

From [REDACTED]  
To: SASWG Members

Please find my analysis for SASWG 17 of the Seal Licence figures provided by Marine Scotland 2011-15 inclusive, and my predictions for 2016:

1. Total Seals reported shot 2011-15 = 1,531
  - **Total seals shot: 1,245 Grey and 286 common**
  - **Average number shot is 306 seals per year**
2. Reported shootings fell from 461 in 2011 to 160 in 2015
  - **Overall reduction in seals shot 2011-15 is 65%**
3. Total licences granted: 66 in 2011 to 53\* in 2015  
\*(incl 2 pending in 2015 ( PSD))
  - **The overall reduction in licences granted 2011-15 is 20%**

2011: 66 licences: 32 PHW and 34 PSD  
2015: 53 licences: 29 PHW and 24 PSD

  - **Reduction in licences: 9% for POHW and 29% for PSD**
4. Reductions in grey and common shootings are:  
  
2011: 368 grey and 93 common (461)  
2015: 118 grey and 42 common (160)
  - **Reduction in grey seals shot is 68%**
  - **Reduction in common seals shot is 64%**
5. In 2011, 241 (52%) seals were shot across 235 fish-farms  
In 2011, 218 (48%) seals shot over 40 fisheries and netting stations.  
  
In 2015, 79 (49%) were shot across 214 fish farms  
In 2015, 81 (51%) were shot at over 40 fisheries and netting stations
6. % seals shot by aquaculture by FF accredited farms
  - **In 2011: c 60+ seals\* c26%**
  - **In 2015: 41 seals 52%**

\*(no definite figure provided)

7. During 2015 the greater number of seals shot were by:

<b>1. Moray Firth Management Group:</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>2. Usan Fisheries (Scottish Wild Salmon Company):</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>3. Marine Harvest (FF accredited)</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4. Scottish Seafarms: (FF accredited)</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>5. Scottish Salmon Company: (supply Waitrose)</b>	<b>11</b>

8. In 2011, 32% of licence holders shot no seals  
In 2015, 44% of licence holders shot no seals.

- **Number of licence holders not shooting seals has risen from 32% - 44%**

9. Total shooting by area and species 2011-15, with % increase or decrease:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>%+-</u>
<b>East Coast:</b>	<b>133 grey + 0 common</b>	<b>(-87%)</b>
<b>Moray Firth:</b>	<b>159 grey + 30 common</b>	<b>(+68%)</b>
<b>Orkney and North Coast:</b>	<b>497 grey + 9 common</b>	<b>(-77%)</b>
<b>Shetland:</b>	<b>234 grey + 7 common</b>	<b>(-86%)</b>
<b>SW Scotland:</b>	<b>9 grey + 23 common</b>	<b>(-91%)</b>
<b>W Scotland:</b>	<b>115 grey + 201 common</b>	<b>(-42%)</b>
<b>W Isles:</b>	<b>98 grey + 16 common</b>	<b>(-67%)</b>

10. Shooting per area and species comparison 2011 to 2015:

	<u>2011</u>	-	<u>2015</u>
<b>East Coast:</b>	<b>46 grey + 0 common</b>	-	<b>6 grey + 0 common</b>
<b>Moray Firth:</b>	<b>16 grey + 6 common</b>	-	<b>32 grey + 5 common</b>
<b>Orkney/N.Coast:</b>	<b>167 grey + 4 common</b>	-	<b>39 grey + 0 common</b>
<b>Shetland:</b>	<b>69 grey + 2 common</b>	-	<b>10 grey + 0 common</b>
<b>SW Scotland:</b>	<b>4 grey + 12 common</b>	-	<b>1 grey + 0 common</b>
<b>W.Scotland:</b>	<b>36 grey + 58 common</b>	-	<b>18 grey + 36 common</b>
<b>W Isles:</b>	<b>28 grey + 11 common</b>	-	<b>12 grey + 1 common</b>

11. Shooting per area as % of total 2011-15 (1,531) and 2015 (160):

	<u>2011-15</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Orkney/ N.Coast:</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>W Scotland:</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>34% (+)</b>
<b>Shetland:</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Moray Firth:</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>23% (+)</b>
<b>W Isles:</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>8% (+)</b>
<b>E Coast</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>SW Scotland</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

12. In April 2016, a three-year coastal netting ban was introduced to protect wild salmon. This will help protect wild stocks, but should also further significantly reduce shooting of seals. It will also focus more attention on aquaculture which was responsible for 49% of seals shot in 2015.

1. The biggest individual seal shooting companies in 2015 were both RSPCA - FF accredited salmon producers that supply both Sainsbury's and Waitrose
2. In 2014, (number to be provided by FF) almost 70% of seals shot by aquaculture were at FF accredited sites.
3. In 2015, 41 seals were reported shot to FF, 52% of those reported shot by aquaculture overall.
4. It would be a useful to compare the numbers reported shot on licence returns to Marine Scotland with the 41 reported to FF and SASWG members for 2015 to see if they correlate.

13. 2016 analysis 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters:

46 Seal Licences were granted in 2016: 28 for Protection of Health and Welfare (PHW) from 29 in 2015 (-3%), 18 for Prevention of Serious Damage (PSD) from 24 in 2015 (-25%)

- **46 Seal Licences were granted in 2016 (53 in 2015) a reduction of 13%**
- **PHW represents 63% of all licences granted in 2016**
- **PHW represented 48% of all licences granted in 2011**
- **PSD represents 37% of all licences granted in 2016**
- **PSD represented 52% of all licences granted in 2011**

Seal Licences for aquaculture\*\*:

29 licences for PHW + 1 for PSD in 2015,  
28 licences for PHW + 1 for PSD in 2016

(\*\*across 214 fish farms both years)

- **PHW now represents 97% of all licences granted for aquaculture in 2016, only 3% for PSD**
- **PHW represented 48% of all licences granted for aquaculture in 2011, 52% for PSD**

Seals reported shot 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2016:

- **36 grey + 7 common in 2016 = 43**
- **86 grey + 24 common in 2015 = 110**
- **This represents a reduction of 61% on 2015**

Prediction for 2016, total using quarters 3/4 (40 grey and 18 common) from 2015 as guide:

- **Predicted total for 2016 = 101 seals shot**
- **If correct, this would represent a 72% reduction on 2011 figures, but reduction may be greater still due to netting ban.**