

Marine Scotland

National Marine Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Report: Addendum



marinescotland

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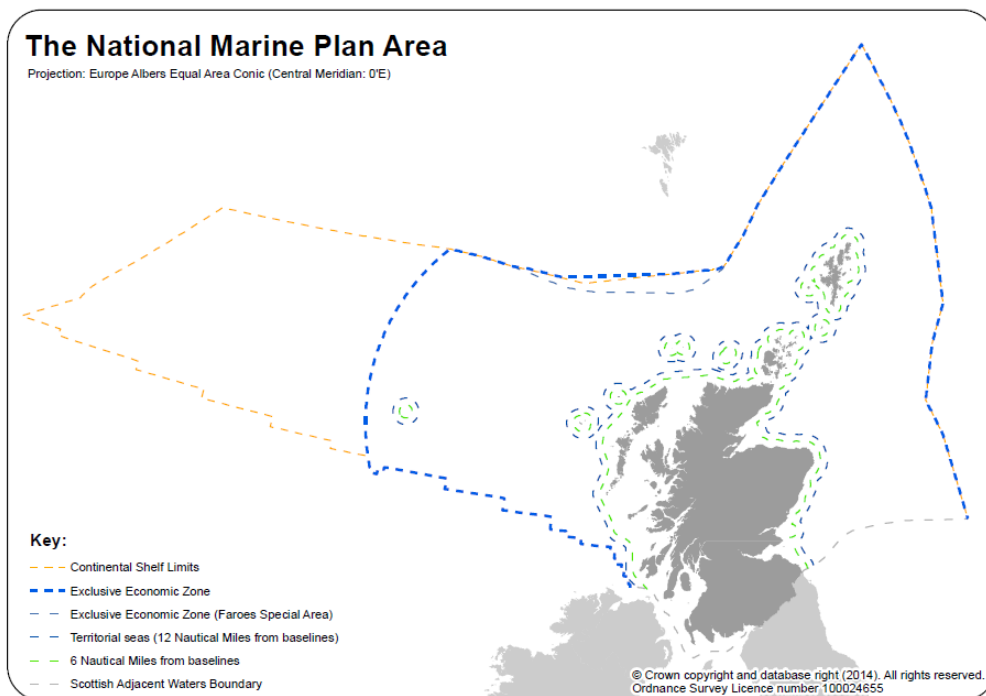
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Marine Scotland has prepared a National Marine Plan (NMP) for Scotland, in accordance with the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The plan covers both Scottish inshore waters (0-12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12-200 nautical miles) (Figure 1). It also applies to the exercise of both reserved and devolved functions.

1.2 The draft NMP was subject to public consultation in 2013, accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Report and a Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment. In addition, an independent investigation into the plan was undertaken by Planning Aid Scotland.

1.3 Modifications have been made to the draft plan in response both to the key areas raised by the analysis of consultation responses and the recommendations of the independent investigation. A version of the National Marine Plan has now been laid before the Scottish Parliament as required by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

Figure 1. The National Marine Plan Area



1.4 The modifications to the NMP have been reviewed to identify potential socio-economic and environmental effects. The focus has been on the changes to the general and sectoral policies; the sectoral policies were the focus of the 2013 sustainability appraisal.

Purpose and Structure of the Addendum

1.5 The purpose of this report is to set out the results of the review of the modifications. As these modifications are the main changes that could result in environmental effects, this report is an addendum to the. Information on the existing environment, environmental pressures, policy context, etc is provided in the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.6 The addendum includes the following sections:

- Section 1 comprises this introduction.
- The results of the assessment of the changes to the general and sectoral policies are discussed in Section 2. (Details of these changes are set out in Annex C to the Modifications Report.)
- Section 3 provides details of the next steps.
- Appendix 1 sets out the detailed assessment of the socio-economic and environmental effects of the general and sectoral policies.

1.7 The Non-Technical Summary accompanies this Addendum as a separate document.

2.0 Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal: Results

2.01 The results of the sustainability appraisal of the changes to the general and sectoral policies are provided in the appraisal tables in Appendix 1. This section provides a summary of these results.

2.02 The potential effects of the general policies are reported in Section 2.1. The potential effects of the sectoral policies on each of the Sustainability Appraisal topics are reported in Sections 2.2-2.9. Please note that Sections 2.2-2.8 provide information on environmental effects. Effects on socio-economic interests are discussed in Section 2.9. This structure is intended to satisfy the request of the Consultation Authorities that the environmental information be easily accessible.

2.03 The appraisal of cumulative effects is unchanged from the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report and is therefore not repeated here.

2.04 As well as sectoral policies, the NMP includes sectoral objectives. These outline how marine industries and activities are expected to develop in the immediate future and in the longer term and identify the issues to be addressed to ensure they grow sustainably. These objectives were subject to appraisal in the 2013 Sustainability Report. Future development and use of the marine environment would be subject to the general policies in Chapter 4 of the NMP, and it is therefore anticipated that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects may be avoided through the application of this policy framework. This conclusion also applies to any amendments to the sectoral objectives.

2.1 General Policies

General Planning Principle (GEN 1)

2.1.1 GEN 1 is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as it provides direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported. However, it is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.

2.1.2 Development and use of the marine environment has potential for adverse environmental effects (see Appendix 1, sectoral policy assessment tables for potential environmental effects). However, use of the term “sustainable development and use” requires that environmental issues are considered as part of the planning and decision-making process. In addition, the general and sectoral policies of the NMP would apply. Adverse effects on the environment may therefore be avoided.

Achieving a Sustainable Economy (GEN 2-8)

2.1.3 In general, the policies are expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as they provide direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported. They are therefore expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island

communities, as they are likely to support developments generating net benefits for coastal and island communities. GEN 3 is also expected to have a positive effect on maintaining or improving the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities. GEN 5 is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making. GEN 8 is also positive in that it encourages more robust marine infrastructure and reduces the risk of damage to assets.

2.1.4 However, it is unclear whether the policies will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether they will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis. It is also unclear what impact the policies will have on maintaining or improving the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities, or on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.

2.1.5 For GEN 2 and GEN 4, development and use of the marine environment has potential for adverse environmental effects (see Appendix 1, sectoral policy assessment tables for potential environmental effects). However, use of the term “sustainable development and use” requires that environmental issues are considered as part of the planning and decision-making process. In addition, the general and sectoral policies of the NMP would apply. Adverse effects on the environment may therefore be avoided.

2.1.6 There are positive environmental effects for the policies focused on environmental topics (GEN 5, GEN 6, and GEN 7). These tend to be directly on the specific topic area, though some of the policies have indirect benefits to other environmental factors. For example, the protection of landscape/seascape would have indirect benefits for the setting of coastal historic environment features.

Living Within Environmental Limits (GEN 9-14)

2.1.7 In general, these policies are expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as they encourage the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making. The policies are also expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation. However, the impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.

2.1.8 There are positive environmental effects for the policies focused on environmental topics (GEN 9-14). These tend to be directly on the specific topic area, though some of the policies have benefits to more than one environmental factor. For example, the prevention of marine litter would have benefits for landscape/seascape, the setting of coastal historic environment features, and biodiversity.

Promoting Good Governance (GEN 15-18)

2.1.9 These policies are expected to have positive effects in terms of having a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as they will encourage transparent decision-making, which in turn supports the adoption of developments that are most beneficial to society as a whole. However, there is uncertainty around the effects of GEN 15 and GEN 16. It is unclear what impact the policies will have against the economy objectives, as it is expected that the impact would depend on the circumstances of the case in question.

2.1.10 For GEN 18, early engagement may help reduce conflict and opposition to development, reducing barriers to development of new marine enterprise opportunities. The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it encourages early engagement with communities potentially impacted by developments.

2.1.11 In terms of their environmental implications, these policies are not considered to have environmental effects, as they focus on the integration of different planning regimes, fairness and transparency in decision-making and engagement. The last would have no environmental effects other than to improve communication, which can be of environmental benefit in adding to knowledge.

Using Sound Science Responsibly (GEN 19—21)

2.1.12 The policies are expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as they support evidence-based decision-making. They encourage decision-making using a risk-based approach; use of new evidence and data as and when it becomes available; and the incorporation of a more robust assessment framework into planning and decision-making. In addition, GEN 21 is expected to have a positive effect in contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support greater clarity in marine planning decisions by more appropriately accounting for the impact of decisions on coastal and island communities.

2.1.13 The policies are expected to have environmental benefits, as their focus would improve environmental knowledge and evaluation, which will in turn support planning and decision-making that can take environmental factors into account.

2.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Will the Plan ...	
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions? ¹

2.2.1 As noted in Section 3 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report, there are existing pressures on biodiversity (including flora and fauna) from many of the activities and uses of the marine environment. Climate change is also exerting pressure on biodiversity.

¹ includes coastal processes

2.2.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on biodiversity, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Sea fisheries

2.2.3 The NMP recognises its role in setting policy for the sea fisheries sector, within the context of the Common Fisheries Policy and the powers of the Scottish Government to put domestic management measures in place. The policies recognise the pressures on biodiversity resulting from fishing and fishing practices, by focusing on managing fishing to ensure sustainability of fish stocks and recognising the importance of ecosystem-based management approaches. They also identify the desired outcomes for sea fisheries of marine planning, e.g. protection of vulnerable stocks, improved protection of the seabed (including fragile habitats and historical and archaeological remains), and the need for other sectors (when planning their activities) to take into account the need to protect fish and shellfish stocks and sustain healthy fisheries. There is also an overall requirement for other sectors to consider the environmental impact on fishing generally. This includes the potential effects of displacement on the wider environment.

2.2.4 Most of the policies recognise the need to support the sustainability of fish stocks in supporting the sustainability of the sea fisheries sector.

2.2.5 FISHERIES 1 identifies the need for protection of the seabed and the mitigation of impacts of fishing. We have therefore assumed that the term “sustainable” encompasses sustainable fishing gear issues.

2.2.6 It is anticipated that, in the long term, these policies (taken together with the general policies and their supporting text) may have positive implications for biodiversity.

Aquaculture

2.2.7 The aquaculture policies recognise the pressures on biodiversity resulting from aquaculture:

- Appropriate or suitable locations for aquaculture, when identified, will be informed by Marine Scotland’s work to identify opportunities and constraints (referred to in paragraph 7.17 of the NMP).
- Sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry is supported. As with sea fisheries, we have assumed that the term “sustainable” encompasses planning to avoid issues around sea lice, escapes, benthic habitat, nutrient enhancement, seals etc.
- The policies recognise that aquaculture must be located appropriately and explicitly require that the following issues be addressed in planning and development:
 - wild salmon interests on the north and east coasts
 - nutrient enhancement
 - benthic impacts
 - wild salmon in general

- control of seals
- escapes (through requirements around equipment specification)
- sea lice

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.2.8 The policy on wild salmon and diadromous fish requires that these interests be considered when progressing regional marine plans and making decisions at the project level. We have assumed that this includes working to avoid adverse effects (such as those identified in Section 3 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report) and therefore anticipate that adverse effects on biodiversity may be prevented through application of this policy.

Oil and Gas

2.2.9 The policies support the continuing exploitation of oil and gas, but recognise that this must be at “minimum environmental cost”. We have assumed that this will include, for example, avoidance of seismic disturbance of cetaceans, air and water pollution incidents, etc. Taken together with the general policies, we therefore anticipate that adverse effects on biodiversity may be prevented. However, it should be recognised that policies alone will not prevent pollution and that regulatory agencies will continue to encourage prevention of accidents and/or pollution incidents.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.2.10 The policies focus on the re-use of existing infrastructure and the development of marine utility corridors, which would prevent further disruption of the marine environment, particularly the seabed. Assuming that pollution incidents/issues are avoided, these advantages should not be offset by contamination issues (which would have implications for biodiversity).

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.2.11 The policies for renewable energy recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. For the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that “sustainable” therefore includes avoidance of unacceptable adverse effects on biodiversity (e.g. obstacles to migration; noise disturbance during construction and operation; collision risk for birds, fish and cetaceans; benthic effects of anchoring; etc.). Taken together with the general policies, we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of biodiversity may be avoided.

Recreation and Tourism

2.2.12 The policies for recreation and tourism recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. We have assumed that “sustainable” will include management of such issues as disturbance of wildlife, trampling effects, benthic impacts, etc. This, taken together with the general policies, should result in the avoidance of adverse effects on biodiversity. This will be strengthened through the policies’ identification of the need to avoid unacceptable impacts on sensitive or important habitats and species, for compliance with codes of practice on wildlife watching and invasive non-native species and for the requirement to support enhancement to the wildlife experience of Scotland’s marine and coastal areas.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.2.13 The policies are mainly intended to protect freedom of passage and/or navigation and/or shipping lanes/ferry routes, or to protect existing ports from being adversely affected through development. However, these policies have benefits for biodiversity, through reducing the risk of collisions and consequent pollution incidents, thus avoiding adverse effects on water quality and the and the ecosystems/ habitats/ species that rely on it. They also explicitly recognise the need to be resilient to climate change.

2.2.14 The policies do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued CO2 and atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

2.2.15 Any development of port and harbour facilities would be progressed in light of the general policies, and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on biodiversity would be avoided. This will rely on biodiversity issues (particularly those relating to Natura sites) being integrated into project planning and design.

Submarine Cables

2.2.16 The policies, taken together, should work to avoid adverse effects on biodiversity including, for example, further loss, damage or disturbance of benthic habitat through additional cable laying.

Defence

2.2.17 The policies will not affect biodiversity. (Although operational activities may have some adverse effects, these are outwith the scope of this SA.)

Aggregates

2.2.18 The policies explicitly recognise the need for environmental issues to be considered in consenting and licensing. Taken together with the general policies, we anticipate that adverse effects on biodiversity may not be significant in the long-term.

2.3 Water

Will the Plan ...	
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?

2.3.1 There are existing pressures on the coastal and marine water environment (including biodiversity) from many of the activities and uses of the marine environment. These include historical contamination of sediments; diffuse pollution (including eutrophication); oil spills; and marine litter. Climate change is also exerting pressure on water through, e.g. increases in sea temperature etc.

2.3.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on the water environment, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

2.3.3 Note: a key objective for the assessment of water quality is “Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters”. This has been interpreted in the SA as the ability of Scottish waters to support marine biodiversity, and is therefore discussed in Section 2.2 (biodiversity) to avoid double counting.

Sea fisheries

2.3.4 The key issue for the fisheries sector in regard to water quality is accidental spills e.g. oil. For the purposes of this assessment we have assumed compliance with MARPOL (Annex I of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified).

2.3.5 FISHERIES 2 focuses on protecting the environmental quality that underpins sea fisheries, and includes considering potential environmental effects on fishing grounds resulting from uses of the marine environment, so overall is positive for water quality.

2.3.6 It is anticipated that, in the long term, these policies (taken together with the general policies and their supporting text) may have positive implications for water.

Aquaculture

2.3.7 The general policies (GEN12 and supporting text) will be key for this sector, as will Marine Scotland’s work on opportunities and constraints. We therefore anticipate that adverse effects on water quality may be prevented through application of this overall policy framework.

2.3.8 The aquaculture policies recognise the pressures on water quality resulting from aquaculture:

- Appropriate or suitable locations for aquaculture, when identified, will be informed by Marine Scotland’s work to identify opportunities and constraints (referred to in paragraph 7.17 of the NMP).
- Sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry is supported. As with sea fisheries, we have assumed that the term “sustainable” encompasses planning to avoid issues around nutrient enhancement, use of therapeutant, etc.
- The policies recognise that aquaculture must be located appropriately; for the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that “appropriately” will include water quality interests, including assimilative capacity.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.3.9 As for biodiversity, the policy on wild salmon and diadromous fish requires that these interests be considered when progressing regional marine plans and making decisions at the project level. We have assumed that this includes working

to avoid adverse effects, and therefore anticipate that adverse effects on water quality may be prevented through application of this policy.

Oil and Gas

2.3.10 The policies support the continuing exploitation of oil and gas, but recognise that the level of environmental risks associated with these activities must be regulated. In particular, the policies recognise the need for use of best available technology and practices to reduce risk of spills, etc. As for biodiversity, we have assumed that this may result in the reduction of water pollution incidents. Taken together with the general policies, we therefore anticipate that adverse effects on water quality may be prevented.

2.3.11 ACOPS (2011) reported discharges from oil and gas installations and vessels operating in UK waters, as noted in Section 3.3 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report. It should therefore be recognised that policies alone will not prevent pollution, and Marine Scotland will work alongside other agencies to encourage prevention of accidents and/or pollution incidents.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.3.12 The policies focus on the re-use of existing infrastructure and the development of marine utility corridors, which would prevent further disruption of the marine environment, particularly the seabed. Assuming that pollution incidents/issues are avoided, these advantages should not be offset by contamination issues (which would have implications for water quality).

