

Report on Presentation to the Arran Community Council by Mark Edmonds from The Scottish Salmon Company on the 31st May 2011.

Mark distributed copies of the company background information and also the outline of the proposal being considered for the North of Arran. Copies of this material are available on the ACC website.

The company has plans to expand their operations in Scottish waters and already operate the site in Lamlash bay.

He confirmed that at this stage that Arran was one of several sites under consideration and that they have approximately six months of survey work to be completed and other details to collect before they will submit any formal application.

The proposal would be for between 12 - 16 circular cages arranged in two lines stretching almost 400 metres in length.

The site would be serviced from their existing Lamlash site by barge which would reduce any impact on road traffic.

It was anticipated that it would create approximately 3 fulltime and 2 part time jobs.

After his presentation several questions were raised by the council representatives.

- Potential impact on sailing activities in the area.
- Impact on sea life as a result of potential disease.
- Procedures to control any infection.
- Early warning procedures for local community in the event of chemical usage.
- Bio screening procedures for area.
- Potential risk to existing Dolphin and Seal populations.
- Based on other location issues where seals were culled would this be an issue at the Arran site?

Mark answered all the points and explained that with their experience at Lamlash and other sites they would have procedures in place to control any potential infection or contamination problems and the impact to other sea life would be minimalised. The management of this type of site has improved significantly from the days when seal populations were impacted and also the Scottish government have changed the laws in this area and this is no longer a feasible option.

A general point was raised regarding the content and quantity of food required for this type of business and the impact on world stocks. Mark did not have the full breakdown of the feed but said he would attempt to get more details.

In response to a question regarding the availability of the environmental assessments, Mark confirmed they would be made available at the time any planning submission was submitted.

Mark offered to return to the Community Council if the company decided to make any planning application and opened an invitation to the community councillors for a site visit in advance of any planning proposal.