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The Finest Salmon from  
**SCOTLAND**



# Farm Management Statement

COGP Management Area W4  
Disease Management Area 5a

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Including sites:  
Gravir West and Gravir Outer [FS0242]  
North Gravir [FS0XXX]

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# 1. Introduction

This Farm Management Statement (FMS) relates to the marine salmon farm(s) located at Loch Odhairn, East Lewis (CoGP Management area W4, MS Disease Management area 5a).

All conditions pertaining to the FMS shall be recommended to any new owners/ lease holders in the event of the transfer of ownership/ lease of a fish farm.

In the event of any site developments in the area, it is required that the conditions laid out in this FMS continue to be met. If any new operator wishes to start salmon farming operations in this Management Area (W4), it would be expected that they would farm in accordance with MSS and CoGP recommendations for sharing Management Areas e.g. single year class stocking, synchronous production. In this scenario, BFS would be prepared to establish a Farm Management Agreement with the new operator, if possible, and mutually acceptable terms were defined.

This FMS outlines the measures taken at the site to reduce and manage the risks posed by infectious agents and parasites which can be present in the environment, in wild and farmed fish, and in other naturally occurring biota. Farming activities, as outlined below, will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.

This FMS establishes the conditions at the sites at the date of creation, and subsequently, the most recent review. The FMS will be reviewed at the start of every new generation of fish being stocked onto the site.

## 2. General health and Stocking approach

i. Fallowing/stocking plans and protocols

The W4 fish farms will be stocked on a single year class basis. The site will be fallowed for a minimum of four weeks between production cycles. Fallowing/ stocking notifications will be sent to SEPA in the appropriate time period. Fallowing of sites resulting from detection of notifiable diseases will be directed by Marine Scotland. W4 will be stocked in Q3 2024 and fallow by June 2026.

ii. Broodstock

Broodstock will not be stocked in W4.

iii. Health status of fish to be stocked at W4

Before fish are stocked onto the W4 sites, the Biology Department under veterinary direction, must assess their health/ disease status and provide approval in writing that they are in acceptable condition prior to stocking taking place. If there is cause for concern a veterinary visit and report will be requested. In the case of external smolt supply, a third party veterinary assessment will be carried out.

iv. Physical condition of the fish to be introduced

Biology Department approval of fish health/ physical condition must be obtained in writing prior to any fish being introduced to the site.

v. Veterinary input – VHWP/BPs

An up-to-date VHWP and BP are held by Bakkafrost Scotland for the W4 sites. These are formally reviewed at the start of every new generation of fish being stocked onto the site, however the VHWP is a live working document and as such is routinely reviewed and updated.

vi. Dead fish removal and disposal

A site specific fallen stock plan has been prepared for the W4 sites and is contained within the Escapes Contingency Plan. Fallen stock will be removed weekly as a minimum. Mortalities are removed from the cages by LiftUp system, carefully transferred to holding bins at the shorebase to be disposed of in contained skips. Skips are collected routinely by a licenced waste removal company, for disposal (see site specific Fish Mortality Plan). If a fallen stock event occurs, a third party specialist contractor may be used to remove and dispose of material. Bakkafrost Scotland will ensure appropriate risk assessments are undertaken if this situation arises

- vii. Vaccines and vaccination regimes  
All fish to be put to sea at the W4 sites will be vaccinated in freshwater against furunculosis and IPN as a minimum. In the 24Q3 generation, all fish will also have Pancreas Disease (PD) protection and additional bacterial agents in the vaccine.
- viii. Health status of W4 inc. any official control(s) in place  
At the time of creation / last review of the W4 Farm Management Statement, the health status of fish held on the site was known to be good.
- Disease surveillance measures are outlined in the VHWP for each site. In the event of a notifiable disease being detected, mitigating actions will be in accordance with the Code of Good Practice and as directed by Marine Scotland. W4 is within the Disease Management Area of East Lewis (5a).
- ix. Agreed stocking densities  
Stocking densities at the site will meet SEPA consent conditions. Any potential breach of stocking density limits will be communicated to SEPA prior to the breach occurring.
- x. Notification of specific health issues  
The site manager will endeavour to inform neighbouring farms of environmental stresses e.g. algal blooms recorded in W4. Presence of non-native species will also be recorded.

