

Marine Licence Application for Dredging and Sea Disposal

Version 1.0

Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

Acronyms

Please note the following acronyms referred to in this application form:

BPEO	Best Practicable Environmental Option
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MMO	Marine Mammal Observer
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MS-LOT	Marine Scotland – Licensing Operations Team
PAM	Passive Acoustic Monitoring
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WGS84	World Geodetic System 1984

Explanatory Notes

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the questions on the application form and are intended to assist in completing the form. These explanatory notes are specific to this application and so you are advised to read these in conjunction with the Marine Scotland Guidance for Marine Licence Applicants document.

1. Applicant Details

The person making the application who will be named as the licensee.

2. Dredging Contractor Details

The person whose activities produce the substance(s) or object(s) to be dredged and/or intended for sea disposal (e.g the dredging contractor).

3. Agent Details

Any person acting under contract (or other agreement) on behalf of any party listed as the applicant and having responsibility for the control, management or physical deposit or removal of any substance(s) or object(s).

4. Payment

Indicate payment method. Cheques must be made payable to: The Scottish Government.

Marine licence applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by a cheque for the correct application fee, or if an invoice is requested, until that invoice is settled. Target timelines for determining applications do not begin until the application fee is paid.

5. Application Type

Indicate if the application is for a new dredging site or a site that has previously been dredged. Provide the existing or previous consent/licence number, expiry date and quantity (in wet tonnes) dredged under the consent/licence up to a stated date if applicable.

6. Dredging and Sea Disposal Details

- (a) Give a brief description of the dredging and sea disposal operation.
- (b) Provide the proposed start date of the project. The start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained will constitute an offence, which may result in appropriate legal action. A licence is normally valid for the duration of the project but not exceeding 3 years. If a project will not be completed before a marine licence lapses, it will be necessary for licence holders to re-apply for a further licence to continue any ongoing work at least 14 weeks prior to the expiry date of the licence. **Target duration for determination of a marine licence application is 14 weeks.**
- (c) Provide the proposed completion date of the project.

- (d) Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points for each dredge site area. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

To supplement your application, please provide a suitably scaled extract of an Ordnance Survey Map (1:2,500 scale but not more than 1:10,000) or Admiralty Chart which must be marked to indicate:

- the full extent of the works in relation to the surrounding area;
- latitude and longitude co-ordinates defining the location of the works;
- the level of MHWS;
- any adjacent SAC, SPA, SSSI, MPA, Ramsar or similar conservation area boundary.

Drawings and plans will be consulted upon. If they are subject to copyright, **it is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain necessary approvals to reproduce the documents and to submit suitably annotated copies with the application.**

- (e) Provide details of the proposed disposal site for the dredged substance(s) or object(s) and, if necessary, any alternative disposal site(s) considered. In determining whether to grant a marine licence, MS-LOT will take into account any site nominated by the applicant. However, should this site be unsuitable, the nearest suitable disposal site for the dredged substance(s) or object(s) will be identified. Should you wish to establish a new site, please provide details in a covering letter with your application and MS-LOT will contact you to discuss your proposal before your application is determined. The cost of any site investigations to identify any new disposal site will normally be the responsibility of the applicant.
- (f) Indicate if any part of the works (dredging or sea disposal site) are located within the jurisdiction of a statutory harbour authority and provide details of the statutory harbour authority where relevant.
- (g) Provide a full method statement. The method statement must include details such as the rate of dredging, timing of the operation and order of the areas to be dredged.
- (h) Provide assessment of the potential impacts the works may have, including interference with other uses of the sea. Please include details of areas of concern e.g designated conservation areas, such as a SAC, SPA, SSSI, MPA or Ramsar site and shellfish harvesting areas. Further guidance on designated conservation areas can be obtained from SNH at this website: <http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp> and guidance on shellfish harvesting areas can be obtained from <http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/> with regards to the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) which has parameters set to protect the water quality in which edible shellfish are grown.

Applicants should also be aware of the need to pay due regard to coastal and marine archaeological matters and attention is drawn to Historic Scotland's Operational Policy Paper HP6, "Conserving the Underwater Heritage".

Any application for beach replenishment works must be cross checked as to whether the proposed site is a designated bathing water site. If so, all physical works should ideally be done outwith the Bathing Water Season (1st June to 15th September). Further guidance on the Bathing Waters Directive (2006/7/EC) can be obtained from <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/>.

Where there are potential impacts from the works, please provide details of proposed mitigation, such as use of MMOs or PAM, in response to potential impacts.

7. Details of Substance(s) or Object(s) to be Dredged

Information is required for each dredge site area listed in section 6 (d). please provide the following information:

Name of Dredge Area: For example Approach Channel or West of South Quay.

