GEN 1 General planning principle: As an emerging activity, Seaweed Cultivation offers a truly organic and sustainable additional industry to the Scottish economy. Corrosion free, light impact “Seaweed Reefs” structures will use only sunlight as an input and no waste output, in line with the aim of sustainable development of the planning principles

GEN 2 Economic benefit: Seaweed Cultivation is a new venture in this geographical area and as such inputs a new income to the local and national economy.

GEN 3 Social benefit: The use of existing seamanship skills and aquaculture infrastructure to grow Seaweed during periods of the year when other areas of the economy are quiet (Oct through to March), allow a more sustainable employment to local workers who would otherwise struggle

GEN 4 Co-existence: As part of an existing network of aquaculture farms, this Seaweed Cultivation project sits comfortably with other developments in the area.

GEN 5 Climate change: Seaweed Cultivation requires no more than clean water and sunshine to produce the crop. As such there is little more required beyond the seeding at the beginning and harvesting at the end that require fossil fuels. There are no feed or chemical treatment inputs throughout the process. The carbon captured during the growing period is short term current carbon with little sequestration value.

GEN 6 Historic environment: As the Seaweed Cultivation infrastructure will be subsurface, visual impacts will be kept to an absolute minimum. With only short periods of deployment and harvesting at the sites, we expect the lowest impacts possible will be felt on the local environment

GEN 7 Landscape/seascape: The proposed “Seaweed Reefs” will have the lowest possible profile and will be situated in remote areas where there are no roads and few paths to be able to view the sites. Impact from the sea is kept to a minimum by the Seaweed Reef’s low profile. Ironically the most visible thing will be Special Mark buoys place to mark the outer limits of the sites for mariners.

GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding: These developments will have no impact on Coastal Processes or Flooding.

GEN 9 Natural heritage: The area of the proposed Seaweed Reefs has many protected areas and protected species. We will assess our activities and always undertake them with a duty of care to;

1. Comply with legal requirements for wildlife.

We will endeavour to comply morally and legally with all legislation set to protect the many protected status species in the area. These include (but not limited to) Harbour Porpoise, Otter, seal haul out, nesting birds. We believe we will be a truly organic, sustainable industry and will work closely with SNH and others to ensure we achieve this.

1. Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features.

Rocky Reefs – anchors and subsurface structures will be set on soft sediment, clear of any rocky reefs. Our corkscrew anchor system will require shorter lines, have a smaller area footprint and damage less seabed than conventional systems.

1. Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.

Seaweed Cultivation requires only sunlight as an input. We will use no chemicals and any litter/debris will be taken ashore and disposed of responsibly.

GEN 10 Invasive non-native species: All vessels, equipment and personnel will strictly follow current Biosecurity plans already in place. The Seaweed species being cultivated are native and are found locally on rocky foreshores and harbours.

GEN 11 Marine litter: Any waste generated from the project will be disposed of ashore through local, certified commercial waste disposal. There are no Special Waste requirement envisaged.

GEN 12 Water quality and resource: There are no fresh water needs or waste water created from the algae cultivation. Seawater around the growing area will improve as nutrient loading in the water is taken up by the plants.

GEN 13 Noise: We envisage no additional noise pollution from this project.

GEN 14 Air quality: We envisage no impact on local air quality from this project.

GEN 15 Planning alignment A: We will use existing shore infrastructure. The deployment and harvest season is short (2 to 3 weeks in total) and will require only a few vehicles to move the harvest on to processing, posing a low additional burden to local roads and residents.

GEN 16 Planning alignment B: As GEN 15

GEN 17 Fairness: The Seaweed Cultivation will be a lower impact on other marine users than the traditional shellfish and finfish cultivation, with few vessel movements.

GEN 18 Engagement: Local engagement will be undertaken from the beginning and throughout the project.

GEN 19 Sound evidence: This project is a scaled-up version of trials conducted by New Wave Foods (NWF) and Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) earlier this year, will retain SAMS as partners and be conducted by staff with advanced scientific knowledge in this emerging field.

GEN 20 Adaptive management: Robust management of the project will be undertaken by staff with decades of Aquaculture experience.

GEN 21 Cumulative impacts: Seaweed Cultivation amongst the existing finfish farms in the area will be seen an ecosystem benefit and may forward the ground breaking multi-trophic aquaculture ideals.