

PE1715/A

Scottish Government submission of 2 August 2019

- The Scottish Government is aware of the petition calling on legislation to be adopted that would move all salmon farms in Scotland to close-containment. The Scottish Government supports improvements to husbandry and production methods which reduce impact of risk and support sustainability. Close-containment, as a production method, is one option available to industry and may solve certain challenges but can introduce its own unique set of potential issues, particularly with regards water quality, water chemistry and dissolved gas management – each of which produces their own health risks.
- The Scottish Government supports the sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry and see it as vital that the sector itself leads the way in identifying and developing technological innovation that will enable future sustainable growth, with Government, academia and other agencies supporting that endeavour through appropriate incentives.
- The Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) is already supporting significant work on potential innovation in the sector including closed containment, which as a concept is not new and officials have met with a number of parties who are interested in developing such technology in Scotland (recognising that currently there is no evidence of commercial viability of wholly closed containment). Indeed there are many examples of companies looking at alternative farming approaches and differing locations.
- The Scottish Government and its enterprise agencies is actively engaged with SAIC as it looks to identify how innovation can be exploited by the sector to facilitate its sustainable growth, maximising the funding potential of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other revenue streams.