

Our ref: PCS/142058
Your ref: 14/02574/FUL

Colin Wishart
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

If telephoning ask for:
Susan Haslam

15 September 2015

By email only to: epc@highland.gov.uk

Dear Mr Wishart

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts

Planning application: 14/02574/FUL

New fish farm comprising ten cages each 120m circumference, 220-tonne-capacity feed barge, and automated feeding system

Carn Dearg (Eishort 1), North side of Loch Eishort, Skye

Thank you for your consultation email which SEPA received on 18 August 2015.

We **maintain our objection** to this planning application on the grounds of lack of information on benthic impact. We will review this objection if the issues detailed in Section 1 below are adequately addressed. Please note the other advice provided below and in our previous response.

Advice for the planning authority

1. Benthic impacts

- 1.1 A second baseline visual survey of three transects was undertaken on 6 February 15, however, the quality of the submission is, unfortunately, inadequate. Visual footage is required to follow a weighted line with clear distance markers, or be labelled with the live GPS coordinates - the submitted footage is not labelled with live GPS coordinates, and while it follows a weighted line, the distance tags are not labelled, nor has an accompanying table relating times to distance positions been supplied. The table supplied with the report is broken down into time segments and if the applicant can relate time to each of the distance tags along the transect rope, and the table is updated to reflect this, then this would be sufficient. Please note we highlighted this issue directly to the applicant in May this year but did not receive any further information.
- 1.2 As outlined previously the applicant is advised to consult with SEPA's Marine Science Unit in Dingwall, SNH and the Planning Authority to ensure that any future surveys meet requirements.
- 1.3 In relation to baseline benthic survey then two additional grab stations were agreed with the applicant but the data from these has not yet been received and we await this information.



Chairman
David Sigsworth

Chief Executive
Terry A'Hearn

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Graesser House, Fodderty Way,
Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB
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www.sepa.org.uk

2. The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended)

- 2.1 We can confirm that a CAR application has still not yet been submitted to us and refer you to section 3 of our previous response.

Regulatory advice for the applicant

3. Regulatory requirements

- 3.1 Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice for the applicant can be found on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/planning.aspx. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the operations team in your local SEPA office at: Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL, Tel: 01397 704426.

Should you wish to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

ECopy to: Anna.M.Donald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Alex.Turner@snh.gov.uk;
Elizabeth Macleod, Grieg Seafood Hjalmland UK Ltd, elizabeth.macleod@griegseafood.com

Disclaimer

This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at the planning stage. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application and/or neighbour notification or advertising. We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information. If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. If you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found in [How and when to consult SEPA](#), and on flood risk specifically in the [SEPA-Planning Authority Protocol](#).