

Case No:	2022-0480	Date of visit:	05/10/2022			
Time spent on site:	2 hours	Main Inspector:				
Site No:	FS1310	Site Name:	Loch Pooltiel			
Business No:	FB0134	Business Name:	Kames Fish Farming Ltd			
Case Types:	1 ESC	2	3	4	5	6
Water Temp (°C):		Thermometer No:	T173	FHI 045 completed		
Observations:	Region:	HI	Water type:	S	CoGP MA	M-25
Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present?	N/A	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Clinical signs of disease observed?	N/A	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Gross pathology observed?	N/A	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Diagnostic samples taken?	N/A					
UNI/REG only - if unable to carry out intended visit detail reason below:						

Additional Case Information:

On the 27/6/2022, during a routine crowding event the net was being winched up by the site workboat and fish were observed outside the pens, it became apparent that a breach in containment had occurred. The site was stocked with RTR at and average weight @4.4kg.

Whilst the net was being raised it was observed that the down rope had detached from the netting, the net was kept at that level as concerns over making the issue worse. Divers were called and arrived within three hours and the net was dropped and the hole was located, it was a vertical tear 2m long on the bottom half of the net (15m deep). Some fraying was noted around the tear that indicated seal damage. The divers made a repair to secure containment. The report was submitted to the FHI as required.

An estimate of fish numbers escaped was submitted but this number was not verified until later when the pen was harvested and a discrepancy of 3918 was recorded and reported.

The net on the cage was a standard nylon net (25mm mesh (code 3344)) manufactured by Boris nets in October 2017. The net was last serviced by Knox in April 2021, and was still within testing limits. A complete site inspection by the divers was conducted 16/06/2022 some minor repairs made. The site staff conduct routine above surface inspections with records maintained.

The initial notification detailed the cause of the escape as being a tear caused by lifting and perhaps rubbing of the weights but this was speculation as the hole was not observed. The divers observed seals around the net when making the repair and were certain the hole was caused by seals based on their experience and the fraying around the tear indicating chewing. There had been a lot of seal activity in the area since the add's are not allowed to be used. A seal haul out is located very close to the site.

A decision has been made to install seal pro nets across the site for the next cycle of fish however there will be an occasion that some nylon nets will be used until the order can be fulfilled, these will be new nylon nets. Site experience indicates that the seals target stocks in the older nets. The divers are on site every week to complete net checks, remove morts and dive records are maintained and repairs made when necessary. This will continue when seal pro nets are input.

The manager reports that there has not been containment issues as a result of the exposed nature of the site. The site does not currently use sinker tubes as this was considered not to be suitable so just weights are used however, this may be reviewed if bigger cages are input.

Inspector: [REDACTED]

[illegible]



FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS No	FB0134	DATE OF VISIT	05/10/2022
SITE No	FS1310	SITE NAME	Loch Pooltiel
CASE No	20220480	INSPECTOR	[REDACTED]

Case completion report

Recommendations in relation to the above case were made for implementation by 1st August 2023. Following submission of the required documentation, evidence has now been provided to the Fish Health Inspectorate to demonstrate that the recommendations have been implemented.

This case will now be closed. This site may be subject to further audit and recommendations in the future.

Please contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any further information or have any queries regarding this report.

Signed:

[REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspector

Date: 25/7/2023

The Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter detailing standards of service is available on the Scottish Government website at [Fish Health Inspectorate Service Charter - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/policies/fish-health-inspectorate/)

FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS No	FB0134	DATE OF VISIT	05/10/2022
SITE No	FS1310	SITE NAME	Loch Pooltiel
CASE No	20220480	INSPECTOR	[REDACTED]

Escape Investigation

The site was inspected following notification of an escape of rainbow trout on the 27/06/2022.

On the day of the inspection the site was fallow, net records and dive reports were inspected and a discussion with site staff was also conducted.

It was concluded that the breach of containment was caused by seal interaction weakening one of the nets which then failed during a routine crowding event resulting in the escape.

The following recommendations are made due to the circumstances of the reported escape incident.

It is recommended that the risk assessment, as required in the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (Chapter 4, point 4.26) to ascertain the risks of predator attacks, is reviewed and updated to include current circumstances and any additional predator mitigations to be deployed at the site, such as toughened netting materials.

It is also recommended that the net lifting and crowding procedures, as required in the CoGP (chapter 4, points 4.29 and 4.30) are reviewed to identify if any improvements that could be made to further reduce the risk of a net failure during routine crowding events.

Further Action

The recommendations in this report should be implemented by 1st August 2023. Documentation should be provided as evidence that the recommendations have been implemented. Enforcement action may result if the recommendations are not implemented in the necessary time frame. Records should be sent to Marine Scotland Science's Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) (contact details are provided below).

Please contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any further information or have any queries regarding this report.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Fish Health Inspector

Date: 12/05/2023

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