



**Proposed Small Boat Moorings at Staffin**

**Scotlands National Marine Plan**  
**Summary of Policies Considered**

**April 2020**

## Scotlands National Marine Plan 2015

### Summary of policies considered

The following table summarises the consideration that the applicant has given to the policies and aims of Scotlands National Marine Plan. The left hand column sets out the policy wording from the March 2015 version of the Marine Plan and the right column sets out how this policy has been considered during the applicants planning for the development, through pre-application consultations and the Planning Application Process and notes where the Planning Authority has considered the aspect/impact in the determination of the Planning Application.

GENERAL POLICIES	
NMP POLICY	CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT
GEN 1 General planning principle: There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and use of the marine environment when consistent with the policies and objectives of this Plan.	This document demonstrates the consideration that has been given to the policies and objectives of Scotlands National Marine Plan in bringing forward the proposed development.
GEN 2 Economic benefit: Sustainable development and use which provides economic benefit to Scottish communities is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.	<p>The proposed moorings are required as part of an overall project which seeks to develop four salmon farm sites to the east of Trotternish, centred around Staffin.</p> <p>The project proposals aim to produce organic farmed salmon in manner that reduces the overall environmental impact when compared to a “conventional farm” of similar size. The intention is that local social and economic benefit will be realised through increased employment opportunities for Staffin, Trotternish and the wider area of the Isle of Skye, direct income to the Staffin Area will be made through production based payments to Community Funds.</p>
GEN 3 Social benefit: Sustainable development and use which provides social benefits is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan.	<p>The overall project seeks to assist Staffin Community Trust in redeveloping the area around Staffin Jetty to allow for harvested fish to be landed to the pier and to increase the security of the Jetty for other marine uses including fishing, marine tourism, and visiting vessels. These proposals will be brought forward in a future application by Staffin Community Trust.</p>

<p>GEN 4 Co-existence: Proposals which enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities within the Scottish marine area are encouraged in planning and decision making processes, when consistent with policies and objectives of this Plan.</p>	<p>In bringing forward these moorings the applicant has sought, where possible, to adapt its requirements to the needs of other interests. To this end the proposed location of the moorings has been discussed with creel fishing interests who occasionally moor in this area.</p>
<p>GEN 6 Historic environment: Development and use of the marine environment should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance.</p>	<p>The proposed development will not impact on marine heritage assets as set out in the National Marine Plan.</p>
<p>GEN 7 Landscape/seascape: Marine planners and decision makers should ensure that development and use of the marine environment take seascape, landscape and visual impacts into account.</p>	<p>The proposed mooring and vessel intended to be placed on it is de-minimis in terms of the location within the Trotternish National Scenic Area. Mooring will take place in a area where this activity is currently undertaken.</p>
<p>GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding: Developments and activities in the marine environment should be resilient to coastal change and flooding, and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding</p>	<p>It is considered that, as a floating structure, the proposed development is resilient to coastal change and flooding. It will not have an adverse impact on coastal processes.</p>
<p>GEN 9 Natural heritage: Development and use of the marine environment must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species.</li> <li>(b) Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features.</li> <li>(c) Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.</li> </ul>	<p>In bringing forward the proposed development consideration has been given to the presence, in the wider area of protected species, and the location of the development within the Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC.</p>
<p>GEN 10 Invasive non-native species: Opportunities to reduce the introduction of invasive non-native species to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made.</p>	<p>Cages and site related equipment are to be assembled within Highland reducing the opportunity for INNS to be transferred onto the site from further afield.</p>
<p>GEN 11 Marine litter: Developers, users and those accessing the marine environment must take measures to address</p>	<p>The overall operations of Organic Sea Harvest are undertaken in compliance of a waste management plan.</p>

<p>marine litter where appropriate. Reduction of litter must be taken into account by decision makers.</p>	
<p>GEN 12 Water quality and resource: Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive or other related Directives apply.</p>	<p>There are no water quality impacts associated with the proposed moorings development.</p>
<p>GEN 13 Noise: Development and use in the marine environment should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there will be significant noise impacts in relation to the use of the proposed mooring.</p> <p>The impact of underwater noise from boat movements and echosounders has been considered by the developer within its Environmental Statement submitted in support of the planning applications for its farm sites.</p>
<p>GEN 14 Air quality: Development and use of the marine environment should not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.</p>	<p>It is not considered that there will be any significant impact on air quality resulting from the proposed development.</p>
<p>GEN 15 Planning alignment A: Marine and terrestrial plans should align to support marine and land-based components required by development and seek to facilitate appropriate access to the shore and sea.</p>	<p>The fish farm developments require small boat moorings at Staffin Jetty to facilitate the day to day operation of the sites.</p>
<p>GEN 16 Planning alignment B: Marine plans should align and comply where possible with other statutory plans and should consider objectives and policies of relevant non-statutory plans where appropriate to do so.</p>	
<p>GEN 18 Engagement: Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.</p>	<p>Given the small scale nature of these moorings proposals in an area where this activity already exists there has been no pre-application consultation on these proposals. It has, however, been implicit in planning applications submitted for the four related fish farms that vessels would be based at Staffin and that moorings would be required.</p> <p>Verbal pre-application discussions have been undertaken with local creel fishermen who, on occasion anchor in this area.</p>

