

22. June 2024

Dear Sirs,

I write to convey my utter dismay at the draft Aquaculture policy brought out on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Iceland is seen as the last bastion for migrating fish due to climate change and human intervention. Here, the Atlantic salmon, sea trout and char fisheries are at stake, apart from all the Icelandic people and communities - especially those off the beaten tourist path - who subsist from them and the tourists that they attract.

Iceland has always had a connection to its environment, especially to its waters and fish making the decision all the harder to comprehend.

Everybody knows that open-pen farming is not sustainable, that it damages the environment and destroys the fisheries they are situated in and around the world. Look no further than to what is happening in Norway this year, where they have had to close most rivers as the numbers of Atlantic salmon have nosedived. Is the environment, fish stock and people's livelihoods not of concern? Short-termism is not the answer no matter what you being told by the Aquaculture sector.

Land based contained farming is the way forward, clearly. I hope that logic prevails over greed and votes.

I'm glad to see that Canada are banning open-net farming as of 2029, can Iceland retake its crown and ban it sooner?

Respectfully yours,

Adrian Grose-Hodge