

Case No:	2025-0138			Date of visit:	29/04/2025							
Additional inspector(s):				Main Inspector:								
Site No:	FS0717		Site Name:	Balta Isle								
Business No:	FB0095		Business Name:	Cooke Aquaculture Scotland Ltd								
Case Types:	1	ECI	2	CNI	3	SLI	4	VMD	5		6	
Water Temp (°C):	9.49		Thermometer No:	T310		FHI 045 completed	N/A					
Observations:	Region:		SH		Water type:	S		CoGP MA:	S-1			
Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present?	Y		If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.									
Clinical signs of disease observed?	N		If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.									
Post mortem signs observed?	N		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 is used as a nursery site

Mortality: Wk21 2024 4.73% (58,787 fish) attributed to transport and handling during a treatment. Had not been reported to FHI at the time and has now been reported.

Treatments: This cycle: SLICE Dec 2024, Antibiotics for bacterial disease Nov 2024 (prescription). Last cycle: SLICE March 2024 and Dec 2023

Prescription seen for Veterin treatment - dated 29th October 2024.

Health surveillance: Dated 25th March 2025 - nothing significant, low numbers of lethargic fish. Gills - some AGD lesions.

Remote inspection carried out on 24/04/2025. Physical inspection carried out 29/04/2025. Fish were observed shoaling deep in the water column. While on site, 13 pens were observed feeding and all had good feed responses. Two moribund fish were seen on site as well as one lethargic fish.

VMD sampled from pen 10. The fish taken for VMD appeared healthy externally and internally with no sea lice observed

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Main Insp:

Registration/Authorisation Details

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

Y

Y

Site Details (include cleaner fish for all sections)

Total No facilities	20	Facilities stocked	20	No facilities inspected	20
Species	Atlantic salmon				
Age group	24 S0				
No Fish	1,321,733				
Mean Fish Wt	717g				
Next Fallow Date (Site)	Sep 2025	Next Input Date (Site)	Oct 2025		
Recent (last 4 wks) disease problems?		N	Any escapes (since last visit)?		N
If yes, detail:					

Movement Records

1. Movement records for **all species** held available for inspection?
2. Date of last inspection:
3. Are records complete and correctly entered?
4. Are movement records available for dead fish and waste?
5. Are records complete and correctly entered?
6. Have all introductions and imports (since last inspection) from outwith the GB health zone been recorded the movement records?

Y

06/06/2023

Y

Y

Y

N/A

Transport Records

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

Y

Y

Mortality Records

1. Mortality records for **all species** held available for inspection?
2. How are mortalities disposed of?

Whole fish - TWMA (Shetland)

If other detail:

3. Mortality records complete and correctly entered?

Y

4. Recent mortality (last 4 wks):

Wk 14: 0.03% (430 fish), Wk 15: 0.04% (466 fish), Wk 16: 0.05% (624 fish),
Wk 17: 0.02% (273 fish)

5. Evidence of recent increased/atypical mortalities?

N

If yes, facility nos/no mortality per facility/no stock per facility/reason:

6. Any other peaks in mortality during period checked?

Y

If yes, detail: See additional info

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

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Site No:

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Date of visit/
Sampling:

29/04/2025

29/04/2025

Priority samples:

VI

BA

PA

MG

HI

Time sampling
starts/ends:

10:40:00

10:50:00

Main Insp:

VMD No.

4

Environmental conditions:

1

Wet

2

Windy

3

4

5

Summary samples

HIST

BA

MG

VI

PA

Total Samples

Add Fish/Pools - click button

	Pool/Fish No												
	Fish nos	1-2											
	Pool Group												
Stock Details	Species	SAL											
	Average weight	0.7170											
	Sex	N/A											
	Water Type	SW											
		Furnace (FS0339)											
	Stock Origin												
	Facility No	10											

04/2025

5 Additional Sample Information:

Dispatched percussively

0

Total Tests assigned

0

[illegible]

