

Marine Concern petition tackles marine pollution

A petition started by Marine Concern is aiming to tackle marine pollution with closed-containment for salmon farms.

With the argument that a closed-containment system could produce more salmon and less harm to the environment, the Lochgilphead-based environmental group, Marine Concern is 'calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that the salmon farming industry solely utilises a closed-containment method with full water filtering in Scottish waters'.

The petition's background information says: 'We would like to see the Scottish Government legislate for all salmon farms in Scotland to be closed-containment, ie, using a physical waterproof membrane between farmed salmon and the open sea, including a pumping or filtering system that prevents direct flow back into the sea or are land-based with similar

filtering systems, then many of the adverse environmental factors could be eliminated.'

The common method for salmon agriculture currently is to grow fish in net cages located in sheltered bays and fjords, with no physical barrier between the fish farm and the sea. With a



Footage, released by animal charity OneKind, claims to show 'salmon with the flesh on their heads exposed due to severe sea lice damage, heavy sea lice burdens, and fish jumping out of the water, with one landing on top of another during one instance, and severe fin and tail damage'.

physical barrier and a filter, as proposed, there would be less pollution from feed, faeces and chemical waste to the fish farms, fewer escapes from the rearing facility, less risk of disease to wild salmon and less need for antibiotics and treatments in raising fish.

The petition can be found on two websites: The Scottish Parliament website and Change.org for a better chance of gaining an MSP's interest.

On Change.org the petition is named Stop Salmon Farms Damaging the Marine Environment and on The Scottish Parliament website the petition is named 'PE01715: Closed-Containment for Salmon Farms in Scotland'. Visit both if you would like to contribute a signature.

The Change.org petition says: 'Self-regulation does not work. The salmon industry works with an, "out of sight, out of mind" philosophy and that must change.'