Case No: 2023-0255 Date of visit: 14/06/2023

Time spent on site: 2 hours Main Inspector: [redacted]

Site No: FS0511 Site Name: Forgue
Business No: FB0297 Business Name: Forgue Fish Farm

Case Types: 1 CNA 2 REP 3 4 5 6

Water Temp (°C): Thermometer No: FHI 045 completed N/A

Observations: Region: GR Water type: F CoGP MA:

Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present?	Y	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.
Clinical signs of disease observed?	Y	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.
Gross pathology observed?	Y	If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.
Diagnostic samples taken?	N	

UNI/REG only - if unable to carry out intended visit detail reason below:

Additional Case Information:

Site visited following reports of RTR and brook trout being caught in the river Deveron at following locations;Grid Reference
NJ 63191 47182
Address (near) :
Inverkeithny, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB53 4JA, United Kingdom
Postcode (nearest) :
AB53 4JA

Grid Reference
NJ 67030 49050
Address (near) :
Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB53 4LD, United Kingdom
Postcode (nearest) :
AB53 4LD

Grid Reference
NJ 69138 58902
Address (near) :
Mill of Eden, Kirktown of Alvah, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB45 3UQ, United Kingdom
Postcode (nearest) :
AB45 3UQ

Following reports from the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust and the River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board of rainbow trout and a brook trout being caught in the River Deveron, a site inspection was undertaken. The operator reported no flooding incidents since the 1990s and confirmed that rainbow trout and brook trout are stocked on site from fry. Intake, pond and settlement pond screens were inspected and no defects or obvious escape routes were identified. A corroded settlement pond screen had been replaced approximately one month earlier, with the operator stating there was no risk of fish escape during the work. Screens are checked and cleaned daily, although no records are kept. Eye fluke was observed in one pond, including a blind fish. Overall, no obvious containment failures were identified during the inspection that would explain the reported captures of rainbow trout and brook trout in the River Deveron. Outstanding documents observed during site inspection on 06/05/2026.

Case No: 2023-0255 Site No: FS0511

Date of Visit: 14/06/2023 Inspector(s): [redacted]

Registration/Authorisation Details

1. Business/site details summary checked by site representative?	Y
2. Changes made to details?	N

Site Details (include cleaner fish for all sections)

Total No facilities		16	Facilities stocked		16	No facilities inspected		16
Species	TRO	RTR	RTR	RTR	BCH			
Age group	fingerlings	fry	growers	growers	growers			
No Fish	2,500	50,000	40,000	11,600	1,200			
Mean Fish Wt	70g	20g-100g	100-450g	450g- 5kg	600g			
Next Fallow Date (Site)		none		Next Input Date (Site)		2-3 weeks		
Recent (last 4 wks) disease problems?				Y	Any escapes (since last visit)?			N
If yes, detail:	eye fluke in one pond							

Movement Records

1. Movement records available for inspection?	Y
2. Date of last inspection:	17/10/2022
3. Are records complete and correctly entered?	Y
4. Are movement records available for dead fish and waste?	N/A
5. Are records complete and correctly entered?	N/A
6. Are health certificates for introductions (outwith GB) available?	N/A

Transport Records

1. Are any movements carried out by (or on behalf) of the business (not using a STB)?	N/A
If yes, is there a system in place for maintenance of transportation records?	N/A

Mortality Records

1. Mortality records available for inspection?	N/A
2. How are mortalities disposed of?	Other (detail)
If other detail:	landfill
3. Mortality records complete and correctly entered?	N/A
4. Recent mortality (last 4 wks):	
5. Evidence of recent increased/atypical mortalities?	N/A
If yes, facility nos/no mortality per facility/no stock per facility/reason:	
6. Any other peaks in mortality during period checked?	N/A
If yes, detail:	
7. Have increased (unexplained) mortalities been reported to vet or FHI?	N/A
If yes, detail action:	
8. Have 'mortality events' been reported to FHI? If no, enter details on mortality events sheet.	N/A

Treatments and Medicines Records

1. Recent treatments (see comment)?
If yes, detail:
If other, detail:
2. Medicines records available for inspection?
3. Are records complete and correctly entered?
4. Are fish in a withdrawal period?
5. If yes, what treatment(s)?
If other, detail:
6. Are medicines stored appropriately?

