Salmon aquaculture is worth close to US $20 billion annually with 96% of production concentrated in just four countries. and 50% of production controlled by 10 multinational companies.

Mortality rates on salmon farms are high with the major contributing factors being:

- Estimated cost of mortalities is $15.5 billion with the top 10 producers responsible for 100 million salmon deaths and escapes since 2013.

- Lice and disease spread are a result of high stocking densities designed to increase productivity. This is arguably a false economy: since 2013 lice control alone has cost the sector over $4 billion.

- Aquafeed is the single largest cost centre for salmon farmers, driven by the high cost of fishmeal and fish oil (FMFO), derived from wild fish. We estimate over the period 2013–2019 that the cumulative costs of using marine ingredients in salmon farming is over $8 billion.

Read the full report at justeconomics.co.uk/deadloss
Yet there is a strong ‘willingness to pay’ amongst consumers in the four countries to preserve wild salmon. As a result we estimate a loss to communities of £308 million since 2013. Pollutants from salmon aquaculture include uneaten feed and faeces, which are directly discharged into the marine environment.

Salmon farming is also contributing to the decline of wild salmon through:

- LICE & DISEASE SPREAD
- POLLUTION
- HYBRIDISATION

A partial valuation of the ecosystem benefits of forage fish lost to fish farming, due to the use of FMFO, is around $1.8 billion.

Consumers in Europe and Canada have shown a high willingness to pay for better fish welfare. We estimate the cost of poor fish welfare at $4.6 billion.

Since 2013 the unaccounted cost of salmon farming across the four countries is over $47 billion.

Is the estimated social cost of carbon from salmon farming. Although positioned as a low carbon alternative to meat, life cycle analysis reveals a higher cost than reported.

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