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.3.13 The policies for renewable energy recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. For the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that “sustainable” therefore includes avoidance of unacceptable adverse effects on water quality (e.g. spills during construction/installation). Taken together with the general policies, we therefore anticipate that adverse effects on water quality may be avoided.

Recreation and Tourism

2.3.14 The policies for recreation and tourism recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. We have assumed that “sustainable” will include management of such issues as increased water abstraction and increased volumes of effluent discharges (e.g. sewage) resulting from increases in numbers of visitors. This, taken together with the general policies, should offset any negative aspects of development, and result in the avoidance of adverse effects on water quality. In addition, the policies’ identification of the need to support enhancement of the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience of Scotland’s marine and coastal areas will provide positive support for water quality, given that these are reliant on good water quality.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.3.15 The policies emphasise the need to maintain navigational safety and thereby prevent collisions and consequent oil spills, which has benefits for water quality.

2.3.16 Any development of port and harbour facilities (TRANSPORT 4) would be progressed in light of the general policies and supporting text, and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on water quality would be avoided. This will rely on water quality issues being integrated into project planning and design.

Submarine Cables

2.3.17 The policies, taken together, should work to avoid adverse effects on water quality including, for example, increases in local water turbidity and/or smothering by preventing unnecessary additional cable laying.

Defence

2.3.18 The policies do not incur change from existing defence activities and uses of the marine environment, and therefore will not further affect water quality.

Aggregates

2.3.19 Aggregate extraction has the potential for adverse environmental effects. AGGREGATES 2 explicitly recognises the need for environmental issues to be considered in decision-making. Taken together with the general policies, we anticipate that adverse effects on water quality from aggregate extraction (e.g. increased local turbidity and/or smothering) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.

2.4 Air Quality

Will the Plan ...	
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?

2.4.1 There are some pressures on the coastal and marine water environment (including air quality) from some of the activities and uses of the marine environment. Pressures include: emissions of NOx, SOx and particulates from shipping and other vessels; possible effects on human health in residential areas adjacent to ports and harbours; and emission of pollutants from infrastructure development and/or marine activities.

2.4.2 The general policies (GEN 14 and supporting text) of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on air quality, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Sea fisheries

2.4.3 Fishing vessels give rise to atmospheric emissions as a result of fuel use. Emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides from marine vessels are controlled through UK legislation that transposes International Maritime Organization conventions. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel

movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Aquaculture

2.4.4 As with sea fisheries, vessels supporting aquaculture operations give rise to atmospheric emissions as a result of fuel use. Emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides from marine vessels are controlled through UK legislation that transposes International Maritime Organization conventions. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.4.5 Wild salmon and diadromous fish are not known to affect air quality.

Oil and Gas

2.4.6 Offshore oil and gas installations may give rise to atmospheric emissions at the local level, from e.g. flaring and/or venting. It is likely that continued exploration/production will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.4.7 It is not envisaged that the carbon capture and storage sector will give rise to atmospheric emissions, so marine air quality is unlikely to be adversely affected by this sector.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.4.8 As with sea fisheries and aquaculture, atmospheric emissions from vessels supporting renewable energy operations are regulated. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Recreation and Tourism

2.4.9 As with sea fisheries and aquaculture, atmospheric emissions from recreational and/or tourism-related vessels are regulated. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.4.10 As with sea fisheries and aquaculture, atmospheric emissions from vessels are regulated.

2.4.11 However, there is one AQMA in Scotland adjacent to a port, in Aberdeen (see Section 3 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report). Aberdeen City Council is monitoring the situation.

2.4.12 Any development of port and harbour facilities (TRANSPORT 4) would be progressed in light of the general policies and supporting text, and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on air quality may be avoided. This will rely on air quality issues being integrated into project planning and design.

Submarine Cables

2.4.13 As with the other sectors, atmospheric emissions from cable-laying vessels are regulated. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy. In consequence, this sector is not known to adversely affect air quality.

Defence

2.4.14 As noted earlier, atmospheric emissions from vessels supporting renewable energy operations are regulated. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Aggregates

2.4.15 As noted earlier, atmospheric emissions from vessels supporting renewable energy operations are regulated. The policies in the NMP do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

Overall

2.4.16 Vessel movements around the UK give rise to atmospheric emissions including SO_x, NO_x and particulates. It is difficult to identify vessels from one particular sector as being responsible, as it is likely that all contribute, despite emissions being controlled. The mapping of air quality for the UK shows that there are concentrations of certain pollutants in and around key shipping transport routes around the Scottish coast. Areas with higher concentrations of SO₂, NO_x and/or particulates include the Firth of Forth, Firth of Clyde, Irish Sea, routes around the west of Eilean nan Siar, and routes between Orkney and Shetland.

2.4.17 None of the sector-specific policies or objectives deals directly with air quality. However, general policy GEN 14 and supporting text requires that air quality is taken into consideration when progressing development and use of the marine environment.

2.5 Seascape/Landscape

Will the Plan ...	
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?

2.5.1 There are existing pressures on the coastal and marine water environment (including landscape and seascape) from many of the activities and uses of the marine environment. These include aquaculture; offshore wind; and development in sensitive seascapes/landscapes. The effects of climate change may also exert indirect effects on landscape through, for example, increased erosion of coastal features. There is also a need for seascape sensitivity to be recognised generally.

2.5.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on landscape and seascape, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Report.

Sea fisheries

2.5.3 Sea fisheries are not known to directly affect landscape/seascape interests. Indirect effects may occur through marine litter arising from fisheries; work to control marine litter is being progressed through the Marine Litter Strategy. GEN 11 concerns the issue of marine litter and expects marine users to take measures to address marine litter.

Aquaculture

2.5.4 The aquaculture policies recognise the pressures on seascape/landscape resulting from aquaculture:

- Locational decisions will be informed by Marine Scotland's work to identify areas of opportunity and constraint for both finfish and shellfish sectors (referred to in paragraph 7.17 of the NMP).
- Sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry is supported. As with sea fisheries, we have assumed that the term "sustainable" encompasses planning to avoid adverse effects on seascape/landscape.
- The policies recognise that aquaculture must be located appropriately; for the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that "appropriately" will include seascape/landscape interests.
- In addition, AQUACULTURE 5 requires that SNH's siting and design guidance should be taken into account in planning and decision-making
- Appropriate or suitable locations for aquaculture, when identified, will be informed by Marine Scotland's work to identify opportunities and constraints

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.5.5 Wild salmon and diadromous fish activities are not known to affect landscape/seascape interests.

Oil and Gas

2.5.6 Offshore oil and gas installations may affect seascape by their presence, but are generally out of sight of land and/or tourism/recreation interests. Should this situation change, for example, by siting installations closer to shore or in the vicinity of sensitive landscapes (e.g. St Kilda), then GEN 7 (landscape/seascape and supporting text) would come into play to manage adverse effects.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.5.7 The policies focus on the re-use of existing infrastructure and the development of marine utility corridors, which would reduce the need for new infrastructure and thus prevent any further disruption of seascape and/or landscape character, where this may already be present. Taken together with the general policies and supporting text, we anticipate that adverse effects on seascape and/or landscape may be avoided.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.5.8 Offshore renewable energy arrays have the potential for adverse effects on seascape/landscape, the significance of which will depend on the nature of the seascape/landscape in question and on the characteristics of the renewable energy devices being deployed. RENEWABLES 1 recognises the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. For the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that “sustainable” will therefore include management of unacceptable adverse effects on seascape/landscape. Taken together with the general policies (GEN 7 and supporting text), we therefore anticipate that it may be possible to avoid adverse effects on the most sensitive landscapes and seascapes (e.g. National Scenic Areas, National Parks).

Recreation and Tourism

2.5.9 REC AND TOURISM 1 recognises the need for development in the recreation and tourism sector to be sustainable. We have assumed that “sustainable” will include management of such issues as increased recreational pressure, appropriate siting of tourism and recreational infrastructure, etc. In addition, REC AND TOURISM 5 identifies the need to protect the qualities important to recreational users, which include seascape and landscape. This, taken together with the general policies and supporting text, should offset the adverse aspects of recreation and tourism development, and result in the avoidance of adverse effects on seascape/landscape. This may be strengthened by the regional policy’s support for sustainable tourism by regional marine plans.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.5.10 Any development of port and harbour facilities (TRANSPORT 4) has the potential for adverse effects on landscape/seascape. Such development would be progressed in light of the general policies (GEN 7 and supporting text), and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on seascape/landscape may be avoided. This will rely on seascape/landscape issues being integrated into project planning and design.

Submarine Cables

2.5.11 The focus of these policies is mainly on joined-up approaches to the routing, installation and removal of submarine cables, including early engagement with decision-makers. The policies emphasise the need to minimise the impacts of both submarine and land fall locations/activities on the environment. Taken together with GEN 7, adverse effects on seascape and/or landscape character may be avoided.

Defence

2.5.12 Defence is not known to affect landscape/seascape interests.

Aggregates

2.5.13 Aggregate extraction in the marine environment is not known to affect landscape/seascape interests.

2.6 Historic Environment

Will the Plan ...	
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?

2.6.1 There are existing pressures on the historic environment from many of the activities and uses of the marine environment. The effects of climate change may also exert indirect effects on the historic environment through, for example, increased coastal erosion. Pressures include: development that results in loss of and/or damage to historic environment features, including effects on their setting; coastal erosion, with consequent loss of archaeological interests; and potential effects on underwater archaeological features from development involving disturbance of the seabed, e.g. by offshore wind, wave and tidal arrays, aquaculture, and recreational boating. Data gaps, particularly in regard to underwater archaeological features, remain to be resolved.

2.6.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on the historic environment, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Sea fisheries

2.6.3 Bottom-contact mobile gear used by the sea fisheries sector may affect historic environment interests (conversely underwater features such as wrecks have the potential to be a hazard for the sea fisheries sector, e.g. through snagging gear). FISHERIES 1 supports protection of the seabed and identifies the need for improved protection of historical and archaeological remains. Adverse effects on heritage features may therefore be avoided in future.

Aquaculture

2.6.4 The aquaculture sector may adversely affect the historic environment, particularly if envisaged production increases result in additional aquaculture facilities. The focus of several of the aquaculture policies (AQUACULTURE 1 and 2) is on the identification of “appropriate” and “suitable” locations for future aquaculture development. Taken together with GEN 6 and supporting text, environmental factors such as historic environment interests would be taken into account by planners and decision-makers, and adverse effects may be avoided by such locational decisions. This is supported by the regional policy’s support for the “sustainable” growth of aquaculture at the regional level.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.6.5 Wild salmon and diadromous fish activities are not known to affect historic environment interests.

Oil and Gas

2.6.6 Offshore oil and gas installations may affect underwater historic environment interests, depending on their location. Should oil and gas installations be sited closer to shore or in the vicinity of sensitive cultural landscapes (e.g. St Kilda), then the general policies (GEN 4 and supporting text) would come into play to manage adverse effects.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.6.7 The policies focus on the re-use of existing infrastructure and the development of marine utility corridors, which would reduce the need for new infrastructure and thus prevent any further disruption of the historic environment, where this may already be present. Together with the general policies (GEN 6 and supporting text), we anticipate that adverse effects on the historic environment may be avoided.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.6.8 Offshore renewable energy arrays have the potential for adverse effects on the historic environment (e.g. anchoring effects on underwater archaeology; effects on setting of historic environment features such as A-listed lighthouses), the significance of which will depend on the characteristics of the renewable energy devices being deployed and the nature of the historic environment features that may be affected. The policies for renewable energy recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable e.g. RENEWABLES 1. For the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that “sustainable” will therefore include management of adverse effects on the historic environment. Taken together with the general policies (GEN 6 and supporting text), we anticipate that adverse effects on the historic environment may be avoided.

Recreation and Tourism

2.6.9 The policies for recreation and tourism recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. We have assumed that “sustainable” will include management of such issues as increased recreational pressure, appropriate siting of

tourism and recreational infrastructure, etc. In addition, REC & TOURISM 5 identifies the need to protect the qualities important to recreational users, which (depending on the location) may include historic environment features. This, taken together with the general policies (GEN 6 and supporting text), may work to avoid adverse effects on the historic environment.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.6.10 Any development of port and harbour facilities (TRANSPORT 4) would be progressed in light of the general policies (GEN 6 and supporting text), and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on the historic environment may be avoided. This will rely on historic environment issues being integrated into project planning and design.

Submarine Cables

2.6.11 The focus of these policies is mainly on joined-up approaches to the routing, installation and removal of submarine cables, including early engagement with decision-makers. The policies emphasise the need to minimise the impacts of both submarine and land fall locations/activities on the environment. Taken together with GEN 6 and supporting text, adverse effects on historic environment interests may be avoided and further disruption of the historic environment prevented, where this may already be present.

Defence

2.6.12 Defence is not known to affect historic environment interests.

Aggregates

2.6.13 Aggregate extraction in the marine environment may affect historic environment interests, depending on its location. Extraction would be progressed in light of the general policies (GEN 6 and supporting text), and we therefore anticipate that adverse effects of such development on the historic environment may be avoided.

2.7 Climatic Factors

Will the Plan ...	
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?

2.7.1 There are existing pressures on the coastal and marine water environment from climate change through e.g. increases in sea temperature etc.

2.7.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the need to integrate climate change issues into the sustainable development and use of the marine environment, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Sea fisheries

2.7.3 The key issue for the fisheries sector, in regard to climatic factors, is the emission of greenhouse gases as a result of fuel consumption. The sector is already aware of the need to reduce both fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The NMP policies do not encourage additional or fewer vessel movements. The continued movement of vessels will result in continued greenhouse gas emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.

2.7.4 The policies together are working towards sustainable fishing practices and management, to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. FISHERIES 1). Other measures are also being utilised, e.g. cod recovery plans. Sustainable fish stocks in Scottish waters may reduce steaming distances to fishing grounds, which would reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, this may be offset by increased sea temperatures and the potential for traditional catch species to move further north, thereby increasing steaming distances and fuel consumption.

2.7.5 FISHERIES 2 requires consideration of sea fisheries when considering other marine development, including the issue of displacement and increased fuel use. This should assist in managing additional pressures for increased fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Aquaculture

2.7.6 The aquaculture policies recognise climatic factors through AQUACULTURE 11, which requires that aquaculture equipment be fit for purpose for the site conditions, subject to future climate change. This policy would be progressed alongside GEN 5 (Climate change) and supporting text.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.7.7 The wild salmon and diadromous fish sector is not known to affect greenhouse gas emissions (any emissions resulting from travel by recreational fishers are captured under “tourism and recreation”).

2.7.8 Climate change may exert pressures on wild salmon and diadromous fish while they are in the marine component of their life cycles, and may thus contribute to the existing trend in population decline of Atlantic salmon by affecting survival at sea, for example. The policies for this sector are intended to manage additional pressures on wild salmon and diadromous fish from other sectors and, in addition, the NMP seeks to integrate climatic factor consideration into sustainable development and use, including marine planning and decision-making that affects the marine environment.

Oil and Gas

2.7.9 The continued use of oil and gas will result in continued CO₂ emissions. However, this is not an effect of NMP policy. The oil and gas sector policies support the continuing exploitation of oil and gas, but recognise that the level of environmental risk associated with these activities is regulated. We therefore do not anticipate a change in GHG emissions from that which already occurs (i.e. no change from the baseline). In addition, OIL & GAS 5 requires that installations are

appropriately sited and designed to take account of current and future conditions, which supports the resilience of the oil and gas sector's infrastructure and operations to climate change.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.7.10 This sector focuses on carbon capture and storage, and we do not anticipate any additional GHG emissions in consequence. For the purposes of this assessment, we have assumed that infrastructure re-use will take the need for adaptation measures into consideration.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.7.11 The policies for renewable energy recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. This sector will require vessel movements to the array sites, during both construction and operational stages, which has the potential for increases in GHG emissions. The significance of this is unclear.

Recreation and Tourism

2.7.12 The policies for recreation and tourism recognise the need for development in this sector to be sustainable. We have assumed that "sustainable" will include management of such issues as transport; however, this is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from visitors travelling by private car. Policy GEN 5 (and supporting text) may assist in integrating such issues into marine planning and decision-making.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.7.13 Greenhouse gas emissions from shipping have been identified as a pressure. Work is already underway, by Scottish Government and others, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. through increasing engine efficiency, improved vessel design, amendments to existing management practices, etc.

2.7.14 TRANSPORT 5 requires port and harbour operators to consider, and where appropriate implement, measures to ensure that their facilities remain resilient to climate change. Where proposals for marine development may displace vessels from their existing routes, resulting in longer journeys and increased greenhouse gas emissions, TRANSPORT 6 requires that this be taken into consideration as part of decision-making. Taken together, these policies (along with GEN 5 and supporting text) will ensure that the climate change implications of and for marine transport will be considered in planning and decision-making.

