

# Fish farm petition has 42,000 signatures

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A PETITION calling for emergency inspections of all commercial salmon farming operations has topped 42,000 signatures.

The petition, by consumer watchdog SumOfUs, alleges serious welfare abuses at some of Scotland's salmon farms.

It is to be handed to the Scottish Government on Monday.

Campaigners are demanding urgent action because sea temperatures rise over summer months, "increasing the likelihood of disease among salmon populations".

Secret footage of caged salmon near Loch Shiel in Wester Ross captured last month forced Marine Scotland to carry out an emergency inspection. The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC), which operates the Loch

Shiel fish farm, said "fish health and welfare is fundamental to responsible salmon farming and intrinsic in our operations".

But Anna Liberadzki, campaigner at SumOfUs, said: "For years, we've known that Scottish salmon cultivation is as horrific as battery farming. Recent footage of the terrible conditions on salmon farms shows that the problem is only getting worse. As long as the mega corporations who own Scotland's salmon farms can get away with it, they will allow the fish to suffer."

The SSC has said: "Salmon farming is the most highly regulated farming sector in the UK and our sites are regularly audited by bodies, including the Fish Health Inspectorate and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency."