

MARCH 2021 ISSUE

THE SCOOP

MOWI®



Trilleachan Mor

The Scottish Salmon Company and Mowi collaborate on site exchange initiative

Building on years of collaboration and knowledge exchange within our sector, we have agreed a site exchange with The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC).

The agreement will see ownership of SSC's Trilleachan Mor site on Loch Seaforth on the east of the Isle of Harris and its Scaladale shore base pass to Mowi. In return, SSC will assume control of Mowi's Scotasay and Raineach sites, further south on the islands, and the shore base at East Loch Tarbert.

This collaborative approach will enable us to consolidate the management of our sites around Harris rather than operating over geographically disparate locations. The creation of these distinct management areas will be key to effective health management, with the largest gain being sea lice control, where centralised management from the one point will allow for faster and better coordination of resources, resulting in a more effective control of parasite levels.

The handover and relocation of relevant infrastructure will be completed in March and all staff will be redeployed at different sites.

Speaking about the site exchange, Odd Eliassen, CEO, The Scottish Salmon Company, said: "The nature of salmon farming means we operate sites in remote and often disparate locations. Working in partnership with Mowi, we both appreciate the opportunity to restructure the ownership of our sites around Harris that would not only create operational efficiencies but would be key for both companies to continue to improve health management of stock. Collaboration within the industry is vital to enable our long-term sustainable growth and deliver positive economic impact to the remote and rural communities in which we work."

Ben Hadfield, Mowi's COO Farming Scotland, Ireland and the Faroes, added: "This site exchange is a prime example of how positive collaboration between companies can lead to a win-win situation both from a fish health perspective and environmentally. It is encouraging to see agreements like this materialise and it certainly opens a door for

future collaborations that contribute to the sustainable development of our sector."

The news has been extensively reported in the trade and local media and broadly welcomed by many parties including the Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust (OHFT). Richard Davies, Chairman of the OHFT, stated: "Whilst we would prefer biological separation of farmed fish from the wild to eliminate risk of lice or disease transmission, consolidating sites like this should be a step in the right direction in reducing risks where they currently exist. It will make our role of monitoring impact on wild fish and communication easier and, in theory, it will make co-ordinated treatment easier for the operators. Salmon farms have a duty not to jeopardise wild fish populations and OHFT looks forward to seeing the operators involved in the site exchange initiative demonstrating the positive environmental outcomes."

Mowi supports Scotland's first ever study to assess the potential of sea cucumbers to improve the marine environment

We are providing sediment collected from the seabed at our Loch Leven site as well as staff and resources to assist in a study into the potential use of sea cucumbers as seabed recyclers in aquaculture in Scotland. Sea cucumbers come from the same family as sea urchins and are found naturally in Scotland's coastal waters.

Bioremediation, a commonly used method on agricultural land, provides an environmentally friendly, and simple approach to restore degraded soil however the principle has not generally been examined in the marine environment.

The research project titled 'Blue Remediation', has been set up by a team of PhD students from the University of Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt University, with backing from the UK Seafood Innovation Fund and support from the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC).

This feasibility study into the ability of Scottish sea cucumber to recycle organic deposition below fish farms has the potential to improve understanding of whether a bioremediation method, in an operational application is viable. The quantity of wastes released from fish farms must be appropriately matched to the sea's capacity to disperse and assimilate through natural biological processes which break down the wastes over time. If the study proves successful, then sea

cucumbers could be used to accelerate the natural restoration of the seabed around fish farms. The project will help to determine the impact of integrating different species, any impact on wild cucumbers as well as monitoring the health and well-being of the sea cucumbers.

Stephen MacIntyre, Head of Environment, explains: "We are excited to be part of this innovative research project with environmental sustainability at its core, the first of its kind in Scotland. Using sea cucumbers as nutrient recyclers and processors of particulate waste in fish farming is a practical example of an integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) approach. This is where the waste products from one species, salmon in this instance, is acquired as a resource by another species - the sea cucumber.

