

HASKONING UK LTD.
74/2 Commercial Quay
Commercial Street
Leith
EH6 6LX

Sent via email: [Redacted]

Date: 09 April 2026

Dear Ms Maxwell,

SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017

Thank you for your screening opinion request dated 02 February 2026 in regards to the proposed port infrastructure improvements, including dredging and land reclamation to extend the marshalling area at Kilchoan Ferry Terminal (“the Proposed Works”).

The Scottish Ministers consider the Proposed Works to fall under paragraph 1(e) of schedule 2 of The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 MW Regulations”), with the Proposed Works meeting the corresponding threshold described in column 2 of schedule 2. Consequently, the Scottish Ministers are obliged to adopt a screening opinion as to whether the Proposed Works are an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) project under the 2017 MW Regulations.

Under regulation 10(5) of the 2017 MW Regulations, the Scottish Ministers have consulted with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (“SEPA”), The Highland Council and Historic Environment Scotland (“HES”) as to their view on whether the Proposed Works are an EIA project. Copies of the consultation responses received are attached for your review (at Appendix I).

When making a determination as to whether schedule 2 works are an EIA project, the Scottish Ministers must provide their reasons in a written statement, taking into account the selection criteria set out in schedule 3 of the 2017 MW Regulations, as are relevant to the Proposed Works. This is set out below.

Characteristics of the works

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (“CMAL”) are proposing to carry out construction and dredging activities at Kilchoan Harbour to reduce traffic queuing on the approach to the ferry terminal and accommodate new electric vessels.

The current marshalling area will be extended by reclaiming an area of land to the east of the existing access road. Reclamation works will comprise a granular fill that is protected by an outer armour layer, with a raised footway being constructed between the marshalling area and entire length of a new 92 metre revetment wall. The reclamation will cover an area of

approximately 750 square metres, of which around 300 square metres is below Mean High Water Springs.

A small section of the toe and approach to the existing slipway will also require to be dredged in order to facilitate the new vessel. This will comprise an area of approximately 1,100 square metres with an estimated dredge volume of 820 cubic metres, using a spud-leg barge, mounted with an excavator to carry out the works. Ground investigations found the material to be coarse sand, shell and rock, and where suitable, this will be reused in the reclamation works. If dredged material is not suitable for reuse on site, it will be removed to a licensed deposit site, either onshore or offshore, as determined by a Best Practicable Environmental Option (“BPEO”) evaluation.

Location of the works

The Proposed Works are located within the Loch Sunart to Sound of Jura Marine Protected Area, the Ardnamurchan Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation which is designated for the protection of harbour porpoise. NatureScot advised that harbour porpoise could be disturbed from noise associated with dredging activities. As such, it considered that a Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) should be carried out. It also noted the requirement of an EPS licence and potential need for a basking shark licence.

However, NatureScot concluded that the Proposed Works did not constitute an EIA project, as the necessary assessment of impacts is achievable through the licensing and HRA processes.

Characteristics of the potential impact

HES did not identify any potentially significant effects on the historic environment and therefore do not consider the Proposed Works to be an EIA project.

The Highland Council advised that there are no known significant contaminated land issues which impact the proposed development. It also acknowledged that the screening opinion request outlined how the impacts from the Proposed Works would be assessed and mitigated through the licensing and HRA processes.

SEPA referred to its standing advice and indicated that it had no site-specific comments to make in respect of the Proposed Works.

Conclusion

In view of the findings above, the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that the Proposed Works are not an EIA project under the 2017 MW Regulations and, therefore, an EIA is not required to be carried out in respect of the Proposed Works.

If you increase, alter or extend the Proposed Works, you are advised to contact Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team again to confirm if the screening opinion is still valid.