Submarine Cables

2.7.15 The policies, taken together, should work to avoid adverse effects on greenhouse gas emissions, for example, by preventing unnecessary additional cable laying.

Defence

2.7.16 The policies do not incur change from existing defence activities and uses of the marine environment, and therefore will not affect greenhouse gas emissions or adaptation measures.

Aggregates

2.7.17 Aggregate extraction activities (other than emissions from vessels) are not considered to have significant effects on climatic factors.

2.8 Marine Sediments

Will the Plan ...	
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?

2.8.1 There are existing pressures on coastal processes and marine sediment transport from some activities and uses of the coastal and marine environments. The effects of climate change may also exert indirect effects through, for example, increased erosion of coastal features.

2.8.2 The policies of the NMP recognise and address the potential for effects on marine sediments and coastal processes, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Sea fisheries

2.8.3 Policies to improve seabed protection and/or to restore ecosystems have positive implications for marine sediments, in terms of maintaining the character and integrity of the seabed, e.g. FISHERIES 1.

Aquaculture

2.8.4 As with biodiversity, significant growth in aquaculture has the potential to have negative effects on coastal and marine sediments, e.g. through anchoring. In addition, work to identify areas which are potentially suitable for new fish farm development and sensitive areas which are unlikely to be appropriate for such development is likely to assist in avoiding sensitive habitats and species which are a key feature of the seabed. Policies GEN 8 and 9 (and supporting text) should assist in balancing significant adverse effects, ensuring that these issues are taken into account in regional marine planning and project decision-making.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.8.5 The policies for this sector are unlikely to have an effect on marine sediments.

Oil and Gas

2.8.6 The oil and gas sector policies support the continuing exploitation of oil and gas, but recognise that the level of environmental risk associated with these activities

is regulated. We therefore expect that this will include avoiding adverse effects on marine sediments. The maximisation of recovery, for example, has potential for adverse effect on marine sediments, so this and the general policies in Chapter 4 should act to avoid and/or reduce adverse effects, e.g. policies GEN 6, 8, and 9 (and supporting text). Marine sediments will also be a consideration when deciding to remove or retain decommissioned assets, as it is uncertain as to how much oil and gas infrastructure changes marine sediment patterns of movement and therefore what the effects would be.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.8.7 The reuse of existing infrastructure and the employment of utility corridors will be positive for marine sediments, as this will reduce the amount of sea bed under development. It is uncertain as to how much oil and gas infrastructure changes marine sediment patterns of movement.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.8.8 The effects of renewable energy policies on marine sediments are mixed. On the one hand, policy to support renewable energy development in Scotland's seas has the potential for adverse effects as it supports new development in the marine environment which could affect the character and integrity of the seabed. However, the general policies in Chapter 4 will apply to the Sectoral Marine Plan process, and the SEA of these sectoral plans has identified adverse effects and measures for their mitigation.

Recreation and Tourism

2.8.9 Policies to support the growth of tourism have the potential for negative effects, e.g. damage to the seabed through anchoring, but these will be mitigated by planning and decision-makers using the general policies in Chapter 4. It is therefore expected that the overall environmental effects of these policies will be neutral.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.8.10 Increased port activity, including recreation/tourism, may have negative effects on marine sediments if growth results in a need for new capital dredging. The policies in Chapter 4 will work to mitigate adverse effects, e.g. GEN 6, 8 and 9, and supporting text.

Submarine Cables

2.8.11 These policies have positive implications for marine sediments, as they mainly seek to reduce disturbance to the seabed by focusing activity in fewer locations. When it comes to landfall, there may be coastal process and/or erosion issues, but use of these policies, in conjunction with the general policies, should assist in preventing coastal erosion and/or its exacerbation.

Defence

2.8.12 No effects from defence policies are anticipated on marine sediments.

Aggregates

2.8.13 Aggregates policy specifically encompasses consideration of environmental issues and therefore is positive in its protection of marine sediments, particularly as it specifies: “including that sediment removal will not significantly adversely interfere with coastal processes and thus alter local rates of coastal erosion which could exacerbate the predicted effects of a changing climate”.

2.9 Socio-Economic Factors

	Will the Plan ...
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ²
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?

2.9.1 There are existing pressures on the socio-economic component of the coastal and marine water environment. These include: employment, particularly in remote coastal and island communities; potential for conflict both within and between different marine sectors; competition for space; barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities; and connectivity, particularly of remote coastal and island communities.

2.9.2 The objectives and policies of the NMP recognise and address the need to integrate socio-economic issues into sustainable development and use of the marine environment, while recognising that the NMP will work in conjunction with the overall legislative and policy framework for the marine environment (outlined in Section 2 of the 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report).

Sea Fisheries

2.9.3 The key issue for the fisheries sector is the sustainability of the fishing industry in the long-term.

2.9.4 The policies together are working towards sustainable fishing practices and management, to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. Policy 1). The potential for conflict between fisheries and other marine sectors is recognised, particularly in terms of competition for space, and the policies require that fisheries interests are taken into account in planning and decision-making, including engagement with fishers at the local level. This is likely to involve trade-offs between the sectors, which may be negative for some and positive for others. The key here is that these

² includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

trade-offs would result from considered discussion and review, rather than through imposition.

2.9.5 Long-term sustainability of the sea fisheries industry is considered likely to maintain levels of employment and thus contribute to community cohesion and resilience.

Aquaculture

2.9.6 The policies, taken together, support the sustainable development of aquaculture, including increases in production and diversification of the industry with due regard for the marine environment. Locational policies, when developed, will be informed by Marine Scotland's spatial planning guidance which may be progressed on the basis of a sustainable aquaculture industry. The requirement for regional marine plans and terrestrial land use plans to identify potentially suitable areas for aquaculture should assist in reducing conflict between the sectors and/or managing uncertainty in the aquaculture and other marine sectors. Again, as with sea fisheries, there are likely to be trade-offs between the sectors, with both positive and negative implications.

2.9.7 As with sea fisheries, long-term sustainability of the aquaculture industry is considered likely to maintain levels of employment and thus contribute to community cohesion and resilience.

Wild Salmon and Diadromous Fish

2.9.8 As with aquaculture, the policies, taken together, support the sustainable development of the wild salmon and diadromous fish sector. In particular, there is a requirement for other sectors to recognise their potential adverse effects on wild salmon and diadromous fish. This may result in mitigation and monitoring requirements, which may have negative implications for other sectors but is considered to be positive for the wild salmon and diadromous fish sector.

Oil and Gas

2.9.9 The policies support the continuing exploitation of oil and gas, recognising the challenges that the future may bring, e.g. decommissioning, development in more testing environments, and the transition to a low-carbon economy. Taken together, these policies may be positive in terms of supporting employment in this sector, with consequent benefits for community cohesion and resilience.

Carbon Capture and Storage

2.9.10 The policies focus on encouraging the development of this sector in a sustainable manner, and have positive implications for employment and community resilience, particularly in terms of skills transfer from the oil and gas sector. There is unlikely to be significant conflict with other sectors, e.g. in terms of competition for space, given the emphasis on re-use of existing infrastructure.

Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy

2.9.11 The policies for renewable energy encourage sustainable development of this sector. The policy link to the sectoral plans for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy

will help to reduce uncertainty and thereby manage potential conflicts between sectors, e.g. in terms of competition for space, as will the requirement of Policy 8 to engage with existing users of the area.

2.9.12 There are positive implications for employment, which is likely to contribute to community resilience and cohesion. Policy GEN18 encourages engagement with local communities in the planning and development process.

Recreation and Tourism

2.9.13 The policies for coastal and marine recreation and tourism recognise the need for development of this sector to be sustainable. They also recognise the potential for conflict between this sector and other sectors, e.g. in terms of competition for space, effects on environmental quality etc. Accordingly, mechanisms for inclusion of coastal and marine recreation and tourism interests in planning and decision-making are included in the policies, in particular.

2.9.14 Sustainable development of this sector should contribute to employment in coastal and island communities. There may be negative implications for other sectors. Overall, assuming that trade-offs can be appropriately managed, there are positive implications for employment in coastal and islands communities, and therefore for community resilience and cohesion.

Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries

2.9.15 The policies provide protection to shipping (e.g. navigational safety, protection of shipping routes) and to ports and harbours (e.g. protection of access). They also provide mechanisms for ensuring that ports and harbours take note of the interests of other sectors, and vice versa.

2.9.16 Taken together, the policies support the sustainable development of both marine shipping and the port and harbour sectors. There may be trade-offs for other sectors, in terms of competition for space. There may be benefits for other sectors who are dependent on marine transport infrastructure.

2.9.17 Air quality issues associated with such development will be taken into consideration in planning and decision-making (GEN14), and this should avoid adverse effects on adjacent residential populations in the future.

Submarine Cables

2.9.18 The policies, taken together, should work to support this sector and reduce conflict between this and other sectors.

Defence

2.9.19 The policies do not incur change from existing defence activities and uses of the marine environment, and therefore will not change socio-economic factors.

Aggregates

2.9.20 The policies work to protect this resource so that it is available for future needs. This may involve trade-offs for other sectors, in terms of competition for space.

2.10 Conclusion

2.10.1 In conclusion, review of potential development and use of the marine environment has identified the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental effects. These are identified in the sectoral policy assessment tables in Appendix 1, as well as in the Marine Atlas. Sectoral activities would be progressed in light of the policy framework set out by the general policies and their supporting text in Chapter 4 of the NMP. In addition, many of the sectoral policies highlight the potential for adverse environmental effect. Assuming that socio-economic and environmental issues are considered at an early stage, particularly in project siting and design, it may be possible for adverse effects from these sectoral uses and activities to be avoided through application of the NMP policy framework.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 The Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee (RACCE) will be scrutinising the plan and will refer to the written responses received by the Scottish Government during the recent consultation. The Committee intends to ask the stakeholders it invites to give oral evidence to either forward a copy of their original submission to the Scottish Government and /or to provide additional evidence following the publication of the plan. The Committee is also happy to accept written submissions from any stakeholders who wish to provide additional evidence on the same basis.
- 3.2 The deadline for any additional written evidence for RACCE Committee's consideration is **12 noon, Monday 5 January 2015** and it should be sent to racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.
- 3.3 The RACCE Committee contact is Alison Wilson, Assistant Clerk, 0131 348 5242, alison.wilson2@scottish.parliament.uk. You can also follow the work of the RACCE Committee on twitter at SP_RuralClimate and on its webpage <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/29876.aspx>.

Appendix 1. Environmental Assessment Tables – General and Sectoral Policies (please note this table is A3 size)

This appendix sets out the assessment tables for the socio-economic and environmental components of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Each table includes:

- policies
- SA objectives (socio-economic only)
- socio-economic assessment table
- potential environmental effects (sectoral policies only)
- SA objectives (environmental only)
- environmental assessment table

The sectoral policies are accompanied by symbols, as follows:

Key	
Economic	■
Social	●
Marine Ecosystem	◆
Climate Change	◇

General Policies

GEN 1 General planning principle:	There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and use of the marine environment when consistent with the policies and objectives of this Plan.
GEN 2 Economic benefit:	Sustainable development and use which provides economic benefit to Scottish communities is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of the Plan.
GEN 3 Social benefit:	Sustainable development and use which provides social benefits is encouraged when consistent with the objectives and policies of the Plan.
GEN 4 Co-existence:	Proposals which enable coexistence with other development sectors and activities within the Scottish marine area are encouraged in planning and decision making processes, when consistent with policies and objectives of this Plan.
GEN 5: Climate change	Marine planners and decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.
GEN 6 Historic environment:	Development and use of the marine environment should protect and, where appropriate, enhance heritage assets in a manner proportionate to their significance.
GEN 7 Landscape/seascape:	Marine planners and decision makers should ensure that development and use of the marine environment take seascape, landscape and visual impacts into account.
GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding:	Developments and activities in the marine environment should be resilient to coastal change and flooding, and not have unacceptable adverse impact on coastal processes or contribute to coastal flooding.
GEN 9 Natural heritage:	Development and use of the marine environment must: (a) Comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species. (b) Not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features. (c) Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area.
GEN 10 Invasive non-native species:	Opportunities to reduce the introduction of invasive non-native species to a minimum or proactively improve the practice of existing activity should be taken when decisions are being made.
GEN 11 Marine Litter:	Developers, users and those accessing the marine environment must take measures to address marine litter where appropriate. Reduction of litter must be taken into account by decision makers.
GEN 12 Water quality and resource:	Developments and activities should not result in a deterioration of the quality of waters to which the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive or other related directives apply.
GEN 13 Noise:	Development and use in the marine environment should avoid significant adverse effects of man-made noise and vibration, especially on species sensitive to such effects.
GEN 14 Air quality:	Development and use of the marine environment should not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.
GEN 15: Planning alignment A:	Marine and terrestrial plans should align to support marine and land based components required by development and seek to facilitate appropriate access to the shore and sea.
GEN 16: Planning alignment B:	Marine plans should align and comply where possible with other statutory plans and should consider objectives and policies of relevant non statutory plans where appropriate to do so. <applies to inshore waters only>
GEN 17 Fairness:	All marine interests will be treated with fairness and in a transparent manner when decisions are being made in the marine environment.
GEN 18 Engagement:	Early and effective engagement should be undertaken with the general public and all interested stakeholders to facilitate planning and consenting processes.
GEN 19 Sound evidence:	Decision making in the marine environment will be based on a sound scientific and socio-economic evidence base.
GEN 20 Adaptive management:	Adaptive management practices should take account of new data and information in decision making, informing future decisions and future iterations of policy.
GEN 21 Cumulative impacts:	Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the marine plan area should be addressed in decision-making and plan implementation.

	SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...		Key: environmental effects
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Work against SA objectives
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Neutral/ no change
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Mixed effects
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ³		Promote SA objectives
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Uncertain
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

³ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
GEN 1 General planning principle:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as it provides direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as it provides direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 2 Economic benefit:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as it provides direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support developments generating net benefits for coastal and island communities.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	It is unclear what impact the policy will have on maintaining or improving the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities, or on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
GEN 3 Social benefit:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, and on removing or avoiding barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities, as it provides direction on uses of the marine environment that will be supported.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support developments generating net benefits for coastal and island communities. It is also expected to have a positive effect on maintaining or improving the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	It is unclear what impact the policy will have or on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
GEN 4 Co-existence:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it could will encourage the adoption of developments that are most beneficial to society as a whole. It is also expected to reduce the scope for individual sectors' growth to be to the detriment of others, and the barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support developments generating net benefits for coastal and island communities.
	It is unclear whether the policy will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as the impact could vary on a case by case basis.	It is unclear whether the policy will promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation per se, and the policy is unlikely to have any effect with regard to maintaining or improving the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities.
GEN 5: Climate change encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making.	It is unclear whether this policy will contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities. No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Communities, population and human health objectives.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	
GEN 6 Historic environment: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	It is unclear what impact the policy will have against the economy objectives, as it is expected that the impact would depend on the circumstances of the case in question.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation, while the impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 7 Landscape/seascape: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	It is unclear whether the policy will support the development of a sustainable marine economy, contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation, while the impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages more robust marine infrastructure and reduces the risk of damage to assets.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	
GEN 9 Natural heritage: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
strategic level	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 10 Invasive non-native species:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making. However, as this is an additional requirement it may present a barrier to some new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 11 Marine Litter:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making. However, as this is an additional requirement it may present a barrier to some new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 12 Water quality and resource: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
Gen 13 Noise: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 14 Air quality: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of broader environmental impacts into planning and decision-making.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
	It is unclear whether the policy will contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another, or whether it will create or maintain jobs that support new or existing communities, as these impacts will vary on a case by case basis.	The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 15: Planning alignment A:	It is unclear what impact the policy will have against the economy objectives, as it is expected that the impact would depend on the circumstances of the case in question.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on promoting access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation.
		The impact on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities is unclear, as this is likely to vary on a case by case basis.
GEN 16: Planning alignment B: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	It is unclear what impact the policy will have against the economy objectives, as it is expected that the impact would depend on the circumstances of the case in question.	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the Communities, population and human health objectives.
GEN 17 Fairness:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it will encourage transparent decision-making, which supports the adoption of developments that are most beneficial to society as a whole.	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the Communities, population and human health objectives.
	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Economy objectives.	
GEN 18 Engagement: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it will encourage consultation and stakeholder engagement in the planning process, which supports the adoption of developments that are most beneficial to society as a whole. Early engagement may also help reduce conflict and opposition to development, reducing barriers to development of new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it encourages early engagement with communities potentially impacted by developments.
	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Economy objectives.	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Communities, population and human health objectives.
GEN 19 Sound evidence: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it supports evidence-based decision-making, and decision-making using a risk-based approach. No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Economy objectives.	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the Communities, population and human health objectives.

