

To the Clerk of the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

I am writing to provide a technical observation regarding the "voluntary measures" mentioned in the evidence session of 11 March 2026.

With 30 years of RNLI service and experience in specialized safety oversight for **BP Jigsaw** and **Seacroft Marine Consultancy**, I am concerned that the move away from further regulation lacks a framework for **independent verification**. Currently, qualified consultants offering to integrate Biosecurity and Risk Assessments in line with the **Workboat Code Edition 3** are not being engaged by major operators. Without a mandated "Collaborative Working Standard," voluntary improvements remain unverifiable and inconsistent.

I request that this observation be noted as the Committee finalizes its report on the salmon farming industry.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Henderson

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