Biosecurity Records

1. Biosecurity records available for inspection?
2. Has the manner and frequency of mortality removal, recording and safe disposal been considered?
3. Has the manner and period in which the APB will notify Scottish Ministers or veterinary professional of any *increased* (*unexplained)* mortality at the site been included?
4. Has the action that will be taken in the event that the presence or suspicion of the presence of a listed disease is detected been included and *how* and *when* that will be notified to Scottish Ministers?
5. Has the health status of aquaculture animals being stocked on the farm site been covered (equal or higher health status, certification if required)?
6. Have the husbandry and biosecurity measures implemented between each epidemiological unit to minimise transmission of disease been covered (movement of staff, visitors, equipment, live or dead fish etc.)?
7. Is documentation available regarding the measures in place to maintain the physical containment of aquaculture animals held on site?
8. Have the biosecurity procedures been adequately implemented on site?
If no, detail:

Results of Surveillance

1. Has any animal health surveillance been carried out by, or on behalf of, the business?
2. If yes, are results available for inspection?
3. Any significant results?
If yes, detail (if not detailed under recent disease problems).

Records checked between: 17/10/22- 14/6/23

Case No: 2023-0255 Date of visit: 14/06/2023

Site No: FS0511 Inspector: [redacted]

Results Summary	Freq.	Date of Notification						
		Database	Insp	Phone	Insp	Writing	Insp	2nd Insp

Report Summary			
Case Type	Date	Insp	2nd Insp
CN A	21/11/2024		
case complete	16/09/2026		

Case No: 2023-0255 Site No: FS0511

Date of visit: 14/06/2023 Inspector(s): [redacted]

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
ENHANCED CONTAINMENT INSPECTION (FRESHWATER)				
a. Enquiry relating to i) escape incidents and ii) contingency procedures				
1.1. Have escape incidents or events[1] been experienced on or in the vicinity of the site since the last MSS inspection?		N		
If yes answer 1.2-1.8:				
1.2. Have appropriate reports been made to Scottish Government within 24 hours of discovery?	High		AAAH 31D,E	
1.3. Have these been reported to the SSPO[2] and, where in existence, the local DSFB and fisheries trust?	Medium		CoGP 2.4.31, 3.4.39	
1.4. Were methods (if any) used to recover escapees?				
If yes give detail				
1.5 Was the decision to attempt to recapture and the method employed agreed with the local DSFB and FT	Low		CoGP 2.4.32, 3.4.40	
1.6. Was permission sought from Marine Scotland prior to recapture?	Medium		CoGP 2.4.32, 3.4.40	
1.7 Were the gill nets deployed of appropriate mesh size with regard the size of the escaped fish?	Low		CoGP 2.4.32, 3.4.40	
1.8. In light of the escape event, has appropriate action been taken to prevent and minimise the risk of further escapes?	High			
1.9. Is there a site specific contingency plan in response to failures in containment, aimed at preventing escapes and recovering escaped fish?	High	N	CoGP 2.4.28, 3.4.36 SSI, 2,9	
b(i). Inspection of records relating to equipment, facilities and the site				
General records				
2.1 With regard to each facility, net, screen and mooring at each site, a record should be maintained of:-			SSI 2,1	
		Facilities	Moorings / Nets	bespoke screen- Brundle mesh. Stainless steel - some plastic screens. Final screen at settlement pond - Brundle steel- see photos attached to case.
a) The name of the manufacturer	Low	N/A	N/A / N/A	5mm smallest screen - 4.5g fish wont pass through. Fish input at 10g. Screen age ranges from about 6 weeks to several years.

