Topic Paper 22: Aquaculture

Information required by the Act regarding the issue addressed in this section:

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) Section 15(5):

- *The principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district; and the principal purposes for which the land is used.*
- *The principal purposes for which land is used.*

NPF4 requirements for LDP:

NPF4 Policy 32: Aquaculture

LDPs should guide new aquaculture (including seaweed farm development) in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.*
*Seaweed farms do not fall under TCPA, but in terms of the NPF4 and the forthcoming LDP3 they will need to be taken account of.

Links to Evidence:

Data sets / spatial data resources

Active and Inactive sites are accessed through the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate: Marine Directorate's - National Marine Plan Interactive

Marine Directorate Maps - WMS and WFS:
https://marine.gov.scot/maps/national-marine-plan-interactive-wms-and-wfs
Home | Scotland's Aquaculture
Scottish Government's marine open data network:
marine.gov.scot

Marine Directorate's Disease Management Areas (DMA) were established by a Joint Government/Industry Working Group on Infectious Salmon Anaemia in January 2000, based on separation distances around active farms, considering tidal excursions and

other epidemiological risk factors. For further information and all updated DMA maps, refer to: Marine Directorate's - Disease Management Areas.

NatureScot's SiteLink is Scotland's register of European sites under Regulation 11 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. SiteLink provides access to data and information on key Protected Areas.
https://sitelink.nature.scot/home

The Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (ADSFB) is a statutory consultee for planning applications, including aquaculture that have the potential to affect salmon and trout fisheries in Argyll.
Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board

Salmon Scotland - Reports
https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/reports
Rural Communities Support | Salmon Scotland

Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) – Experimental seaweed farms
https://www.sams.ac.uk/facilities/seaweed-farms/

Policies / strategies / plans / guidance / designations

Scotland's National Marine Plan
National Marine Plan

Scotland's Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture:
https://www.gov.scot/publications/vision-sustainable-aquaculture/documents/

NatureScot's planning and development guidance on marine aquaculture
https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/marine-aquaculture

Marine Directorate's Planning and Locational Guidelines
https://marine.gov.scot/information/planning-locational-guidelines
Authorisation of marine fish farms in Scottish waters: locational guidelines - gov.scot

Aquaculture Marine Planning Zones
Aquaculture Marine Planning Zones | marine.gov.scot

Aquaculture consenting process
Fish farm consents - Aquaculture - gov.scot

Marine Directorate's Technical Standard for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture
Marine Directorate's - A Technical Standard for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture

SEPA's Aquaculture regulations
Aquaculture | Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA's Finfish Aquaculture Sector Plan
https://sectors.sepa.org.uk/finfish-aquaculture-sector-plan/

SEPA is the responsible authority for the implementation and monitoring of the risk-based Regulatory Framework for managing the interaction between sea lice from marine finfish farm developments and wild Atlantic salmon. SEPA will apply the risk-based Regulatory Framework for managing interactions between sea lice from fish farms and wild salmon when determining applications for new farms or increases in the number of fish at existing farms. The framework will be applied through The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (legislation.gov.uk).

SEPA's Regulatory Framework
https://beta.sepa.scot/topics/water/aquaculture/#anchor-regulatoryframework

Fisheries Management Scotland
https://fms.scot/

Salmon Scotland's Code of Good Practice
https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/code-of-good-practice

NatureScot's (formally Scottish Natural Heritage) Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture
Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture

NatureScot's (formally Scottish Natural Heritage) The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations
The Siting and Design of Aquaculture in the Landscape: Visual and Landscape Considerations

NatureScot's (formally Scottish Natural Heritage) Visualisations for aquaculture (Guidance Note – February 2018)
Visualisations for Aquaculture: Guidance Note (February 2018)

Historic Environment Scotland Portal provides complete planning and guidance, data and mapping information on listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and other designations where adjacent aquaculture development may have the potential to affect their coastal setting.
Historic Environment Scotland portal

NatureScot's professional advice for protected areas/protected species
https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas

The Marine Directorate's Fish Farm Consents: guidance and support link provides complete detailed information to support the aquaculture industry and decision makers.

The Clyde Regional Marine Plan
Clyde Regional Marine Plan - Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

Summary of Evidence

Economics

Aquaculture makes a significant contribution to the economy of Argyll and Bute and is seen as a significant growth sector across the region. It provides year round jobs which are important for rural coastal communities and downstream jobs are also supported in transport, processing and support services.

