

The Town and Country Planning (Marine Fish Farming) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025

Response from Shetland Islands Council

Good afternoon,

Your email asks the following:

- **Do you agree with local authorities being designated as the planning authority for considering proposals aquaculture developments from 3-12 nautical miles?**
- **Are you content with the proposed boundaries of marine planning zones under the SSI?**
- **Do you have any other concerns or views on the SSI, particularly with regards to cost and resource/expertise implications for local authority planning departments?**

Shetland Islands Council responded to the Scottish Government consultation on 'Extending Marine Planning Zones' on 10 December 2024. Our response to the consultation can be viewed at: https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/marine-planning-zones-proposals-to-extend/consultation/published_select_respondent In relation to the above 3 questions our response provides detailed information covering all of these points.

To summarise in relation to the questions you have asked:

- We generally support local authorities being designated as the planning authority for considering proposals for aquaculture developments from 3-12 NM. We feel that local authorities are best placed handle applications out to 12NM under the planning system, and this would just be a natural progression of what currently exists out to 3NM.
- We are content with the proposed boundaries of the marine planning zones.
- The extension of boundaries from 3-12NM may result in additional applications coming to our own local authority and others too. This will therefore have resource implications relating to handling additional planning applications, but such applications will also require a planning fee to cover the cost of handling/processing the application. With regards to resources, we are aware that aquaculture and marine planners are a finite resource in Scotland and have previously raised this with RTPI Scotland and the Scottish Government as part of the Future Planners Programme.