



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Loch Duart Shortlisted for the Best Rural Food & Drink Business in UK Award**

Loch Duart, the salmon farm based in Sutherland and the Uists, has been shortlisted for the Rural Business Awards North in the Best Rural Food & Drink Business category. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year as an independent Scottish salmon farming business Loch Duart has recently launched 'Salmon Pool' a partnership with their fish feed supplier, Cargill Aqua Nutrition. The fund is available to charities and projects providing support to the local community.

Alban Denton, Managing Director of Loch Duart, said:

*"Scotland is rightfully renowned for its world beating food and drink sector, so for Loch Duart to be shortlisted as one of the North's Best Rural Food & Drink Businesses is a great honour. Awards like the Rural Business Awards are brilliant at highlighting the huge contribution that rural businesses, projects and entrepreneurs contribute to the UK economy. Loch Duart is proud to be a Highlands and Islands business which relies on the fantastic talent and hard work of our rural communities. We look forward to meeting some of the other wonderful rural business finalists at the presentation in Newcastle, later this year."*

Director and Co-Founder of The Rural Business Awards, Anna Price, said:

*"The 2019/20 Awards have seen record numbers of entries and it's encouraging to see so many rural businesses express a desire to celebrate their successes on a regional and national scale. We are passionate about creating a nurturing environment where rural businesses can develop, and this starts by showcasing the great work they do. On behalf of everyone at the Rural Business Awards, we want to say well done to Loch Duart, and all the shortlisted businesses, and wish them luck ahead of the regional finals."*

Loch Duart salmon is sold to leading hotels, restaurants and retailers at home and abroad and their environmentally sensitive approaches is employed on farms at a number of small sites, some of which have been rearing salmon for over forty years. Since launching in 2018 the Salmon Pool fund has distributed in excess of £31K to over 10 projects. The Rural Business Awards (RBAs) host a series of regional finals in the North, East, Midlands, South East, South West, Wales and Northern Ireland, throughout October and November 2019, ahead of the National Final in February 2020. The North Region Awards Presentation takes place on Friday 11th October 2019 at - The Core, Newcastle University.

The RBAs were established in 2014 by Jemma Clifford and Anna Price – two business owners who work in rural Leicestershire, with the aim of celebrating the achievements of rural businesses and developing a strong network for rural business owners. The first Awards were presented in October 2015 and the RBAs are now entering their 5th year and are held in partnership with Amazon headline partners for the third year running.

For more information on Loch Duart Salmon visit [www.lochduart.com](http://www.lochduart.com)

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#### **Further enquiries for Loch Duart:**

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#### **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 supplied 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:

- The first fish farm in the world to achieve RSPCA Freedom Food approval.
- Loch Duart's unique strategy of long term rotational fallowing optimised for each sea site according to conditions and fish numbers.
- In 2004, specifying sustainably sourced marine ingredients from traceable, identifiable lots for its salmon feed.
- 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.
- In 2015 securing a source of Icelandic fishmeal to enhance the sustainability and quality criteria of Loch Duart's salmon feed.
- Practising 'environmental enrichment' in their fresh water operations to stimulate the young salmon and improve welfare.

#### **To date the Salmon Pool fund has supported these projects:**

- Scourie Primary - outdoor clothing and learning equipment
- Durness Golf Club - new equipment
- North Uist United Juniors FC - new equipment
- Scourie Community Council – enhancing the community play-park
- Connect Assynt Ltd - to extend the community transport service
- Scourie & Badcall Grazings Committee - to complete footpath network
- North Sutherland Sportive - Hall fees for Jujitsu group
- Lochinver Public Hall - to enhance the exterior
- Kinlochbervie Primary - experience of working with horses for children with Downs Syndrome
- Uist Coastal Rowing Club - towards a new Skiff boat
- Community Care Assynt - purchase of defibrillator