The farmed salmon sector contributes more than £953 million to the Scottish economy every year through direct, supply chain and employment impacts. The sector generates in excess of £1.2 billion worth of Scottish salmon at farm gate providing direct employment for over 2,500 people in farming and a further 10,850 across Scotland (The Economic Impact of Scottish Salmon Farming - A report to Salmon Scotland November 2025 (BIGGAR Economics Ltd.). Production is focussed on the west coast, highlands and islands and in remote and rural areas of Scotland. Across Argyll and the Clyde, salmon export values were worth £107 million in 2023 (Salmon Scotland, Scottish salmon Economic commentary: Spring 2024).

Key points

- In 2025, the average annual salary in Scottish salmon farming is £34,000 (Rural Communities Support | Salmon Scotland, accessed 18.06.25).
- In 2022, aquaculture generated £337 million approximate Gross Value Added (aGVA), 0.20% of the Scottish economy and 7% of the marine economy aGVA. Aquaculture employed 2,200 people, 0.08% of Scottish employment and 3% of marine economy employment (most recent data).
- From 2021 to 2022, the aGVA from aquaculture decreased by 32% from £496 million to £337 million. The longer term trend from 2013 to 2022 increased by 7% from £315 million. From 2013 to 2022, employment increased by 14% (Scotland's Marine Economic Statistics 2022 report, The Scottish Government – November 2024).

Finfish farming (2024 data)

- 7 producing businesses
- 4 non-producing businesses
- 119 producing sites
- 96 non-producing sites
- 215 total number of sites
- 373 total staff employed in Atlantic salmon production in the South West production area in 2024.
- 35,151 tonnes of Atlantic salmon produced in 2024 with a gross production value of over £242 million GBP (Argyll & Clyde).
- Projections for 2025 suggest that more smolts will be produced than in 2024, followed by a further increase in 2026.
- 18 rainbow trout sites were recorded in the West production area with an average production of 207.7 tonnes produced.
- 46 staff employed for rainbow trout production in the West production area of Scotland.

Above data taken from the Scottish Fish Farm Production Survey 2024 (note: totals above are for the Scottish region, unless specified with the vast majority of businesses and employment from Argyll and Bute).

Finfish farming in Argyll and Bute (2025 data)

- 520 employed in Argyll and Bute, with Gross Value Added (GVA) direct impacts of £48.7m.
- Supply chain impacts in Argyll and Bute in 2024 – GVA £37.1m with 440 jobs.
- Capital Investment in Argyll and Bute in 2024 – GVA £5.7m with 70 jobs.

Above data taken from The Economic Impact of Scottish Salmon Farming - A report to Salmon Scotland November 2025 (BIGGAR Economics Ltd.)

Shellfish farming (2024 data)

- 46 active sites
- 26 producing sites
- 35 active businesses
- 68 employees (44 of which include part-time and casual staff)

Above data taken from the Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey 2024 (note: totals are for the Strathclyde region).

General points

- While the economic benefit of direct jobs is important in Argyll, the number of new jobs from expansion and change of use for existing aquaculture sites and development of new sites is limited. Expansions of existing aquaculture sites can lead to increased security of existing jobs (direct and indirect) rather than new ones. The largest economic benefit is from the initial investment of the development and ongoing services required, often provided separately by various Argyll and Bute companies.

Example

A change of use in 2024 from all four previous Rainbow trout farms to Atlantic salmon in Loch Etive. There were no new direct jobs as the farms are serviced by existing staff on other Etive farms.

There are many indirect benefits to local Argyll based suppliers. These can include annual servicing costs of sites across Argyll, with a high proportion going to local companies. Other indirect benefits include; feed delivery, accommodation, catering, marine engineering, fuel, and environmental assessments.

There are important indirect economic benefits for supply chain companies and existing aquaculture companies to keep processing facilities in Argyll and Bute. Examples of companies based in Argyll who provide services for the aquaculture industry include;

- Gael Force Group in Barcaldine, who make plastic fish pens.
- Inverlussa Services (based on Mull), who undertake marine works and fish feed deliveries.

