

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted] @st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 15:41  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020

Hi [Redacted]

That's great, all sounds sensible!

I think some encouragement to participate might useful, especially to them in the long term. If you need details of the project, I think [Redacted] is the MS contact.

All the best,

[Redacted]

+++++

[Redacted]

Sea Mammal Research Unit  
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*The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland : No SC013532*

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**From:** [Redacted] @gov.scot [Redacted] @gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 15:29  
**To:** [Redacted] @st-andrews.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020

[Redacted]  
Hi

Thank you again for the quick response, it is most useful.

For the licence for 2020 we do not intend to increase the number on the WI08 licence over what it was initially this year (5 grey/3 harbour) and the other 2 will only have 2 grey per licence.

We agree that there would appear to be something amiss with the SSC antipredator strategy. SSC have requested a meeting with MS LOT this week to discuss seal licensing, if it seems appropriate can I mention [Redacted] has a project that might be of interest to them?

Kind regards  
[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted] [@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 15:09  
**To:** [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks for your email regarding continued predation by seals at the Scottish Salmon Company's six fish farms in Loch Roag, Lewis. This is the second time SSC have asked for an increase in the numbers allocated for Loch Roag under their current licence.

Given the level of damage they seem to be recording at (mainly) one site Vuia Mor FS1103, it seems sensible to increase their allocation.

However, I would again be cautious at continually increasing the allocation for WI08. A more sustainable solution should be achievable somehow.

Note there are two additional Licence Applications for Loch Roag, WI18 for 0 harbour and 6 grey seals ) and WI28 (for 0 harbour and 8 grey seals).

It seems highly unusual for fish farms in one area to be targeted so heavily by seals. In fact it is unprecedented, to our knowledge, and strongly suggests that something must be amiss with the SSC antipredator strategy at these fish farms.

Interestingly, [Redacted] who works at SMRU on a Marine Scotland project investigating systems for reducing seal interactions with fish farms, has not had any success in persuading the Scottish Salmon Company to participate in his project.

Good luck!

Yours,

[Redacted]

+++++

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**From:** [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot) [[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 13:59  
**To:** [Redacted] [@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020

Aha! That explains it.....

Thanks.

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted] [@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 13:55  
**To:** [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020

Hi [Redacted]

Just moved office and phones are not yet connected for some reason, sorry.  
Will try and turn this around quickly...

Yours,

[Redacted]

+++++

[Redacted]

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**From:** [Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot) [[Redacted] [@gov.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@gov.scot)]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2020 13:32  
**To:** [Redacted] [@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Request to vary seal licence - Scottish Salmon Company - WI08/2019/W - MS LOT to SMRU - 14 January 2020  
**Importance:** High

[Redacted]  
Hi

I tried to call you a couple of times today as we've had another request from SSC to vary licence WI08/2019 again. Same scenario as last time, they have a significant seal predation problem in Loch Roag and have shot all of the allocation (including the additional we gave in August)

To date they have shot 9 grey and 3 harbour seals. We are considering an additional 4 grey be added but would welcome your thoughts on the matter.

We are of course aware that the current licence is nearing the end, however having spoken with FHI it does appear that there is a problem in Loch Roag.

A quick response to this email would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]