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement		Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
b) Any special adaptations	Low	N	N/A	N/A	
c) The name of the supplier	Low	N	N/A	N/A	
d) The date of purchase	Low	N	N/A	N/A	Screens are checked and cleared daily but no records are kept.
e) Each inspection including					
i) the name of the person conducting the inspection	Low	N	N/A	N/A	
ii) the date of each inspection	Medium	N	N/A	N/A	
iii) the place of each inspection	Low	N	N/A	N/A	
iv) the outcome of each inspection	High	N	N/A	N/A	
f) the date and result of each repair, equipment test and antifouling treatment carried out	High	N	N/A	N/A	
2.2. In relation to each net a record of:					
i) The mesh size	Medium	N/A	SSI, 2,2		
ii) The code which appears on the identification tag	Medium	N/A			
iii) The place of use, storage and disposal	Medium	N/A			
iv) The depth of water between the bottom of the net and the seabed as measured at the mean low water spring	Low	N/A			
2.3. In relation to each facility a record of:					
i) The date of construction	Low	N	SSI, 2,3		
ii) The material used in construction	Low	N			
iii) Its dimensions	Low	N			
2.4. In relation to each mooring a record of-			SSI, 2,4		
i) The date of installation	Low	N/A			
ii) The design and weight of the anchors	Low	N/A			
iii) The length of the mooring ropes or chains	Low	N/A			
2.5. A record of any navigation markers deployed at each site at which fish are farmed	Low	N/A	SSI, 2,5		
2.6 In respect of sites at which fish are farmed in inland waters[3]			SSI, 2,6		
a) The type, method of and date of construction of any flood prevention or flood defence measures in place	Low	N/A			Last flood was in the late 1990s. Banks around the site have been build up since then over the years and no flooding at the site since then.
b) The date of and results of any tests conducted on any such measures	Low	N/A			
c) The date of any incident where the site was flood	Low	N/A			
d) The water course height during any such flood incident	Low	N/A			
2.7 A record of-			SSI, 2,7		
a) The date of any severe weather event which caused damage to any facility, net or mooring	Medium	N/A	SSI, 2,11 (a)		

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
b) Any action taken to rectify any such damage	High	N/A	SSI, 2,11 (b)	Banks around the site have been increased over the years and no flooding of site in over 10 years. No record of work recorded.
Pen and mooring systems				
2.8 Can the site demonstrate evidence that pens and moorings are designed, manufactured and installed suitable for purpose at the location of the site?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.11	
2.9 Are pen systems inspected and approved by suitably qualified / experienced person(s)?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.12	
2.10 Can the site demonstrate evidence that all nets have been designed and manufactured under the control of a Quality Management System to ensure they provide containment for the whole of their working life?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.13	
2.11 Are all screens inspected daily and relevant action taken? Are records maintained of inspection frequency and the outcomes?	High	N	CoGP 2.4.17, 2.4.18	Inspected daily - no records kept.
2.12 Are screens constructed from a suitably strong and robust material, and therefore fit for purpose?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.19	
2.13 Can the site demonstrate awareness of the minimum net strengths to be used at all times?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.14	
2.14 Does the site have a documented net replacement policy based on meeting the minimum strength requirements?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.15	
2.15 Does the site use nylon nets older than 5 years?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.16	
2.16 Can site managers demonstrate awareness of the minimum fish size supplied where new stock is introduced?	High	Y	CoGP 3.4.18	minimum weight at stocking 10g
2.17 Have nets been treated with UV inhibitor?	Low	N/A	CoGP 3.4.19	
2.18 Are nets stored away from direct sunlight and vermin when not in use?	Low	N/A	CoGP 3.4.20, 3.4.21	
2.19 Can the site demonstrate evidence of nets being inspected and strength tested after each cycle by a competent person?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.22	
2.20 Is in accordance with a detailed procedure based on manufacturer's advise and using a documented quality control system?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.22	
2.21 Do the net inspections include representative sections from:			CoGP 3.4.23	
a) net base	High	N/A		
b) side wall	High	N/A		
c) above the waterline	High	N/A		
2.22 Are nets visually inspected on a daily basis?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.24	

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
2.23 Are additional inspections undertaken following adverse weather where required?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.25	
b(ii). Inspection of records relating to training				
3.1 Are training programmes and plans relevant to the various onsite activities documented?	High	Y	CoGP 7.1.8	three people work on site with 25 years being the shortest time on site. No training records. On the job training over the years working on site.
3.2 Are all staff fully aware of the importance of containment and best practice?	High	Y	CoGP 7.4.7	
3.3 Is there a satisfactory record of all training and qualifications for each person working in the site in relation to any helicopter operations?	High	N/A	CoGP 2.4.27, 3.4.33	
3.4 Is there a satisfactory record of all training and qualifications for each person working at the site in relation to any boat operations?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.35 SSI 2,6,a	
3.5 With respect to any transfer of or handling of fish is there a record of all training of each person working on site in relation to containment and prevention of escape of fish, and recovery of escaped fish?	High	N	SSI 2,7,a ; CoGP 2.4.29, 3.4.37	
b(iii). Inspection of records relating to procedures and risk assessments				
4.1 Are procedures which could increase the risk of fish escaping considered to be carefully planned and supervised to minimise risk?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.6, 3.4.8, 2.4.7, 3.4.9	
4.2 Before procedures are conducted on site, are the following in place:			CoGP 2.4.23, 3.4.27 SSI 2,7, b SSI 2, 8, c	
a) a documented risk assessments	High	N		no documents risk assessments. Work planned according to risks.
b) standard operating procedures	High	N		
c) contingency plan	High	N		Plans in place to prevent escapes but not documented.
4.3 Is the integrity of all handling equipment checked, including pipelines, pumps, transport tanks, graders, counters and vaccination stations, before fish are handled?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.24, 3.4.28	
4.4 Do these checks include the suitability of the above equipment for use during adverse weather conditions where appropriate?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.25, 3.4.29	

