



PRESS RELEASE

September 27 2018 - For immediate release

New honey and bumble bee project for Loch Duart Plan Bee work with salmon farm to grow Uist & Sutherland bee populations

In a first for Scottish salmon farms Loch Duart, the independent salmon farming company, has partnered with award winning environmental organisation Plan Bee Ltd. to protect Scotland's unique pollinators, the honey and bumble bees.

The partners have launched a long term strategic biodiversity initiative, with hives installed at a Sutherland site near the farm. This first stage of the project aims to encourage and sustain Scottish honey bee populations in the remote far North West coast of Scotland, which has a unique microclimate that provides a welcome home for the new bee populations.

Loch Duart is also supporting Plan Bee to increase awareness of and improve biodiversity in local communities near their farms. Starting in Spring 2019 Plan Bee will work with schools in Sutherland and Uist, to establish and enhance habitats for native bumble bees.

Alison Bell, Managing Director of Plan Bee Ltd., said:

"From our very first meeting with Loch Duart, hearing of their dedication to sustainable farming methods and their high quality Scottish provenance, we knew a partnership was meant to be. Plan Bee is focused on protecting British honey bees, but also engaging local communities in providing habitats for native pollinators. Loch Duart is a significant local employer that cares deeply about its local environment, so really this amazing partnership is a summation of the values that drive both of our businesses."

"Of course having the two project sites located in Scotland's incredible, world renowned Highlands and Islands means we can have a positive environmental impact that will be appreciated for generations to come. Salmon lovers can enjoy each bite knowing their delicious healthy meal is also helping protect our bees."

Alban Denton, Managing Director of Loch Duart, said:

"Loch Duart is very conscious about the role that agricultural businesses like ours have working in this beautiful environment."

"By taking a proactive approach and choosing a partner company like Plan Bee that fitted with our ethos and principles, we can make a small contribution to the vital role that this wonderful creature has in supporting sustainability and biodiversity in Uist and Sutherland."

Loch Duart's new Plan Bee hives located in Sutherland are just part of an extensive pollinator project. With a long term approach to these projects the aim is to plant a range of native flowers and wild forage gardens in the areas. Plan Bee will provide Loch Duart with a

bee management plan and a dedicated beekeeper who conducts regular site visits and assessments to ensure the good health of both bees and plants.

The project will also provide resources for local schools to plant their own wildlife gardens with pollinator friendly, native flora in both Uist and Sutherland. Through Plan Bee's education programme, children will take part in workshops to explore Biodiversity in the distinctive ecosystems of this part of Scotland.

Honey produced in the hives will be used in Loch Duart salmon recipes. Patrick Evans, Loch Duart's Food Ambassador, will devise and share several honey glazed Loch Duart Salmon recipes in support of the British honey bee.

Bee Facts:

- it's estimated that around 300,000 bees will populate the hives at Loch Duart
- the Sutherland beehive is believed to be the furthest north on the UK mainland
- there are 250 species of bees in the UK, but only one honey bee (*Apis Mellifera*) and just 24 bumble bee species

Ends

For more information on Loch Duart Salmon visit www.lochduart.com

For more information on Plan Bee visit www.planbeeltd.com

Further enquiries for Loch Duart:

Graeme Thomson, Spreng Thomson **Tel:** 0141 548 5191

Mobile: 07774 546909

Email: graemet@sprengthomson.com

Notes to editors:

Loch Duart Ltd is an independent Scottish salmon farm based in North West Scotland. Producing around 5,000 tonnes per year, it employs 115 people in the Hebrides and Sutherland. The salmon is sold to leading hotels, restaurants and retailers at home and abroad. Loch Duart's unique farming methods include low density farming, a unique rotational fallowing system, swim-throughs and feed from sustainable sources to ensure lean, fit fish. Loch Duart's industry leading innovations include:

1. The first fish farm in the world to achieve RSPCA Freedom Food approval.
2. Loch Duart's unique strategy of long term rotational fallowing optimised for each sea site according to conditions and fish numbers.
3. In 2004, specifying sustainably sourced marine ingredients from traceable, identifiable lots for its salmon feed.
4. Inventing a drum filter which can filter sea water down to 100 micron to collect any parasites and their eggs in the heavy water flows taken from the pens.
5. In 2015 securing a source of capelin 'trimmings' for all the company's fishmeal requirements to enhance the sustainability and quality criteria of Loch Duart's salmon feed.
6. Practising 'environmental enrichment' in their fresh water operations to stimulate the young salmon and improve welfare.

Plan Bee Ltd:

- Plan Bee is a beehive management company based in Motherwell Scotland
- Plan Bee is a multiple award winning eco-innovation and sustainability business that has worked with some of Britain's leading organisations such as St Andrews Links, Visit Scotland, L'Oréal, Kellogs and many others.