"This is actually the second feasibility study we are involved with in the field of IMTA. Our new farm on the Isle of Scalpay is part of a project with local shellfish partners and the University of Stirling

looking at the benefits of locating a shellfish farm adjacent to a salmon farm. This study, which involves different species of sea life, will examine ways to improve the productivity and environmental sustainability of marine aquaculture practices."



Sea cucumber raised at Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)

Last major part of construction completed at Kyleakin

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) commissioning has now been finalised at our Feed Mill in Kyleakin. The permanent installation of LNG will replace the transportation of LNG by road and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the factory.

Instead of two to three trucks a week delivering LNG to Kyleakin, sometimes a 52-hour road trip, LNG will be delivered by boat.

This is a significant milestone in the final phase of construction at the Feed Mill and follows a successful 2020 which saw the factory produce

150,000 tonnes of feed, including organic, fresh water and Label Rouge formulations, for our farms in Scotland, Ireland, Norway and the Faroe Islands.



Creating affordable housing for island communities

Our farms are located in extremely rural and remote areas of the Highlands where housing stock is in short supply. Nowhere is the shortage of affordable housing more acute than in island communities. A fish farm creates jobs for local people living on the island and can also attract new people or enable people to return home to the island for long term employment. But a farm is unviable without housing for those who work on it.

Working together with local communities, we have been able to create affordable housing on Rum and Muck over the last few years and we are extremely pleased that an agreement has now been reached which will see the creation of affordable housing for the residents of Colonsay.

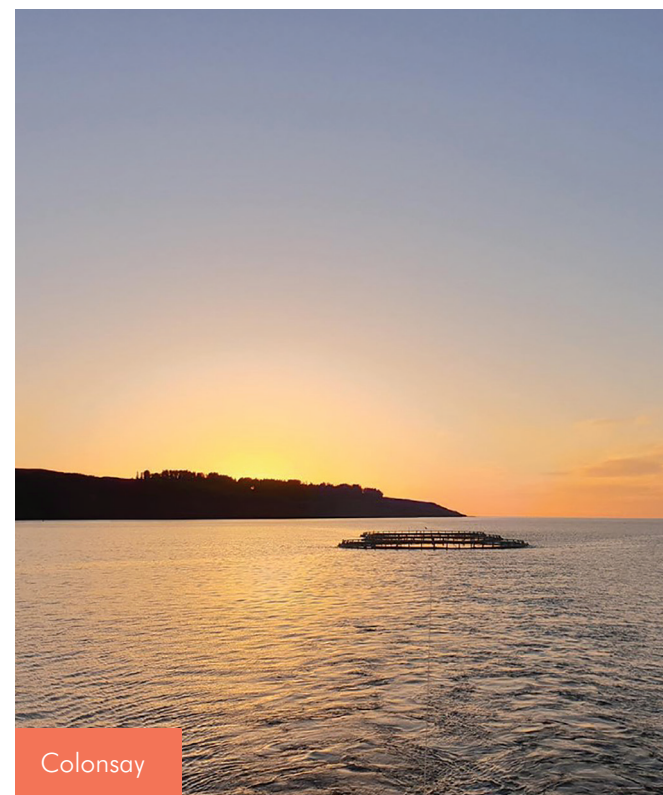
Mowi, along with Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Communities Housing Trust, has worked with the Colonsay Community Development Company to find a solution to the housing shortage. With £390,00 from the Scottish Land Fund and a Crowdfunder appeal underway to raise £25,000 towards construction costs, nine homes will be built in phase one with a further 24 to follow.

For our part, we will provide housing for our staff on Colonsay as well as funding towards the infrastructure for this development.

Dougie Hunter, Technical Director, explains: "We are part of that island community and we are committed to supporting this major new community housing development.

"This will of course be in the form of financial support to help with building and infrastructure costs but also includes giving our time and experience through the many different skillsets that our colleagues in the Mowi family have. It is almost twenty years since the last community housing was built on Colonsay so we really are looking forward to being part of this exciting development."

With construction due to start in the summer, it is hoped that this will be a turning point for the island community.



Colonsay

Going above and beyond (literally)

Most of our staff volunteer for organisations in the communities local to our farms. We are extremely proud of John MacRae, Farm Manager at Shuna, who is part of the amazing Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

Over the course of the final weekend of January, John and the team responded to three emergency call outs at Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK.

Despite challenging weather conditions and darkness they were able to successfully rescue climbers who had got into difficulty.

In light of the recent life changing injuries incurred by a member of the Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team, we are pleased that everybody returned to base safely.



John MacRae

Mowi in the News

Strong performance of Mowi Scotland

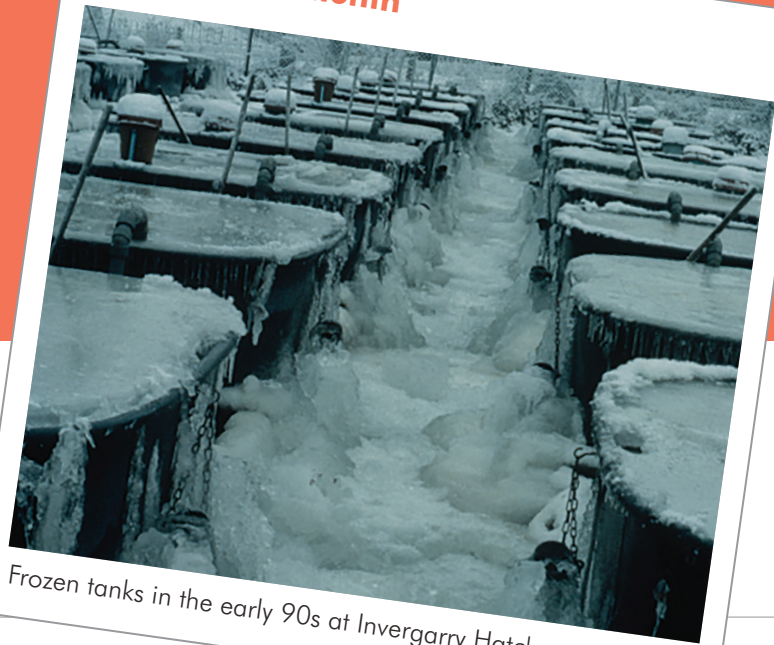
Media coverage relating to Mowi's final quarter of 2020 highlighted the strong performance of our operations here in Scotland.

<https://www.fishfarmermagazine.com/news/scotland-shines-in-tough-q4-for-mowi/>

Here's another blast from the past.

This time we have selected a photo of frozen tanks at Invergarry from our Throwback Thursday feature we have been running on our social media channels. Check it out here <https://www.facebook.com/MowiScotland>

Photo of the month



Frozen tanks in the early 90s at Invergarry Hatchery.

Successful first harvest at Scalpay

The team at Scalpay has recently completed its first harvest with exceptional results.

One of our newest farms, Scalpay, gained its planning permission in 2019 and was stocked in 2020. With a new farm manager Chris Landers overseeing a team of six, the first harvest has recently taken place. With a superior grading rate of 97.34% and a harvest weight of 5.61kg (amongst the heaviest for a first harvest), the team is delighted.

Speaking about the first harvest, Hugh MacKinnon, Area Manager for the North Region, told The Scoop: "This is really encouraging news from our newest open water site. This fantastic weight is down to passive grading, good management and husbandry, great environmental growing conditions and the quality of our smolts. Well done to the team!"

The site is on track to produce the first generation with very good results.



Chris Lander, Farm Manager, Scalpay

Meet James Smyth

What do you do at Mowi?

I am the farm manager at Bagh Dail Nan Cean, Argyll region.

What do you like most about your job?

The variety of different tasks we do daily and the ever-changing industry which has moved on so much. Having a great team on site also makes the job very enjoyable.

What do you think would surprise people the most about aquaculture?

The different technology we use now to farm fish would definitely surprise people. The changes and the progress that has been made over the years are quite incredible.

What advice would you give someone wishing to make a career in aquaculture?

I would say it is a huge opportunity for someone to have a very successful career. Having been in aquaculture since I left school, I could not imagine doing any other job.

Who would be your ideal dinner guest and what salmon dish would you make them?

My ideal guest would be Tom Hanks as I think he is a very interesting character and one of the best actors in the business. I would cook him honey and garlic glazed salmon.