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
4.5 Are mitigation measures such as safety nets, security devices, or bunding used at potential risk points, such as pipe connections?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.26, 3.4.30	
4.6 In relation to any boat operations at each site at which fish are farmed is there a record of				
-The type and size of each boat used for operations on the site	Low	N/A	SSI 2,6,b	
- The type and size of any propeller guard fitted to each boat used on the site	Low	N/A	SSI 2,6,c	
4.7 Does the site suffer from regular or heavy predation?		Y		Otters, osprey, kingfishers - no mink observed
4.8 Are there records of site specific risk assessments ascertaining the risk and impact of predator attack?	Medium	N	2.4.7, 3.4.9	
4.10 A record of any anti-predator measures undertaken at each site at which fish are farmed including			SSI, 2,8,a	
-The type and location of each net, fence and scarer deployed	Medium	N/A		Top nets and perimeter fence in place around the site. Ospreys have been observed taking fish from the fishery. Have been observed dropping them on surrounding land.
- The use of lethal means by any person involved in operations on the site	Low	N/A	SSI, 2,8,b	No lethal predation control practised.
4.11 Where predator nets are deployed is this done in such a manner as to reduce the likelihood of access by predators? For example, see requirements of Annex 7.	Low	Y	3.5.34-37 2.5.34-37	
c. Inspection of site and site equipment				
5.1 Are there any obvious containment issues on the site?	High	N		
5.2 Can the site demonstrate evidence that the site is not located within an area likely to be affected by flood, or suitable flood defences in place?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.9, 2.4.10, 2.4.11	
5.3 Does the site have effective measures in place to prevent fish from jumping out of holding facilities into surface waters or natural water courses?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.12	
5.4 Is the site inflow system designed to prevent any upstream escape of farm stock?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.14	
5.5 Are the screen sizes capable of containing the entire range of fish sizes within the unit in every instance?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.15	
5.6 In the case of a land-based aquaculture system, are there two screens incorporated into the outflow system of a suitable size to prevent the passage of fish in all potential water conditions?	High	Y	CoGP 2.4.20	screen on exit of every pond/tank, net in settlement pond and double screen at exit to settlement pond.

Point of compliance	Risk level	Satisfactory?	Requirement	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
5.7 Does the net mesh size contain the entire range of fish sizes in every instance of the species involved?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.17	
5.8 Are boat operations conducted in a manner which avoids damage to nets and pens?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.34	
d. Inspection of site specific procedures				
6.1 Are nets visually inspected on a daily basis including prior to and during the stocking, moving or crowding of fish?	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.24	
6.2 If helicopter transfer of fish is conducted are receiving pen(s) properly prepared:-				
a) pens should be marked with buoys clearly visible from the air	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.31	
b) radio contact between farm staff and helicopter crew should be maintained or where this is not possible, pens receiving fish should be manned	High	N/A	CoGP 3.4.32	

Additional actions	Powers	Comments and advice given or action taken if necessary
e) Collection of samples If necessary collect samples. Indicate if samples have been taken and detail what those samples are and the purpose of their collection	Power granted under the Act – section 5 (3) (a)	
h) Enforcement Notice. If an enforcement notice has been issued then maintain a copy / duplicate and record detail Guidance on completing the Enforcement Notice	Power granted under the Act – Section 6 (2)	