SEA FISHERIES	
NMP POLICY	CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT
<p>FISHERIES 3: Where existing fishing opportunities or activity cannot be safeguarded, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy should be prepared by the proposer of development or use, involving full engagement with local fishing interests (and other interests as appropriate) in the development of the Strategy. All efforts should be made to agree the Strategy with those interests. Those interests should also undertake to engage with the proposer and provide transparent and accurate information and data to help complete the Strategy. The Strategy should be drawn up as part of the discharge of conditions of permissions granted. The content of the Strategy should be relevant to the particular circumstances and could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of the potential impact of the development or use on the affected fishery or fisheries, both in socio-economic terms and in terms of environmental sustainability.</li> <li>• A recognition that the disruption to existing fishing opportunities/activity should be minimised as far as possible.</li> <li>• Reasonable measures to mitigate any constraints which the proposed development or use may place on existing or proposed fishing activity.</li> <li>• Reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts on sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. impacts on spawning grounds or areas of fish or shellfish abundance) and any socioeconomic impacts. Where it does not prove possible to agree the Strategy with all interests, the reasons for any divergence of views between the parties should be fully explained in the Strategy and dissenting views should be given a platform within the Strategy to make their case.</li> </ul>	<p>It is not considered that the proposed deposit of moorings will have an adverse impact on local fishing activity.</p> <p>If the full extent of the proposed, related, fish farms are realised this will facilitate the Staffin Community Trust bringing forward upgrades of the pier facilities at Staffin which would have potential benefits for the wider fishing industry.</p>

<p>FISHERIES 4: Ports and harbours should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Any port or harbour developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a view to avoiding commercial harm where possible. Where a port or harbour has reached a minimum level of infrastructure required to support a viable fishing fleet, there should be a presumption in favour of maintaining this infrastructure, provided there is an ongoing requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose.</p>	<p>This policy is directed at the operators of ports and harbours. OSH has not considered this policy in bringing forward proposals for moorings at Staffin.</p>
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<p>WILD SALMON AND DIADROMOUS FISH</p>	
<p>NMP POLICY</p>	<p>CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT</p>
<p>WILD FISH 1: The impact of development and use of the marine environment on diadromous fish species should be considered in marine planning and decision making processes. Where evidence of impacts on salmon and other diadromous species is inconclusive, mitigation should be adopted where possible and information on impacts on diadromous species from monitoring of developments should be used to inform subsequent marine decision making.</p>	<p>The proposed deposit of moorings will have no impact on wild salmon and other diadromous fish.</p>

RECREATION AND TOURISM	
NMP POLICY	CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT
REC & TOURISM 1: Opportunities to promote sustainable development of marine recreation and tourism should be supported.	Opportunities for tourism of this nature may be improved through the development of Staffin Jetty facilitated by OSH wider project proposals.
REC & TOURISM 6: Codes of practice for invasive non-native species and Marine Wildlife Watching should be complied with.	Whilst this policy is directed at Recreation and Tourism Operators, Organic Sea Harvest intends to undertake staff training to ensure that boat movements are compatible with the provisions of Marine Wildlife Watching Codes of Practice to seek to mitigate the impacts of the development and on-site operations on wildlife.

DEFENCE	
NMP POLICY	CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT
<p>DEFENCE 1: To maintain operational effectiveness in Scottish waters used by the armed services, development and use will be managed in these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naval areas including bases and ports: Safety of navigation and access to naval bases and ports will be maintained. The extent to which a development or use interferes with access or safety of navigation, and whether reasonable alternatives can be identified, will be taken into account by consenting bodies. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process.</li> <li>• Firing Danger Areas: Development of new permanent infrastructure is unlikely to be compatible with the use of Firing Danger Areas by the MOD. Permitted activities may have temporal restrictions imposed. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process.</li> <li>• Within Exercise Areas, activities may be subject to temporal restrictions. Development and use that either individually or cumulatively obstructs or otherwise prevents the defence activities supported by an exercise area may not be permitted. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process.</li> <li>• Communications: Navigations and surveillance including radar: Development and use which causes unacceptable interference with radar and other systems necessary for national defence may be prohibited if mitigation cannot be determined. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process.</li> </ul>	<p>In common with much of Scotlands coastline the proposed development area is located within a military exercise area (in this case the site is located within Area X5733, Flodigarry).</p>



Scotland's National Marine Plan – Policies not considered

The following policies have not been considered in bringing forward this development proposal. These policies either have no bearing on the actions of the developer and relate to the actions of regulators or third parties, or relate to marine use where there is no interaction with the proposed development.

General Policies (GEN 5, 17 and 19 – 21)

Sea Fisheries (FISHERIES 1, 2 and 5)

Aquaculture (AQUACULTURE 1-14)

Recreation and Tourism (REC AND TOURISM 2,3,4 and 5)

Oil and Gas (All Policies)

Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) (All Policies)

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy (All Policies)

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries (TRANSPORT All Policies)

Submarine Cables (All Policies)

Defence (Policies 2-3)

Aggregates (All Policies)