

Appendix One

Consultation Responses

Highland Council

By e-mail to: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Please ask for / Foighnich airson: [REDACTED]

Direct Dial / Àireamh fòn: [REDACTED]

Email / Post-d: [REDACTED]

Our Ref / Ur n-àireamh-iùil: 26/01086/SCRE

Date / Ceann-là: 9th April 2026

Dear Gerry,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

RIAGHAILTEAN DEALBHAI DH BAILE IS DÙTHCHA (MEASADH BUAIDH ÀRAINNEACHD) (ALBA) 2017

PROPOSAL: EIA SCREENING REQUEST - SCR-0124 - VARIATION TO EXISTING CONSTRUCTION LICENSE (MD-00010859) AT BERTHING QUAY, EAST SIDE OF INNER DOCK - PORT OF NIGG, CROMARTY FIRTH

LOCATION: LAND 430M NW OF NIGG WELDING SCHOOL, NIGG, TAIN

I refer to the above proposed development and to your notification, dated 10th March 2026. The Highland Council has proceeded to adopt a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as 'the 2017 Regulations').

Screening Opinion

It is considered that **Environmental Impact Assessment is NOT required** for the development described in the letter and information accompanying your screening request.

The rationale behind this screening opinion is as follows:

1. The proposal does not constitute Schedule 1 development under the Regulations; and,
2. The proposal does fall within the definition of 'Schedule 2 development' (Regulation 2 - Interpretation), in that it constitutes development falling under Part 13, Schedule 2 'Any change to or extension of development of a description mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 12 of Column 1 of this table where that development is already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed.' The existing development to which the aforementioned change is occurring itself falling under 12 (b) "marinas" that meets or exceeds "the area of the enclosed water surface exceeds 1000m²" Having screened it against the selection criteria outlined in Schedule 3 (including cumulative impact, pollution, impact on natural resources/the natural environment, environmental quality and the historic environment), impact on the receiving

environment, while possible, it is considered that the proposal would not be likely to give rise to any new or materially different significant environmental effects beyond those already assessed. Therefore, the proposed development does not constitute 'EIA development' and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

We are able to provide you with more specific reasons for our opinion, if required. They are available on written request.

Negative Screening Opinions

It is important to note that a negative screening opinion, i.e. one which states that EIA is not required, does not indicate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on the receiving environment. It merely constitutes an opinion that any impact is unlikely to be significant in terms of the criteria outlined in Schedule 3 of the Regulations.

It remains entirely possible that the proposed development may have an unacceptable impact, perhaps within a more localised area, and a negative screening opinion should not, therefore, be taken as an indication that there are no environmental issues and planning permission will automatically be forthcoming.

Alterations to the Development as Proposed

If the scale, character, location and/or impact potential of the proposed development changes at any point in future, a reassessment of the need for EIA may be required. You are therefore advised to contact us to discuss any alterations to the proposal at an early stage and prior to the submission of a planning application.

Additional Guidance and Considerations


You may also wish to read our own advice and guidance on aquaculture development in the Highland Area: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16929/aquaculture_planning_guidance

Along with our aquaculture planning application checklist:

https://www.ighland.gov.uk/info/161/planning_and_building_standards/62/aquaculture_and_marine_fish-farming

Should you require any further information or clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07585 608504.

Yours sincerely,


Principal Aquaculture & Coastal Planning Officer
(Highland Wide)

Historic Environment Scotland



By email to:

MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Marine Directorate
Scottish Government
Marine Laboratory
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Your ref: SCR-0124
MD-00010859
Our case ID: 300083261

18 March 2026

Dear Marine Directorate

[The Marine Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017 – Berthing Quay, East Side of Inner Dock, Port of Nigg, Cromarty Firth - Screening Request](#)

Thank you for your consultation of 10 March 2026 seeking our comments on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for the above proposed development. This letter contains our comments for our historic environment interests; that is cultural world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, and gardens and designed landscapes and battlefields on their respective Inventories.