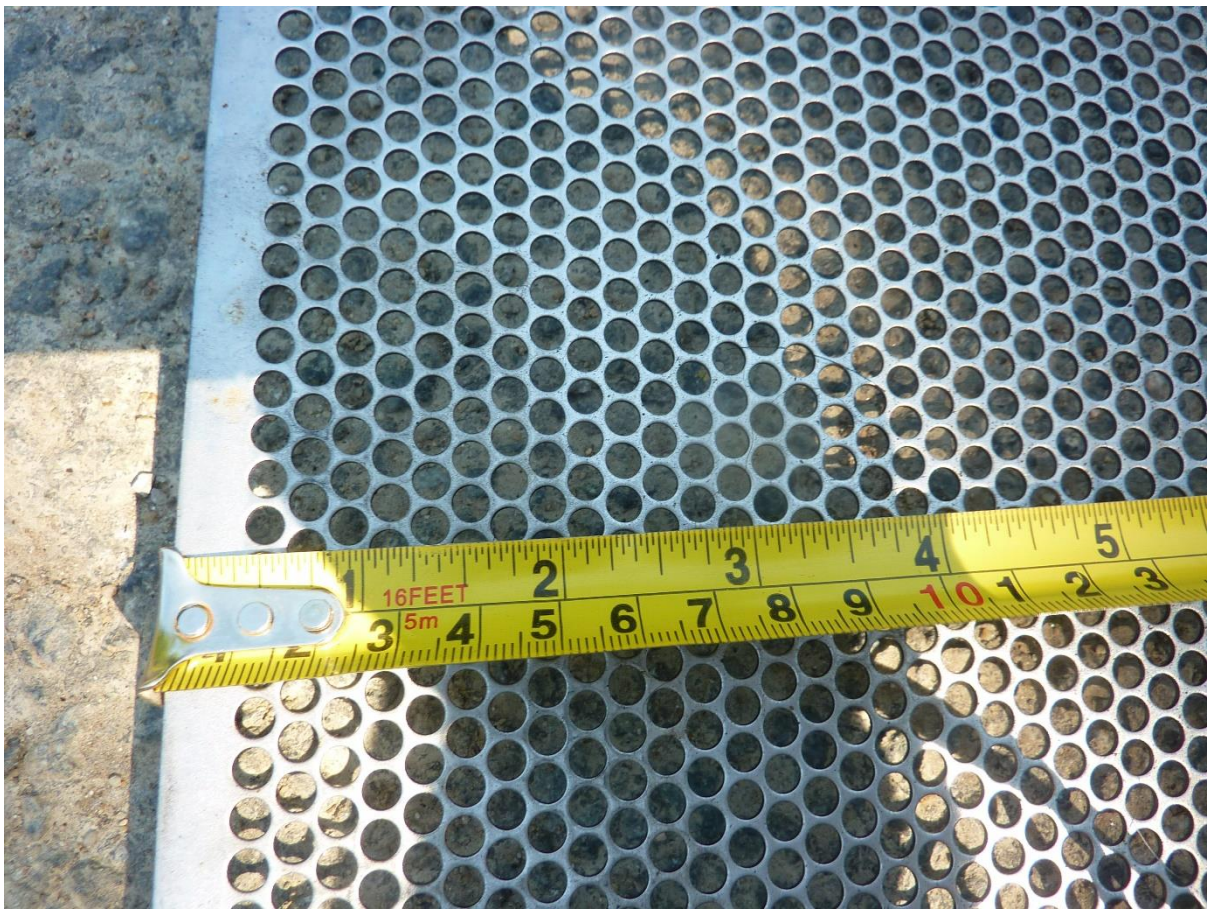
[1] An 'escape event' can be defined as any circumstances on or in the vicinity of a fish farm which are believed to have caused an escape, or which may have given rise to a significant risk of an escape of fish.

[2] FHI interpretation – Informing the SSPO is only a requirement where the site belongs to an Authorised Production Business which is signed up to the CoGP.

[3] being waters which do not form part of the sea or any creek, bay or estuary or of any river as far as far as the tide flows



Screen material used at end of settlement pond and in some fish ponds





Intake grill



Plastic output grill to pond



Pond output grill



Tank output grill for smallest fish





Settlement pond showing net preventing debris clogging final screen



Final screen off site at end of settlement pond.



Final screen after settlement pond showing double screen



Outflow pipes after settlement pond into burn.

