

## PRESS RELEASE

### BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR MARINE HARVEST

*18 September 2009*

Producer of high quality Scottish Salmon, Marine Harvest Scotland, was last night (Friday, 18 September) presented with the 2009 award for Outstanding Business Achievement in the Highlands and Islands, by the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

The award recognises the company's significant positive contribution to the region's economy. Marine Harvest has farmed salmon in the Highlands and Islands since the late 1960s. Today its 23 farms on the west coast, harvest station and processing plant, provide skilled jobs and income for its workforce, which helps to sustain many rural communities.

In 2008, the company won the prestigious account to be the sole supplier of sustainable farmed Scottish salmon to Sainsbury's and sales are already much higher than original estimates. This year turnover is expected to reach around £120m and the company has recently acquired a new site at Loch Lochy which will be Scotland's largest smolt producing farm.

The award was presented by SCDI Highlands and Islands Area Committee Chairman Joe Moore and John Rendall, HSBC's Chief Executive Officer for Scotland, who was also the principal speaker at the event which attracts 350 guests from private, public and third sectors.

**Alan Sutherland, Managing Director, Marine Harvest Scotland, said:**

"This is a prestigious award and we are particularly proud to have been recognised in our home patch – the original home of fish farming. This is an honour for the company and for the hard working and dedicated staff who grow an outstanding product in the outstanding environment that is the Highlands and Islands of Scotland."

Lossie Seafoods and Blueshell Mussels were also winners in the International Business and Research and Innovation categories, and Joe Moore said that this highlighted that the Highlands and Islands' successes in benefiting from rapidly growing global demand for farmed seafood and was fitting at the end of this year's Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight.

**Joe Moore said:**

"Marine Harvest has been central to the outstanding achievements of Scottish farmed salmon over the last thirty years. From small beginnings, Scotland is now the second biggest salmon producer in the world. The industry generates over £700m and directly employs 1,500 people, mainly in remote communities in the Highlands and Islands where their income is critical.



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“Sustainable food production in rural locations is one of the most important natural economic assets of the Highlands and Islands, and Marine Harvest has been an industry-leader in developing collaboration across the supply chain which guarantees high quality and safety.

“In the past 3 years salmon companies have made capital investments of £80m in this region. Aquaculture the only way to meet surging global demand for seafood and with their reputation for premium quality products, Marine Harvest and the industry are ready for more success.”

The full winners list of winners was:

- Caledonian MacBrayne Award for Excellence in Tourism - Grenitote Travel, North Uist
- Crown Estate Award for Excellence in a Marine Business - The Underwater Centre, Fort William
- Global Energy Award for Excellence in People Development - Alcan Aluminium UK, Fort William
- Gordon & MacPhail Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship - Freda Newton, Owner and Managing Director, Jacobite Cruises, Inverness
- HSBC Award for Excellence in International Business - Lossie Seafoods, Buckie
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise Award for Excellence in Research and Innovation – Blueshell Mussels, Shetland
- SEPA Award for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability - Touchwood Recycling, Uig, Skye
- SCDI Award for Highlands and Islands Young Engineers Club of the Year – Tarbert Academy, Argyll
- SCDI Highlands and Islands Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Business Achievement – Marine Harvest, Fort William

This year’s event was the 10<sup>th</sup> SCDI Highlands and Islands Annual Dinner and Business Excellence Awards and it was held at The Drumossie Hotel in Inverness. The evening was hosted by Fred MacAulay and after dinner entertainment was provided by Sandi Toksvig.

**ENDS**