1. Aquaculture Companies (new proposals and existing sites)

Finfish farming companies

- Mowi is Scotland's largest aquaculture company, with 1,500 staff, 48 farms across Scotland that produces over 68,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Mowi has announced its purchase of Sanda Island in Argyll off the southern tip of the Kintyre peninsula. The company state that they plan to establish a salmon farm off the east coast of the island with the aim to reinvigorate the island and develop its potential as a tourism destination. Mowi state that it is looking to create new jobs, including apprentice positions. Mowi state that the purchase of Sanda Island also includes the former hotel and houses, as well as Campbeltown shipyard and associated property, Sandbank House (Mowi plans to breathe new life into uninhabited Scottish island with multimillion pound investment - MOWI - Scotland).

- Bakkafrost Scotland operates 19 farms across Argyll and Bute and employs over 400 people across remote west coast communities (https://www.bakkafrostscotland.com/about-us). Bakkafrost Scotland are in the stages of developing a new fish farm off the west coast of Gigha, Argyll and Bute.

- Scottish Sea Farms (SSF) have 8 active marine farms, 1 proposed farm expansion, 2 freshwater hatcheries and 1 processing and packing facility with 203 direct employees across Argyll and Bute (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25). SSF invested £55 million for the development and operations for their hatchery at Barcaldine, Oban (Major milestone for Scottish Sea Farms' new hatchery as first smolts go safely out to sea pens - Scottish Sea Farms).

- Kames Fish Farming Limited is Scotland's oldest family fish farm, which is based in Argyll and Bute. Kames has 9 active sites across Argyll and Bute and employs 30 staff, with an annual wage expenditure of £1.65m (Kames – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 17.02.26). It is the only Scottish Steelhead Trout producer in the UK - https://www.kames.co.uk/. Kames are currently the lead producer of rainbow trout in Argyll and Bute.

Shellfish farming companies

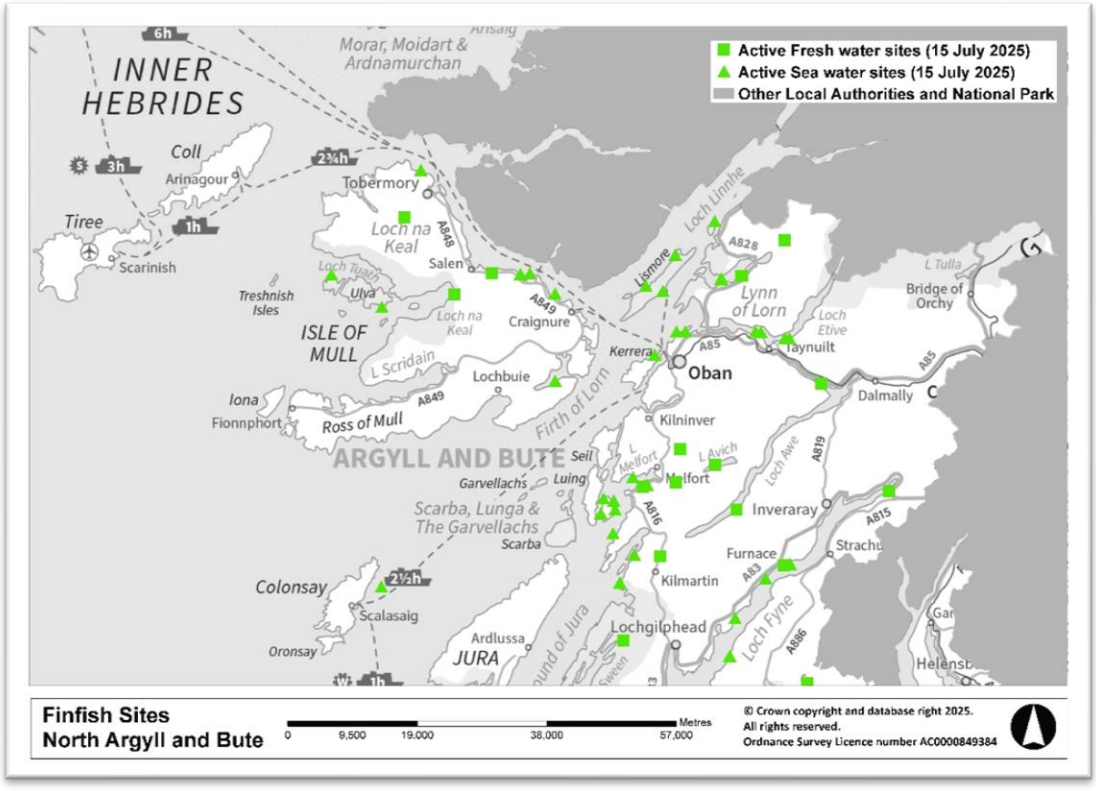
- Approximately 30 small to large scale businesses operate mussel and oyster farms across Argyll.