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Date of Visit	29/04/2025	No of movements/supp./dest.			Score
Live fish movements		0	1-5	6-10	>10
Movements on (from out with GB) of susceptible species	Frequency of movements on from British Islands (non-GB).	0	5	10	14
	Frequency of movements on from a third country	0	9	18	26
	Number of suppliers	0	5	10	14
Movements off	Frequency of movements off	0	3	6	10
	Number of destinations	0	3	6	10
Exposure via water	Site contacts	0	1-5	6-10	
Water contacts with other farms (holding species susceptible to same diseases)	Farm is protected (secure water supply through disinfection or borehole)	0			
	Farm is on-line or in a coastal zone with category I farms upstream or within 1 tidal excursion	1	2	4	1
	Farm is on-line or in a coastal zone with category III farms upstream or within 1 tidal excursion	1	3	6	
	Farm is on-line or in a coastal zone with category V farms upstream or within 1 tidal excursion	1	4	8	
Management practices		None	Secure	Unsecure	
Water contacts with processors	Any processing plant discharging into adjacent waters	0	1	2	0
On farm processing within the rules of the directive	No on farm processing	0			0
	Processing own fish (re-cycling risk)	1			
	Processing fish from MS of equivalent status	2			
	Processing fish from zone or compartment of equivalent status	4			
	Processing fish from Category III farm	8			
	Processing fish from Category V farm	10			
Disposal of fish and fish by-products	Site's own waste only processed.	0			
	Common processes with other farms	3			3
	Collection point for waste from other farms	5			
Use of unpasteurised feeds	No feeding of unpasteurised feed	0			0
	Feeding unpasteurised feed	5			
Biosecurity	Number of sites	1	2 or 3	≥ 4	
Contacts with other sites	Sites operating from single shorebase	0	1	2	1
	Sites sharing staff and equipment	0	1	2	1
Disinfection of equipment between sites, use of footbaths etc	Yes	0			0
	No	1			
CoGP/Regulator					
Practices in accordance with regulator or industry code of practice	Yes	0			0
	No	3			
Platform access to cages	Yes	0			0
	No	2			
Total Rank				19	MEDIUM

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Sea Lice Inspection (Seawater Sites Only)

1. Has the site experienced sea lice problems in the previous 4 years?
 2. Is the CoGP Farm Management Area (or equivalent) followed synchronously on a single year class basis?
 3. Does the site have access to a range of licenced in-feed and bath sea lice medications (including deltamethrin, azamethiphos and emamectin benzoate) as well as access to suitable biological and/or mechanical control measures, and can these be deployed in a reasonable period of time?
 4. Is there a signed documented farm management agreement or statement relevant to the site and CoGP Farm Management Area (or equivalent)?
 5. Are sea lice count records available for inspection? (Legal SSI, CoGP Annex 6)
 6. Do records adequately reflect the required standard specified in the SSI and the CoGP? (Legal SSI, CoGP Annex 6)
 7. Are sea lice (*L. salmonis*) record levels below the suggested criteria for treatment in the CoGP during the period that records are inspected? (CoGP Annex 6)
 8. Have weekly average adult female sea lice counts at or above the intervention level been reported accurately?
- If no, please detail in additional information.
9. Is *C. elongatus* infestation at a level which is considered to cause significant welfare problems? (CoGP 4.3.81, 5.3.50)
 10. Have therapeutic treatments been administered or other actions taken when *L. salmonis* levels have exceeded the suggested criteria for treatment or where *C. elongatus* is considered to have welfare implications? (CoGP 4.3.82, 5.3.51)
 11. Has any other action been taken (where applicable)?
 12. Have therapeutic treatments or the actions taken had a significant impact upon the lice levels recorded?
 13. Are treatments, where conducted, carried out in cooperation between participating farms?
 14. Is there a harvesting strategy for the site, where fewer populations or part populations are held without treatment for sea lice?
 15. Is there a site specific written lice management procedure with waypoints describing set actions to deal with recognised scenarios during the escalation of a sea lice infestation?
 16. Do the sea lice levels observed on stocks reflect sea lice count data? If no please detail reasons.

Containment Inspection

1. Has the site experienced equipment damage due to predators in the current or previous production cycles?
 2. Are measures in place to mitigate against the predation experienced on site? (Detail below)
- | Predator Nets | Tensioned Nets | Top Nets | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
- If other, detail below:
3. Have escape incidents or events been experienced on or in the vicinity of the site since the last FHI inspection?
- If Yes proceed with questions 4 – 9. If No skip to question 10
4. Have these been reported to Scottish Ministers?
 5. Have these been reported to local DSFB forthwith (where they exist)? (CoGP – 4.4.37, 5.4.17)
 6. Have these been reported to the SSPO and local fisheries trusts forthwith (where they exist)? (CoGP – 4.4.37, 5.4.17)
 7. Were methods (if any) used to recover escapees? If yes give detail
 8. If gill nets were deployed was this action agreed with local wild fish interests and was permission given by Scottish Ministers? (Legal, CoGP – 4.4.38, 5.4.18)
 9. What action was taken to prevent and minimise the risk of further escapes? (Not covered in code but could be considered under satisfactory measures of the Act)
 10. Is the site inspected as satisfactory with regards to containment? If no, please detail reason(s)

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Main Insp: [REDACTED]

Point of Compliance

1. Is the farm under inspection located within a farm management area?

If N, no further questions require completion.

