Fidra workshop: Improving Transparency and Traceability of Farmed Scottish Salmon to Support Climate- and Biodiversity- Responsible Sourcing.

Objectives of the workshop:
•To explore how the supply chain can support the salmon farming industry to minimise or mitigate environmental impacts, in the light of the present climate and biodiversity crises;
•To explore opportunities to increase consumer confidence and access to environmental performance data, through increased transparency on individual farm data including certification, and information at point of sale by the supply chain.

Current challenges identified:
For retailers: public perception, accessible data, placing information on labels, limited industry improvement.
For industry: The increasing number of impacts from climate change e.g. emerging pathogens, diseases, impacts on fish feed etc, social licenses to operate.
For government/ regulators: resources to improve data collection, communication and accessibility.
For general public/ local communities: A lack of accessible information and context about the salmon they are eating and how its production impacts the environment.

Opportunities identified:
For retailers: on pack labelling with the name of the source farm for Scottish salmon products gives retailers the opportunity to be fully transparent with their customers. It will also drive industry to improve standards.
For industry: There are examples of best practice that can be followed, i.e. ASC certification. Standardised, simplified, digitised datasets across supply and value chains.
For government/ regulators: The development of the government's Vision for Aquaculture is an opportunity to develop a comprehensive database to display regulatory and public-facing information on salmon farms, this is also a way to enforce consistent reporting within the sector.
For general public/ local communities: giving the public access to the full story through context and accessible information will allow the public to see the impact a salmon product has had on the environment and make informed purchasing possible.

Takeaways and concluding remarks
Throughout the sector there is already a lot of data available, but the way this data is communicated must be changed. The coordination and context of data is important in order to make it palatable and purposeful.
Additionally, there is a need to address audiences with the right data. Industry, consumers, retailers and regulators all need different levels of access to data. To accommodate this, its collection and communication should be standardised across the supply chain. At the point that it reaches the public, information should be aggregated to show farm performance in an easily understandable format.
Participants agreed there is a continued need to change how information is accessed. A single, central database with relevant and user-friendly information could be used by the whole supply chain to clearly show how salmon farms are performing. By clearly communicating this, retailers and suppliers can verify the performance of their own supply chain and show a desire for minimising environmental impacts of Scottish salmon farming. This could change how the industry performs and is viewed.

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Takeaways and concluding remarks continued:
There is a responsibility from every part of the supply chain to ensure improved traceability and transparency. It is imperative that as the Vision for Aquaculture is developed, collaboration between stakeholders continues, including on a comprehensive database. The industry has the opportunity to proactively highlight best practice and demonstrate a world leading, transparent culture.

Summary of Discussion Group outcomes:

Data availability and transparency

- Need to make data palatable, aimed at specific audiences and purposeful.
- There is already a lot of data available but need to change how data is being communicated (need context, coordination, definitions, and trends).
- Concerns over misuse and reputational damage over sharing data, aquaculture needs to build trust and sell the industry.
- Overall agreement that there needs to be visible user-friendly data which is easily accessible.
- Information on websites and QR codes are not enough.

Innovation and adaptive management

- Lots of innovation already in production systems and fish health/ feed – this needs to be shared within industry to improve best practice (more transparency around what's working well).
- Innovation needs to be easier, needs to be a framework to support innovation considering, cost, transition to production, and ways to incentivise.
- Scope for innovation to be better in Scotland.
- Cumulative effects of innovation need to be risk assessed.

Climate change impacts and challenges

- The climate emergency is presenting a multitude of issues for Scottish Salmon farming (pressure on food sources, feed, pathogens, low oxygen, gill issues, etc.).
- Good awareness of carbon footprint (CF) within the sector but something with low CF could be harmful in other ways.
- Concerns with trade-off between with reducing emissions and reducing welfare. E.g., proportions of fish oil in feed, important for fish health but high CF.
- Data collected could help with 'early warning system' to mitigate impacts.
- Climate change is driving innovation for solutions e.g., Smolt growth technologies, RAS, genetics.

Information from other nations, collaboration and comparison:

- Norway has good support from government e.g. Barents Watch database.
- Land Animal Proteins (LAPs – also formerly known as Animal By-Products or ABPs) are used widely in Canada.
- Scotland needs to consider investment, removing risk, clearer and quicker consenting regime, and focusing more on addressing moral and ethical issues within the sector.

Type of stakeholder	Number attended
Retailers	2
Certification schemes	4
Government	3
Industry	5
Transparency schemes	1
NGOs	2
Academics	1

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