2. Baseline of marine aquaculture sites

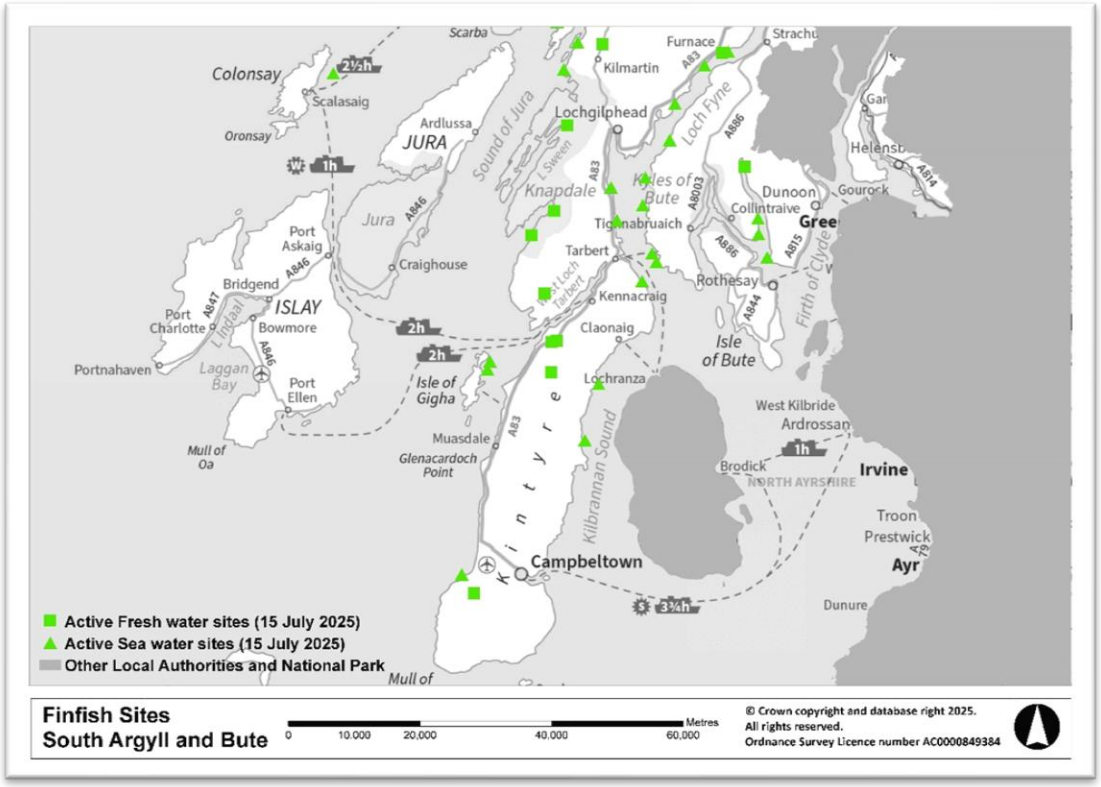
Marine and freshwater producing sites

- Approximately 108 aquaculture sites are identified as active by the Marine Directorate of which include; 51 marine finfish, 9 freshwater finfish, and 48 shellfish sites.