A copy of the screening opinion has been forwarded to Highland Council planning department. The screening opinion has also been made publicly available through the Marine Scotland Information website: <https://marine.gov.scot/?q=node/27398>

If you require any further assistance or advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

Neil Macleod
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team



Appendix I

NatureScot Response

From: informed@planning.nature.scot
To: MD Marine Licensing
[Redacted]
Cc:
Subject: CEA183642 – ID104679 - SCR-0122 - Haskning UK Ltd - Small Vessel Replacement Programme - Kilchoan - NatureScot
Date: 16 March 2026 12:10:30

Our Ref: CEA183642 – ID104679

Your Ref: SCR-0122

Dear Gerry

**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**
SCR-0122 - Haskning UK Ltd - Small Vessel Replacement Programme – Harbour
Improvement Works – Kilchoan Ferry Terminal

Thank you for your consultation on the above screening request dated 3 March 2026.

Summary

Based on the information provided, we advise that, with respect to our interests in context to Protected Areas, the above proposed works are not an EIA project as defined in the MW EIA Regulations. We agree with the applicant that a full assessment of potential impacts to protected areas can be presented within an habitat regulations appraisal (HRA) and marine mammal risk assessment at the marine licence application stage. We make comments below regarding the ecological interests potentially impacted by the proposed works.

Background

We previously responded to this screening request on 5 August and 30 September 2025. Since these responses, piling has been removed from the proposed works much reducing the potential impacts to harbour porpoise from underwater noise. The proposed works now comprise dredging of the toe and approaches to the existing slipway and extension of the marshalling area by reclaiming land at low tide using granular fill protected by an outer armour layer.

Appraisal of impacts and our advice

Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The harbour porpoise (*Phocoena Phocoena*) protected interest of this SAC could be subject to disturbance from the potential impact of the proposal in relation to underwater noise resulting from dredging. Other marine mammals could also be impacted by this possible disturbance and, as such, we agree that a European Protected Species (EPS) license to disturb marine mammals should be applied for. We advise that a Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) for harbour porpoise in the Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC should be carried out, to support this licence application. It is likely that a marine mammal observer (or vessel crew member performing that function) will be required during the dredging.

European Protected Species

As mentioned above, marine mammals in addition to harbour porpoise could be disturbed by the proposal, so the application for an EPS licence to disturb marine mammals should cover the following species:

- harbour porpoise
- bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)
- minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
- otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Priority Marine Features (PMFs)

Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) could be subject to disturbance from the potential impact of the proposal in relation to underwater noise resulting from dredging. In addition to being a PMF, the basking shark is listed on the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and so the applicant may need to apply for a basking shark licence. More information is available here: <https://www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/fish/sea-fish/basking-shark>.

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

Emma

Emma Jones | Operations Officer – Coastal Infrastructure | she/her

NatureScot | Fodderty Way | Dingwall Business Park | Dingwall | IV15 9XB | t: 01463 725298

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

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

Please note that the InformedDECISION platform will be unavailable on the 18th of March.



NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage



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-0113, SCR-0122
Our case ID: 300081551

26 March 2026

Dear Marine Directorate

[The Marine Works \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017 – Small Vessel Replacement Programme – Kilchoan Ferry Terminal - Screening Request](#)

Thank you for your consultation of 3 March 2026 seeking our comments on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening request 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 and Marine Protected Areas.

The Highland Council's 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 Comments](#)

A previous iteration of the Proposed Development was subject to EIA screening (SCR-0113), however as a result of a change to the design, the Proposed Development has been submitted for re-screening. From the updated documentation provided, we understand that the Proposed Development includes the improvement of port infrastructure to accommodate the new electric vessels. Modifications required to the existing Kilchoan ferry terminal comprise:

- Dredging of the toe and approaches to the existing slipway
- Extension of the marshalling area.



We also note that construction of a piled aligning structure alongside the existing slipway which was originally proposed, has now been removed.

Our Advice

We have not identified any potentially significant effects on the historic environment and therefore have no reason to consider the proposals to be EIA development. We expect significant effects on the historic environment to be considered in the application process whether or not the development goes through the EIA process.

From 1 January 2025, we no longer provide advice on undesignated underwater cultural heritage. This includes the preparation of documents for post-consent activities including Written Schemes of Investigation or Protocols for Archaeological Discoveries. For EIA projects, you must ensure that you have access to sufficient expertise to examine the EIA Report in accordance with the relevant regulations.

