

Table 1-2: How the relevant GEN Policies and Objectives for the SNMP Submarine Cables Objectives have been considered within the Marine Licence Application for UXO Clearance Works²

Policy Objectives	Purpose of Objective	Consideration of Objective
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.	GEN 1 is relevant to all marine activities, but it is especially relevant to key growth sectors, including grid improvements. This principle seeks to ensure that the development and use of the marine area is consistent with the National Marine Plan, ensuring activities are undertaken in a sustainable manner that protects and enhances Scotland's natural and historic marine environment. The UXO clearance works are part of the EGL1 Marine Scheme. The Marine Scheme will facilitate the export /import of sustainably generated energy, which forms part of the UK plan to achieve energy security and carbon reduction objectives.
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.	The UXO clearance works are being undertaken as part of the EGL1 Marine Scheme, which forms an economically sustainable activity. The Marine Scheme will facilitate the export /import of sustainably generated energy, which forms part of the UK plan to achieve energy security and carbon reduction objectives.
GEN 3 Social benefit	Sustainable development and use which provides social benefits is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of this Plan	The EGL1 Marine Scheme will not impact on tourism or recreation once complete, with minimal interference during the installation ensuring this policy objective is supported.
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.	UXO clearance options will be short-term and spatially limited. Coordination with other sea users (e.g. fishing, shipping and offshore energy developers) will be maintained through marine notices, liaison with the Kingfisher Information Service and implementation of a Fisheries Liaison and Communication Plan to ensure safe and efficient coexistence of activities.
GEN 5 Climate change	Marine planners and decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change	The UXO clearance works are being undertaken as part of the EGL1 Marine Scheme, which will facilitate the export / import of sustainably generated energy, which forms part of the UK plan to achieve energy security and carbon reduction objectives.
GEN 6 Historic environment	Development and use of the marine environment should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a	See assessment in Section 4 ensuring this policy objective is supported.

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-national-marine-plan/pages/15/> (accessed 09/10/2025)

Policy Objectives	Purpose of Objective	Consideration of Objective
	manner proportionate to their significance.	
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.	The UXO clearance works are being undertaken as part of the EGL1 Marine Scheme, which forms an economically sustainable activity, benefiting the communities in the area. The Marine Scheme will facilitate the export /import of sustainably generated energy, which forms part of the UK plan to achieve energy security and carbon reduction objectives which will provide overall benefits to coastal flood risk.
GEN 9 Natural heritage	Development and use of the marine environment must: (a) Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species. (b) Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features. (c) Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.	Appropriate Assessment and supporting surveys have been conducted to confirm minimal impact on SACs, SPAs, and other protected sites. Supporting assessments (RIAA, MCZ Assessment, EPS RA) confirm minimal impacts on protected sites and species. Clearance activities include environmental appraisal and mitigation measures to avoid harm to protected habitats and species ensuring this policy objective is supported.
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	Section 3.1 describes the embedded mitigation measures for this work ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN 11 Marine litter	Developers, users and those accessing the marine environment must take measures to address marine litter where appropriate. Reduction of litter must be taken into account by decision makers.	Section 3.1 describes the embedded mitigation measures for this work ensuring this policy objective is supported.
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	Activities are designed to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts, supporting ecosystem resilience and compliance with Good Environmental Status targets ensuring this policy objective is supported.
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	Section 3.1 describes the embedded mitigation measures for this work and Section 4 provides specific assessments of noise for the proposed UXO clearance work ensuring this policy objective is supported.
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	Coordination between Marine Scotland, NGET, SPEN, and local authorities ensures integration of Marine Licence with onshore infrastructure planning ensuring this policy objective is supported.

Policy Objectives / Purpose of Objective		Consideration of Objective
GEN Planning alignment B:	16 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.	Coordination between Marine Scotland, NGET, SPEN, and local authorities ensures integration of Marine Licence with onshore infrastructure planning ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN Fairness	17 All marine interests will be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment.	Stakeholders, including regulators and local communities, have been consulted during project planning and survey stages ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN Engagement	18 Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes	Stakeholders, including regulators and local communities, have been consulted during project planning and survey stages ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN 19 Sound evidence	Decision making in the marine environment will be based on sound scientific and socio-economic evidence	This document provides the SEI which will inform decision makers ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN Adaptive management	20 Adaptive management practices should take account of new data and information in decision making, informing future decisions and future iterations of policy	Adaptive management measures will be implemented through environmental monitoring and post-clearance review to inform any future activities ensuring this policy objective is supported.
GEN Cumulative impacts	21 Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the marine plan area should be addressed in decision making and plan implementation	Cumulative effects are considered within the Environmental Appraisal (Section 4) ensuring this policy objective is supported.
Submarine Cables 1	Protect submarine cables whilst achieving successful seabed user co-existence.	Cable will be buried and where this is not practicable, other protection will be installed, without compromising the seabed user co-existence ensuring this policy objective is supported.
Submarine Cables 2	Achieve the highest possible quality and safety standards and reduce risks to all seabed users and the marine environment.	UXO clearance is managed under strict safety protocols to avoid hazards to marine traffic and other users ensuring this policy objective is supported.
Submarine Cables 5	Support the generation, distribution and optimisation of electricity from traditional and renewable sources to Scotland, UK and beyond.	UXO clearance supports the EGL1 Marine Scheme, facilitating sustainable energy transmission and contributing to Scotland's climate and energy commitments.