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
GEN 20 Adaptive management:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it supports dynamic evidence-based decision-making, and encourages decision makers to make use of new evidence and data as and when it becomes available. No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the remaining Economy objectives.	No additional impacts are identified for this policy against the Communities, population and human health objectives.
GEN 21 Cumulative impacts:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the incorporation of a more robust assessment framework into planning and decision-making.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on contributing to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support greater clarity in marine planning decisions by more appropriately accounting for the impact of decisions on coastal and island communities.

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
GEN 1 General planning principle:	Development and use of the marine environment has potential for adverse environmental effects (see sectoral policy tables for potential environmental effects). However, use of the term “sustainable development and use” requires that environmental issues are considered as part of the planning and decision-making process. In addition, the general and sectoral policies of the NMP would apply. Adverse effects on the environment could therefore be avoided.						
GEN 2 Economic benefit:	Development and use of the marine environment has potential for adverse environmental effects (see sectoral policy tables for potential environmental effects). However, use of the term “sustainable development and use” requires that environmental issues are considered as part of the planning and decision-making process. In addition, the general and sectoral policies of the NMP would apply. Adverse effects on the environment could therefore be avoided.						
GEN 3 Social benefit:	This policy focuses on social benefits. No environmental effects.						
GEN 4 Co-existence:	Development and use of the marine environment has potential for adverse environmental effects (see sectoral policy tables for potential environmental effects). However, use of the term “sustainable development and use” requires that environmental issues are considered as part of the planning and decision-making process. In addition, the general and sectoral policies of the NMP would apply. Adverse effects on the environment could therefore be avoided.						
GEN 5: Climate change encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	no effect	no effect	no effect	This policy is positive for this factor.	no effect	no effect	no effect
GEN 6 Historic environment: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	This policy is positive for this factor.	This policy has indirect effects for landscape/seascape.	no effect
GEN 7 Landscape/seascape: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	This policy has indirect effects for historic environment features, mainly for setting.	This policy is positive for this factor.	no effect
GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy has indirect effects for biodiversity, mainly habitats.	no effect	no effect	This policy is positive for this factor	This policy has indirect effects for coastal historic environment features.	This policy has indirect effects for landscape/seascape, mainly coastal features.	This policy is positive for this factor.
GEN 9 Natural heritage: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is positive for these factors.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	This policy is positive for geodiversity factors.
GEN 10 Invasive non-native species:	This policy is positive for these factors.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
GEN 11 Marine Litter:	This policy is positive for these factors.		no effect	no effect	This policy has indirect effects for historic environment features, mainly for setting.	This policy is positive for this factor.	no effect
GEN 12 Water quality and	This policy is positive for these factors.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
resource: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level							
Gen 13 Noise: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is positive for this factor.	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
GEN 14 Air quality: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	no effect	no effect	This policy is positive for this factor.	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
GEN 15: Planning alignment A:	This policy focuses on the integration of marine and terrestrial planning. No environmental effects.						
GEN 16: Planning alignment B: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy focuses on the integration of marine and other plans. No environmental effects.						
GEN 17 Fairness:	This policy focuses on fairness and transparency in decision-making. No environmental effects.						
GEN 18 Engagement: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy focuses on engagement. No environmental effects other than to improve communication.						
GEN 19 Sound evidence: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy's focus on sound scientific evidence is positive for environmental factors.						
GEN 20 Adaptive management:	This policy's focus on adaptive management is positive for environmental factors.						
GEN 21 Cumulative impacts:	This policy's focus on the addressing of cumulative impacts is positive for environmental factors.						

Sectoral Policies

FISHERIES 1 : ●●●	<p>Taking account of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine planners and decision makers should aim to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing fishing opportunities and activities are safeguarded wherever possible. An eco-system based approach to the management of fishing which ensures the sustainability of fish stocks and avoids damage to fragile habitats. Protection for vulnerable stocks (in particular for juvenile and spawning stocks through continuation of sea area closures where appropriate). Improved protection of the seabed and historical and archaeological remains requiring protection through effective identification of high-risk areas and management measures to mitigate the impacts of fishing, where appropriate. That other sectors take into account the need to protect fish stocks and sustain healthy fisheries for both economic and conservation reasons. Delivery of Scotland's international commitments in fisheries, including the ban on discards. Mechanisms for managing conflicts between fishermen and/or between the fishing sector and other users of the marine environment.
FISHERIES 2: ●●●◆	<p>The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on fishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cultural and economic importance of fishing, in particular to vulnerable coastal communities. The potential impact (positive and negative) of marine developments on the sustainability of fish and shellfish stocks and resultant fishing opportunities in any given area. The environmental impact on fishing grounds (such as nursery, spawning areas), commercially fished species, habitats and species more generally. The potential effect of displacement on: fish stocks; the wider environment; use of fuel; socio-economic costs to fishers and their communities and other marine users.
FISHERIES 3: ●●	<p>Where existing fishing opportunities or activity cannot be safeguarded, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy should be prepared by the proposer, involving full engagement with local fishing interests (and other interests as appropriate) in the development of the Strategy. All efforts should be made to agree the Strategy with those interests. Those interests should also undertake to engage with the proposer and provide transparent and accurate information and data to help complete the Strategy. The Strategy should be drawn up as part of the discharge of conditions of permissions granted.</p> <p>The content of the Strategy should be relevant to the particular circumstances and could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the potential impact of the development or use on the affected fishery or fisheries, both in socio-economic terms and in terms of environmental sustainability. A recognition that the disruption to existing fishing opportunities/activity should be minimised as far as possible. Reasonable measures to mitigate any constraints which the proposed development or use may place on existing or proposed fishing activity. Reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts on sustainability of fish stocks (e.g. impacts on spawning grounds or areas of fish or shellfish abundance) and any socio-economic impacts. <p>Where it does not prove possible to agree the Strategy with all interests, the reasons for any divergence of views between the parties should be fully explained in the Strategy and dissenting views should be given a platform within the Strategy to make their case.</p>
FISHERIES 4: ●●	<p>Ports should seek to engage with fishing and other relevant stakeholders at an early stage to discuss any changes in infrastructure that may affect them. Any port developments should take account of the needs of the dependent fishing fleets with a view to avoiding commercial harm where possible. Where a port has reached a minimum level of infrastructure required to support a viable fishing fleet, there should be a presumption in favour of maintaining this infrastructure, provided there is an on-going requirement for it to remain in place and that it continues to be fit for purpose.</p>
FISHERIES 5: ●●	<p>Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGs) should work with all local stakeholders with an interest to agree joint fisheries management measures. These measures should inform and reflect the objectives of regional marine plans. <applies to inshore waters></p>
REGIONAL POLICY:	<p>Regional marine plans should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether they require to undertake further work on any data gaps in relation to fishing activity within their region. The potential socio-economic impacts for the local fishing industry – and parts of the industry using their area – of any proposed activity or conservation measure. How to include local Inshore Fisheries Groups as a key part of their planning process. The potential consequences and impacts for other marine regions; and for offshore regions of their approach to planning for fisheries. Taking account of on-going local initiatives, such as Clyde 2020, which may be relevant to their work.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ⁴		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
FISHERIES 1 : ●●●	The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the fishing sector and other sectors e.g. changes to project design/location to protect spawning/nursery grounds. These trade-offs may benefit the fishing industry at the expense of other sectors but effective planning processes should ensure that the net effects are positive. In addition, this policy provides clear, up-front information to other marine sectors which should help to reduce uncertainty. It may also have short-term adverse effects on the fishing sector, for example if fishing activity is constrained or excluded by protection measures. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy will have a positive effect as in the long-term it will support the continued viability of the fishing sector alongside a diversified marine economy, with concomitant safeguarding and/or creation of jobs, and management of conflict.	The policy is positive as it supports fishing activity and therefore the communities which rely on it.
FISHERIES 2: ●●●◆	The policy is positive overall as it ensures sustainability in decision making and supports the protection of fishing-related jobs. The policy sets out the parameters for balancing fishing with other sectors and avoiding the creation of barriers to fishing, but there are likely to be trade-offs with other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy will have a positive effect.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of fishing where it is important to coastal and island communities.
FISHERIES 3: ●●	The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the fishing sector and other sectors e.g. changes to project design/location to protect spawning/nursery grounds. These trade-offs may benefit the fishing industry at the expense of other sectors but effective planning processes should ensure that the net effects are positive. In addition this policy provides clear, up-front information to other marine sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures sustainability of fishing activity and supports fishing jobs alongside development by other marine sectors. As well as ensuring balance between sectors, it assists in reducing uncertainty for other sectors and therefore reduces barriers.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of fishing and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities.
FISHERIES 4: ●●	The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the ports and fishing sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive overall as it supports the retention and maintenance of facilities to support fishing, and the jobs reliant on it, balancing this with the interests of the port. It seeks to reduce uncertainty and therefore reduces barriers to development as well as to fishing.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of fishing and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities.
FISHERIES 5: ●●	The policy is positive overall as it supports sustainable management of fish stocks and supports balancing the interests of fisheries with those of other sectors. Trade-offs may be required from IFGs and recreational sea anglers, and it has been assumed that these can be appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly.	The policy is positive as it supports access for recreational activities alongside fishing and other marine sectors.
REGIONAL POLICY:	This policy is positive overall as it places clear emphasis on ensuring that decisions are backed by sound evidence and that the regional socio-economic impacts are thought through. The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the fishing sector and other sectors e.g. changes to project design/location to protect spawning/nursery grounds. These trade-offs may benefit the fishing industry at the expense of other sectors but effective regional planning processes should ensure that the net effects are positive. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures sustainability of fishing activity and supports fishing jobs alongside development by other marine sectors. As well as ensuring balance between sectors, it assists in reducing uncertainty for other sectors and therefore reduces barriers.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of fishing and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities.

⁴ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Sea fisheries: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, sea fisheries have the potential for the following effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. bottom-contact mobile gear has the potential to adversely affect benthic habitats/ species, through dragging effects. The setting and hauling of static gear may cause surface abrasion to very sensitive habitats e.g. <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reef, depending on the intensity of fishing and the recovery rates of the species involved. ii. effects on sustainability of fish stocks, through catching/ overexploitation of target species; discards/ bycatch iii. reduces availability of food for prey species such as cetaceans, birds and other fish iv. injury and/or death to marine mammals and birds, through bycatch, entanglement in nets (both mobile and static) v. alteration of food webs by supplying increased levels of food to scavenging organisms on the seafloor and to seabirds vi. disturbance/displacement of species e.g. seabirds vii. ghost fishing from discarded, lost or abandoned gear viii. displacement of fishing may intensify effects from bottom-contact mobile gear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. oil spills can affect water quality ii. effects on benthic habitats/species (see biodiversity) have implications for ecological status iii. sediment plumes from dredging affect water quality; may also smother sediment in surrounding area 	<p>Use of fuel can contribute to overall emissions of SO₂, NO_x and particulates from the Scottish fishing fleet.</p> <p>Displacement of fishing may result in additional fuel use to reach alternative fishing grounds. However, the increased use of fuel resulting from displacement is not considered to be significant in the wider context of emissions from the Scottish fishing fleet.</p>	<p>Use of fuel can contribute to overall emissions of CO₂ from the Scottish fishing fleet.</p> <p>Displacement of fishing may result in additional fuel use to reach alternative fishing grounds. However, the increased use of fuel resulting from displacement is not considered to be significant in the wider context of emissions from the Scottish fishing fleet.</p>	<p>Bottom-contact mobile gear, e.g. trawling/dredging, may damage underwater historic environment features/ archaeology. (Conversely, such sites have the potential to be a hazard for the sea fisheries sector, e.g. through snagging gear.)</p>	no significant effects	<p>Effects on benthic habitats/species (see biodiversity) have implications for the character and integrity of the seabed.</p> <p>Displacement of fishing may intensify effects from bottom-contact mobile gear on the character and integrity of the seabed.</p>

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/no effect
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
FISHERIES 1 : ■●◆	Avoids damage to fragile habitats and ensures the sustainability of fish stocks, including protection of juvenile and spawning stocks, discard ban – fish stocks and the seabed are integral elements of marine and coastal ecosystems. (Does not address other biodiversity issues.)	Supports maintaining and/or improving ecological status, since fish stocks are an integral element of marine and coastal ecosystems. no effect on water quality	no effect	no effect	Policy highlights protection of historical and archaeological remains, thereby avoiding effects.	no effect	Improved protection of the seabed and avoiding damage to fragile habitats includes protecting benthic habitats and species, which contributes to maintaining and protecting the character and integrity of the seabed. no effect on coastal erosion or processes
FISHERIES 2 : ■●◆◇	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports the sustainability of fish stocks, including protection of juvenile and spawning grounds – fish stocks and the seabed are integral elements of marine and coastal ecosystems supports protection of habitats and species in fishing grounds recognition of potential displacement effects (item viii above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supports maintaining and/or improving ecological status, since fish stocks are an integral element of marine and coastal ecosystems recognition of potential displacement effects no effect on water quality	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	Indirectly provides improved protection of the seabed (through protection of spawning grounds)
FISHERIES 3 : ■●	Supports the sustainability of fish stocks, including protection of juvenile and spawning stocks – fish stocks are an integral element of marine and coastal ecosystems.	Supports maintaining and/or improving ecological status, since fish stocks are an integral element of marine and coastal ecosystems. no effect on water quality	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
FISHERIES 4 : ■●	Should retention of infrastructure to support the fishing sector result in the port seeking to expand outwith the existing harbour, such expansion could result in significant environmental effects. However, such						

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
	expansion would be subject to the existing policy framework (general and sectoral policies) and significant environmental effects could be avoided through the decision-making process. Otherwise no environmental effects of this policy are anticipated.						
FISHERIES 5: ●	This policy is about engagement and consultation; no effect on environment other than to improve communication.						
REGIONAL POLICY:	These policies would be progressed subject to the policies in the NMP (both general and sectoral) and significant environmental effects could be avoided through the strategic planning and decision-making process.						

AQUACULTURE 1:	Marine planners and decision makers should seek to identify appropriate locations for future aquaculture development and use, including the potential use of development planning briefs as appropriate. System carrying capacity (at the scale of a water body or loch system) should be a key consideration
AQUACULTURE 2:	Marine and terrestrial development plans should jointly identify areas which are potentially suitable and sensitive areas which are unlikely to be appropriate for such development, reflecting Scottish Planning Policy and any Scottish Government guidance on the issue. There is a continuing presumption against further marine finfish farm developments on the north and east coasts to safeguard migratory fish species. (Map 6)
AQUACULTURE 3:	In relation to nutrient enhancement and benthic impacts, as set out under Locational Guidelines for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters, fish farm development is likely to be acceptable in Category 3 areas, subject to other criteria being satisfied. A degree of precaution should be applied to consideration of further fish farming development in Category 2 areas and there will be a presumption against further fish farm development in Category 1 areas. (Map 6)
AQUACULTURE 4:	There is a presumption that further sustainable expansion of shellfish farms should be located in designated shellfish waters if these have sufficient capacity to support such development.
AQUACULTURE 5:	Aquaculture developments should avoid and/or mitigate adverse impacts upon the seascape, landscape and visual amenity of an area, following SNH guidance on the siting and design of aquaculture.
AQUACULTURE 6:	New aquaculture sites should not bridge Disease Management Areas although boundaries may be revised by Marine Scotland to take account of any changes in fish farm location, subject to the continued management of risk.
AQUACULTURE 7:	Operators and regulators should continue to utilise a risk based approach to the location of fish farms and potential impacts on wild fish.
AQUACULTURE 8:	Guidance on harassment at designated seal haul out sites should be taken into account once developed and seal conservation areas should also be taken into account in site selection and operation. Seal licences will only be granted where other management options are precluded or have proven unsuccessful in deterrence.
AQUACULTURE 9:	Consenting and licensing authorities should be satisfied that appropriate emergency response plans are in place.
AQUACULTURE 10:	Fish farm operators should carry out pre-application discussion and consultation, and engage with local communities and others who may be affected, to identify and, where possible, address any concerns in advance of submitting an application.
AQUACULTURE 11:	Aquaculture equipment, including but not limited to installations, facilities, moorings, pens and nets, must be fit for purpose for the site conditions, subject to future climate change. Any statutory technical standard must be adhered to.
AQUACULTURE 12:	Applications which promote the use of sustainable biological controls for sea lice (such as farmed wrasse) will be encouraged
AQUACULTURE 13:	Proposals that contribute to the diversification of farmed species will be supported, subject to other objectives and policies being satisfied.
AQUACULTURE 14:	The Scottish Government, aquaculture companies and Local Authorities should work together to maximise benefit to communities from aquaculture development.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider the potential for sustainable growth of aquaculture in their region, taking into account the policies set out above, and working in close partnership with terrestrial planners, SEPA, Marine Scotland, SNH and other regulators.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ⁵		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
AQUACULTURE 1:	The policy supports the sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry, and therefore is positive in terms of contributing to a sustainable economy and supporting existing and future employment (this conclusion assumes that additional growth in this sector can be accommodated without detriment to existing aquaculture facilities or other economic activities). Promoting aquaculture growth could have detrimental effects on other sectors in some areas, if there is competition for space. Trade-offs will be required.	The policy has some positive effect as it supports existing and future employment in a sector which is important to remote coastal and island communities.
AQUACULTURE 2: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	As with Policy 1, the effects of this policy are mixed: this policy is positive as it increases clarity on suitable locations and therefore reduces uncertainty, but also provides clarity on areas less suitable for development, with consequent trade-offs.	The policy makes future opportunity for aquaculture transparent, and therefore the associated jobs which can be supported.
AQUACULTURE 3: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to deliver long-term benefits through the creation of a sustainable aquaculture sector but may have short-term negative consequences where it constrains or increases the costs of aquaculture developments. It also improves the transparency of the locations where fish farming is more likely to be sustainable.	Sustainable economic activity supports dependent communities.
AQUACULTURE 4:	This policy supports shellfish production and employment. There may be some trade-offs resulting in costs or constraints for other sectors as shellfish waters may limit other activities within the same area, but designation of shellfish growing waters increases transparency for other industries.	Jobs in shellfish sector protected, possibly at the expense of developments in other sectors.