Type (Maintenance or Capital): **Maintenance dredge** applies to an area that has been dredged more than once and either annually or on a regular basis and was last dredged with the past 7 years; and a **Capital dredge** applies where an area/depth is being dredged either for the first time, or which has not been dredged within the past 7 years.

For capital dredging operations, a pre-dredge survey and sediment chemical analysis report will be required by MS-LOT prior to the issue of a sea disposal licence. Please contact MS-LOT for details in relation to specific projects. For maintenance dredging operations sites that have not been chemically analysed for more than 3 years, pre-dredge chemical analysis will be required to be undertaken. In addition to those samples analysed by the applicant, sediment sub-sample(s) must be submitted to MS-LOT as check monitoring may be required.

Estimated Specific Gravity: Indicate the specific gravity of the substance(s) or object(s) to be dredged from each dredge area.

Depth: Indicate the maximum depth (in metres) below the current seabed level, to which it is expected dredging is to be carried out, for each dredge area.

Quantity to be Dredged per Year (wet tonnes): Indicate the quantity of substance(s) or object(s) to be dredged (per year) from each dredge area. The quantity must be provided in wet tonnes.

8. Physical Composition

Indicate the approximate proportions as a percentage for each size range against each of the dredge site areas listed in section 6 (d) which are expected to be removed.

9. Details of Substance(s) or Object(s) Quality

Please indicate whether the substance(s) or object(s) from any of the areas to be dredged have been chemically analysed within the past 3 years. If yes, please provide details (locations, dates, results) on a separate sheet. If no, please provide justification. For capital projects, you are required to have representative sediment samples analysed at a laboratory of choice (see MS-LOT Pre-dredge Sampling Guidance document at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/Applications/predredge> for analytical requirements. This is liable to extend the time required to consider your application as **marine licence applications will not be determined without provision of this chemistry data.**

As part of the application determination process, you are required to carry out an assessment of the chemical and physical characteristics of the substance(s) or object(s) to be deposited at sea and potential effects upon the marine environment. It is your responsibility to show that the substance(s) or object(s) are suitable to be considered for sea disposal. This assessment should form part of your BPEO.

Under section 27(2) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, the licensing authority has an obligation to consider the availability of practical alternatives when considering applications involving disposal of substance(s) or object(s) at sea. All applications for sea disposal must be supported by a detailed assessment of the alternative options - BPEO assessment. This must include a statement setting out the reasons why deposit of the substance(s) or object(s) at sea is the preferred option and applications will not be considered unless they are accompanied by such an assessment. All options in the BPEO must be explored fully (as per the guidance documents) otherwise your form and BPEO are liable to be returned to you, thereby delaying processing of the application.

As part of the licence conditions, you are likely to be required to take representative samples of the dredged substance(s) or object(s) during the dredging/sea disposal operations for analysis by MS-LOT. In such cases, samples must be taken at specified locations and depths and placed in containers which will be provided. The

samples must then be returned to MS-LOT at the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen. This process enables MS-LOT to fulfil its obligations under international conventions.

10. Details of Vessel(s) Undertaking Dredging and Sea Disposal

Provide the vessel name, vessel type (e.g cutter-suction) and name and address of all vessel operators to be used for dredging and sea disposal operations. If vessel details are not available at the time of application, please indicate this on the form as these details will be required prior to licence issue.

11. Noise Monitoring

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. Activities where this type of noise is produced include seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. Where noisy activity is being undertaken, you must complete an initial registration form for the noise registry which allows you to provide details on the proposed work. Completion of a 'close-out' form, which allows licensees to provide details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred, is also required within 12 weeks of the completion of the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation.

These forms can be downloaded from:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/MSInteractive/Themes/noise-reduction>

Marine licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

12. Statutory Consenting Powers

Please describe in the answer to this question what (if any) statutory responsibilities you (or your client) have to consent any aspect of the project.

13. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, Marine Scotland have considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/6517/0>

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made including reference to the policies that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

14. Consultation

Provide details of all bodies consulted and give details of any consents issued including date of issue.

15. Associated Works

Indicate whether the application is associated with any other marine projects (e.g. land reclamation, or marine/harbour construction works etc). If this is the case, provide reference/licence number for the related marine projects.

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It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Under Section 54 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, all information contained within and provided in support of this application will be placed on a Public Register. There are no national security grounds for application information not going on the Register under the 2010 Act.

Public Register

Do you consider that any of the information contained within or provided in support of this application should not be disclosed:

- (a) for reasons of national security; YES NO
- (b) for reasons of confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate commercial interest? YES NO

If **YES**, to either (a) or (b), please provide full justification as to why all or part of the information you have provided should be withheld.

WARNING

It is an offence under the Act under which this application is made to fail to disclose information or to provide false or misleading information.

