

Case No:	2025-0291	Date of visit:	12/03/2025			
Additional inspector(s):		Main Inspector:				
Site No:	FS1368	Site Name:	North Ericht Bank Field			
Business No:	FB0592	Business Name:	RSA Blairgowrie Ltd			
Case Types:	1 ALA	2	3	4	5	6
Water Temp (°C):		Thermometer No:		FHI 045 completed		
Observations:	Region:	TA	Water type:	F	CoGP MA:	
Dead/weak/abnormally behaving fish present?		If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Clinical signs of disease observed?		If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Post mortem signs observed?		If yes, see additional information/clinical score sheet.				
Diagnostic samples taken?						
UNI/REG only - if unable to carry out intended visit detail reason below:						

**Additional Case Information:**

the definition of 'closed facility' to permit the stocking of a non-native species under the Alien and Locally Absent Species Regs.

the use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture.

●Does the facility involve the recirculation of water:  
The system is a recirculating system yes.

●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 system is recirc with the site not intending to discharge any water unless during small water changes. The water leaves the fish ponds via a screen that is small enough to contain ova, passes through a mechanical and biological filter before then being pumped through the various plant beds and then recirculated back into the fish ponds. Some of the plant beds are located just outside the polytunnel and some water will be directed to these. Any overspill will drain into the field which is located >60m from the river. So no discharge into open waters will occur.

●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:

All fish will be kept in raised ponds and tanks only connected to filtration and plant beds in the land based system. Plant beds are lined and waste water from the beds is recirculated back to the fish ponds. Lids or nets on tanks and ponds will be used when required. All tanks and ponds will have a jump barrier either installed or the tank will not be fully filled to allow the tank wall to be used as a jump guard. There is no physical route for fish or plants to escape to a body of water due to physical barriers and distance overland. Appropriate screening will be used to safeguard against the release of fish, fry eggs and plants into the wider 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:

Most of the system is contained within a covered polytunnel (indoors) and will be checked daily to ensure no predators can access the aquaculture areas. There is a mesh fence fitted in the walls of the tunnels to ensure that ground predators cannot gain access.

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

Fish tanks and ponds will be within a polytunnel, that will provide a barrier from animals from accessing the ponds where fish are kept.

Sides and doors to the polytunnels will provide a barrier from terrestrial animals





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Main Insp: [REDACTED]

[illegible][illegible]



# FISH HEALTH INSPECTORATE VISIT REPORT

## SUMMARY FOR INFORMATION OF SITE OPERATOR

<b>BUSINESS NO</b>	FB0592	<b>DATE OF VISIT</b>	12/03/2025
<b>SITE NO</b>	FS1368	<b>SITE NAME</b>	North Ericht Bank Field
<b>CASE NO</b>	20250291	<b>INSPECTOR</b>	[REDACTED]

An application for authorisation to farm the following non-native fish and plant species, was received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:

Koi carp (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*)  
Palm Sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)  
White Star Grass (*Dichromena colorata*)  
Brazilian Waterweed (*Egeria densa*)  
Chameleon Plant (*Houttuynia cordata*)  
Lawn Marshpennywort (*Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides*)  
Louisiana Iris (*Iris louisiana*)  
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Copper Monkey Flower (*Mimulus cupreus*)  
Yellow Monkey Flower (*Mimulus luteus*)  
Red Foxtail (*Myriophyllum brasiliense*)  
Water Celery (*Oenanthe javanica*)  
Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)  
Broadleaf Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)  
Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)  
Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

The production facilities at North Ericht Bank Field, operated by RSA Blairgowrie Ltd, were inspected on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 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 met the requirements of a closed aquaculture facility under Article 3(3) of assimilated regulation No 708/2007. The transport methods proposed were deemed to be acceptable with regards to containment and prevention of escape.



Operational activities included:

- The site is surrounded by a boundary fence and has 24hr onsite security;
- Fish and plants will be held in recirculation ponds that are located within polytunnels with buried sidewalls to prevent predator/vermin ingress;
- Recirculated water leaves the fish ponds before passing through a mechanical and biofilter and entering a series of plant beds before returning to the fish holding ponds. There is a primary screen at the outlet of each fish pond;
- The fish ponds are raised, plant beds are lined and are both located >60m from any natural waters;
- Mortalities are removed daily and stored in a bio-secure manner prior to disposal;
- Mortalities will be collected by an approved waste contractor for bio secure disposal;
- Transportation of stock into the site is conducted in sealed bags within sealed boxes, with all water associated with the transport discharged into the recirculating system;
- All materials associated with transport are disinfected prior to disposal;
- An auditable record of stock and product transfers is maintained;
- Stock will be only be sold for ornamental purposes;
- No discharge into natural waters.

The movement of the non-native species listed above into the North Ericht Bank Field site is considered exempt under Article 2(7) of assimilated regulation No 708/2007 from the permitting process.

**RSA Blairgowrie Ltd is reminded that should there be any change to the current operational practices at North Ericht Bank Field, this may result in the requirement for a permit under the 2015 Regulations.**

**To ensure compliance with the 2015 Regulations, any operational changes or the addition of non-native species not listed above, must be discussed with the Fish Health Inspectorate prior to changes being implemented or species being stocked.**

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: 24/07/2025

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 \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science)