⁵ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
AQUACULTURE 5: ■ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The effects of this policy are mixed: the policy avoids detrimental impacts on other sectors reliant on landscape quality (a benefit), but could constrain locations for the aquaculture industry (negative).	No impacts identified.
AQUACULTURE 6: ■ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	The policy is expected to deliver long-term benefits through the creation of a sustainable aquaculture and wild fishery sectors but may have short run negative consequences where it constrains or increases the costs of aquaculture developments. (Managing disease supports the sustainability of the aquaculture and wild salmon sectors.)	No impacts identified.
AQUACULTURE 7: ■● encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	The policy may involve short run constraints for the aquaculture sector but will deliver long run benefits as it enables and supports the overall sustainability of the aquaculture industry and limits any negative impacts on the wild fish sector.	Sustainable economic activity supports dependent communities.
AQUACULTURE 8: ●	The policy may involve short run constraints or additional costs for the aquaculture sector but will deliver long run benefits as it enables and supports the overall sustainability of the aquaculture industry and limits any negative impacts.	Sustainable economic activity supports dependent communities.
AQUACULTURE 9: ■● this policy covers contingency plans in response to e.g. algal blooms, oil spills, storm-damaged equipment etc.	The policy has some positive benefit to the economy as it reduces potential losses in the event of an incident.	The policy is positive overall as it protects both the industry and the communities reliant on it, and human health.
AQUACULTURE 10: ●	No impacts identified.	Some positive benefit in terms of local governance (NB see HLMO re governance).
AQUACULTURE 11: ■●◇ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	This policy is positive because it protects against extreme weather, and therefore the industry and related jobs. It will incur costs to the industry, but these will bring benefit in the long run (e.g. avoiding costs of equipment and stock replacement).	Sustainable economic activity supports dependent communities.
AQUACULTURE 12: ●	No impact identified. This may have benefits in the long-term, by replacing the application of expensive therapeutants, but at this early stage the relative costs are unclear.	No impacts identified.
AQUACULTURE 13: ■●	The policy is positive as it supports a diverse species base, thereby increasing the robustness of the sector, supporting jobs and reducing barriers to diversification.	The policy is positive as diversification may support employment in coastal and island communities.
AQUACULTURE 14: ■●●	No impact identified. This policy may help in safeguarding existing jobs and or creating new ones within the aquaculture sector. It is not clear how this will impinge on other marine sectors or what efficiency impact it may have.	This policy will potentially provide some benefit to communities where the Scottish aquaculture chain is located in coastal and island communities.
REGIONAL POLICY:	The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the aquaculture sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures sustainability of aquaculture activity and supports jobs alongside development by other marine sectors. As well as ensuring balance between sectors, it assists in reducing uncertainty for other sectors and therefore reduces barriers.	Sustainable economic activity supports dependent communities.

Aquaculture: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
<p>In the absence of mitigation measures, aquaculture has the potential for the following effects:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reduction in biological carrying capacity ii. benthic loss and/or damage (habitats/species), through anchoring iii. loss of foraging habitat: birds/ marine mammals iv. benthic smothering and/or enrichment through organic waste deposition (particulate organic wastes, excess feed), with consequent changes to benthic species composition v. injury and/or death of wildlife through entanglement in ropes/nets, e.g. birds, marine mammals vi. attraction of piscivorous birds and mammals to cages, leading to culling vii. use of wild fish for fish feed (affects stock/species sustainability) viii. invasive non-native species, introduced on equipment/boats ix. interactions between farmed and wild salmon (exposure to disease/ parasites, e.g. sea lice; adverse effects on genetic integrity from interbreeding of escaped farmed fish with wild salmon; competition with and displacement of wild salmon by escaped farmed salmon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reduction in carrying capacity, e.g. capacity of water bodies to assimilate nutrients etc ii. reduction in water quality through: eutrophication; presence of chemicals, therapeutants and other medicines; discharges from wellboats; etc iii. aquaculture can adversely affect ecological status through e.g. benthic loss and/or damage, benthic smothering and/or enrichment etc and through reduction in a water body's carrying capacity iv. storm-damaged and/or loose equipment becoming a navigational hazard, with implications for water quality (through e.g. spills) and human safety (e.g. collisions) 	<p>no effect</p>	<p>no effect</p>	<p>loss of and/or damage to historic environment features, including adverse effects on their setting, through e.g. anchoring, changes in chemical composition of sediment, construction of onshore components, etc</p>	<p>adverse visual (e.g. to local residents, visitors, etc) and landscape/seascape effects, from the presence of cages and supporting infrastructure</p>	<p>damage to the seabed through e.g. anchoring; benthic loss and/or damage, benthic smothering and/or enrichment; etc</p>

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?		
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?	Water	
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/no effect
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
AQUACULTURE 1:	Aquaculture has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, use of the term "appropriate locations" implies that issues such as carrying capacity, existing water quality, biodiversity interests, would be taken into account and adverse impacts avoided as part of the process of identifying such locations. Policy emphasises the need to consider carrying capacity.		no effect	no effect	Aquaculture has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, use of the term "appropriate locations" implies that issues such as landscape/ seascape, cultural heritage and seabed issues, would be taken into account and adverse impacts avoided as part of the process of identifying such locations		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 2:	Aquaculture has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, the identification of "sensitive areas" is assumed to include environmental sensitivities, including biodiversity, flora and fauna and water quality/ecological status, so that adverse effects on these features would be avoided as part of the process of identifying such locations.		no effect	no effect	Aquaculture has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, the identification of "sensitive areas" is assumed to include environmental sensitivities, including culture heritage features and landscapes/seascapes, such that adverse effects on these features would be avoided as part of the process of identifying such locations. "Seabed issues" are covered by biodiversity, flora and fauna.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 3:	Aquaculture has potential for adverse benthic effects and nutrient enhancement as well as other environmental effects (see above). This policy is aimed at avoiding nutrient enhancement and benthic impacts. "Subject to other criteria being satisfied" would take the other environmental factors into account such that impacts on such features would be avoided when making locational decisions, e.g. other biodiversity interests such as protected species, landscape interests such as National Scenic Areas, etc.		no effect	no effect	Aquaculture has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). "Subject to other criteria being satisfied" would take the environmental factors other than nutrient enhancement and benthic impacts into account such that impacts on such features would be avoided when making locational decisions, e.g. other biodiversity interests such as protected species, landscape interests such as National Scenic Areas, etc.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
AQUACULTURE 4: ■	The potential adverse effects of expansion of the shellfish sector would be mitigated by the “living within environmental limits” aspect of “sustainable expansion”. This would require other environmental factors to be taken into account when making locational decisions, e.g. the effects of shell deposition on the seabed.		no effect	no effect			The potential adverse effects of expansion of the shellfish sector would be mitigated by the “living within environmental limits” aspect of “sustainable expansion”. This would require other environmental factors to be taken into account when making locational decisions, e.g. the effects of shell deposition on the seabed.
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 5: ■ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	Protection of seascape and landscape may assist in protecting the setting of historic features.	This policy supports the protection of seascape, landscape and visual amenity.	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 6: ■ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	This policy is intended to protect the health of farmed salmon. It would also act to reduce exposure of wild salmon to disease/ parasites/ therapeutant etc. and to protect water quality/ecological status.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 7: ■● encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	This is an existing policy, intended to support the prevention of effects on wild fish. It would also act to protect water quality/ecological status.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 8: ● This policy is intended to protect seals from harassment (positive) and also sets out circumstances in which a seal licence would be granted (potentially adverse).	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 9: ■● this policy covers contingency plans in response to e.g. algal blooms, oil spills, storm-damaged equipment etc.	This policy is intended to limit the damage to water quality/ecological status (e.g. seabed) on which ecosystems/species depend.		no effect	This policy supports resilience of the aquaculture sector to climate change.	This policy is intended to limit the damage to features such as the seabed, which may also support historic environment features.	no effect	This policy is intended to limit the damage to features such as the seabed.
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
policy:							
AQUACULTURE 10: ●	This policy is about engagement and consultation; no effect on environment other than to improve communication.						
AQUACULTURE 11: ●◆ encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition in decision-making	This policy is intended to ensure robustness of equipment, to avoid escapes of farmed fish and thus avoid the issues in item ix above.	This policy is intended to ensure robustness of equipment, to avoid storm-damaged/loose equipment from becoming a navigational hazard – collision between vessels and loose equipment could cause water quality through spills etc.	no effect	This policy supports resilience of the aquaculture sector to climate change.	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed, which may also support historic environment features.	no effect	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed,
AQUACULTURE 12: ◆	This policy is intended to protect the water quality/ecological status on which ecosystems/species depend. The farming of wrasse may have similar impacts to those identified in the impacts table above and would therefore be subject to the same policies. For example, prevention of farmed wrasse escapes (potentially adverse) would be equally important in preventing adverse effects on biodiversity/sustainability of wild wrasse (e.g. genetic integrity, competition/displacement, etc).						
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 13: ●	This policy focuses on the diversification of farmed species. Farming would continue to be progressed “subject to other objectives and policies being satisfied”. This includes policy on the introduction of potentially invasive non-native species. No effects are therefore anticipated.	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
AQUACULTURE 14: ●◆	This policy is intended to have community benefits. No environmental effects are therefore anticipated.	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REGIONAL POLICY:	The growth of aquaculture has the potential for adverse environmental effects; however, such growth is to be considered within the context of sustainable development. Adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided when making locational decisions.		no effect	no effect	The growth of aquaculture has the potential for adverse environmental effects; however, such growth is to be considered within the context of sustainable development. Adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided when making locational decisions.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this	GEN 9 Natural heritage GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Geology/coastal processes
policy:							

<p>●●● WILD FISH 1:</p>	<p>The impact of development and use of the marine environment on diadromous fish species should be considered in marine planning and decision making processes. Where evidence of impacts on salmon and other diadromous species is inconclusive, mitigation should be adopted where possible and information on impacts on diadromous species from monitoring of developments should be used to inform subsequent marine decision making.</p>
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SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ⁶		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
<p>●●● WILD FISH 1:</p>	<p>The policy prevents detriment to wild salmon from other marine sectors, and safeguards the jobs associated with wild salmon fishing. The policy will involve trade-offs between the wild salmon/migratory fisheries sector and other marine sectors, but it is assumed that these trade-offs can be identified and incorporated into planning decisions. The policy is transparent and therefore reduces uncertainty. Overall its effects are considered to be positive.</p>	<p>The policy has some positive effect by protecting wild salmon from the impacts of other developments, and this supports communities for which wild salmon is important.</p>

Wild Salmon: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
<p>In the absence of mitigation measures, the wild salmon and diadromous fish sector has the potential for the following effects:</p>	<p>None. However, development and use of the marine environment may affect wild salmon and diadromous fish interests. These potential effects are identified in the relevant assessment tables.</p>						

⁶ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives ■
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change ■
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects ■
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives ■
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain ■
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
■ ■ WILD FISH 1: This policy requires the consideration of diadromous fish interests in marine planning and decision-making. This would support the avoidance of adverse effects on diadromous fish from development and use of the marine environment.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
The following general policies and their supporting text would also:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource					

OIL & GAS 1	The Scottish Government will work with DECC, the new Oil and Gas Authority and the industry to maximise and prolong oil and gas exploration and production whilst ensuring that the level of environmental risks associated with these activities are regulated. Activity should be carried out using the principles of BAT (Best Available Technology) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP). Consideration will be given to key environmental risks including the impacts of noise, oil and chemical contamination and habitat change.
OIL & GAS 2	Where re-use of oil and gas infrastructure is not practicable, either as part of oil and gas activity or by other sectors such as carbon capture and storage, decommissioning must take place in line with standard practice, and as allowed by international obligations. Reuse or removal of decommissioned assets from the seabed will be fully supported where practicable and adhering to relevant regulatory process.
OIL & GAS 3	Supporting marine and coastal infrastructure for oil and gas developments, including for storage, should utilise the minimum space needed for activity and should take into account environmental and socio-economic constraints.
OIL & GAS 4	All oil and gas platforms will be subject to 9 nautical mile consultation zones in line with Civil Aviation Authority guidance.
OIL & GAS 5	Consenting and licensing authorities should have regard to the potential risks, both now and under future climates, to oil and gas operations in Scottish waters, and be satisfied that installations are appropriately sited and designed to take account of current and future conditions.
OIL & GAS 6	Consenting and licensing authorities should be satisfied that adequate risk reduction measures are in place, and that operators should have sufficient emergency response and contingency strategies in place that are compatible with the National Contingency Plan and the Offshore Safety Directive.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The positive and negative impacts of any oil and gas activity in their area and the implications for other development and use. The implications of the transition to a low carbon economy for their area including the longer-term reduction of oil and gas activity, but also incorporating opportunities to reuse existing infrastructure and promote skills transfer to support emerging industries such as renewables and CCS.

	SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...		
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ⁷		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
OIL & GAS 1 encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of the marine economy, doing so without being to the detriment of other industries, and sustaining oil and gas related jobs in existing communities.	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities, as it is likely to support employment in oil and gas in communities where they are reliant on this industry.
OIL & GAS 2 encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy through supporting reuse and decommissioning of infrastructure.	No impacts identified.
OIL & GAS 3	The additional effect this policy will have on the development of a sustainable marine economy is unclear, as it may simply reflect existing industry practice, and its impacts are likely to vary on a case by case basis. If the policy leads to additional regulation and licensing requirements, it may add to barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities.	No impacts identified.
OIL & GAS 4 encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	No impacts identified.	No impacts identified.
OIL & GAS 5 encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on supporting the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages consideration of potential future environmental risks in consenting and licensing decisions.	No impacts identified.
OIL & GAS 6 encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and	No impacts identified.	No impacts identified.

⁷ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
decision-making		
REGIONAL POLICY:	The policy is positive overall. As well as ensuring balance between sectors, it assists in reducing uncertainty for other sectors. Reuse of infrastructure is sustainable for the economy (for example, carbon capture and storage). Skills and knowledge transfer helps to support jobs in related marine industries, and can reduce barriers to development of new marine enterprise opportunities.	No impacts identified.

Offshore Oil and Gas: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, the offshore oil and gas sector has the potential for the following effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. noise from e.g. seismic exploration activity, drilling etc may cause disturbance and/or injury to cetaceans, fish; this could affect stock productivity through disturbing fish in spawning/nursery areas ii. damage to and/or loss of benthic habitat to infrastructure, underwater pipelines, etc iii. damage to and/or loss of coastal habitat from onshore and landfall infrastructure iv. smothering of benthic habitat through siltation etc v. discharge of water-based drilling muds may affect benthic habitats/species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. discharges to sea will adversely affect water quality e.g. "produced water" (containing oil, heavy metals, etc) ii. accidental spills from offshore installations, during refuelling and transport or from collisions will adversely affect water quality iii. increased turbidity from installation, dredging iv. discharge of water-based drilling muds may affect benthic habitats/species v. oil-based drilling fluids were the main source of discharges to the sea e.g. cuttings until their use was banned in 1992.⁸ 	<p>Atmospheric emissions from the offshore oil and gas sector include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flaring (controlled burning of natural gas produced in association with oil in the course of routine oil and gas production operations) • venting (controlled release of unburned gases into the atmosphere) <p>It is likely that continued exploration/ production will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.</p>	Continued use of oil and gas will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology from infrastructure, underwater pipelines, ancillary infrastructure ii. damage to and/or loss of coastal historic environment features from onshore and landfall infrastructure; also effects on setting of these features 	Reduction in landscape/seascape quality from presence of infrastructure above water or on the coast.	Scouring of the seabed from placement and presence of pipelines, supporting infrastructure.

