

Questions You May Wish to Ask DawnFresh Farms

On the Bute fish farm site

The proposed site sits along the West Island Way, less than ~100m from shore, midpoint around Hawk's Neb. Why was this site proposed when:

- The entire Isle of Bute is an Area of Panoramic Quality.
- The coastline on either side of the proposed fish farm site at Hawks Neb is a designated Very Sensitive Area and Isolated Coast: considered to have extremely limited capacity to successfully absorb development.
- Major Tourism area: West Island Way, directly accessible via public transit from the mainland .
- High use area: walking, sailing, kayaking, swimming, shipping, MOD, nature/animal watching, etc.
- Cumulative impacts: visually/environmentally with both Cumbrae sites nearby.
- site operation: 7 days continuous.
- Clyde weather: Marine Scotland have asked for written guarantees from equipment manufacturers that state they will be able to cope with the weather conditions.
- Moorings: Because the proposed site is so close to Clyde navigation traffic, DFF propose making their moorings as short as possible, which increases likelihood of problems in bad weather.

On Jobs

The Aquaculture industry continues to shrink its work force with automation. The Clyde Marine Regional Assessment 2017 puts direct employment from Aquaculture at ~160 jobs on a downward trend, and Tourism jobs at 37,000 on a level trend. The company has made losses of £8.1m, £7.7m, and £7.4m the last 3 years, failing to make a profit in the last 14, losing more than £70m over that time.

- 6 Jobs: Can they actually guarantee these long term with industry automation trends and lack of profit?
- Existing Jobs: 2 lobster catchers at the site will lose their jobs, and the indirect affect on the island tourism trade. Several of the objections already written to the Planning Department have statements from business owners who's customers say they won't return with a fish farm present.
- Money from tourism stays in the area. Money from fish farms exits the area.

On Environment

The Aquaculture industry is largely self-reporting. This includes fish stock deaths, disease, escapes, chemical/medicine use, and whether they've actually shot seals or not. DFF intend to take their farm configuration from Loch Awe and scale it up for the proposed Clyde sites.

- Lice: going from brackish water to sea water which is sea lice's preferred water type, how can DFF control the spread of lice from their site to the wild fish in the Clyde. New hydro and thermal treatments will clean the lice off the caged fish, but not the ones spread to wild fish. Impact on protected migratory routes through Clyde to Endrick Waters, EU Special Area of Conservation for Atlantic Salmon
- Chemical Usage: They use highly toxic chemicals to treat the fish. Currently use Deltamethrin and Azamethiphos. But, they do not treat the fish waste itself. This all spreads into the surroundings.
- Seal shooting: DFF claim to not have shot seals in the last couple years but the application says they will consider it as an option at the Hawks Neb site. The application says that to mitigate against the need to shoot seals DFF will use seal proof nets.
- Seal nets: DFF has listed what nets they plan to use, 'Garware Sapphire SEalPro'. The product description says they are 'to be used as a predator protection net cum cage bag net where the predation problem is not very high'
- Acoustic Deterrent Devices: The proposal includes use of ADDs, which have shown not to be effective in keeping seals out, but has been shown to cause cumulative damage to marine mammals and other species. An acoustic barrier across the Clyde.
- Otters, seals, porpoises, dolphins, whales, etc impacted by all the above
- Regulation: Not compliant with: the Aquaculture Stewardship Council; The US Marine Mammal Protection Act(may face export problems soon); likely infringes some European Protected Species.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Walk to Hawk's Neb

June 30th, 12.30pm

Join us for an afternoon walk along the
West Island Way.

Starting at Kilchattan Bay Pier, we'll head off at
12.30pm and make our way to Hawk's Neb, where
we'd like to take a group photo with everyone at
the site.

Documentary Screening

August 25th

We will be screening the fish farm documentary
'Artifishal'
on the Sunday. The event will be ticketed, at no cost.

More details coming shortly on the
ButeifulCoasts.com website