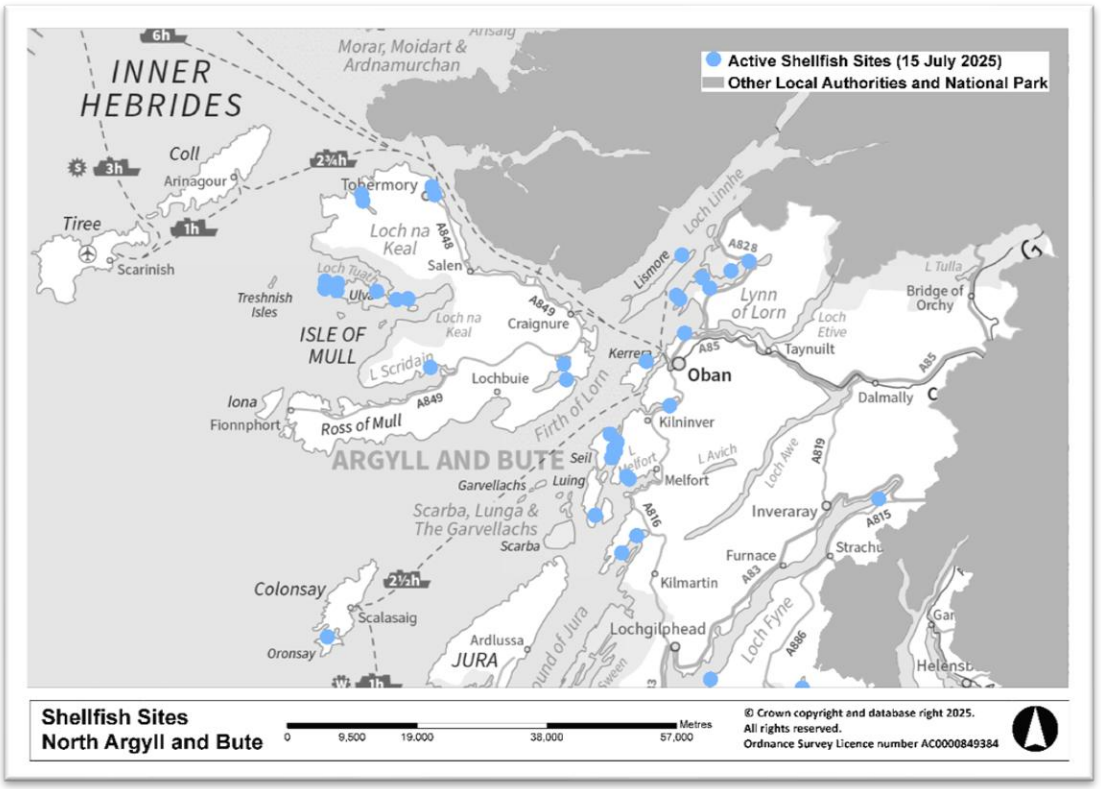
Map 1. Active fresh water and marine finfish sites in the North Argyll and Bute region (Marine Directorate – National Marine Plan Interactive, accessed on 15.07.25)



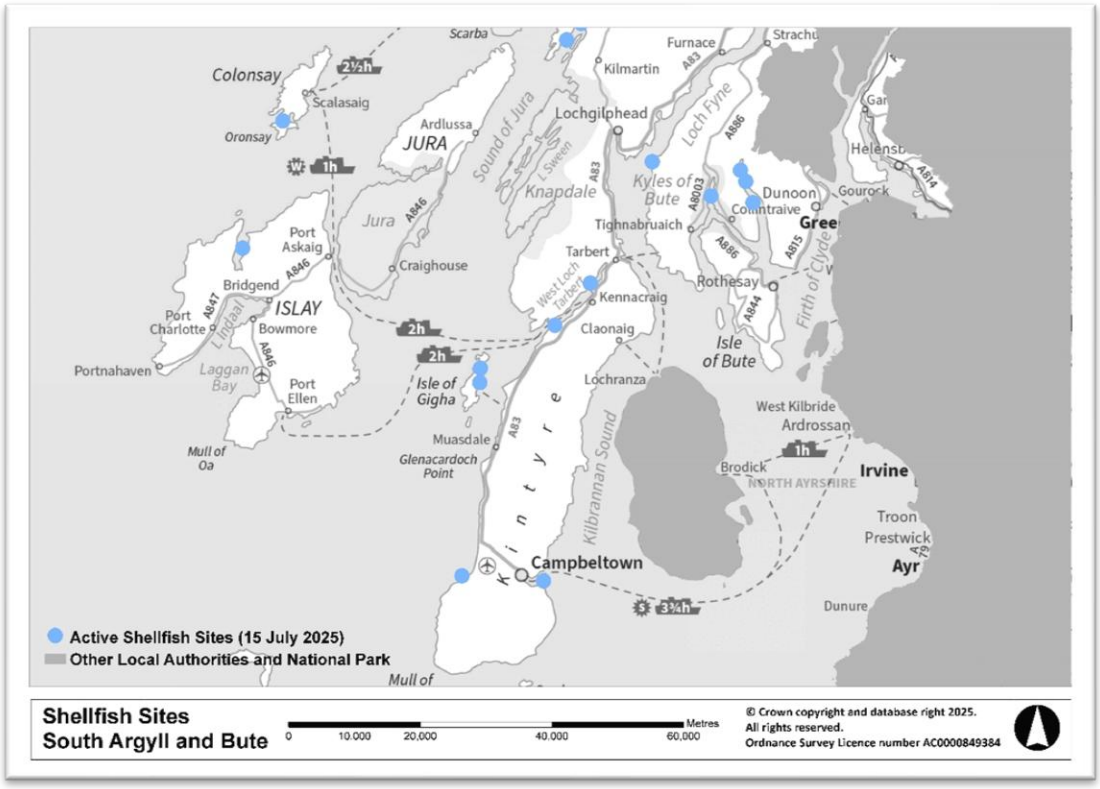
Map 2. Active fresh water and marine finfish sites in the South Argyll and Bute region (Marine Directorate – National Marine Plan Interactive, accessed on 15.07.25)