⁸ http://www.ospar.org/content/content.asp?menu=00860305360000_000000_000000

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
OIL & GAS 1 ●●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Development would be subject to existing policy/regulation, as well as the NMP's general/sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas exploration and production (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. This policy draws attention to key environmental risks (noise, oil and chemical contamination and habitat change), and the use of BAT and BEP principles. In the event of an incident occurring, Policy 6 would come into play.		no effect	Continued use of oil and gas will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Development has the potential to exert adverse effects on the environment, but would be subject to existing policy/regulation, as well as the NMP's general/sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas exploration and production (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. This policy draws attention to the use of BAT and BEP principles. In the event of an incident occurring, Policy 6 would come into play.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
OIL & GAS 2 ●●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Decommissioning would be subject to existing policy / regulation, and the NMP general and sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas decommissioning may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. The policy has positive environmental effects, in terms of removal of decommissioned assets, as it removes any pollution risks associated with them. There may be negative effects on opportunities for enhancing fisheries habitat, which would be lost through the removal of redundant infrastructure (reuse would facilitate such opportunities).		no effect	Continued use of oil and gas will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Decommissioning would be subject to existing policy/regulation, as well as the NMP's general/sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas decommissioning may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. Removal might be beneficial; uncertain as to how much oil and gas infrastructure influences marine sediment patterns of movement.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
OIL & GAS 3 ●●●: Development would be subject to existing policy/regulation, as well as the NMP's general/sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas exploration and production (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. The policy will be positive in reducing development footprints.			no effect	Continued use of oil and gas will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Development has the potential to exert adverse effects on the environment, but would be subject to existing policy/regulation, as well as the NMP's general/sectoral policies. The potential adverse effects of oil and gas exploration and production (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. The policy will be positive in reducing development footprints.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes	
apply:								
OIL & GAS 4 ●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures recognition in planning/ decision-making	This policy relates to air safety. No environmental effects.							
OIL & GAS 5 ◆: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	<p>This policy is intended to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> robustness of infrastructure, to avoid, for example, storm-damaged/loose infrastructure/equipment from becoming a navigational hazard – collision between vessels and loose equipment could affect water quality (and the species that depend on it) through spills etc. robustness of operations, to reduce occurrence of major accidents as far as possible and to limit their consequences <p>This policy thus supports these aspects of biodiversity and water quality/ecological status.</p>		no effect	This policy supports resilience of the oil and gas sector's infrastructure and operations to climate change.	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed, which may also support historic environment features.	no effect	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed.	
OIL & GAS 6 ●◆: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	<p>The National Contingency Plan's purpose is to ensure that there is a timely, measured and effective response to marine pollution incidents from shipping and offshore installations, including impacts. After saving human life, the key purpose is to protect human health, and the marine and terrestrial environment.⁹ The Offshore Directive's objective is to reduce as far as possible the occurrence of major accidents from offshore oil and gas operations and to limit their consequences.¹⁰ This policy thus supports the components of ecosystems, water quality/ecological status and air quality that may be affected by such incidents, through working to limit adverse effects on them.</p>				This policy supports resilience of the oil and gas sector's infrastructure and operations to climate change.	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed, which may also support historic environment features.	no effect	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed.
REGIONAL POLICY:	<p>The first bullet of this policy supports the existing policy/regulatory framework for the oil and gas sector, and ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making.</p> <p>The second bullet of this policy mainly deals with economic issues and skills transfer (re-use of existing infrastructure is covered under OIL & GAS 2). No environmental effects.</p>							

⁹ more information available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-contingency-planncp>

¹⁰ more information available from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/directive.htm>

CCS 1	CCS commercialisation projects or developments should be supported through an alignment of marine and terrestrial planning processes, particularly where proposals allow timely deployment of CCS to re-use suitable existing redundant oil and gas infrastructure.
CCS 2	Consideration should be given to the development of marine utility corridors which will allow CCS to capitalise, where possible, on current infrastructure in the North Sea, including shared use of spatial corridors and pipelines.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider the potential for CCS commercialisation within their area, particularly in light of the expected future activity set out in National Planning Framework 3.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			Key: environmental effects
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Work against SA objectives
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Neutral/ no change
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Mixed effects
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹¹		Promote SA objectives
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Uncertain
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
CCS 1 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, and to contribute to the growth of CCS without detriment to other industries, particularly oil and gas. It may also help maintain employment in new or existing communities.	No impacts identified.
CCS 2 :	Marine utility corridors provide efficient use of resources which is positive for a sustainable economy, but their use could generate additional costs to some sectors and add barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities should they represent a departure from industries' existing practices.	No impacts identified.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Positive through commitment to support development of new marine enterprise opportunities that makes use of existing marine infrastructure.	No impacts identified.

Carbon Capture and Storage: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
<p>In the absence of mitigation measures, the carbon capture and storage sector has the potential for the following effects:</p> <p>Note that the re-use of existing oil and gas infrastructure could assist in avoiding adverse effects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. damage to and/or loss of benthic habitat to underwater pipelines, supporting infrastructure ii. damage to and/or loss of coastal habitat from onshore and landfall infrastructure iii. smothering of benthic habitat through siltation etc iv. changes to benthic habitat/species composition resulting from changes to chemical composition of sediment as a consequence of local acidification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. increased turbidity from installation, dredging ii. local acidification of water column caused by leakage from CO₂ reservoir (uncertain) iii. reduction in water quality from accidental spills, collisions etc 		Contribution of carbon capture and storage to Scottish Government emission targets (driven by Scottish Government climate change and renewable energy policy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology from underwater pipelines, supporting infrastructure iv. damage to and/or loss of coastal historic environment features from onshore, landfall and surface-piercing offshore infrastructure; also effects on setting of these features 	Reduction in landscape/ seascape quality from presence of supporting infrastructure above water or on the coast.	Scouring of the seabed from placement and presence of pipelines, supporting infrastructure.

¹¹ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
CCS 1 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	This policy supports CCS. CCS developments have the potential for adverse environmental effects but would be progressed in the context of the existing NMP policies (general and sectoral). The potential adverse effects of CCS (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		no effect	Support of CCS will assist in contributing to Scottish Government emission targets.	This policy supports CCS. CCS developments have the potential for adverse environmental effects but would be progressed in the context of the existing NMP policies (general and sectoral). The potential adverse effects of CCS (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		
CCS 2 :	Such a joined-up approach to the use of spatial corridors and pipelines should assist in reducing the amount of seabed disturbed by such installations, which would benefit benthic habitat and species/ecological status.		no effect	no effect	Such a joined-up approach to the use of spatial corridors and pipelines should assist in reducing the amount of seabed disturbed by such installations, which would benefit underwater historic environment features/archaeology and the character/integrity of the seabed.		
REGIONAL POLICY:	The inclusion of CCS in regional marine plans would reinforce the progression of CCS developments in the context of the existing NMP policies (general and sectoral). The potential adverse effects of CCS (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		no effect	Support of CCS will assist in contributing to Scottish Government emission targets.	The inclusion of CCS in regional marine plans would reinforce the progression of CCS developments in the context of the existing NMP policies (general and sectoral). The potential adverse effects of CCS (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		

RENEWABLES 1 ■●:	Proposals for commercial scale offshore wind and marine renewable energy development should be sited in the Plan Option areas identified through the Sectoral Marine Plan process (Map 10). Plan Options are considered the preferred location for the sustainable development of offshore wind and marine renewables. This preference should be taken into account by marine planners and decision makers if alternative development or use of these areas is being considered. Proposals are subject to licensing and consenting processes.
RENEWABLES 2 ■●:	Agreements for lease for wave and tidal energy sites in the Pentland Firth Strategic Area must be taken into account by marine planners and decision makers if alternative use of these areas, or which would affect access to these areas, is being considered. Proposals are subject to licensing and consenting processes. Regional Locational Guidance and the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plans should also be taken into account when reaching decisions.
RENEWABLES 3 ■●●:	Marine planners and decision makers should consider proposals for sustainable development of test and demonstration sites for offshore wind and marine renewable energy development on a case by case basis where sites are identified. Regional Locational Guidance should be taken into account and proposals are subject to licensing and consenting process.
RENEWABLES 4 ■:	Applications for marine licences and consents relating to offshore wind and marine renewable energy projects should be made in accordance with the guidance set out in the marine licensing manual and Marine Scotland's Licensing Policy Guidance.
RENEWABLES 5 ■●:	Marine planners and decision makers must ensure that renewable energy projects demonstrate compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal legislative requirements
RENEWABLES 6 ■●●:	New and future planned grid connections should align with relevant sectoral and other marine spatial planning processes, where appropriate, to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic approach to grid planning. Cable and network owners and marine users should also take a joined-up approach to development and activity to minimise impacts on the marine historic and natural environment and other users.
RENEWABLES 7 ■●◆:	Marine planners and decision makers should ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose now and in future. Consideration should be given to the potential for climate change impacts on coasts vulnerable to erosion.
RENEWABLES 8 ■●:	Developers bringing forward proposals for new developments must actively engage at an early stage with the general public and interested stakeholders of the area to which the proposal relates and of adjoining areas which may be affected.
RENEWABLES 9 ■●●:	Marine planners and decision makers should support the development of joint research and monitoring programmes for offshore wind and marine renewables energy development.
RENEWABLES 10 ■●:	The Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Offshore Renewable Energy Developments should be followed by developers
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further assessing Plan Options areas against local/updated data knowledge to identify development potential, interactions and compatibility. • Coordinating and developing a better understanding of the interactions between the sector and the environment and other users. • Ensure better alignment between marine and terrestrial planning. • Links to relevant terrestrial plans. • Grid requirements and onshore infrastructures for grid. Links to strategic grid initiatives and engagement with these e.g. the North Sea Countries Offshore Grid Initiative could also be supported by regional marine planning. • Coordinating with the Crown Estate on leasing rounds.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			Key: environmental effects	
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Work against SA objectives	Red
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Neutral/ no change	Yellow
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Mixed effects	Orange
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹²		Promote SA objectives	Green
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Uncertain	Blue
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?			
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?			

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
RENEWABLES 1 ■●:	The policy is positive overall as it supports marine renewable energy development and supports the creation of new jobs in marine renewables. There will be trade-offs with other marine sectors, e.g. as a result of spatial exclusion, but the policy will also increase transparency over the preferred locations for marine renewables, thereby reducing uncertainty barriers to other sectors.	The policy supports renewables jobs which will in turn support community resilience.
RENEWABLES 2 ■●:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, and offers increased certainty as to the location of these activities. The overall impact on other marine activities and employment is unclear, as these are likely to vary on a case by case basis.	No impacts identified.
RENEWABLES 3 ■●●: this policy relates to test and demonstration sites outwith the Plan Option areas	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages the development of new technology. It also potentially removes or reduces barrier to entry in terms of new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy supports renewables jobs which will in turn support community resilience.

¹² includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
RENEWABLES 4 ■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	No impacts identified.	No impacts identified.
RENEWABLES 5 ■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages developers to mitigate against potential adverse environmental impacts. Impacts are likely to vary on a case by case basis.	No impacts identified.
RENEWABLES 6 ■■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages development that mitigates against potential adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts on others. However, where this departs from existing practice, it is likely to impose additional costs on developers, which may increase barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities.	The policy is expected to make a positive contribution to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities because it ensures that socio-economic issues are addressed when planning and constructing new grid connections.
RENEWABLES 7 ■■■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages developers to mitigate against potential adverse environmental impacts and ensures that operational risk is minimised. Impacts are likely to vary on a case by case basis.	No impacts identified.
RENEWABLES 8 ■■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to make a positive contribution to developing a sustainable marine economy because engagement with other sectors supports sustainable economic growth, and also helps to avoid detrimental impacts on other sectors. The policy may also have both positive and negative effects as active engagement with other sectors may help to remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities from others' opposition. However, it may also add to developers' costs if it imposes new obligations on them, which may act as a barrier.	The policy is positive because active engagement with communities will ensure that their views on accessibility and connectivity are taken into account.
RENEWABLES 9 ■■■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on the development of a sustainable marine economy, as it encourages a collaborative approach to research and development.	No impacts identified.
RENEWABLES 10 ■■■: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	No impact identified. This policy may help in safeguarding existing jobs and or creating new ones within the renewables sector. It is not clear how this will impinge on other marine sectors or what efficiency impact it may have.	This policy will potentially provide some benefit to communities where renewables activity is located in coastal and island communities.
REGIONAL POLICY:	This policy is positive overall as it places clear emphasis on ensuring that decisions are backed by sound evidence and that the regional socio-economic impacts are thought through. The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the renewables sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures a balance is met between marine sectors.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of the renewables sector and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities. It also active encourages engagement with communities ensuring that their views are taken into account.






	SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...		
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Offshore Renewables: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
<p>In the absence of mitigation measures, offshore renewables have the potential for the following effects:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. disturbance and/or injury to marine fauna from underwater noise/ vibration ii. disturbance and/or displacement of marine fauna (including seabirds) from visual and light intensity changes, water quality changes, habitat disturbance, presence of devices iii. injury to seals, cetaceans, elasmobranchs from collision with vessels, devices, etc iv. injury and/or death to seabirds, fish from collision with devices, turbine blades; cetaceans from entanglement with lines v. EMF impacts on fish and elasmobranchs from cabling/ grid connection infrastructure vi. barriers to movement of mammals, cetaceans migratory fish from e.g. cables, moorings, devices etc vii. damage and/or loss of benthic habitat from devices viii. smothering of benthic habitats from e.g. dredging ix. potential for mixed effects to fish from presence of new structures in the water, e.g. reef effects x. potential for positive effects for predatory species, e.g. seabirds etc, from presence of new structures in the water, e.g. reef effects xi. loss of and/or damage to fish nursery and/or spawning grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. water quality changes including increased turbidity during device installation, dredging operations/ aggregate extraction, etc ii. potential release of contaminated materials from dredged material iii. increased turbidity in designated shellfish waters iv. oil/chemical spills e.g. from collisions between vessels and devices, accidental spills during installation etc v. changes to wave energy and sediment dynamics from tidal devices 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. contribution of renewable energy to Scottish Government emission targets via displacement of other energy generation, e.g. coal power, etc (driven by Scottish Government climate change and renewable energy policy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features e.g. from gravity bases ii. effects on setting of historic features, particularly where device arrays and/or associated surface-piercing infrastructure are in close proximity to the coastline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. visual effects from presence of devices, particularly where device arrays and/or associated surface-piercing infrastructure are in close proximity to the coastline ii. reduction in landscape/ seascape quality from presence of devices and/or associated surface-piercing infrastructure iii. reduction of landscape quality from presence of onshore components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. damage to and/or loss of benthic habitat from installation of devices on the seabed, abrasion, etc ii. changes to wave energy and sediment dynamics from tidal devices iii. changes to coastal processes from wave energy dissipation and/or presence of devices close to shore, e.g. exacerbation of existing erosion problems; increased deposition of sediment iv. scouring of the seabed e.g. from placement of mooring lines, presence of foundation structures, etc

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
RENEWABLES 1 ●●:	Offshore energy developments have potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, the Plan Option areas have been subject to SEA ¹³ . All subsequent proposals will be subject to the general and sectoral policies in this NMP. All environmental factors will therefore be taken into account and adverse impacts potentially avoided as part of the locational decision-making process.						
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	General policies that will apply include, amongst others: GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species; GEN 12 Water quality and resource; GEN 6 Historic environment; and GEN 7 Landscape/seascape.						
RENEWABLES 2 ●●:	This policy is socio-economic in nature and, in consequence, no environmental effects are anticipated.						
RENEWABLES 3 ●●●: this policy relates to test and demonstration sites outwith the Plan Option areas	Test and demonstration proposals have similar potential for adverse environmental effects to offshore renewables (see above). However, all test and demonstration proposals will be subject to the general and sectoral policies in the NMP. All environmental factors will therefore be taken into account and adverse impacts potentially avoided as part of the locational decision-making process.						
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	General policies that will apply include, amongst others: GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species; GEN 12 Water quality and resource; GEN 6 Historic environment; and GEN 7 Landscape/seascape.						
RENEWABLES 4 ●: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is procedural in nature; no effect on environment other than to improve the process of identification and assessment of impacts.						
RENEWABLES 5 ●●: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is procedural in nature; no effect on environment other than to improve the process of identification and assessment of impacts.						
RENEWABLES 6 ●●●:	New and future planned grid connections will be subject to environmental assessment, at the project-level or strategic, plan-level. For example, SEA of ISLES ¹⁴ is currently underway. All proposals will be subject to the general and sectoral policies in the NMP. All environmental factors will therefore be taken into account and adverse impacts potentially avoided as part of the locational decision-making process.						
	The joined-up approach to development and activity (by cable and network owners and marine users) should assist in reducing the amount of seabed disturbed by such installations, which would benefit benthic habitat and species/ecological status.		no effect	no effect		The joined-up approach to development and activity (by cable and network owners and marine users) should assist in reducing the amount of seabed disturbed by such installations, which would benefit underwater historic environment features/archaeology and the character/integrity of the seabed.	
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply to this policy:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
RENEWABLES 7 ●●●: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is intended to ensure robustness of infrastructure, to avoid, for example, storm-damaged/loose infrastructure/equipment from becoming a navigational hazard – collision between vessels and loose equipment could affect water quality (and the species that depend on it) through spills etc.		no effect	This policy supports resilience of the renewables sector to climate change.	This policy would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed, which may also support historic environment features.	no effect	This policy would support efforts to prevent existing erosion from becoming worse. It would also assist in preventing damage to features such as the seabed,
RENEWABLES 8 ●●: encapsulates existing project-level policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is about engagement and consultation; no effect on environment other than to improve communication.						

