

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

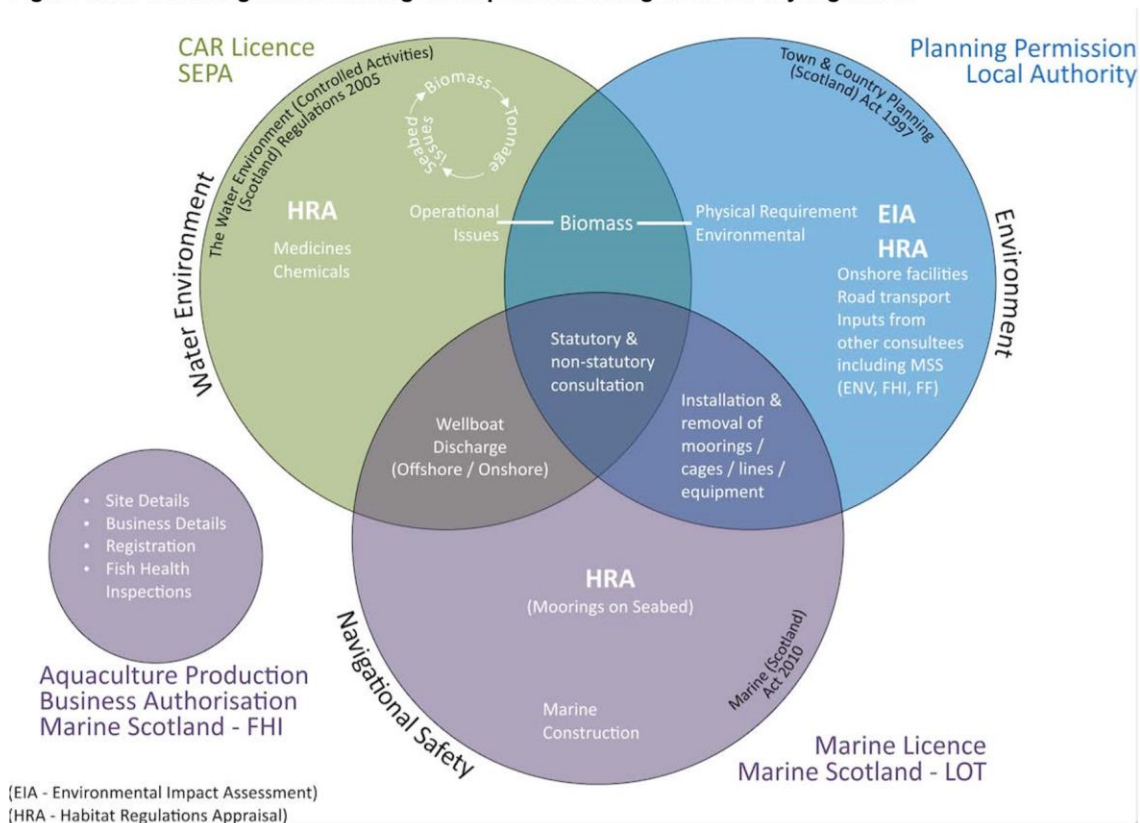
PROJECT	SARF113	Feasibility/modelling of single Marine Licence development consent for Scotland aquaculture
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Context:

The consenting process for aquaculture developments in Scotland is complex, with multiple agencies involved as a result of the different pieces of legislation that cover the sector. A graphic from a recent report illustrates this complexity. (The report is a good source of both context and detail for potential applicants: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SCOTTISH AQUACULTURE CONSENTING

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/07/9269>)

Figure 4.11: Venn diagram illustrating overlap in consenting areas for key regulators



A recent SARF project also looked in detail at consenting issues specifically for the shellfish sector:

<http://www.sarf.org.uk/projects---sarf110.php>

Background:

The 2016 review report presented a range of options for improving the situation, or at least reducing some of the complexity and inherent duplication of effort. One of the options (Option 2) was to completely change the regulatory regime by way of a new Aquaculture Act, and further to this, scope for a single development consent to remove the duplication that exists at present. A (lead) Competent Authority would still be required, and the supposition was – **and is at the heart of this Call for Proposals** – that some sort of Marine Licensing system, managed by MS LOT, could be developed. It should be noted that other industrial activities in the marine environment are generally managed by way of Marine Licensing: that marine aquaculture is primarily locationally managed by way of the Town and Country Planning Act (T&CP) is anomalous.

It is important to note that the 2016 report did not recommend immediate adoption of the Aquaculture Act Option, for several well-articulated reasons. It did however suggest that this was an interesting medium-term approach, over the next 5 years

Another fundamental change that is underway is the adoption of the Marine Planning (Scotland) Act 2010, and the slow roll-out of Marine Planning Partnerships.

The nature of the industry may also expand with seaweed cultivation for a variety of markets being a possibility.

Outline Research Requirement:

SARF requires research on the feasibility/modelling of single Marine Licence development consent for all Scottish aquaculture, including new species such as seaweed, to enable and prepare industry and authorities for future industry development. This study will examine and prepare a detailed model of how a future Marine Licence based development consent (i.e. excluding T&CP but not CAR) could work to act as both development enabler and provide regulator/stakeholder assurance for an expanding, evolving and dynamic marine aquaculture sector.

Impact:

All SARF applied research projects must consider the opportunity for project outcomes to contribute to further activities that might, in due course, lead to measurable positive impacts on Scottish aquaculture production.

The overarching goal of this research is to provide peer-reviewed evidence to help advise regulators, managers, industry and stakeholders, in relation to discussions about the development of a future Aquaculture Act.

Objectives:

The setting of clearly defined and measurable project objectives is a matter for applicants to suggest to SARF. The overarching goal of the research has been covered above.

<p>Approach:</p> <p>The methodology to be employed in the study is a matter for applicants to decide, but it is certain that the study would involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Desktop research 2. Detailed discussions with regulators, industry and stakeholders 3. Probably one or more workshop events.
<p>Project Management:</p> <p>There will be a SARF Steering Group assigned to this project. (Applicants should factor the cost of attending 3 steering group meetings, possibly at their premises or at another agreed venue, into their applications.)</p>
<p>Deliverables: A Draft and then Final Report</p>

Anticipated Duration:	9 months
Maximum Cost:	£40,000 including VAT
Proposed Start Date:	January 2018
Commissioning Mode:	Open Competition
Deadline for Applications:	Friday 20 th October 2017
Application Forms:	Application forms together with SARF's standard terms and conditions of contract are available at: http://www.sarf.org.uk/downloads.html
Contact:	Richard Slaski – email: r.slaski@sarf.org.uk Tel: 01387 740098