Map 3. Active shellfish sites in the North Argyll and Bute region (Marine Directorate – National Marine Plan Interactive, accessed on 15.07.25)



Map 4. Active shellfish sites in the South Argyll and Bute region (Marine Directorate – National Marine Plan Interactive, accessed on 15.07.25)



- There is a much higher number of inactive and deregistered sites identified by the Marine Directorate.

- SAMS operates two experimental seaweed farms to support their research near Oban, Argyll.

Onshore sites

- Eight existing fish hatcheries.

Processing

- Scottish Sea Farms process their Argyll produced farmed salmon at the South Shian processing facility in Loch Creran, Argyll.

- Bakkafrost Scotland process their salmon at the Cairndow processing facility, Argyll.

- Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd. process shellfish at the at their own separate depuration facility at Ardkinglas, near Cairndow.

- Most shellfish is transported to Bellshill to be processed through the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group Ltd. (SSMG).

3. Recent trends in aquaculture development

- Salmon – production is mainly through a combination of expansion and consolidation of existing sites, particularly in Loch Etive for post smolt grow on.

There is a recent trend where businesses replace many smaller pens with fewer larger pens particularly for fish health and welfare needs, improving operational efficiencies, and minimising environmental impacts.

Development of new sites.

Salmonid production in Argyll and Bute is expected to grow over the next 10 years. This should align with sector capacity, regulatory approvals, and sustainable development targets (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- Mussels (Loch Etive) – There has been no growth in mussel farming over several years. Poor blue mussel economic growth can be attributed to several factors including the presence of other mussel species such as *Mytilus trossulus* on existing farms, which can hinder production. Additionally, the industry faces challenges like low prices, a fragmented producer sector, limited suitable farming space, and difficulties in obtaining permits. Environmental factors such as changes to brackish water pH levels, algal blooms and biotoxins, also play a significant role in limiting production and market access.

- Oysters – Small growth in individual small scale businesses, taking advantage of good market price.

- Algal – there has been more interest in developing seaweed culture sites with an increase in marine licence applications across Argyll and Bute.

4. **Potential developments in the pipeline**

- A proposal from Bakkafrost Scotland - Little Colonsay Finfish Farm.
- There may be a future proposal to develop a semi-closed containment salmon farm and supporting shore base at Lurignish, Appin.
- Sanda Island development proposal by Mowi.
- Scottish Sea Farms are currently exploring up to four developments with the Argyll and Bute region for the period 2025 – 2029.
- Kames are aiming to expand production particularly within freshwater.

Summary of Engagement

The Aquaculture Draft Topic Paper has been sent to the following statutory bodies for comment:

Scottish Government Planning Directorate - chief.planner@gov.scot
Scottish Government Marine Directorate: AquacultureReview@gov.scot
SEPA - planning.north@sepa.org.uk
NatureScot Operations Manager - Liz Prior liz.prior@nature.scot.

Responses were received from:

1. Aquaculture Consenting Delivery Lead, Marine Economy and Communities - Marine Directorate (14.10.25)
2. NatureScot (14.11.25)

The Aquaculture Draft Topic Paper has been amended to reflect consultee comments that are relevant to the accuracy of data and information presented above.