The relevant local authority archaeological and conservation advisors will also be able to offer advice for their interests. This may include undesignated archaeological sites, category B and C listed buildings and conservation areas.

Our advice

We understand that the request relates to a number of variations to the existing construction license (MD-00010859), which include an increase in total area of site to allow changes to temporary building arrangements and the reuse/deposit of some of the rock already licenced for removal to provide rock armour at either end of the new quay. We have reviewed the information provided and have no specific comments to make on the requirement or otherwise for an EIA for this proposed development. We believe the proposed development can be accommodated in this location without raising impacts on assets in our remit which may raise issues of national interest



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ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Further information

Decisions that affect the historic environment should take the [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) (HEPS) into account as a material consideration. HEPS is supported by our [Managing Change guidance series](#).

We hope this is helpful. If you would like to submit more information about this or any other proposed development to us for comment, please send it to our consultations mailbox, hmconsultations@hes.scot. If you have questions about this response, please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

NatureScot

David Hutchison

From: informed@planning.nature.scot
Sent: 20 March 2026 09:24
To: MD Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Screening Request - Berthing Quay, East side of Inner Dock - Port of Nigg, Cromarty Firth - SCR-0124 - Reference Number 104758

Our Ref: 104758

Your Ref: SCR-0124

Dear [REDACTED]

THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (“the MW EIA Regulations”)

CONSULTATION UNDER PART 2, REGULATION 10(5) OF THE MW EIA REGULATIONS

Screening Request - Berthing Quay, East side of Inner Dock - Port of Nigg, Cromarty Firth - SCR-0124

Thank you for your consultation on the above screening request dated 10 March 2026.

We understand that the applicant is applying to vary their existing construction licence (MD-00010859) and that the requested variations are a) an alteration to the site boundary increasing the total area of the site by 96m² to allow changes to temporary bunding arrangements and; b) the reuse/deposit of some of the rock already licensed for removal to provide rock armour at either end of the new quay.

Based on the information provided, we advise that, with respect to our interests in context to Protected Areas, the above proposed variation works are not an EIA project as defined in the MW EIA Regulations. The requested variations make no change to our comments (dated 4 October 2024) provided in response to the original marine licence application and we have no further comments to add at this stage.

Please note that this advice is given without prejudice to a full and detailed consideration of the impacts of the proposal if submitted for formal consultation as part of the licensing process.

The advice in this email is provided by NatureScot, the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage.

Yours sincerely

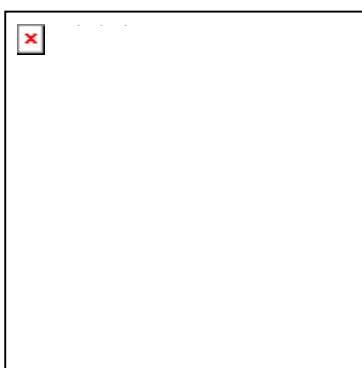
██████████

██████████ | **Operations Officer – Coastal Infrastructure** | ██████████

NatureScot | Fodderty Way | Dingwall Business Park | Dingwall | IV15 9XB | t: ██████████

NàdarAlba | Slighe Fhodhraitidh | Pàirc Gnothachais Inbhir Pheofharain | Inbhir Pheofharain | IV15 9XB

nature.scot / [@NatureScot](https://twitter.com/NatureScot) | *Scotland's Nature Agency* | *Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba*



NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

David Hutchison

From: Planning.North <Planning.North@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 11 March 2026 08:40
To: MD Marine Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: PCS-20008254 SEPA Response to SCR-0124

To Whom It May Concern,

Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
SCR-0124
Quayside Construction - Screening Request
East side of Inner Dock - Port of Nigg, Cromarty Firth

Thank you for the above consultation.

We do not consider that from our perspective EIA is required.

Please do not consult us on the subsequent application and instead simply refer to our standing advice on marine consultations available [here](#).

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer



For the future of our environment

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu postmaster@sepa.org.uk. Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoileadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlèidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.