

Scotland's iconic wild salmon are at **crisis point.**

What would help to protect wild fish?

An absolute sea lice limit on all salmon farms, in line with the **precautionary principle.**

- Independently monitored
- Robust enforcement
- Strict penalties for breaches
- Revocation of licences for repeat breaches

What SEPA is proposing:

Only looking at future farms; **200+ existing farms will not be addressed initially.**

Initially **not covering** the Shetland and Orkney Isles, where one third of open-net fish production is located.

Focusing on 121 'Wild Salmonid Protection Zones' (WSPZs), with no assessment of cumulative impact of sea lice on fish moving between zones OR the risk of sea lice moving between zones.

"It's going to take a mixture of evidence that we'll need to build over the next few years... before any action is taken on existing farms"

SEPA, 2023

The protection zones do not include rivers where salmon populations have existed previously, but no longer do. This sets out a pathway via which **environmental degradation leads to less regulation.**

Initially only focusing on 8 of the WSPZs. Some new farms not deemed as currently impacting on these zones will have **NO** sea lice restrictions.

Only focusing on new farm applications deemed to have possible impact on WSPZs where capacity has been assessed as limited or exceeded, but **no immediate action** specified for existing farms in areas where capacity has been assessed as **already presenting potential risk to wild salmon.**

Only screening for 'relative risk'; companies will then use their own modelling to determine whether their farm contributes to the risk of harm to wild salmonids from sea lice loads. In other words, **the fox surveying the chicken coop.**

Sea lice limits only applying for up to 3.5 months of the year, despite the sensitive period for migrating salmon running for 5 months, from 1 February to 30 June.

Fundamentally, no plans to enforce biomass reductions or to rescind licences if limits are breached.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has been tasked with developing regulation to protect wild salmonids from potentially lethal sea lice parasites that emanate from salmon and trout farms.

But will the proposed regulation achieve this aim?

"Things like biomass reduction and rescinding licences are not part of our enforcement approach"

SEPA, June 2023

DOES THIS SEEM PRECAUTIONARY TO YOU?

SEPA's proposals are so limited that they will not protect wild salmon. We call on those in power to take robust action to protect our iconic wild salmon before it's too late.

THIS CURRENT PLAN IS JUST SMOKE AND MIRRORS.



WildFish.

WildFish is an independent charity and receives no industry or Scottish Government funding.