In addition, The Draft Topic Paper and a Consultation Questionnaire was distributed to:
Salmon Scotland - Nigel Welford-Freire nigel@salmonscotland.co.uk
Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers - https://www.assg.org.uk/contact
British Trout Association - btaoffice@britishtrout.co.uk

Consultation responses were received from:

3. Salmon Scotland with independent 2024 economic impact figures of salmon farming (12.11.25).
4. Scottish Sea Farms (19.11.25)
5. Kames Fish Farming Limited (17.02.26)

An overview of the responses to the consultation questionnaire is provided below:

Barriers to growth

- Scottish Sea Farms state that investment decisions are often constrained by prolonged periods of uncertainty and delays in planning approvals due to the complex and discretionary nature of the planning system, compounded by a chronic lack of investment in planning departments. Streamlining processes and provision of clear guidance will help to reduce delays, and a planning policy framework which balances growth with environmental protection proportionately, will reduce uncertainty for businesses and encourage investment in appropriate locations. Planning policy and related plans can fail to sufficiently acknowledge that fish farming is a form of food production and sustainable growth of food production sectors is a national priority. In some instances, policies can overly focus on potential negative impacts of fish farming. It is important that explanatory text which supports policy is set out in a balanced manner in terms of potential positive and negative environmental and socio-economic impacts. (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- Kames state that the multiple regulatory body consenting process could be streamlined. It currently requires overlap and duplication of information to multiple regulators and consultees for both consultation and application stages. With high upfront costs and lengthy determination timescales which are prohibitive to smaller independent operators. Kames further state that the availability of staffing relies on suitable housing and infrastructure e.g. roads, schools, medical provision, shops and services (Kames – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 17.02.26).

What new technologies (AI monitoring, automation etc) do you see as being critical for the future of aquaculture?

- The industry recognise that new technologies such as AI automated monitoring systems are critical for predicting micro jellyfish and harmful algal blooms, as well as the integration of renewable energy solutions to support more sustainable operations. The industry already use automated systems that include underwater cameras for remote monitoring, inspection of nets

and feeding systems and they see continued progress with the development of automated lice counting and eDNA tools to monitor environmental impacts (SSF, 19.11.25; Kames, 17.02.25 – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions).

Does planning policy support aquaculture expansion?

- The general industry view is that current planning policy supports aquaculture expansion through criteria-based policies supported by spatial information.

- Scottish Sea Farms does not support spatial zoning that designates areas as suitable or unsuitable for fish farming due to the complexity of the marine environment and the wide range of criteria involved in site selection. Fish farms can only be located in areas where certain technical criteria have been met such as seabed type, depth, current speeds, wave exposure, fetch etc, and attributing sensitivity of constraints to fish farming or significance of constraints is problematic. Attempting to zone areas based on constraints mapping also does not take account of mitigation or other factors such as design and scale and new technologies (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- The industry highlights challenges in the planning system, such as prolonged approval delays, duplication of regulatory functions, and a lack of clear guidance on new policy requirements like biodiversity enhancement and climate change mitigation. Scottish Sea Farms ask that any specific policy or guidance aligns with NPF4 and NMP2, with flexibility to accommodate local circumstances where appropriate.

- Between 2029-2039 industry would likely require increases to current processing capacities, and would likely be increased by industry investing in existing facilities, rather than seeking new sites. This would be dependent on continued availability of adequate infrastructure, such as sufficient space to expand and a continuous water supply in place. Any new processing facilities must also be appropriately located and be serviced by a well-developed transportation network to balance costs and delays in moving the fish from farm to processing, and from processing to market.

- The industry advocate for streamlined processes, coherent frameworks, and better alignment between national and local policies to reduce uncertainty and encourage investment. The industry supports flexible policies that

accommodate larger fish farms in offshore and exposed areas, provided environmental factors and technical criteria are met.

- Kames noted that there are concessions for upgrading equipment via PDR, but the restriction on the planning boundary, doesn't always accommodate improvements to the site equipment to improve operational activity and environmental impacts; for example, the installation of new designs or fewer but larger pens in a bigger grid can improve dispersal and accommodate the use of modern techniques such as well boats for treatments and grading activities (Kames, 17.02.25 – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions).

What infrastructure improvements are most needed to support aquaculture growth in the Argyll and Bute Region?

- Industry agree that improvements to road, pier and harbour access is essential in Argyll and Bute. Road blockages can lead to significant detours and delays. Reliable broadband connectivity and phone signal is important as signals are often patchy with hotspots being common. Access to reliable supplies of water and renewable energy sources is important. Housing infrastructure is also important to provide affordable accommodation for employees in the area.

How can the industry contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, restoring degraded habitats and nature networks?

