



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Jenni Minto MSP
Member of The Scottish Parliament for Argyll & Bute

Gordon Watson
Chief Executive
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

30 August 2022

Dear Gordon,

Further to my email of 19/05/22 I am writing to encourage Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park to support Loch Long Salmon's proposals to bring semi-closed salmon farming to Scotland for the first time by granting approval for this technology at Benn Reithe on Loch Long (2021/0357/DET).

One of the aims of the National Park Partnership Plan is to address national priorities and achieve benefits for Scotland beyond the National Park boundaries. This project offers the Park the opportunity to play a significant role by allowing a project that can demonstrate technology that could help transform the environmental performance of the wider aquaculture sector in rural Scotland.

Aquaculture forms a significant and sustainable part of the Scottish Economy contributing to both exports and local communities in mainly rural areas of Scotland. As a member of the Rural Affairs Islands and Natural Environment Committee (RAINE) which took evidence from Professor Griggs on his Review of Scottish aquaculture and MSP for an area with considerable aquaculture activity, I am aware of both the benefits the industry brings and the challenges it faces. Proven technologies such as semi-closed containment offer an opportunity to vastly improve the sustainability and production output of aquaculture in Scotland.

Professor Griggs said in his evidence to RAINE, "It is clear that salmon farming now is a much more sophisticated industry than it was...and that pace of change is accelerating".

60-62 Hillfoot Street, Dunoon, PA23 7DT
jenni.minto.msp@parliament.scot
01369 707687

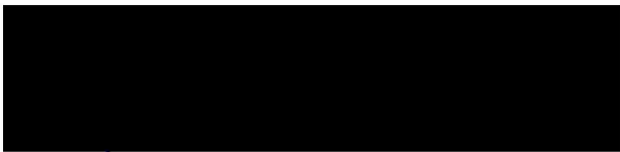
 [facebook.com/JenniMintoSNP](https://www.facebook.com/JenniMintoSNP)  [@jenni_minto](https://twitter.com/jenni_minto)

The use of semi-closed containment technology in Scotland, as it is in Norway, will be a significant step in that acceleration and could help transform the aquaculture sector in this country, aid the production of a low-carbon food source, safeguard the natural environment and protect jobs in rural and coastal communities.

I understand that Scottish Government officials have described this application as "significant" and that SEPA has conducted a thorough assessment of the impact to the seabed and water quality, granting a CAR licence.

To reiterate, this project aligns with the aims of the LLTTNP and allows the Park to achieve benefits beyond the National Park boundaries. I hope the National Park will take this opportunity to support sustainable economic development, which could not only aid the region but also position the National Park and as leaders in changing the wider aquaculture industry in Scotland for the better.

Best Wishes,



Jenni Minto MSP
Argyll & Bute