



Shetland Islands Council

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

Post Screening SEA Determination - Statement of Reasons Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Aquaculture

Under Section 8(1) of the above Act, Shetland Islands Council has formally determined, in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage that the Supplementary Guidance - Aquaculture is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an environmental assessment is not required.

No Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the Supplementary Guidance - Aquaculture.

Statement of Reasons

Policy CST1 of the adopted Shetland Local Development Plan provides the primary policy framework for sustainable development and infrastructure in the coastal zone. The SG – Aquaculture supports this policy such that any proposals for aquaculture developments or amendments to existing fish farm consents will be required to have regard to the criteria in CST1 and this SG.

In addition all proposals will be assessed against the Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan (2014) that sets out a spatial strategy and policy framework to guide marine developments in the coastal waters around Shetland. The Marine Spatial Plan, itself adopted as SG to the LDP, identifies the constraints developers are required to consider when contemplating development or use of the marine resource.

Both the LDP and the Marine Spatial Plan have been subject to SEA with Environmental Reports produced for both. As this SG has been developed in accordance with the policy framework in these two documents and also those in the National Marine Plan and Scottish Planning Policy, it is considered that it will not result in any additional significant environmental effect beyond those already assessed within the plan hierarchy.

On this basis the Council has determined that the SG – Aquaculture is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and SEA is not therefore required.