

Sea lice monitoring report for Kanaird River estuary, 26th May 2025

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Sea trout data (see page 3 for other fish)

Location: Kanaird estuary																					
Date:	26-May-25	Time:	12.00 noon for 1st sweep																		
*Counts:	Peter Cunningham																				
Team:	Peter C plus 6 helpers																				
Weather:	SW wind and heavy showers, cold for time of year - after several warm, dry and sunny weeks up to last weekend																				
Other notes:	3 sweeps - all shorter than usual because of heavy flow and filamentous algae clogging the net, making it too heavy to pull																				
	water visibility poor - less than 1m so not possible to see all the snags on the seabed. One snorkeller, plus two others on far side.																				
	two salmon caught further upstream																				
	weights +/- about 5g - wind too strong to keep scales steady																				

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Summary of sea lice infestation scores

Mortality / early returned estimates for sea trout in sample based on method from Taranger et al 2015, Risk assessment for the environmental impact of Norwegian salmon farming ([PDF](#)) [Risk assessment of the environmental impact of Norwegian Atlantic salmon farming \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Fish no.	≥13 lice/fish?	Lice/g fish weight	Range	Mortality category	Number of fish in category	Total number of fish in sample	% of sample in category	projected mortality for category %	projected mortality of fish in sample %
1	No	0.029	>0.3	100%	3	7	42.86	42.86	
2	No	0.000	0.2-0.3	50%	1		14.29	7.14	
3	Yes	0.300	0.1-0.2	20%	0		0.00	0.00	
4	Yes	1.135	<0.1	0%	3		42.86	0.00	50.00
5	Yes	1.977							
6	Yes	0.500							
7	No	0.000							

Notes:

based on the assumption that small salmonid post-smolts (<150g body weight) will suffer 100% lice-related marine mortality, or return prematurely to freshwater for sea trout in the wild if the are infected with >0.3 lice per g of fish weight. Furthermore, the lice related marine mortality is estimated to 50%, if the infection is between 0.2 and 0.3 lice per g fish weight, 20% if the infection rate is between 0.1 and 0.2 lice per g fish weight, and finally 0% if the salmon lice infection is <0.1 g fish weight.

0.05 and 0.1 lice per g fish weight, 20% for lice infections between 0.05 and 0.01 lice per g fish weight, and finally 0% if the salmon lice infection is <0.01 lice g fish weight.

colour code

Taranger, G. L., Karlsen, Ø., Bannister, R. J., Glover, K. A., Husa, V., Karlsbakk, E., Kvamme, B. O., Boxaspen, K. K., Bjørn, P. A., Finstad, B., Madhun, A. S., Morton, H. C., and Sva'sand, T. (2014) Risk assessment of the environmental impact of Norwegian Atlantic salmon farming. – ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsu132.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266672998_Risk_assessment_of_the_environmental_impact_of_Norwegian_Atlantic_salmon_farming

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Other fish in sample

Length
(mm)

8	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		130
9	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		130
10	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		155
11	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		178
12	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		85
13	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		80
14	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		86
15	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	flounder		77
16	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		145
17	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		135
18	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		128
19	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		115
20	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		105
21	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		152
22	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		114
23	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	15sp stbk		38

24	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		80	
25	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		80	
26	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		85	
27	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		90	
28	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		85	
29	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	3sp stbk		77	
30	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	seascorp		100	no little fil
31	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	seascorp		148	no little fil
32	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	seascorp		102	no little fil
33	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	vip blen		90	
34	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	vip blen		98	
35	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	vip blen		168	
36	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	vip blen		90	
37	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	prawn			
38	Kanaird	26-May-25	Sweep Net	est	prawn			

Abbreviations

15sp stbk 15-spined stickleback

3sp stbk 3-spined stickleback

seascopr Seascorpion sp., thought to
be long-spined sea scorpion
as no filament on jaw (photos
to check)

vip blen Viviparous blenny

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Netting team photo Kanaird 26th May 2025



Acknowledgements

Monitoring to inform the Ardmail salmon farm Environment Management Plan supported by MOWI

For permissions to sweep net for sea trout, thank to Keanchulish Estate and Jamie Bain for use of vehicle for carrying equipment to the shore.

Thank you to volunteers for helping.

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Photos: all ©WRFT unless otherwise indicated. All fish in photos were lightly sedated for inspection then returned to the sea after recovery.

Sea trout 168mm, Kanaird estuary, 26th May 25. 42 copepod and chalimus lice



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Sea trout 177mm, Kanaird estuary, 26th May 2025. 85 copepod and chalimus lice, dorsal fin damage score 1.5 (just over a third of fin damaged)



Fish and prawns in tub photos by CH

