San Francisco seafood distributor that formally represents the Scottish farm, they did not respond to repeated requests to discuss whether the farm uses Slice or artificial coloring in the fish's feed, both standard applications in nonorganic salmon-farming operations.

Stewart, who has been serving Loch Duart's fish for several years, knew the salmon was farmed.

"But I had thought it was a controlled, clean environment without any chemicals. I remember thinking, 'Great! Someone is taking salmon farming back to what it should be and producing a

sustainable product.' I hate to think that they might be tricking people," she said, upon hearing from this reporter that the company appears to use the same methods as other farmed fisheries.


Stewart, who said she will no longer purchase Loch Duart's fish, acknowledged that restaurant staff and chefs often put their trust in their fish vendors. "You take their word for what's sustainable and where something comes from, but maybe they don't even know."

Read more via '[Dirty Secrets of Farmed Salmon](#)'

Many people feel that Loch Duart's claims are just too hard to swallow. Loch Duart 'Sustainable Salmon' is a sham, scam and a consumer con.

Data compiled by the Pure Salmon Campaign via their report '[Scottish Farmed Salmon Exposed](#)' also reveals various pollution incidents:

Loch Duart's Reported Data



Loch Duart's record on pollution:

- Three of Loch Duart's salmon farm sites are located within the boundaries of **Loch Laxford Special Area of Conservation**.
- In August 2007, SEPA reported a "**significant**" **Water Pollution Incident** involving a "Diesel leak from a bund at Drumbeg salmon"
- Loch Duart (Drumbeg) was one of just five companies that reported **exceeding monthly biomass (pollution limits) in 2007** thus far. It has exceeded them twice.

Moreover, Loch Duart's use of toxic chemicals such as Cypermethrin (EXCIS) ranked highly (i.e. badly) compared to other companies operating in Scotland.

Loch Duart's Reported Data



Loch Duart ranked as one of the top users of the sea lice chemical Excis (cypermethrin) in 2005 through 2007

- 2005 - it was the #1 user of Excis per tonne of feed
 - Yet, 78% of companies in 2005 reported using no Excis in 2005
- 2006 - it was the #1 user of Excis per tonne of feed (4th in absolute terms)
 - All of Loch Duart's sites in Loch Laxford Special Area of Conservation reported using Excis
- 2007 (through June), it is the #3 user of Excis per tonne of feed
 - Yet 76% of active companies in 2007 reported using no Excis

Even Loch Duart's claims relating to the non-use of antifoulants and antibiotics were shown to be less than impressive when it was shown that most companies in Scotland did not report their use.

Loch Duart's Reported Data



It describes itself as a “small independent Scottish salmon farm” but:


- Of 30 salmon farms operating in Scotland in 2006, it reported the **8th highest use of feed**. In 2006, it reported consuming 5,200 tonnes of feed (just below Fjord Seafood).

It differentiates itself as “The Sustainable Salmon Company” with claims that it doesn't use antifoulants or antibiotics, but:

- 77% of Scottish salmon farms also reported no use of antifoulants in 2006
- 83% of Scottish salmon farms also reported no use of antibiotics in 2006

Loch Duart also performed badly in terms of **escapes**:

Loch Duart's Reported Data



Loch Duart reported escapes every year since 2002 (when Scottish Executive began requiring reporting of escapes), except for 2006:

- In November 2007, Loch Duart reported an escape incident involving approximately 14,000 escapees (to be confirmed)
- In 2005, Loch Duart reported 3,000 escapees in one incident
 - The escaped fish had been treated with Excis (cypermethrin)
- In 2004, Loch Duart reported 200 escapees in one incident
 - It was one of only 7 companies that reported an escape that year
- In 2003, Loch Duart reported 18,416 escapees in one incident (4th highest reported escapes by any salmon farming company that year)
 - The escaped fish came from a site affected with "Clinical IPN" (infectious pancreatic necrosis)
- In 2002, Loch Duart reported 8,147 escapees in one incident
 - The escaped fish had been treated with SLICE (emamectin benzoate)

Read more details from a 2008 report on Loch Duart [online here](#)

The Coastal Alliance for Aquaculture Reform (CAAR) also questions Loch Duart's credentials:

Who is Loch Duart?