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 Kevin Mooney at kevin.mooney@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Marine Directorate
Gerry Millar
Marine Licensing Casework Manager
Scottish Government
Atlantic Quay
Glasgow
G2 8LU

Please ask for: Christine Millard
Direct Dial: 01397 707020
E-mail: [Redacted]
OurRef: 26/01019/MAR
Your Ref: SCR-0122
Date: 19 March 2026

Dear Gerry

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

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

Thank you for consulting the Highland Council on the above proposal. This was registered on the 3rd March 2026. We have reviewed the accompanying information and have the following comments.

We understand that this consultation arises as a result of a change to the design, the proposed development is being submitted for re-screening by the Marine Directorate under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. In the earlier case, the Marine Directorate determined that an EIA would be required for the proposed works at Kilchoan ferry terminal, following the submission of further information by the applicant in response to consultation comments from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and NatureScot.

The Highland Council provided its consultation response to the original screening request on 12th August 2025. A separate screening application for the same development was received on the 6th August 2025, and a decision notice confirming that an EIA was not required was issued to the applicant on the 15th September 2025. A further consultation response was issued on 14th October, to the applicant’s request for the Marine Directorate to reconsider their previous screening determination, taking into account the Mingary Historic Marine Protected Area (HMPA) which had been omitted in the applicant’s original screening report.

The information provided on the revised scheme outlines the proposed works for the Kilchoan ferry terminal, improvement of port infrastructure to accommodate new electric vessels and the development of the marshalling area. The revised scheme includes dredging of the toe and approaches to the existing slipway and extension of the marshalling area and the aligning structure alongside the existing slipway has been removed, to reduce potential impacts to harbour porpoise designated under the Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC.

As previously advised it is acknowledged and supported that any dredge spoil should be reused

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Ionad dDealbhaidh: Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd, Rathad Ghleann Urchadain, Inbhir Nis, IV3 5NX

within the development where feasible however, where on site reuse is not possible, a dredge disposal site must be identified following completion of a Best Practicable Environmental Option assessment, consistent with Marine Scotland's guidance on dredging and disposal licensing. It is also accepted that there are no licensed dredge disposal sites within the immediate vicinity of the Mingary HMPA.

The applicant's submission notes that dredging activity is anticipated to be short in duration, carried out over a small area and anticipated levels of underwater noise and disturbance are not expected to impact Harbour porpoise or Flapper Skate to a significant degree. The impacts will be addressed through the HRA process and a Marine Mammal Risk Assessment will assess potential effects on the SAC and will sufficiently address any potential impacts on the qualifying features of the SAC.

It will, however, remain the responsibility of NatureScot to review these proposals and confirm whether the measures proposed by the applicant are sufficient to ensure that the works will not adversely affect the integrity of the SAC or its qualifying features.

In addition to the above considerations, we can confirm that there are no known significant contaminated land issues which impact the proposed development. However, as with any dockland area there is potential for Made Ground infill and potentially contaminated soils which can be disturbed during groundworks and dredging. There may be hydrocarbon impact should fuel storage or fueling activities have taken place in the vicinity and this should be investigated with mitigation measures established as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Yours sincerely

Christine Millard

Development Management Planner - Lochaber

ePlanning Centre: The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX

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SEPA Response

From: [Planning.North](#)
To: [MD Marine Licensing](#)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: PCS-20008191 SEPA response to SCR-0122
Date: 04 March 2026 14:08:26
Attachments: [image.png](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
SCR-0122 - screening request for redevelopment of the harbour area for small
vessel replacement programme, Kilchoan harbour, Acharacle

Thank you for the above consultation. Based on the information provided, it appears that this application falls below the thresholds that SEPA provide site specific advice for. Please refer to our standing advice and other guidance, which is available on our [website](#). In addition, please refer to our SEPA standing advice for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Marine Scotland on marine consultations, available [here](#).

If there is a significant site-specific issue that you would like our advice on, which is not addressed by our guidance or other information provided on our website, then please reconsult us clearly highlighting the specific issue and we will try our best to assist.

from
Nina Caudrey
Senior Planning Officer



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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.

