



Shetland Islands Council

## Marine Fish Farming – Request for Screening and/or Scoping Opinion

### Notes for Guidance

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1999

(Please note this is not a planning application)

Under the above Regulations, Shetland Islands Council cannot grant planning permission for a marine fish farming development where it will have a significant environmental impact (due to its size, nature or location) without considering relevant environmental information.

Potential applicants can request a 'screening opinion' as to whether the Council consider an Environmental Statement is required to be submitted with a future planning application. A 'scoping opinion' can also be requested to confirm the necessary information to be contained in any required Environmental Statement to be submitted in support of a future planning application.

Coastal Zone Manager

Marine Planning Service,  
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Grantfield  
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9.00am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday

# Marine Fish Farming – Request for Screening and/or Scoping Opinion

## Notes for Guidance

These notes have been prepared to help you fill in the form. If you need any more help, please contact the Marine Management Section.

**(NOTE: INCOMPLETE/INCORRECT FORMS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED, WHICH MAY DELAY YOUR PROPOSALS).**

### 1. Applicant's/Agent's Name and Address

Please give your full name and address, including your postcode and, if possible, a daytime telephone number. You may also give other contact details such as fax or email.

You may decide to employ an agent to prepare the drawings and complete these forms for you. If this is the case, all correspondence from the Marine Management Section will be sent to the agent. Please give the name, address and phone number of the firm or company, and the individual dealing with this request.

### 2. Location of Development

Please provide a site name (e.g. Slocka) and a location (e.g. Ronas Voe).

Please also provide an admiralty chart plotting reference of the mid-point of the site (WGS84 datum) and an Ordnance Survey grid reference.

### 3. Proposal Type

There are three types of proposal:

- New site – this will involve a proposal for a new previously undeveloped site or if it is proposed to change from shellfish to finfish;
- Modification of an existing approved site – this may involve a change to the overall size of the site and/or the equipment used on an existing site.
- Change of use – should be made when the proposals involve a change in the species that will be farmed on site, i.e. salmon to cod.

### 4. Species

Please provide a full list of all permitted and proposed species.

### 5. Description of Proposed Development

A full description of the proposal should be included, i.e. 'develop a new cod farm' or 'modify existing salmon farm by increasing number of cages from six to ten'. Where a change of use is involved, the present and proposed use must be included in the description. The description should fully and accurately reflect the nature of the development, and failure to do so may result in your application being delayed.

## 6. Equipment and Development Area

You must fill in the 'Proposed' section in all cases. This must detail the equipment (or additional equipment) which you intend to apply for. Use the 'Existing' section only in the case of a request for a change of use or modifications to an existing site.

Please quote external measurements for all equipment. Details of any ancillary equipment must be included and completed for all requests. Ancillary equipment can, for example, include feedings systems, nets, lighting installations, and feed pipes. Please only include equipment that has not already been described in Section 6 (a).

The mooring containment area is the area, which if the anchorage or mooring points used in relation to the development were to be connected by straight lines, would be enclosed by such imaginary lines.

## 7. Production Information

Please provide as much information as possible by answering all questions in full. A full production spreadsheet should also be submitted for each species.

## 8. Discharges and Environmental Assessment

Under the terms of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (or CAR), it will be necessary to obtain a CAR licence for the site from SEPA. If a CAR licence has already been obtained, please provide details of date of approval, maximum biomass permitted and approved chemicals/medicines.

For existing sites, if an Environmental Statement has already been produced please confirm the date of publication.

## 9. Supporting Information

Please provide as much information as possible by answering all relevant questions in detail.

## 10. Checklist

Four sets of the following plans should be submitted with the form:

- Location plan;
- Admiralty Chart extract showing the site (mooring containment area) outlined in red;
- Site plan showing the layout of the primary equipment at a scale of 1:500. Where possible, details of the known water depth, reduced to chart datum, should be indicated at: (a) each corner of the proposed equipment; (b) each extremity of the site, and (c) the position of least depth within the site;

For the avoidance of doubt the site is the seabed area enclosed by the equipment moorings. It will be the boundary in which the fish farm must operate and all fixed equipment located. Any fixed operations or equipment outwith this site would not benefit from the planning permission and could be open to enforcement action.

## 11. Declaration

### Screening Opinion:

By ticking this box, you are requesting the Council's written opinion as to whether an Environmental Statement is required to be submitted with a future planning application.

### Scoping Opinion:

By ticking this box, you are requesting the Council's written opinion on what information should be included in an Environmental Statement required to support a future planning application.

Please ensure that the form is signed by yourself or the agent acting on your behalf. The Council cannot register your request if this section is incomplete.

## Where should I submit my request?

You should submit 2 copies of the completed form along with 4 sets of the necessary plans to the address shown on the front page of these guidance notes.

It is advisable to make copies of your request for your own information.

## What happens next?

Once the Marine Planning Service has received your request, it will be checked to ensure it is complete. If for some reason the request is incomplete, it cannot be registered, and you will be informed in writing what additional information is required.

If your request is complete, you will receive an acknowledgement letter. This will confirm the name of the officer dealing with your request and a reference number which you should quote in all future correspondence with the Marine Planning Service.

We are required to communicate the screening opinion to you within 3 weeks of the date of request. Should an Environmental Statement be deemed necessary, we are required to communicate the scoping opinion to you within 5 weeks of the date of request. During that period we will consult with:

Marine Scotland;

Scottish Natural Heritage; and

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency;

asking them, in their opinion, if there is likely to be significant environmental impacts. We will assess their responses and determine, in our opinion:

- (A) for the Screening Opinion whether an Environmental Statement is required to be submitted with a future planning application, and
- (B) for the Scoping Opinion what information must be submitted as part of the Environmental Statement in support of a future planning application.

If you feel that the Council has failed to follow the correct procedures and that you have therefore suffered an injustice, you may ask the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) to investigate the matter. The SPSO can be contacted as follows: SPSO, Freepost EH641, Edinburgh, EH3 0BR. Tel: 0800 377 7330; Email: [ask@spsos.org.uk](mailto:ask@spsos.org.uk)