



Agency Board Meeting 29th November 2022

Board Report Number: SEPA 50/22

Developments in the regulation of marine finfish farms.

- Summary:** The session will consist of a short presentation and an opportunity for discussion.
- The presentation will highlight recent developments in the regulation of marine finfish farms and the state of play with respect to key future developments.
- Purpose and audience of the report:** To provide the Board with an update on recent and future developments relevant to the regulation of marine finfish farms.
- AMT Sponsor:** David Pirie, Executive Director.
- Report Author:** Peter Pollard, Head of Ecology and Martin Marsden, Head of Environmental Quality.
- Appendices:** None

Marine finfish farm – recent and forthcoming developments in regulation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Finfish farming continues to be one of the most dynamic areas of regulation for SEPA, with the sector seeking to grow and innovate; SEPA's regulatory remit expanding; and strong views and expectations about regulatory development and delivery from businesses and other stakeholders.

2. Background

- 2.1 Over the last 3 years, SEPA has introduced major changes to the way it regulates marine finfish farms, beginning with the introduction of new regulatory framework in June 2019.
- 2.2 Work on phase 2 of the framework's development is underway with implementation planned to start in the second half of 2023. It will include protecting wild salmonid fish from sea lice from fish farms.
- 2.3 Following the review of the regulation undertaken by Professor Griggs, Scottish Ministers established a Scottish Aquaculture Council. The Council's remit includes acting in an advisory capacity to Scottish Ministers to help deliver the Government's commitments, of which, reforming and streamlining regulatory processes is one.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board is invited to discuss the risks and opportunities for SEPA in relation to recent and planned developments in the regulation of marine finfish farms

Authors and Date: Peter Pollard, Head of Ecology and Martin Marsden, Head of Environmental Quality.

AMT Sponsor: David Pirie, Executive Director.

23 November 2023