



The John Muir Trust, Skye Office
Blaven
Strathaird
Broadford
Isle of Skye
IV49 9AX

Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council
c/o The Chair, Mr MacDonald
An Tigh Bhan
Kirkton
Glenelg
IV40 8JR

25 September 2020

Dear Mr MacDonald,

The John Muir Trust has considered the expansion plans for MOWI's existing fish farm on Loch Hourn and are writing to add our concerns to those already expressed by the local community.

Our concerns for these plans arise from two foundations: our interest as a landowner, with ties to the local community, and our charitable objective in protecting wild land. The proposed site for expansion is within the Knoydart National Scenic Area and is surrounded by Kinlochhourn-Knoydart-Morar Wild Land Area. The John Muir Trust protects and manages wild land within this Wild Land Area at Li and Coire Dhorrcail. Li and Coire Dhorrcail includes a stretch of wild coastline on Loch Hourn to the east of the proposed development site. This land is wild, remote and beautiful. It is also the home of wild salmonids. With an essential role in wild land ecology, the health of wild salmonids is connected to the health of wild land surrounding Loch Hourn.

The negative environmental impacts of salmon farming have come under increased public and parliamentary scrutiny for their role in the deterioration in the health of Scotland's wild coastal waters, creating conditions that are making it harder for wild salmonids to thrive. In 2018, the Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee of the Scottish Parliament completed an inquiry into the impacts, making many strong recommendations and concluding that 'the status quo in terms of regulation and enforcement is not acceptable'.

The Salmon Interactions Working Group (SIWG) has since examined the evidence and presented 42 recommendations to the Scottish Government. The findings of this Committee inquiry and the 42 recommendations of the SIWG Report are highly relevant to the proposed Loch Hourn expansion plans. Without confidence in the proper management and regulation of existing fish farms, including the Loch Hourn fish farm, to prevent harm to wild salmonids, we cannot have any confidence that expansion plans will not cause additional harm to wild salmonids and the wild ecology to which they belong.

We note that our concerns about the ecological impacts of the existing fish farm to the seabed and shore are shared by people in the local community. We support the Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council in their request that the concerns of local people are addressed before expansion plans are progressed any further.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Daniels,
Head of Policy and Land Management