

Peter Cunningham (WRFT Biologist) 29th Aug 2025 info@wrft.org.uk

Location:	Torridon river estuary			
Date:	27-Aug-25	Time:	from 13:00	High tide
*Counts:	Peter Cunningham			
Team:	6 assistants			
Weather:	light easterly wind, overcast 80% cloud, warm. Torridon river running low, so not so much freshwater in estuary			
River	low, warm			
Other notes:	5 sweeps of channel after high tide to low estuary stake trout caught on sweep 1 and sweep 2 no signs of fish - offshore wind not so good			

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Sea lice monitoring report for Torridon 27th August 2025

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Summary

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 \(researchgate.net\)](#)

lo.	≥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	0.055	>0.3	100%	0	2	0.00	0.00	
2	No	0.000	0.2-0.3	50%	0		0.00	0.00	
			0.1-0.2	20%	0		0.00	0.00	
			<0.1	0%	2		100.00	0.00	0.00

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.,				100% sea lice related mortality or early return to freshwater					
Madhun, A. S., Morton, H. C., and Sva`sand, T. (2014) Risk assessment of the environmental impact of Norwegian Atlantic salmon farming.				>50% to 99% sea lice related mortality or early return to freshwater					
– ICES Journal of Marine Science, doi: 10.1093/icesjms/fsu132.				>20% to 50% sea lice related mortality or early return to freshwater					
				<20% sea lice related mortality or early return to freshwater					
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/266672998_Risk_assessment_of_the_environmental_impact_of_Norwegian_Atlantic_salmon_farming									

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Thank you to NTS Torridon estate for access and Torridon River fisheries proprietors for permissions to net trout in the Torridon river estuary.

Sea trout sampling carried out to inform the Loch Torridon salmon farms Environment Management Plan for The Highland Council, supported by MOWI, Bakkafrost and WRASFB.

Pics by CH