Points of Compliance for Both Farm Management Agreements and Statements

2. Has a current farm management agreement or statement (FMAg/S) been prepared?

3. Is the current FMAg/S available for inspection?

4. Does the FMAg/S identify the relevant farm management area?

5. Does the FMAg/S identify the fish farm site(s) to which it applies?

6. Does the FMAg/S identify the date of commencement of the agreement or statement?

7. Does the FMAg/S identify the date of review?

Arrangements for Fish Health Management

8. Does the FMAg/S identify the minimum health standards for the stocks to be introduced to the area or farm?

9. Does the FMAg/S identify the vaccination requirements for stocks held in the area or farm?

10. Does the FMAg/S identify the species of fish which may be stocked into the area or farm?

11. Does the FMAg/S identify the maximum stocking density of any pen on any farm in the area or the individual farm?

12. Does the FMAg/S identify the arrangements for the storage and disposal of any dead fish from any fish farm in the area or the individual farm?

Arrangements for The Management of Sea Lice

13. Does the FMAg/S identify arrangements for the sharing of data on sea lice numbers and treatments?

14. Does the FMAg/S identify the availability and the use of medicines on farms covered by the agreement of statement?

15. Does the FMAg/S identify any requirements for the sensitivity testing of available treatments for sea lice on farms in the area or individual farms?

16. Does the FMAg/S identify the circumstances under which biological controls and cleaner fish are to be used on farms in the area or individual farms?

17. Does the FMAg/S identify the arrangements for synchronous treatments on farms within the area?

Live Fish Movements

18. Does the FMAg/S identify the circumstances when live fish may be introduced or removed from the area or farm?

19. Does the FMAg/S identify the arrangements for the movement of live fish on and off sites in the area or individual farms?

Harvesting

20. Does the FMAg/S identify acceptable harvest practices on farms in the area or individual farms?

Fallowing

21. Does the FMAg/S identify the dates by which the area or individual farm will be fallow and the earliest date when a farm or area may be restocked?

22. Does the FMAg/S identify whether one or more year classes may be stocked onto sites covered by the agreement or statement?

23. Does the FMAg/S identify whether broodstock or potential broodstock are to be kept on any site covered by the agreement or statement?

Point of Compliance for Farm Management Agreements Only

24. Does the farm management agreement include arrangements for persons to become, or cease to be, parties to the agreement?

Management and operation

25. Is the fish farm being managed and operated in accordance with the agreement or statement?

26. What is the version no/date of issue of the FMAg/S?

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Main Insp: [REDACTED]

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FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

BUSINESS NO FB0095
SITE NO FS0717
CASE NO 20250138

DATE OF VISIT 29/04/2025
SITE NAME Balta Isle
INSPECTOR [REDACTED]

Inspection under the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009

The above site was inspected, in accordance with the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

All epidemiological units were inspected. On this occasion no samples were taken for disease analysis. The Inspector did not observe any clinical signs associated with the listed diseases as described in the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

Records

The surveillance frequency category of the site was assessed as medium. An inspection under the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009 will be conducted every second year. The category of the site will be reassessed on a routine basis and updated as required.

The information required for the public record of aquaculture production businesses regarding this site was verified and where necessary updated. The following records were also inspected to ensure that the conditions of authorisation for your Aquaculture Production Business (APB) are being met:

Aquaculture animal and aquaculture animal product movement records were inspected and appeared to be adequately maintained.

Records in relation to aquaculture animals transported by the business were inspected and found to be adequately maintained.

Mortality records were inspected and found to be adequately maintained.

Mortality levels had exceeded the reporting criteria since the last inspection and had not been reported to the Fish Health Inspectorate. I would like to remind you of the industry agreement in relation to mortality reporting as detailed in A Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.

Reports detailing the results of animal health surveillance carried out by or on behalf of the business and/or Marine Directorate were available for inspection.

The biosecurity measures plan for the site was inspected and found to be adequately maintained and implemented.

The following points were raised with the site representative during the inspection:

R25



- Historical mortality event in May 2024 picked up during remote inspection of mortality records. Mortality report was sent through by the company to the FHI before the day of physical site inspection. No further action required.

Inspection under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015

Medicine records were inspected and found to be adequately maintained.

Samples were taken to be analysed for veterinary residues.

Inspection under the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007

The site was also inspected in accordance with the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, as amended, with respect to section 3 regarding parasites (sea lice), section 4A regarding fish farm management agreements and statements and section 5 regarding containment and escapes.

On this occasion the site was found to be satisfactory with regards to parasites, fish farm management agreements and statements and containment and escapes.

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: 14/05/2025

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/)