

To all Ministers and Legislative Members of Althingi,

I write to encourage you to curtail the practice of Open Net Pen Farming. Please do not view this as a choice between jobs and the environment. This is a choice between life and death. The Icelandic coastline is the most beautiful in the world. It is brimming with life - from Whales, Turtles, Crustaceans and of course the most wild and beautiful population of Wild Atlantic Salmon left on Earth. The moment those Open Net Pen Farms are established, all of those things will decline. Salmon, in particular, will be driven to extinction.

Some say the scientific evidence is not definitive. Just visit any river that has an ONP in its mouth for 10 or more years and you will find devastation. Take the Inverailort River in Scotland. It was one of the most beautiful historic and prolific salmon rivers in the world. Unilever began operating an ONP there 40 years ago and today salmon fishing is a thing of the past. The sea floor is piled with 3 feet of excrement. The food chain is dead.

Please read this more recent longitudinal study conducted by the Department of Fisheries in Newfoundland covering a 40 year time period. It concludes the effects of ONP eclipse those of climate change by swarming lice, infectious disease, predation and hybridization. The population of salmon has declined by 92%. Please read for yourself: <https://doi.org/10.1080/23308249.2024.2341023>

Livelihoods and jobs are important. But people only live where they live because of a welcoming and productive environment. Iceland has an environment unique in the world - the envy of all other countries. The destination of the world. If we allow MOWI, Arnalax and the others to have their way, we will destroy our oceans and wild salmon. ONPs are floating death camps and should be banned globally. Let's start with Iceland.

Thank you for your bravery and consideration.  
Alex Taylor  
Chairman, CEO