

Date of engagement	Name of individual(s)	Role of individual(s)	Subject of discussion
11/06/2026	David Green MSP	MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	Provided an introductory briefing to the member for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross to introduce the salmon sector and its impact on rural communities. Highlighted that the industry contributes £307 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) and supports 3,500 local jobs across the Highlands. Raised the urgent need for a streamlined regulatory framework and faster consenting processes to unlock sustainable growth. Requested support for delivering better business regulation to remove complex burdens and secure future investment.
11/06/2026	Andrew Baxter MSP	MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	Provided an introductory briefing to the member for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch to outline the salmon sector's role in sustaining rural economies. Highlighted that the industry supports 3,530 Highlands jobs and contributes £307 million in GVA. Raised specific challenges regarding protracted consenting delays that create a competitive disadvantage for Scottish businesses. Requested assistance in urging the government to streamline aquaculture regulation, remove complex administrative burdens, and protect vital inward investment.
11/06/2026	Jamie Langan MSP	MSP for South Scotland	Provided an introductory briefing to the member for South Scotland to introduce the salmon sector and its wider supply chain footprint. Emphasised that the industry supports 11,000 jobs across the country and delivers a combined GVA of £953 million. Highlighted key asks around reducing complex regulatory costs and implementing streamlined processes. Requested the member's support to advocate for better regulation that eliminates administrative duplication and protects rural economic growth.
11/06/2026	Max Bannerman MSP	MSP for Highlands and Islands	Provided an introductory briefing to the member for the Highlands and Islands to highlight the salmon sector's role in countering rural depopulation. Noted the industry supports 6,390 local jobs and contributes £567 million in regional GVA. Raised the critical need for a streamlined, faster consenting process to prevent the loss of private investment. Requested backing for better regulation to simplify aquaculture licensing and remove unnecessary barriers to sustainable growth.

16/06/2026	Jim Fairlie MSP	Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands	Provided a briefing to the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands at Aquaculture UK to outline sector economic value and strong welfare standards. Reaffirmed commitment to fish health, noting Scottish salmon already operates under high statutory oversight, RSPCA higher welfare standards, and 1,600 annual audits. Highlighted progress through parliamentary inquiries and Scottish Animal Welfare Commission reviews leading to statutory guidance under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Raised concerns that extending a UK Animal Welfare Committee review to Scotland duplicates established devolved controls and creates unnecessary regulatory burden.
18/06/2026	Jim Fairlie MSP	Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands	Provided a follow-up briefing to the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands at the Royal Highland Show regarding sector priorities. The discussion focused on maintaining a competitive business regime and addressing infrastructure challenges, such as island connectivity delays affecting exports. Re-emphasised the need for proportionate, evidence-led regulation to give businesses the confidence to invest and protect rural jobs.
18/06/2026	Gillian Martin MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Climate Actions and Rural Affairs	Provided a briefing to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs at the Royal Highland Show regarding sector priorities. Highlighted that producer members invested £107 million into carbon reduction initiatives and technology in 2024 to support net zero goals. The discussion focused on the sector's environmental stewardship and economic contribution to rural areas. Raised the need for a proportionate, evidence-led approach to regulation to unlock long-term green investment.
18/06/2026	Donald MacKinnon MSP	MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar	Provided an introductory briefing to the member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar at the Royal Highland Show to highlight the salmon sector's local impact. Noted the industry contributes £151 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) and supports more than 420 constituency jobs. The discussion focused on how the sector helps address rural depopulation and strengthens food security. Raised the need for a proportionate, evidence-led approach to regulation to build investment confidence.