Scottish Government
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FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS NO FB0297
SITE NO FS0511
INSPECTOR [redacted]

DATE OF VISIT 14 June 2023
SITE NAME Forgue
CASE NO 20230255

ENHANCED CONTAINMENT INSPECTION

An enhanced inspection to ascertain the risk of escape from the fish farm was conducted in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007.

The visit consisted of an inspection of facilities, records and the provision of advice.

a) Inspection of i) escape incidents and ii) contingency procedures

The following recommendation is made for improvement.

In order to meet the requirements of schedule 2, section 9 of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) Order 2008 and to ensure compliance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 2, point 4.28) farmers should have site-specific contingency plans that describe actions to be taken in the event of any escapes.

b)i) Inspection of records relating to equipment, facilities and the site

The following recommendations are made for improvement.

Records relating to tanks and pond screens were not available for inspection.

To meet the requirements of Schedule 2, section 1 of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) Order 2008 it is recommended that records must be kept in relation to each tank and pond screen to include:

- **a) The name of the manufacturer;**
- **b) Any special adaptations;**
- **c) The name of the supplier;**
- **d) The date of purchase;**
- **e) Each inspection including -**
  - **i. The name of the person conducting the inspection;**
  - **ii. The date of each inspection;**
  - **iii. The place of each inspection; and**
  - **iv. The outcome of each inspection; and**
- **f) The date and result of each repair carried out.**

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB
Tel – 0131 244 3498 Fax – 0131 244 0944 Email – ms.fishhealth@gov.scot
Website - www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science

To meet the requirements of Schedule 2, section 3 of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) Order 2008 it is recommended that a record must be kept of the following in relation to pond and tank facilities:

i. **the date of construction;**
ii. **the materials used in construction; and**
iii. **its dimensions.**

It is recommended that records should be maintained of the inspection frequency of the screens and the outcome of the inspections, in accordance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 2, point 4.18).

b)ii) Inspection of records relating to training

The following recommendations are made for improvement.

Records relating to training were not available for inspection.

Site staff have access to training programmes and plans relevant to the onsite work carried out, however this is not documented.

It is recommended that in accordance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 7, point 1.8) training should be an integral part of the operation of all finfish aquaculture businesses, with programmes and plans relevant to the various activities being documented.

To meet the requirements of schedule 2, section 7 of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) 2008 and to ensure compliance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 2, point 4.29) it is recommended that a record must be kept of all training of each person working at the site in relation to containment and prevention of escape of fish, and recovery of escaped fish, to ensure all staff are aware of factors affecting the potential breaches of containment and are trained in actions to take in the event of an escape.

b)iii) Inspection of records relating to procedures and risk assessments

The following recommendations are made for improvement.

Records in relation to procedures and risk assessments were not available for inspection.

It is recommended to meet the requirements of A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 2, point 4.23 written standard operating procedures should be in for fish handling and transfer operations.
To meet the requirements of schedule 2 (section 7(b)) of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) 2008 it is recommended that a record is maintained and made available for inspection of any assessment of the escape of fish during handling and transfer operations.

(4.7/4.8)

It is recommended that in accordance with A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture (CoGP) (chapter 2, point section 4.7) standard operating procedures based on the outcome of risk assessments should be in place which consider the impacts of predators.

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To meet the requirements of schedule 2, section 8 of the Fish Farming Businesses (Record Keeping) (Scotland) 2008 it is recommended that a record must be kept of any anti-predator measures undertaken, specifically:
a) the type and location of each net, fence and scarer deployed.

Further Action

The recommendations in this report should be implemented by 31st March 2025. 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 the Marine Directorate's Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) (contact details are provided below).

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the duty inspector should you require any further information or have any queries regarding this report.

Signed:  Date: 21/11/2024

Fish Health Inspector

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)

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Fish Health Inspectorate visit report

Summary for information of site operator

Business no:	FB0297	Date of visit:	14/06/2023
Site no:	FS0511	Site name:	Forgue
Case no:	20230255	Inspector:	[redacted]

Case completion report

Recommendations in relation to the above case were made for implementation by 31st March 2025. Following a site inspection on 6th May 2026 and a review 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] Date: 16/09/2026

Fish Health Inspector

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)

UKAS Accredited Inspection Body - Type C No. 0269
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Telephone – 0131 244 3498
Email – ms.fishhealth@gov.scot
Fish Health Inspectorate Website