¹³ Environmental Report available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/07/8702>

¹⁴ The Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study (ISLES) is a major initiative designed to enable the development of interconnected grid networks to enhance the integration of marine renewable energy between Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
RENEWABLES 9   	This policy is likely to provide additional data about marine species and habitats/ecological status, as well as the occurrence or otherwise of adverse/ beneficial effects. Such information will support and improve future assessment and decision-making.		no effect	This policy is likely to provide additional data about climate change, historic environment features, seascapes and marine geological/coastal processes, as well as the occurrence or otherwise of adverse/ beneficial effects. Such information will support and improve future assessment and decision-making.			
RENEWABLES 10  	This policy is intended to have community benefits. No environmental effects are therefore anticipated.						
REGIONAL POLICY:	Offshore energy developments have potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). These policies are mainly procedural, but “better understanding of the interactions between the sector and the environment and other users” should have environmental benefits (through avoiding future adverse effects as a result of better knowledge). Regional marine plans will be subject to the general and sectoral policies in the NMP. All environmental factors will therefore be taken into account and adverse impacts potentially avoided as part of the locational decision-making process.						

REC & TOURISM 1 ■:	Opportunities to promote sustainable development of marine recreation and tourism should be supported.
REC & TOURISM 2 ■●●:	The following key factors should be taken into account when deciding on uses of the marine environment and the potential impact on recreation and tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the proposal is likely to adversely affect the qualities important to recreational users, including the extent to which proposals may interfere with the physical infrastructure that underpins a recreational activity. • The extent to which any proposal interferes with access to and along the shore, to the water, use of the resource for recreation or tourism purposes and existing navigational routes or navigational safety. • Where significant impacts are likely, whether reasonable alternatives can be identified for the proposed activity or development. • Where significant impacts are likely and there are no reasonable alternatives, whether mitigation, through recognised and effective measures, can be achieved at no significant cost to the marine leisure or tourism sector interests
REC & TOURISM 3 ■●:	Regional marine plans should identify areas that are of recreational and tourism value and identify where prospects for significant development exist, including opportunities to link to the National Long Distance Walking and Cycle Routes, and more localised and/or bespoke recreational opportunities and visitor attractions.
REC & TOURISM 4 ■●:	Marine and terrestrial planners, marine decision makers and developers should give consideration to the facility requirements of marine recreation and tourism activities, including a focus on support for participation and development in sport. Co-operation and sharing infrastructure and/or facilities, where appropriate, with complementary sectors should be supported.
REC & TOURISM 5 ●◆:	Marine planners and decision makers should support enhancement to the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience of Scotland's marine and coastal areas, to the mutual benefit of the natural environment, human quality of life and the recreation and tourism sectors.
REC & TOURISM 6 ■●●:	Codes of practice for invasive non-native species and Marine Wildlife Watching should be complied with.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying thematic links to other regions and acknowledging the different methods of travel across Scotland e.g. Great Glen route. • Identifying important areas for protection, provisions and improvements to access and facilities to support the sector. • Promoting/ensuring better engagement between sector and other marine users e.g. Inshore Fisheries Groups and sea anglers. • Aligning with Tourism Development Areas within Local Development Plans and promote marine based development strategies. • Promoting education and the use of codes of conduct and good practice guidance, including signage. • Supporting sustainable tourism including sustainable transport and green tourism.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹⁵		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
REC & TOURISM 1 ■: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Positive effect through commitment to supporting the development of tourism, leisure and recreation in a manner consistent with sustainable development. However, promotion of sustainable recreation and tourism may impact on other users of the marine environment.	Supports access for recreation and tourism, with accompanying employment opportunities. Effects on other sectors may have implications for employment, with consequent effects on resilience and cohesion of communities.
REC & TOURISM 2 ■●●:	The policy may make a positive contribution to the development of a sustainable marine economy. However, its impact may vary on a case by case basis, depending on whether it leads to restrictions or presumptions against other activities in recreation areas, or restricts development of tourism and recreation elsewhere.	The policy provides positive support for access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation purposes. Effects on other sector may have implications for employment, with consequent effects on resilience and cohesion of communities.
REC & TOURISM 3 ■●:	The overall effect of this policy is unclear, as its impacts on sustainable development, other activities and barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities may vary on a case by case basis.	Supports access for recreation and tourism, with accompanying employment opportunities. Effects on other sector may have implications for employment, with consequent effects on resilience and cohesion of communities.
REC & TOURISM 4 ■●:	This policy potentially reduces barriers to shared and multi-use developments of marine infrastructure.	Supports access for recreation and tourism.
REC & TOURISM 5 ●◆:	The overall effect of this policy is unclear, as its impacts on other activities and may pose barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities.	Contributes to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities.
REC & TOURISM 6 ■●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Positive for a sustainable economy as the policy helps to avoid introduction and/or spread of invasive non-native species which, if uncontrolled, could have adverse effects on other economic activities.	No impacts identified.




¹⁵ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
REGIONAL POLICY:	This policy is positive overall as it places clear emphasis on ensuring that decisions are backed by sound evidence and that the regional socio-economic impacts are thought through. The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the recreation and tourism sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures a balance is met between marine sectors.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of the recreation and tourism sector and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities.

Recreation and Tourism: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, the recreation and tourism sector has the potential for the following effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. damage to and/or loss of benthic habitat due to e.g. anchoring, anchor dragging ii. disturbance of marine wildlife from recreational activities e.g. wildlife watching tours iii. introduction of invasive non-native species on recreational vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reduction in water quality from waste discharges ii. reduction in ecological status due to e.g. anchor damage to benthic habitat 	no effect	no effect	damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features/ archaeology due to e.g. anchoring	no effect	damage to seabed due to e.g. anchoring, anchor dragging

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives ■
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change ■
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects ■
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives ■
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain ■
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
REC & TOURISM 1 ■: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Development of recreation and tourism has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, the policy focuses on "sustainable development" which requires environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		no effect	no effect	Development of recreation and tourism has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, policy focuses on "sustainable development" which requires environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REC & TOURISM 2 ■●●:	The focus of this policy is on taking the impacts on recreation and tourism of other marine uses and activities. However, it includes a requirement for decision-makers to consider the "qualities important to recreational users". Biodiversity and water quality/ecological status are therefore likely to be protected as part of decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		no effect	no effect	The focus of this policy is on taking the impacts on recreation and tourism of other marine uses and activities. However, it includes a requirement for decision-makers to consider the "qualities important to recreational users". Historic environment interests, landscapes/seascapes, and the character and integrity of the seabed are therefore likely to be protected as part of decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REC & TOURISM 3 ■●●:	Development of recreation and tourism has potential for		no effect	no effect	Development of recreation and tourism has potential for adverse environmental effects		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
	adverse environmental effects (see above). In particular, focusing interest on a particular area will increase recreational pressure on that area but may relieve pressure on another, more sensitive area. The identification of locations for significant development will be progressed in the context of the NMP policies - which require environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided. Regional marine plans will also be subject to SEA.				(see above). In particular, focusing interest on a particular area will increase recreational pressure on that area but may relieve pressure on another, more sensitive area. The identification of locations for significant development will be progressed in the context of the NMP policies - which require environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided. Regional marine plans will also be subject to SEA.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REC & TOURISM 4 	This policy focuses on support of the recreation and tourism sector, so no environmental effects.						
REC & TOURISM 5 	Enhancement of the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience of Scotland's marine and coastal areas has the potential for adverse environmental effects, in the same way that development of recreation and tourism does (see above). However, such enhancement of the factors that provide the basis for much of Scotland's recreation and tourism industry would need to ensure that these factors were protected to ensure their longevity. It would therefore be progressed in the context of NMP policies - which require environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		no effect	no effect	Enhancement of the aesthetic qualities, coastal character and wildlife experience of Scotland's marine and coastal areas has the potential for adverse environmental effects, in the same way that development of recreation and tourism does (see above). However, such enhancement of the factors that provide the basis for much of Scotland's recreation and tourism industry would need to ensure that these factors were protected to ensure their longevity. It would therefore be progressed in the context of NMP policies - which require environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REC & TOURISM 6 	These issues are identified in the table of potential environmental effects (see above) so this policy would have positive effects by e.g. reducing the effects of disturbance on marine mammals from wildlife tourism.		no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect
REGIONAL POLICY:	Development of recreation and tourism has the potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, this policy will be progressed in the context of sustainable development which requires environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		no effect	no effect	Development of recreation and tourism has the potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, this policy will be progressed in the context of sustainable development which requires environmental issues to be taken into account in decision-making, so adverse effects could be avoided.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

TRANSPORT 1 ●●:	<p>Navigational safety in relevant areas used by shipping now and in the future will be protected, adhering to the rights of innocent passage and freedom of navigation contained in UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The following factors will be taken into account when reaching decisions regarding activities and developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the locational decision interferes with existing or planned routes used by shipping, access to ports and harbours and navigational safety. • Where interference is likely, whether reasonable alternatives can be identified. • Where there are no reasonable alternatives, whether mitigation through measures adopted in accordance with the principles and procedures established by the International Maritime Organization can be achieved at no significant cost to the shipping or ports sector.
TRANSPORT 2 ●●:	<p>Marine development and use should not be permitted where it will restrict access to or future expansion of major commercial ports or existing or proposed ports and harbours which are identified as National Developments in the current National Planning Framework or as priorities in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (Map 11 and 12).</p> <p>Regional marine plans should identify regionally important ports and harbours, giving consideration to social and economic aspects of the port or harbour and the users of the facility subject to policies and objectives of this Plan. Regional plans should consider setting out criteria against which proposed activities and developments should be evaluated. <applies to inshore waters only></p>
TRANSPORT 3 ●●:	Ferry routes and maritime transport to island and remote mainland areas provide essential connections and should be safeguarded from inappropriate marine activities and development that would significantly interfere with their operation. Developments will not be consented where they will unacceptably interfere with lifeline ferry services.
TRANSPORT 4 ●●:	Maintenance, repair and sustainable development of port and harbour facilities in support of other sectors should be supported in marine planning and decision making. <applies to inshore waters only>
TRANSPORT 5 ●◆:	Port and harbour operators should take into account future climate change and sea level projections, and where appropriate take the necessary steps to ensure their ports and harbours remain viable and resilient to a changing climate. Climate and sea level projections should also be taken into account in the design of any new ports and harbours, or of improvements to existing facilities. <applies to inshore waters only>
TRANSPORT 6 ●◆:	Marine planners and decision makers and developers should ensure displacement of shipping is avoided where possible to mitigate against potential increased journey lengths (and associated fuel costs, emissions and impact on journey frequency) and potential impacts on other users and ecologically sensitive areas
TRANSPORT 7 ●◆:	<p>Marine and terrestrial planning processes should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide coordinated support to ports, harbours and ferry terminals to ensure they can respond to market influences and provide support to other sectors with necessary facilities and transport links. • Consider spatial co-ordination of ferries and other modes of transport to promote integrated and sustainable travel options.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider identifying regionally important ports and harbours and set out criteria against which proposed activities and developments should be evaluated.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹⁶		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
TRANSPORT 1 ●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy has mixed effects: it protects existing and future shipping routes and supports the operation of different activities alongside each other (positive), although this may mean that the growth of activities may be to the detriment of others (negative). It may also safeguard existing jobs which rely on maintaining access and avoids the creation of physical barriers to access.	Positive overall as the policy facilitates navigational access to island and coastal communities and protects recreational access (where these may use shipping lanes).
TRANSPORT 2 ●●:	The policy has mixed effects: it protects access to nationally and regionally important ports and harbours, and requires consideration of access to ports in decision-making, which also supports sustainable economic growth (positive). However, the protection of ports in this manner may place restrictions on the development of other activities (negative).	The objective supports economic development by ensuring access is maintained which supports community resilience.
TRANSPORT 3 ●●:	The policy is positive as it protects transport links to island and remote communities which supports economic development in these areas. However, it may restrict scope for development of other activities.	The policy supports maintenance of accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities.
TRANSPORT 4 ●●:	The policy is overall positive and supports the maintenance of port facilities to support other economic activities which supports a range of marine industries.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on maintaining accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities, which helps contribute to their resilience.
TRANSPORT 5 ●◆:	The policy has a positive effect as it encourages the incorporation of potential future climate change impacts into decision-making.	No impacts identified.
TRANSPORT 6 ●◆:	The policy is expected to have a positive effect on sustainable development as it encourages the inclusion of wider environmental costs into decision-making.	No impacts identified.
TRANSPORT 7 ●◆:	The policy is positive overall as it supports the maintenance and sustainability of port facilities which in turn support a range of marine industries.	The policy is expected to have a positive impact on maintaining accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities, which helps contribute to their resilience.

¹⁶ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
REGIONAL POLICY:	This policy is positive overall as it places clear emphasis on ensuring that decisions are backed by sound evidence and that the regional socio-economic impacts are thought through. The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the transport sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly , the policy is positive as it ensures a balance is met between marine sectors.	The policy is positive as it ensures consideration of the transport sector and this will be important in supporting coastal and island communities.

Transport: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, the transport sector has the potential for the following effects:							
effects of infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to coastal and benthic habitats from infrastructure footprint, dredging, etc ii. noise from e.g. piling, dredging may cause disturbance, injury and/or displacement to cetaceans, fish; this could affect stock productivity through disturbing fish in spawning/nursery areas iii. smothering of benthic habitat through siltation etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. discharges to sea will adversely affect water quality vii. accidental spills during construction/ refuelling and transport or from collisions will adversely affect water quality viii. increased turbidity from construction, dredging 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology from infrastructure, dredging etc vi. damage to and/or loss of coastal historic environment features from onshore infrastructure; also effects on setting of these features 	Reduction in landscape/ seascape quality from presence of new infrastructure above water or on the coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. changes to coastal processes, e.g. increased erosion or deposition of sediment, resulting from the introduction of new hard features into the coastline scouring of the seabed from placement and presence of pipelines, supporting infrastructure.
effects of vessel movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. injury and/or death from collision of vessels with marine mammals, including corkscrew injuries to seals ii. introduction of non-native invasive species on vessel hulls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. discharges to sea will adversely affect water quality ii. accidental spills during refuelling or from collisions will adversely affect water quality 	Continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Continued movement of vessels will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.			In areas where the coast is vulnerable to erosion, vessel movements may contribute to this issue. However, no evidence of this in Scotland, other than in Loch Ryan, has been provided to date.

	SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...		
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
TRANSPORT 1 ●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	This policy is intended to protect freedom of passage/navigation. Indirect positive effect as the risk of collisions and consequent pollution incidents is reduced, so avoiding adverse effects on water quality and the ecosystems/ habitats/ species that rely on it.		This policy is intended to protect freedom of passage/navigation. No environmental effect.				
The following general policies and their supporting text would also	GEN 9 Natural heritage	GEN 12 Water quality and resource					

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
apply:							
TRANSPORT 2 ●●:	This policy is intended to protect existing important ports/ harbours. No environmental effect.						
TRANSPORT 3 ●●:	This policy is intended to protect existing vessel (ferry and maritime) routes. No environmental effect.						
TRANSPORT 4 ●●:	Development of port/harbour facilities has the potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, such development would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general policies, so adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		Continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Continued movement of vessels will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Development of port/harbour facilities has the potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, such development would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general policies, so adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species GEN 13 Noise	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
TRANSPORT 5 ●◆:	no effect	no effect	no effect	This policy supports resilience of the port/harbour sector's infrastructure and operations to climate change.	no effect	no effect	no effect
TRANSPORT 6 ●◆:	This policy is intended to prevent displacement of shipping from existing routes. Planning and/or decision-making would therefore act to prevent effects of vessel movements (see above) in new areas.		This policy is intended to prevent displacement of shipping from existing routes. Planning and/or decision-making would therefore act to prevent emissions from additional fuel use (see above).		no effect		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource	GEN 14 Air quality				
TRANSPORT 7 ●●◆:	This policy is intended to ensure coordination and integration of port/harbour activities with other transport operators, to provide sustainable transport. No effect.		This policy is intended to ensure coordination and integration of port/harbour activities with other transport operators, to provide sustainable transport. This could have benefits in supporting modal shift to public transport and thereby reducing emissions from other modes (e.g. vehicles).		This policy is intended to ensure coordination and integration of port/harbour activities with other transport operators, to provide sustainable transport. No effect.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:			GEN 14 Air quality				
REGIONAL POLICY:	Development of port/harbour facilities has the potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). However, such development would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general policies, so adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.						
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species GEN 13 Noise	GEN 12 Water quality and resource	GEN 14 Air quality		GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 8 Coastal process and flooding GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

CABLES 1	Cable and network owners should engage with decision makers at the early planning stage to notify of any intention to lay, repair or replace cables before routes are selected and agreed. When making proposals, cable and network owners and marine users should evidence that they have taken a joined-up approach to development and activity to minimise impacts, where possible, on the marine historic and natural environment, the assets, infrastructures and other users. Appropriate and proportionate environmental consideration and risk assessments should be provided which may include cable protection measures and mitigation plans.
CABLES 2	The following factors will be taken into account on a case by case basis when reaching decisions regarding submarine cables development and activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cables should be suitably routed to provide sufficient requirements for installation and cable protection. • New cables should implement methods to minimise impacts on the environment, seabed and other users where operationally possible and in accordance with relevant industry practice. • Cables should be buried to maximise protection where there are safety or seabed stability risks and to reduce conflict with other marine users and to protect the assets and infrastructure. • Where burial is demonstrated not to be feasible, cables may be suitably protected through recognised and approved measures (such as rock or mattress placement or cable armouring) where practicable and cost-effective and as risk assessment direct. Consideration of the need to reinstate the seabed, undertake post-lay surveys and monitoring and carry out remedial action where required.
CABLES 3	A risk based approach should be applied by network owners and decision makers to the removal of redundant submarine cables, with consideration given to cables being left in situ where this would minimise impacts on the marine historic and natural environment and other users.
CABLES 4	When selecting locations for land-fall of power and telecommunications equipment and cabling, developers and decision makers should consider the policies pertaining to flooding and coastal protection in Chapter 4, and align with those in Scottish Planning Policy and Local Development Plans.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider identifying suitable areas for land fall of submarine cables and integrate with spatial priorities for submarine cables within Local Development Plans.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Key: environmental effects
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Work against SA objectives
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Neutral/ no change
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹⁷		Mixed effects
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Promote SA objectives
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		Uncertain
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
CABLES 1 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy has both positive and negative effects as it brings potential benefits but also costs to network owners and marine users as they adopt a joined-up approach.	No impacts identified.
CABLES 2 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy has a potential positive effect through avoiding conflict between marine users through the creation of cable corridors and avoiding barriers, however this may also incur costs to developers laying cables as they have to take longer routes to fit with corridors.	No impacts identified.
CABLES 3 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is positive overall as it avoids unnecessary cable removal, supports cable removal where it poses a risk to other marine users.	No impacts identified.
CABLES 4 : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	The policy is positive because it supports the sustainable location of equipment and protects future interests from flooding impacts.	No impacts identified.
REGIONAL POLICY:	This policy is positive overall as it places clear emphasis on ensuring that decisions are backed by sound evidence and that the regional socio-economic impacts are thought through. The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the submarine cables sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures a balance is met between marine sectors.	No impact identified.

¹⁷ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Submarine cables: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, submarine cables have the potential for the following effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to coastal and/or benthic habitats/species through cable laying/ removal, landfall etc ii. Electromagnetic field effects on electro- and magneto-sensitive species e.g. fish iii. benthic smothering from sediment generated during installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reduction in water quality from e.g. increased turbidity during cable installation/removal underwater and on land ii. reduction in ecological status through loss of and/or damage to benthic habitats/species through cable laying/ removal 			Loss of and/or damage to coastal and/or underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology through cable laying/ removal, landfall etc.	Reduction in landscape/seascape quality through landfall, coastal ancillary infrastructure, removal of existing cables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to the seabed through cable laying/ removal. ii. potential breach of natural coastal defences e.g. sand dunes through landfall, leading to increased erosion.



Comment [ABC1]: Jamie, please add anything that you think I've missed. thanks.

Comment [ABC2]: appropriate?

Comment [ABC3]: reasonable?

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives ■
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change ■
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects ■
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives ■
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain ■
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
CABLES 1 ■ ■ ■ : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy requires that environmental impacts are considered at an early stage. The potential adverse effects of submarine cables (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. The policy is also likely to be positive in reducing cable footprints on the seabed, with benefits for benthic habitats/species and ecological status.		There may be a positive effect on atmospheric/ greenhouse gas emissions if joined-up approaches result in less fuel use during maintenance, repair, etc.		Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy requires that environmental impacts are considered at an early stage. The potential adverse effects of submarine cables (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making. The policy is also likely to be positive in reducing cable footprints on the seabed and at landfall, with benefits for the historic environment, landscape/seascape and the seabed.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
CABLES 2 ■ ■ ■ : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition at strategic level	Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy requires that environmental impacts are considered at an early stage. The potential adverse effects of submarine cables (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		no effect ■	no effect ■	Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy requires that environmental impacts are considered at an early stage. The potential adverse effects of submarine cables (see above) may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		
The following general policies and their	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
supporting text would also apply:	native species						
CABLES 3  :	Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy seeks to reduce this potential by leaving cables in situ where possible and would therefore have benefits by avoiding adverse effects.		no effect	no effect	Submarine cables have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy seeks to reduce this potential by leaving cables in situ where possible and would therefore have benefits by avoiding adverse effects.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
CABLES 4  :	Landfall of cabling and telecommunications equipment has the potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). However, such development would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general and sectoral policies. Adverse effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		no effect	no effect	Landfall of cabling and telecommunications equipment has the potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). However, such development would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general and sectoral policies. Adverse effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		
The following general policies and their supporting text would also apply:	GEN 9 Natural heritage; GEN 10 Invasive non-native species	GEN 12 Water quality and resource			GEN 6 Historic environment	GEN 7 Landscape/seascape	GEN 9 Natural heritage (as this applies to the seabed)
REGIONAL POLICY:	Submarine cables and landfall have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy seeks to reduce this potential by identifying suitable landfall locations and integrating with spatial priorities in Local Development Plans. Adverse effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		no effect	no effect	Submarine cables and landfall have potential for adverse environmental effect (see above). This policy seeks to reduce this potential by identifying suitable landfall locations and integrating with spatial priorities in Local Development Plans. Adverse effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.		

DEFENCE 1 ●:	To maintain operational effectiveness in Scottish waters used by the armed services, development and use will be managed in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naval areas including bases and ports: Safety of navigation and access to naval bases and ports will be maintained. The extent to which a development or use interferes with access or safety of navigation, and whether reasonable alternatives can be identified will be taken into account by consenting bodies. Development proposals should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Firing Danger Areas (Map 14): Development of new permanent infrastructure is unlikely to be compatible with the use of Firing Danger Areas by the MOD. Permitted activities may have temporal restrictions imposed. Proposals for development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Exercise Areas (Map 14): Within Exercise Areas, activities may be subject to temporal restrictions. Development and use that either individually or cumulatively obstructs or otherwise prevents the defence activities supported by an exercise area may not be permitted. Proposed development and use should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process. • Communications: Navigations and surveillance including RADAR: Development and use which causes unacceptable interference with RADAR and other systems necessary for national defence may be prohibited if mitigation cannot be determined. Proposals should be discussed with the MOD at an early stage in the process.
DEFENCE 2 ●●●:	For the purposes of national defence, the MOD may establish bye-laws for exclusions and closures of sea areas. In most areas this will mean temporary exclusive use of areas by the MOD. Where potential for conflict is identified, appropriate mitigation will be identified and agreed with the MOD, prior to planning permission, a marine licence, or other consent being granted.
DEFENCE 3 ●●:	The established code of conduct for managing fishing and military activity detailed in the documents 'Fishing Vessels operating in Submarine Exercise Areas' and 'Fishing vessel avoidance: The UK Code of Practice Fishing Vessel Avoidance' will be adhered to.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine planners and defence interests should engage on a proactive basis to ensure that the operational requirements of defence are taken into account in the development of marine plans.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			Key: environmental effects
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Work against SA objectives
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Neutral/ no change
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Mixed effects
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹⁸		Promote SA objectives
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Uncertain
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
DEFENCE 1 ●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning/ decision-making	No impact identified.	No impact identified.
DEFENCE 2 ●●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning/ decision-making	The policy facilitates defence activities, and supports mitigation of potential conflicts between exclusion areas and closures.	The policy provides mitigation for potential conflicts and therefore has a neutral impact on this topic area.
DEFENCE 3 ●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning/ decision-making	The policy supports the management of conflict between fishing and military activity which is positive for the support of a sustainable marine economy.	No impact identified.
REGIONAL POLICY:	No impact identified.	No impact identified.





¹⁸ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries






Defence: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
In the absence of mitigation measures, defence has the potential for the following effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. disturbance and/or injury to marine mammals/ species from sonar ii. live explosives: injury, disturbance and/or death to marine mammals iii. introduction of non-native invasive species on vessel hulls iv. loss of and/or damage to habitats and disturbance/ displacement of species from new infrastructure v. vessel collision: injury and/or death to marine mammals; corkscrew injuries to seals smothering of benthic habitat through siltation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ix. reduction in water quality from discharges to water and/or accidental spills, including those from collisions, refuelling etc x. increased turbidity from construction, dredging during development of new infrastructure 	Continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	Continued movement of vessels will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. damage to and/or loss of underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology from infrastructure footprint, dredging etc during development of new infrastructure viii. damage to and/or loss of coastal historic environment features from onshore infrastructure; also effects on setting of these features 	Reduction in landscape/ seascape quality from presence of new infrastructure above water or on the coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. changes to coastal processes, e.g. increased erosion or deposition of sediment, resulting from the introduction of new hard features into the coastline ii. scouring of the seabed from placement and presence of new infrastructure. vessel movements may contribute to erosion, where the coast is vulnerable. However, no evidence of this in Scotland, other than in Loch Ryan, has been provided to date.





	SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...		
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
DEFENCE 1 ●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	This policy focuses on resolving potential conflicts between the MoD and other users of the marine environment. No environmental effect.						
DEFENCE 2 ●●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	This policy focuses on resolving potential conflicts between the MoD and other users of the marine environment. No environmental effect.						
DEFENCE 3 ●●: encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	This policy focuses on resolving potential conflicts between the MoD and other users of the marine environment. No environmental effect.						

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making							
REGIONAL POLICY:							
	This policy focuses on resolving potential conflicts between the MoD and other users of the marine environment. No environmental effect.						

AGGREGATES 1   :	Marine planners and decision makers should consider the impacts of other development or activity on areas of marine aggregate or mineral resource. Where an interaction is identified, consideration should be given to whether there are permissions for aggregate or mineral extraction and whether they require any degree of safeguarding.
AGGREGATES 2   :	Decision makers should ensure all the necessary environmental issues are considered and safeguards are in place when determining whether any proposed marine aggregate dredging is considered to be environmentally acceptable and is in accordance with the other policies and objectives of this Plan.
REGIONAL POLICY:	Regional marine plans should consider if areas of aggregate or mineral resource require any degree of safeguarding.

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			Key: environmental effects
1	Support the development of a sustainable marine economy?	Economy	Work against SA objectives 
2	Contribute to the growth of any marine industry without detriment to another?		Neutral/ no change 
3	Safeguard and/or create jobs that support new or existing communities?		Mixed effects 
4	Remove or avoid barriers to new marine enterprise opportunities? ¹⁹		Promote SA objectives 
5	Maintain or improve the accessibility and connectivity of remote island and coastal communities?	Communities, Population and Human Health	Uncertain 
6	Promote access to the coastal and marine resource for tourism and recreation?		
7	Contribute to the resilience and cohesion of coastal and island communities?		

Policy	Economy	Communities, Population and Human Health
AGGREGATES 1   :	The policy is positive overall as it ensures consideration of the future interests of marine aggregate extraction, which is location specific. Consideration of other sectors may however impose some limitations on the operation of these sectors in order to protect the marine aggregate resource which is very location specific.	No impacts identified.
AGGREGATES 2   : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	This policy is expected to have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the marine economy, as it encourages wider environmental impacts to be considered in decision-making.	No impacts identified.
REGIONAL POLICY:	The policy is likely to involve trade-offs between the aggregates sector and other sectors. Assuming that trade-offs are appropriately assessed and decisions made accordingly, the policy is positive as it ensures a balance is met between marine sectors.	No impact identified.

¹⁹ includes increasing transparency; communication/coordination between industries

Aggregates: potential environmental effects	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
<p>In the absence of mitigation measures, aggregates have the potential for the following effects:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to benthic habitats, from extraction of marine aggregates ii. entrainment of benthic species during aggregate dredging iii. smothering of benthic habitat by sediment plumes iv. disturbance and/or displacement of marine species, from extraction activities, increased noise, increased turbidity v. injury to gills from increased turbidity vi. injury and/or death from collision with vessels, including corkscrew injuries to seals, collisions with diving birds vii. loss of fish spawning and nursery grounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. reduction in water quality due to increased turbidity, sediment plumes ii. reduction in ecological status (see biodiversity, flora and fauna) iii. release of contaminants from sediment e.g. heavy metals, reducing substances 	<p>Continued movement of vessels will result in continued atmospheric emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.</p>	<p>Continued movement of vessels will result in continued CO2 emissions; however, this is not an effect of NMP policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to underwater historic environment features and/or archaeology, from extraction of marine aggregates ii. smothering of underwater historic environment features, from sediment plumes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. loss of and/or damage to the seabed, from extraction of marine aggregates ii. changes to hydrodynamics/ sediment sources that may alter coastal processes e.g. increased erosion iii. damage to and/or loss of geodiversity features from e.g. Marine Protected Areas

SA OBJECTIVES Will the draft Plan ...			
8	Avoid disturbance of key species as a result of marine activities?	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
9	Safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems and their interactions?		
10	Avoid pollution of the coastal and marine water environment?	Water	
11	Maintain and/or improve the ecological status of Scottish waters?		
12	Avoid adversely impacting on air quality, with particular regard to known existing concentrations of transport and industrial related pollution close to the coast?	Air	Key: environmental effects
13	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels and other marine activities?	Climatic factors	Work against SA objectives ■
14	Contribute to adaptation to climate change?		Neutral/ no change ■
15	Improve understanding and knowledge about the marine historic environment?	Cultural heritage	Mixed effects ■
16	Protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic environment features?		Promote SA objectives ■
17	Ensure that the value and special qualities of designated landscapes is protected?	Landscape/ seascape	Uncertain ■
18	Recognise and respect the value of wider (non-designated) landscapes and seascapes?		
19	Encourage sectors to take into account the relative sensitivities of different seascapes?		
20	Avoid exacerbating coastal erosion?	Marine geology and coastal processes	
21	Maintain the integrity of coastal processes?		
22	Maintain and protect the character and integrity of the seabed?		

Policy	Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Cultural heritage	Landscape/seascape	Marine geology/ coastal processes
AGGREGATES 1 ■ ■ :	The purpose of this policy is to protect existing marine aggregate resources. No environmental effect.						
AGGREGATES 2 ■ ■ : encapsulates existing policy; ensures its recognition in planning and decision-making	Aggregate extraction has potential for adverse environmental effects (see above). Such activity would be progressed in the context of the NMP's general and sectoral policies. This policy highlights the importance of ensuring that environmental issues are considered at an early stage. Adverse environmental effects may therefore be avoided in planning and decision-making.						
REGIONAL POLICY:	The purpose of this policy is to protect existing marine aggregate resources. No environmental effect.						