Mowi Scotland Ltd would like to thank the Nether Lochaber Community Council for inviting us to speak at the meeting on 11th November 2025. As a company, we strive to maintain strong relationships with the communities we live in, and work alongside, and therefore have prepared the following statement to address the concerns raised by the Nether Lochaber community regarding our most recent planning application for Loch Leven / Callert.

The application (25/01964/FUL) seeks permission to remove 4 of the existing 24m square pens, to reposition 4 of the existing 24m square pens, and install 4 additional 36m square pens, in the configuration demonstrated in Figure 1. The application does not seek to increase biomass or medicine allowance.

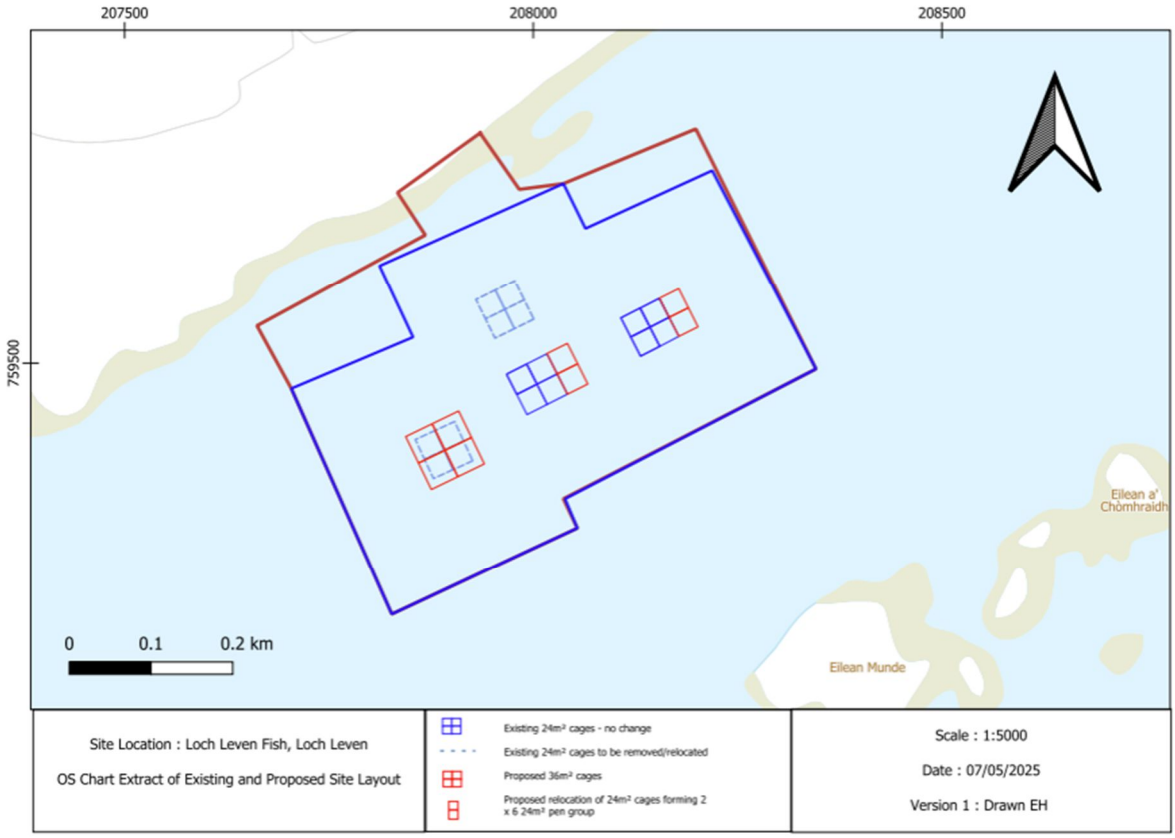


*Figure 1 The proposed change. Existing 4 x 24m pens in a 4(2x2) configuration. Proposed 12 x 24m pens in a 2(2x3) configuration and 4 x 36m pens in a 1(2x2) configuration.*

The comments raised by Nether Lochaber Community Council and our response and reassurances to them are as follows.

***We are concerned that any extensions to the Callert site may have an impact on wildlife in the area. There are Otters around the shores of Loch Leven/Loch Linnhe and Herons too,***

***water quality in the area has been an issue for some time, we feel any extensions/additions may have a more detrimental effect on the waters.***

This application proposes for the pen group nearest the shore to be removed, likely reducing interactions with shore dwelling species. There is no proposed increase in biomass and therefore operational procedures will remain the same.

Mowi relies on good water quality in order to raise fish successfully, and we work closely with regulators to ensure we are meeting environmental standards. SEPA have assessed our application and issued a Controlled Activities Regulation (CAR) licence on the basis of this proposed change. Furthermore, by moving all pens into deeper water, there will be greater water exchange, thus improved fish welfare and interactions with the water column.

***Any increases in nutrients from excess fish feed or fish waste will lead to eutrophication. This may accelerate algal growth, directly lead to an agal bloom and in turn damage the ecosystem in the loch and will result in decreased biodiversity.***

This application does not propose an increase in biomass, and therefore there will be no increase in fish feed or waste. Daily feeding is controlled using state of the art camera technology, which allows operators to pinpoint feed delivery rates and minimise feed wastage. This technology would continue to be used within the proposed cages.

SEPA and Mowi perform extensive modelling to ensure the biomass of a site will meet the environmental standards set out by regulators based on site specific conditions, such as current speeds and depths. As no change to biomass is proposed, the environmental status of the farm is not expected to change. However this is something that is monitored closely and Mowi takes pride in maintaining high environmental standards.

A condition of our SEPA CAR licence is to undertake benthic surveys a minimum of once every two years. Since 2022, SEPA has updated the requirements for surveying to increase the level of benthic monitoring. Under these more rigorous standards, Leven has continuously passed its environmental compliance obligations.

***Other concerns relating to the chemical impact that the treatments used to kill off sea lice and other pests.***

All treatment use in aquaculture is authorised and regulated by SEPA, and prescribed by veterinary professionals. Chemical treatments will only be utilised in circumstances where they are deemed absolutely necessary for fish welfare. Wherever possible, alternative methods for treatments are used, such as freshwater, but preventative methods are preferred such as cleanerfish.

The proposal seeks the addition of four 36m pens in place of four 24m pens which will increase the overall pen volume of the site. This will mean we have the capacity to reduce the stocking density which is associated with a decrease in lice infection and reduced reinfection rates. Furthermore, the reconfiguration of four groups to three would increase the efficiency of site management and farming operations.

***It has been reported that there are complaints from open water swimmers of oily films on the water surface, strong odors around the Burial Islands, off Ballachulish-directly across from the Callart site. Algal blooms, which are harmful and toxic.***

Concerns regarding the quality of the water and surrounding environment should be formally reported to regulatory agencies (SEPA, local authority) who can then deploy the appropriate people and resources to investigate the source of the concern. There are many businesses and public users of Loch Leven and the surrounding areas who we wish to work cooperatively with, as it is in the interest of Mowi to maintain good water quality to raise high quality fish and maintain healthy community relationships.

Any aquaculture debris found on the shores of Loch Leven can be reported via the Salmon Scotland website, or directly to Andy Martin, Leven Farm Manager. Contact details for these methods can be found at the end of this letter. As part of our commitment to reducing waste, Mowi staff will collect marine debris from near our farms, regardless of its source.

We hope this letter has provided some reassurance for this application and the work that is done at Leven. If you have any further questions or concerns we would encourage you to get in touch using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

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For reporting marine debris:
https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/initiatives/marine-debris