## APRIL 2024 - FISH FARM SURVEY RESULTS

Presented are the results of the survey on Fish Farms run between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 on the Isle of Bute by Bute Community Council.

The survey was available physically via provided paper forms at the following locations:

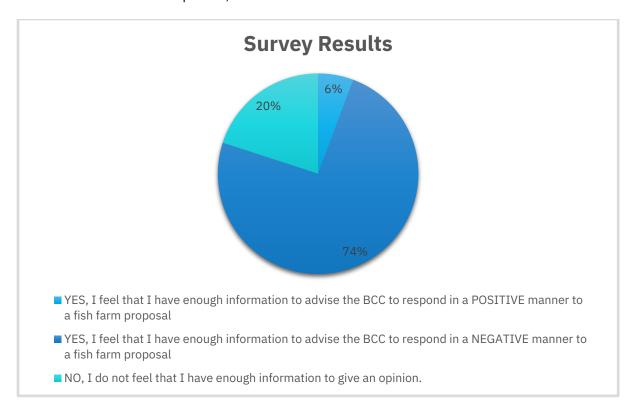
- Kilchattan Bay Post Office
- Port Bannatyne Post Office
- Rothesay Library

and online. The survey was promoted via ads in the Isle of Bute News and mentions at the BCC meetings.

The Survey asked the following questions:

Bute Community Council Survey 24 - 1
Name:
Address: Postcode:
BCC is polling to determine opinion regarding fish farms so to inform how we should respond in the event of a possible fish farm application.
<ol> <li>Do you feel that you have enough information at present to say whether BCC should respond in a positive or nega- tive manner to a fish farm proposal?</li> </ol>
<ul> <li>YES, I feel that I have enough information to advise the BCC to respond in a</li> <li>□ positive manner to a fish farm proposal</li> <li>□ negative manner to a fish farm proposal</li> <li>□ NO, I do not feel that I have enough information to give an opinion.</li> </ul>
2. If you answered <b>NO</b> to question 1, could you list the questions/concerns that you would like to ask/raise:

There were a total of 70 responses, 46 of which were from online.



Written Responses to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question are as follows:

## If you answered NO to question 1, could you list the questions, concerns or information that you would like to ask, raise or know:

Concerned about the impact on these waters, the creatures that live in them and the damage to the coastal environment.

How will the proposed fish farms impact the waters around Bute

I would like to know if Mowi's proposal is for the same site as Dawnfresh's was and also the number of cages proposed. In other words is it exactly the same as the previous application by Dawnfresh?

Would like to see full environmental impact assessment of proposal, is this available? I would like to see the proposed anchoring proposals for the nets, is this information available.

What chemicals and other biological agents would be used during the farming process. What is the principal constituent of the fish food.

How would the fish farm be serviced, would it be a fully remote operation, would it require vehicular access to the pier at Kilchattan Bay?

Is the proposal supported by and the the local Holyrood or Westminster MSP/MPs? What benefits would it bring to the residents of Kilchattan bay ...? Would there be a planning gain if approval for the farm was granted i.e monies to be spent on projects in the Village or bay area.

Thay the potential of waste from fish feed and faeces polluting the water and seabed around the proposed fish farm site leading to poor water and sediment quality.

Sea lice. Studdies show that in Scottish salmon farms" one fifth of all deaths are due to infestation by sea lice". I am concerned that lice (and other pathogens) can spread to the surrounding wildlife

The risk of algae blooms from any uneaten food and fish waste. When these get into the waterways, the nutrients they contain deplete oxygen in the water, killing wild aquatic life.

And ultimately, the knock of affect the above will have in the islands tourist industry. I advise the BCC to respond in a negative manner to a fish farm proposal due to the pollution risk from fish food, fish facias and the unsightly sight of floating debris scum on the surface of the water which will eventually land the beaches plus shoreline posing unnecessary health risk to beach users, costal walkers and the increasing numbers of wild swimmers. The water quality around Bute is crystal clean and attracts tourists to the island which is a very welcome lifeline revenue stream to the local businesses.

Scientific information about environmental impact of the fish farm on the immediate ecosystem. Info about economic impact on the island.

Would be good to better understand environmental impact of fish farms as well as the way a presence of a fish farm would affect local economy and community.

I'd like to know the detail of the design & everyday work which would take place on a new fish farm. Do they still use chemicals/antibiotics to maintain fish in a totally unnatural environment. Compare to their sophisticated natural environment. Consider the effect of such a contentious environment on the other species in the area. Look at the film on the Arran COAST website about the re-establishment of complex inter-related mass of species in their NO TAKE ZONE. Trips available to explain all aspects of Fish farming.

Our clean shores do not need to be made dirty with fish farms

For years they have been trying to push this agenda and been told time and time again no and here we are again! A firm no forever should be made strong from Bute so we do not have to come back to this same old question again as it will come back

I know nothing at all about fish farms. I have been told by my son that lots of fish are kept in small areas resulting in infections and infestations meaning the fish are unhealthy.

Pollution

Wildlife disturbance

Animal welfare

Salmon in open-net farms die from parasites, disease, and warming waters at a staggering rate. Estimates are that 15 to 20 percent of farmed salmon die each year before they are harvested; that is tens of millions of fish. By comparison, the mortality rate for factory chickens is 5 percent and 3.3 percent for feedlot cattle. Young wild salmon beginning their migration are especially vulnerable to the plumes of sea lice from the farms. Escaped farmed salmon compete with wild ones for food and weaken the gene pool through interbreeding.

I should like to understand the perceived pros + cons of fish farms around Bute.

- 1. Would the fish be kept healthy, ie no lice
- 2. Would the farm impinge on leisure [?]
- 3. will other methods of ecological sustainability be used eg increase seaweed or seafood eg [?] & improve water quality?
- 4. will the salmon be exported from Scotland

Fish Farms, why on our coastline

Future sites Impact on Bute Will we get a fish shop?

## what consideration has been given to native marine life? Has a 'no take zone' been considered for the sea around Bute?

there are too many negatives to list here but here is one: the hovering up of coastal waters to catch fish for fish meal to feed farmed fish is destroying the livelihood of small fishing businesses and independent fishermen in third world countries.

The downsides of fish farms are not just local, or even national. They are contributing to the decimation of marine life wordlwide.