Target duration for determination is 14 weeks. Please note that missing or erroneous information in your application and complications resulting from consultation may result in the application being refused or delayed.

Marine licence applications will not be accepted unless accompanied by a cheque for the correct application fee, or if an invoice is requested, until that invoice is settled. Target timelines for determining applications do not begin until the application fee is paid.

Declaration

I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information given in this form and related papers is true.

[Redacted]

Signature

Date

11.02.26

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Joseph Mackay

Application Check List

Please check that you provide all relevant information in support of your application, including but not limited to the following:

- Completed and signed application form
- Maps/Charts
- Co-ordinates of the boundary points of the area of harbour jurisdiction (if you are a statutory harbour authority)
- Method Statement
- BPEO Assessment
- Analytical chemistry data (for capital projects)
- Transportation plan (dredger route to and from disposal site – if required)
- Additional information e.g. photographs, consultation correspondence
- Noise Registry – Initial Registration Form (if applicable)
- Payment (if paying by cheque)

1. Applicant Details

Title: **Mr** Initials: **JC** Surname: **Mackay**

Trading Title (if appropriate): **Marine Superintendent - Highland Council**

Address: Harbours HQ, Lochinver, Sutherland, Scotland, IV27 4LE

Name of contact (if different):

Telephone No. (inc. dialing code): [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Statutory Harbour Authority? YES NO

If **YES**, please provide a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the area of harbour jurisdiction using Appendix 01 Additional Co-ordinates form if necessary.

2. Dredging Contractor Details (if any)

Title: Initials: Surname:

If the Dredging Contractor is the Applicant shown in section 1 please tick the box

Trading Title (if appropriate):

Address:

Name of contact (if different):

Telephone No. (inc. dialing code):

Email:

3. Agent Details (if any)

Title: Initials: Surname:

Trading Title (if appropriate):

Address:

Name of contact (if different):

Telephone No. (inc. dialing code):

Email:

4. Payment

Enclosed Cheque

Invoice

Contact and address to send invoice to:

Applicant

Agent

Other

If **OTHER**, please provide contact details:

Title:

Initials:

Surname:

Address:

Email:



5. Application Type

Is this application for a new dredging site or a site that has previously been dredged:

New Site Previously Dredged Site

If an **PREVIOUSLY DREDGED SITE**, please provide the following:

Consent/Licence Number	Expiry Date	Quantity (wet tonnes) dredged under consent/licence as at (date)
		My understanding from harbour users is that the site has been dredged in the past, however i have not been able to confirm with any documentation. The previous MS has retired and can't be recorded.

6. Dredging and Sea Disposal Details

(a) Brief description of the dredging and sea disposal operation:

Dredging is to take place at the approach and entrance to Nairn Harbour, currently a hazard to navigation. Dredge method proposed is tracked excavator and dumper. Dredge material is to be deposited West of the dredge site between LW and HW marks to allow for natural dispersion by wave action.

(b) Proposed start date (**Target duration for determination of a marine licence application is 14 weeks**):

May 2026

(c) Proposed completion date:

May 2027

(d) Location of Dredging:

Approach and entrance to Nairn Harbour

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of all dredge areas (continue on Appendix 01 Additional Co-ordinates form if necessary):

Dredge Area A

Latitude										Longitude										
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	5	2	'N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	7	2	7	'W
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	7	6	'N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	6	6	9	'W
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	2	0	'N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	6	3	4	'W
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	0	7	'N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	6	4	9	'W
		°			.				'N				°			.				'W
		°			.				'N				°			.				'W

Dredge Area B

Latitude										Longitude									
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W

Dredge Area C

Latitude										Longitude									
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W

Dredge Area D

Latitude										Longitude									
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W

Dredge Area E

Latitude										Longitude									
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W
		°			.				' N				°			.			' W

(e) Name of Disposal Site and Oslo Code:

Beach to West of Nairn Harbour entrance

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of disposal site (continue on Appendix 01 Additional Co-ordinates form if necessary):

Latitude										Longitude										
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	1	1	' N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	8	7	6	' W
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	5	9	' N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	7	8	0	' W
5	7	°	3	5	.	6	4	0	' N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	7	4	8	' W
5	7	°	3	5	.	5	9	2	' N	0	0	3	°	5	1	.	8	4	3	' W

(f) Is any part of the works (dredging or sea disposal site) located within the jurisdiction of a statutory harbour authority?

YES NO

If **YES**, please specify statutory harbour authority:

Highland Council - also applicant

(g) Method statement including rate of dredging, timing of the operation and order of the areas to be dredged (continue on separate sheet if necessary):

Dredging to be carried out during spring tides working around LW times.
 This will require shift work and downtime between tidal cycles.
 Proposed dredging with tracked excavator.
 Proposed transport with dumper.
 Materials deposited between LW and HW marks, West of approach to allow for natural dispersion by wave action.