### 3. Sea lice management strategy

Lice monitoring protocols (minimum categories of lice recorded, counting frequency, numbers of fish and cages sampled)

- i. Where and when possible, enhanced monitoring for lice will be undertaken. This includes sampling 10 fish from every cage at least once a week. As a minimum, lice monitoring will be in accordance with the NTS as outlined in Code of Good Practice, in particular;
- Personnel carrying out lice counts will have appropriate training in lice recognition and recording and will be able to demonstrate post-training competence
  - A minimum of weekly monitoring will take place throughout the year
  - Pens and fish will be sampled at random unless all stocked cages are counted
  - Where there are more than five pens per site, five salmon will be sampled from each of five pens to give a total of twenty five fish
  - Where the site consists of less than five pens, all pens will be sampled to give a total of twenty five fish. A similar number will be sampled from each pen
  - Fish will be netted straight from the pen into anaesthetic solution
  - Each life cycle stage of *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* will be counted in turn i.e. adult females, mobile stages, chalimus
  - All identifiable life cycle stages of *Caligus elongates* will be grouped together
  - After completing the lice counts on the fish from each pen, the tub containing the anaesthetic solution will be examined for sea lice which may have been shed from the fish and any lice found added to the total
  - A record will be made of the name of the person carrying out the count, the pen number, and the water temperature
  - Minimum sea lice recording requirements are i) *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* - chalimus, non-gravid mobiles (pre-adult males and females, plus adult males) and adult females with or without egg strings; and ii) *Caligus elongates* – mobile stages.
- ii. Treatment plans (inc. available treatments for each site, plans for co-ordination of treatments, lice treatment thresholds/targets)  
In feed sea lice treatments will be administered at W4 sites synchronously with all other marine salmon farm operators in W4. Bath treatments will be co-ordinated so as to best utilise local water movements to ensure greatest treatment efficiency. The company Lice

Treatment Strategy will be employed at the site, unless otherwise directed by the Biology Dept or Fish Health Inspectors. Where synchronous/co-ordinated treatments with other sites within the system would compromise animal welfare (e.g. following plankton blooms or due to adverse weather conditions), the decision to treat will be directed by the Biology Dept and Senior management teams.

The levels of sea lice medicine consented at W4 are sufficient to ensure efficacious treatment of whole sites. Standard Operating Procedures will be followed to maximise effectiveness of treatments, in particular, bath treatments.

Treatment trigger levels will be in accordance with the Code of Good Practice.

- iii. Plans for sensitivity testing  
Periodically, bioassays may be carried out to understand the sensitivity profile of lice in the area. If a sea lice treatment appears to have failed, this will be communicated immediately to the Regional Manager and Biology Dept.
- iv. Use of cleaner fish  
Cleaner fish may be used at the W4 sites throughout the cycle. BFS will ensure the appropriate biological consents are in place prior to stocking.
- v. Sharing of lice data  
Lice data is submitted weekly, in week in lieu, to Marine Scotland Fish Health Inspectorate for publication.

## 4. Movement of fish/harvesting

- i. Well boat operating practices  
Well boat operating practices will be in accordance with the Code of Good Practice (Annex 10). Standard Operating Procedures apply to ensure maximum containment/biosecurity. Well boats will operate with closed valves within Management Area W4 and/or within 5km of the any site, unless grading is being conducted. Appropriate risk assessments for well boat operations will be undertaken prior to each operation. Details of fish movements both onto and out of the W4 sites should be recorded by the site manager and retained for an appropriate time period.
- ii. Harvesting protocols/plans  
Fish will be removed from the W4 sites and transported to a killing station in order to be harvested, or will be harvested at site onto a dead-haul boat. In the event of a required cull (e.g. as a result of disease), harvesting procedures will be in accordance with the Code of Good Practice.
- iii. General information regarding the movement of live fish (well boat or otherwise)  
Fish will only be moved onto the W4 sites if they have been assessed by the biology department or a veterinarian and approved for movement. Fish movements, both onto and off the W4 sites will be subject to appropriate risk assessments.

As stated in the Code of Good Practice (3.4.2.14), where the source or destination of the fish is subject to official movement controls, permission must be granted by Marine Scotland before any movement takes place.

## 5. Escapes

Each site has a site specific escape contingency plan, which outlines the measures taken at the site to minimise risks of escapes occurring and also those actions to be taken in the event of an escape occurring. Details on formal requirements for the reporting of escape events are also included in the escape contingency plans.

## **6. Predator exclusion and control**

Each site has a site specific predator control plan which identifies the likely predator interactions at the site and the appropriate exclusion and control measures which should be employed if necessary. This plan is reviewed annually by the site manager and regional manager.

## **7. List of relevant documents**

- CoGP – for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture
- SEPA CAR Licence
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – on QPulse