Appendix One

5. Marine Farm Details

(f) Location: North shore of Loch Reraig, outer Loch Carron, Wester Ross

(h) Potential impacts the works may have on navigation and proposed mitigation:

The site is tucked in close to the shore and well away from main navigation channels, and no impacts on commercial and most fishing craft are anticipated. However the general area is used by smaller prawn (*Nephrops*) creelers, pleasure craft and kayakers, mainly out of Plockton. Each end of the line will be marked by high visibility buoys as required for navigation. The longline will be held up by 21 smaller buoys; these will be low visibility grey or white to minimise general visual impact, but will be obvious to small craft at close quarters.

7. Scotland's National Marine Plan

This application is for a single longline to collect scallop spat from local plankton, and ongrow in hanging nets, as part of a wider project to grow scallops to harvestable size on a nearby area of seabed (application for protection by Several Order in progress). The project is consistent with Scotland's NMP vision of clean healthy, safe, productive and diverse seas. Sustainable development is an overarching principle of the NMP; scallop farming is inherently sustainable, utilising natural spatfall which is renewable every year as part of the plankton cycle.

Water Quality: unlike finfish farming, scallop farming has no adverse impact on water quality, requiring no input of harmful chemicals or nutrients to fragile sealoch ecosystems.

Shellfish Growing Waters: the site is not within a SGW according to Scottish Office maps; however there is one close by in Loch Kishorn, and a larger area to the south with several scallop operations so the general area is well known for shellfish production.

Natural Heritage: the site is within the Lochcarron MPA, but will not impact on the designated features of flame shell reefs, maerl beds and other PMFs (NatureScot consultation).

Biosecurity: the collection of local spat ensures no alien introductions from this source.

Landscape and Seascape: because of the site's secluded location, lack of surface structures and inconspicuous line buoys, there will be minimal landscape impact.

Climate Change: the project is inherently low carbon, with low energy use and servicing by small craft. Most of the equipment is already available from previous trials at this site.

The NMP states that here is significant scope for growth in Scotland's shellfish industry; results from this project will improve knowledge and understanding of the processes required to raise scallops commercially. As the scallops will be producing larvae before eventual harvest, the project also has the potential to improve wild scallop stocks. Co-existence with other development sectors is confirmed by the positive responses to consultation.

8. Consultation

As part of the planning process this project was advertised in local papers for 2 consecutive weeks in January 2021. Only one comment was received, from a local fisherman, requesting that the site should be well maintained and serviced to avoid disused gear lying on the seabed. This is a condition of Planning Permission granted. A wide consultation was also carried out as a preliminary to the Several Order application, which outlined the whole project including the longline site. This covered the relevant statutory bodies, local stakeholders and landowners (see attached information). This consultation was also widely distributed through Marine Scotland contacts, including all relevant fisheries organisations; however the complete MS email list was not made known to us due to data protection. Nearly all responses were supportive, and no objections were received; a representative for local fishermen in Plockton requested that the longlines be placed no deeper than 15-18 fathoms because the loch is fished for prawns (Nephrops) below these depths. Maximum depth at the site is less than 15 fathoms (30m) so there should be no conflict with prawn creeling.

9. Associated Works

Mr Bruce has had a Crown Estate lease on this site since 1996; this lapsed in 2016 (ref:RC2-78-12), mainly because of introduced measures requiring planning permission in marine areas. Planning Permission was obtained in February 2021 for a single longline. He now has a Lease Option Agreement with the Crown Estate which is due to be converted to a full lease pending a Marine Licence. The site was used experimentally to collect and successfully grow scallop spat to a stage where they could be ongrown on the seabed, and this is the intended purpose for resuming operations at this site. Mr Bruce is applying for a Several Order at a site nearby for the purpose of ongrowing to a marketable size; application in preparation.