- The introduction of biodiversity enhancement requirements under NPF4 represents a significant shift in planning policy. While marine fish farms are currently exempt from the more detailed provisions of Policy 3b and 3c, it is expected that these will be extended to the marine environment through National Marine Plan 2 (NMP2). The sector recognises the importance of contributing to nature recovery but also highlights the need for practical, evidence-based approaches tailored to the marine context (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- Marine ecosystems are complex and interconnected, and restoration efforts must be grounded in robust science to avoid unintended consequences. The success of restoration projects often depends on the specific ecological and social context. Interventions in one area can have ripple effects elsewhere,

and restoration activities may conflict with existing marine uses. Therefore, whether enhancement initiatives should occur within certain areas must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering other uses and potential interactions (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- Opportunity mapping and improved access to baseline data would help developers identify suitable enhancement activities. A strategic, evidence-based approach will ensure that efforts are targeted where they are most needed and likely to succeed. Clear guidance is needed to define what constitutes biodiversity enhancement in the marine environment, how it should be valued, and how success should be monitored. Establishing baselines, tracking progress, and enabling adaptive management will be essential (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- Kames state that good farming practices and respect for the operating environment are key to working side by side with the natural habitat. Kames work with local fisheries trusts to support survey work on rivers and coastal areas on wild fish and are keen to better understand the main reasons for the decline of Atlantic salmon which is evidenced throughout the UK not just where aquaculture is active (Kames – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 17.02.26).

How has climate change affected your operations (rising sea temperatures, micro jelly fish, algal blooms, storm impacts)?

- It is considered that climate change is impacting farm operations with gradual increases in water temperatures, algal bloom events which impact health and survival of farmed fish. Industry continue to seek improvements in operational practices to minimise these impacts and biological challenges (impacts (SSF, 19.11.25; Kames, 17.02.25 – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions).

Are you considering moving future farms further offshore?

- Offshore aquaculture is being explored as a potential future direction for the sector, offering opportunities to reduce spatial pressures in coastal areas and potentially improve environmental conditions. However, challenges remain. Offshore farming requires specialised infrastructure capable of withstanding harsher conditions, and the supply chain for such equipment is not yet

established in Scotland. While Norway has begun trialling offshore systems, these remain in the early stages of development and are not yet proven at scale. Health and safety considerations are also more complex offshore, with increased risks for personnel and greater logistical demands for routine operations, maintenance, and emergency response. Additionally, the regulatory framework in Scotland does not yet support offshore aquaculture, and policy development would be required to enable such developments. While offshore farming may form part of the sector's long-term strategy, current efforts remain focused on optimising and sustainably growing inshore operations, which are supported by existing infrastructure and regulation (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

Are you considering using closed containment systems?

- Closed containment systems are being actively monitored by the sector. At present, these systems are only proven for post-smolt production, and their application for full grow-out cycles remains unproven at commercial scale. Trials in Norway are ongoing, but no closed containment systems are currently operational in Scotland. There are significant feasibility considerations, including high capital and operational costs, energy use, and potential fish welfare implications. The environmental footprint of closed systems also depends on their design and location, particularly in relation to energy sources and waste management. As such, closed containment is not considered to be a viable alternative to open-pen farming but may have a role in supplementing it, particularly in early life stages or in specific locations. The sector continues to assess developments in this area and remains open to integrating new technologies where they are proven to be effective, sustainable, and economically viable (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

What challenges do you face in adopting new sustainable farming methods?

- Adopting new sustainable technologies is often constrained by high capital costs, complex regulatory and permitting processes, and environmental limitations such as site depth and hydrodynamic conditions which are required for certain technologies (SSF – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 19.11.25).

- A balance must be sought to ensure improved sustainability; however, the health, growth and welfare of the fish must be at the centre of everything we do (Kames – Argyll and Bute Survey Questions, 17.02.26).

Summary of Implications for the Proposed Plan

Future policy and technical notes will need to:

1. Take account of recent and future trends, including new technologies within the aquaculture industry.
2. Recognise that the industry provides local employment in rural communities throughout Argyll and Bute.
3. Recognise that the industry is looking for further growth.
4. Recognise that it will be important to streamline processes and provide clear guidance within a planning policy framework that will balance growth with environmental protection, and aim to reduce uncertainty for businesses and encourage investment in appropriate locations.
5. Consider the potential positive and negative environmental and socio-economic impacts.
6. Consider closed containment systems and potential offshore proposals.
7. Recognise that aquaculture should allow for other industries to work alongside and co-exist together.
8. Align with the NPF4 and forthcoming NMP2, and be supportive of nature-based solutions and/or biodiversity enhancement programmes, where appropriate.