(h) Potential impacts the works may have (including details of areas of concern e.g designated conservation and shellfish harvesting areas) and proposed mitigation in response to potential impacts (continue on separate sheet if necessary):

Appraisal of impacts and our advice
 European protected areas
 The proposed sampling sites lie adjacent to the Moray Firth Special Protection Area (SPA), protected for its range of waterbirds, such as long-tailed duck, Slavonian grebe common and red-throated diver, etc. see: <https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/10490> and also adjacent to the Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC), protected for its bottlenose dolphin and subtidal sandbanks, see <https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8327>

The site's status (SPA and SAC) means that the requirements of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, and c.) Regulations 1994 as amended (the "Habitats Regulations") apply or, for reserved matters, The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Consequently, Marine Directorate is required to consider the effect of the proposal on the SPAs before it can be consented (commonly known as Habitats Regulations Appraisal). Our website has a summary of the legislative requirements, see - <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/environmental-assessment/habitats-regulations-appraisal-hra>.

Moray Firth SAC
 Our advice is that it is unlikely that the proposal will have a significant effect on any qualifying interests either directly or indirectly. An appropriate assessment is therefore not required. This is due to the following:
 o Sampling works will take place on foot at low tide so there will be no impact to subtidal sandbanks or bottlenose dolphin.

Moray Firth SPA
 Marine waterbirds:
 Our advice is that it is unlikely that the proposal will have a significant effect on any qualifying interests either directly or indirectly. An appropriate assessment is therefore not required. This is due to the following:
 o Sampling will take place on foot at low tide. The bird species protected by this SPA tend to utilise marine habitats further offshore so are therefore unlikely to be significantly impacted by this sampling work.

Other European protected area interests are unlikely to be affected.

Biosecurity
 You may be aware that Slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* has established in the Cromarty and Moray Firths. Consideration should therefore be given to biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of spreading marine invasive non-native species (mINNS). This may involve employing a biosecurity plan and we have guidance on this available on our website and the Clyde Marine Partnership website. We would also advise adherence to best practice measures, such as 'check clean dry'. If you find any Slipper limpets, please report it as outlined in the attached guidance document.

7. Details of Substance(s) or Object(s) to be Dredged (Please provide details for each of the Dredge Areas listed in Section 5 (d) above. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Dredge Area	Name of Dredge Area	Type (Maintenance or Capital)	Harbour bed, Seabed or Estuary bed?	Estimated Specific Gravity	Depth (metres)	Quantity to be Dredged per Year (wet tonnes)
A	Approach	capital	seabed	2.6	1	Up to 11,336
B						
C						
D						
E						

8. **Physical Composition of Substance(s) or Object(s) to be Dredged** (Please provide the approximate proportions as a percentage for each size range against each of the dredge site areas listed in Section 6 (d) above. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Dredge Area	Clay and Silt (< 0.063 mm)	Sand ($0.063 \leq \text{Sand} < 2.0$ mm)	Pebbles, Cobbles & Boulders (≤ 2.0 mm)
A	10	40	50
B			
C			
D			
E			

9. **Details of Substance(s) or Object(s) Quality**

Have the dredged substance(s) or object(s) been chemically analysed in the last 3 years?

YES NO

10. **Details of Vessel(s) Undertaking Dredging and Sea Disposal** (please note that a marine licence cannot be issued until the vessel details have been confirmed. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Vessel Name	Type of Vessel	Name and Address of Operator

11. Noise Monitoring

Will loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise be produced by the project? YES NO

If **YES**, which please indicate the noise generating activities and sound frequencies:

Noise Generating Activity	Sound Frequency (Hertz)
Use of Explosives	
Other (please describe below):	

If you have ticked **YES**, please complete the Noise Registry – Initial Registration form located at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/MSInteractive/Themes/noise-reduction>

A marine licence application will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

12. Statutory Consenting Powers

Do you, or (if appropriate) your client, have statutory powers to consent any aspect of this project?

SHA applicant

13. Scotland’s National Marine Plan

Have you considered the application with reference to Scotland’s National Marine Plan? YES NO

If **YES**, provide details of considerations made including reference to the policies that have been considered:

12. Recreation and Tourism
Continued and improved access to marine and coastal resources for tourism activities and recreational use.

13. Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries
Safeguarded access to ports and harbours and navigational safety.

If **NO**, please provide an explanation of why you haven’t considered the National Marine Plan?

14. Consultation

List all bodies you have consulted and provide copies of correspondence:

Nature Scotland, Northern Lighthouse Board, Maritime and Coastguard Agency - consulted and permission granted for sample process.

Nature Scotland have also provided advice ahead of dredging activity.

15. Associated Works

Provide details of other related marine projects, including reference/licence numbers (if applicable):