FISH FARMS PLANNED FOR SOUTH SKYE LOCHS

SLEAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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This ‘information pack’ HOLES has been delivered to you free by Sleat Community Council. It has been specially written and published for Sleat by local biologist/author James Merryweather of Auchtertyre (www.blue-skye.org.uk) with the cost of printing covered by a generous local donor.

Hjaltland Seafarms Ltd. have submitted planning applications for net-cage salmon farms to be installed (they intend) in Loch Slapin and Loch Eishort. The purpose of this book is to provide everyone concerned about these proposals with information they might need when commenting on each planning application during The Highland Council’s 28-day periods of public consultation.

Congratulations, Sleat, for all the excellent comment letters sent in (against 68:2 for), the authoritative content of which the planning officers surely took into account when reaching their decision to refuse Hjaltland’s application to install a fish farm in Loch Slapin, off Stac Suisnish.

Our busy lives are already full, but we still have to go through this laborious procedure again, twice more at least. Hjaltland already have applications in the pipeline for two fish farms in Loch Eishort: one south of Suisnish and another to be situated offshore between Tocabhaig and Tarscabhaig.

There is currently some delay, possibly because the council has been made aware – by us – of the appalling quality (as usual) of the documents submitted by Hjaltland to support these applications (see HOLES pp. 44-49). Sleat residents and friends on the Community Council’s contact list will be informed when this hiatus in the planning process ends and public consultation is imminent.

When consultation time comes, and you wish to submit comments for or against fish farms in Loch Eishort, please visit the council’s website http://highland.gov.uk and follow through from View planning applications to Make a Public Comment for each. The plans that most concern us are coded:

Suisnish (Eishort 1) **14/02574/FUL** and Tarscabhaig (Eishort 2) **14/02577/FUL**

A full discussion of contributing comments in a public consultation is in HOLES Chapter 10 What can we ordinary people do? and visit www.sleatcommunitycouncil.org.uk (Planning and Licensing).