Loch Duart is an aquaculture company that raises farmed Atlantic salmon in Scotland. Although Loch Duart charges a premium for so-called sustainably farmed salmon, they aren't doing things very differently from the industry at large. They still use open net-pen production systems.

Loch Duart emphasizes they do a few things differently than many salmon farming companies. Perhaps any amount of effort over the norm may be laudable, but these measures do not constitute a significant improvement in their operations' ongoing ecological impacts. One is left to wonder what their product's "premium" price is based on.

COASTAL ALLIANCE FOR AQUACULTURE REFORM

David Suzuki Foundation • Georgia Strait Alliance • Living Oceans Society
T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation • Watershed Watch Salmon Society
www.SalmonSupporters.com



Wild Salmon Supporters

CAAR identifies 'areas of concern' including chemicals and escapes:

Areas of particular concern:

- » Loch Duart routinely uses chemicals to treat for parasitic sea lice: Exis, or cypermethrin, and SLICE, or emamectin benzoate. The active ingredient of SLICE is a pesticide and it belongs to a class of poisonous chemicals that affect nerve cells. It is not recommended by the manufacturer for use in the marine environment as it can accumulate in sediments and is a known toxin to fish, birds, mammals and aquatic invertebrates. Exis's active ingredient is also a marine pollutant, toxic to shellfish, and affects wild salmon's sense of smell and reproduction.
- » **Escapes** are a big concern. Loch Duart has had thousands of fish escape from their net-pens. These escaped farmed salmon can not only compete

Read more via '[Can open net pen salmon farming be sustainable? The Loch Duart Reality](#)'



The road ahead for Loch Duart in both Canada and Scotland will certainly be a bumpy and painful one. As the **Association for the Residents of Eastern Shore** wrote in their letter yesterday:

"Loch Duart sets the quality of life on the Eastern Shore, the jobs and livelihoods of the people living here at risk. The people living on the Eastern Shore are convinced that the Scottish people will understand them. They also want to protect their environment and their living on the coast. Maybe they do also worry about what kind of light it throws on Scotland having a Scottish company destroying the environment in Canada. In an interview about the proposed fish farms and why he chose Nova Scotia for expanding his business Nick Joy said: "It's very easy to be in a room full of Canadians." The people of the Eastern Shore will not make it easy for you, Mr. Joy!"

The Chronicle Herald newspaper in Canada reported last month for example:

"During a recent town hall meeting in Sheet Harbour where the Scottish company Loch Duart and its Nova Scotia subsidiary Snow Island Salmon presented their plans to establish three fish farms, a packed hall forcefully made their "No" message clear to government bureaucrats and politicians.

Armed with scientific information and questions, interveners from the lobster fishery, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association, and the Ecology Action Centre made it clear that they considered the implantation of aquaculture on these shores to be a threat to their sustainable fisheries.

Fish farms on the Eastern Shore will also harm tourism, real estate, and the quality of life of current residents. Coastal residents, tourist operators and marine recreation businesses all voiced their views that fish farms would be bad for them."

Read more via '[Eastern Shore Salmon Farms Too Much of a Risk](#)'

Loch Duart, however, this week bullishly refused to reply to polite requests for a meeting leaving a serious question mark on their so-called 'sustainable' operations.

Loch Duart certainly has a great deal of explaining to do - to the people of Nova Scotia where they are eyeing up expansion; to lobsterfishermen in Scotland who do not know about the chemical treatments routinely carried out on their doorstep; and to chefs who have been duped about chemical use.

If Loch Duart is listening: how on earth can the use of a cocktail of toxic chemicals, mass escapes, infectious diseases and sea lice infestation be considered "[best practice](#)"?



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For the full blog view

- [Don's blog](#)