

Case No: 2024-0294 Date of visit: 24/07/2024

Time spent on site: 1 Hour Main Inspector:

Site No: FS0403 Site Name: Meavag Hatchery

Business No: FB0449 Business Name: Meavag Fish Farming

Case Types: 1 ALA 2 3 4 5 6

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

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

- Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present?
Clinical signs of disease observed?
Gross pathology observed?
Diagnostic samples taken?

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

**Additional Case Information:**

Site visited for further investigation regarding a retrospective authorisation application to hold Koi Carp following an unauthorised stocking of 50 Koi Carp in September 2022 from Cuttlebrook Koi Farm, Oxford.

The site currently holds 48 Koi Carp in 1 tank within the hatchery facility. Fish appeared healthy during the inspection of the site with no clinical signs of disease observed.

Check list to determine the containment measures in place as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning the use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture.

• Does the facility involve the recirculation of water:

No. The site operates a flow through system. Water inflow to the site comes from a nearby freshwater loch, Loch a' Mhonaidh supplied by a pipe network which enters the site. A split ring main is used to divide the water pressure evenly between the stocked tanks within the facility. The inflow pipe that feeds the supply of water to each tank is screened to prevent the loss of fish upstream. The site is double screened on outflow, mesh screens which are suitably installed and maintained are positioned at the base of each tank and at the discharge point where water exits into the sea.

• Do discharges not connect in any way to open waters before screening and filtering or percolation and filtering to prevent the release of solid waste into the aquatic environment:

The tank which holds the Koi carp is double screened prior to outflow however no waste filtering measures are currently installed on this tank to prevent the release of solid waste into open water.

• Are measures in place to prevent the escapes from the facility of the farmed species and non-target species that may survive and subsequently reproduce:

Yes. The pipe which feeds the inflow of water to the tank holding Koi Carp is suitably screened to prevent to loss of any stock upstream. Due to the water pressure and gradient of the pipe that feeds the inflow of water, an escape upstream would be unlikely. The tank is also double screened at outflow with suitably installed and maintained stainless steel mesh screens to prevent the loss of stock. Water from the site is discharged into the sea, Koi carp are not an anadromous species of fish and therefore would not survive in a salt water environment.

• Are measures in place to prevent the loss of reared specimens or non-target species and other biological material, including pathogens due to factors such as predators (e.g. birds) and flooding:

Site is indoors and is lockable to prevent unauthorised entry to the site. Tanks are suitably screened to prevent the loss of reared specimens at both the inflow and discharge points.

• For predators is there predator control plan and what are the measures in place to prevent predation:

The site follows and adheres to a suitable pest control management plan. The site is situated indoors, traps for rodents are managed in house and checked regularly. The site has no history of stock mortality due to predation.

• For flooding what is the distance of the facility from open waters:

30m to the sea. The site has no history of previous flooding.

• Are measures are in place to prevent losses of reared specimens or non-target species and other biological material, including pathogens, due to theft or vandalism:

Site is indoors and lockable. The entrance to the site is gated and lockable.

• Are dead organisms disposed of in an appropriate method:

Yes. Mortalities are removed daily and stored in a secure, lidded mortality container which is disposed of via landfill.

• Is transport carried out under conditions that prevent the escape of the species and any non-target species:

Koi carp have not been moved from the site since the date of input. If fish are to be moved they will be transported by the site operator in a secure, lidded fish bin and transported by pick up truck. Water will be oxygenated and there will be no water exchange points or bus stop deliveries during transport.

It was determined that the facilities and their current operation do not meet the requirements of a closed aquaculture facility under Article 3(3) of assimilated regulation No 708/2007 (708/2007) and are an 'open' aquaculture facility and a permit is required. Information has been shared with, and is being considered by, the Advisory Committee to progress the permit application, which will be dealt with outwith this case.





# FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

## SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

<b>BUSINESS No</b>	FB0449	<b>DATE OF VISIT</b>	24/07/2024
<b>SITE No</b>	FS0403	<b>SITE NAME</b>	Meavag Hatchery
<b>CASE No</b>	20240294	<b>INSPECTOR</b>	[REDACTED]

A retrospective application for authorisation to farm the non-native species *Cyprinus rubrofasciatus* (Koi carp) was received on 4/10/2023.

The production facilities at Meavag Hatchery, operated by Meavag Fish Farming, were inspected on 24/7/2024 to determine if an application for a permit was required under the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (Scotland) Regulations 2015. Movements of alien or locally absent species to facilities meeting the definition of a 'closed aquaculture facility' are exempt from the permit process by these Regulations, provided that transport is carried out under conditions that prevent the escape of those species and any non-target species.

It was determined that the facilities and their current operation do not meet the requirements of a closed aquaculture facility under Article 3(3) of assimilated regulation No 708/2007 (708/2007) and are an 'open' aquaculture facility and a permit is required.

Information has been shared with, and is being considered by, the Advisory Committee to progress the permit application. Although this case will now be closed, the consideration of the application will continue and be concluded by separate communication.

If you no longer require a permit as the site does not hold Koi carp please inform the FHI.

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

Signed:

Fish Health Inspector

Date: 13/05/2026

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/Topics/marine/science)