

## **AQUACULTURE**

Draft NPF 4 seeks to support investment in aquaculture and minimise its potential impacts on the environment.

### **Local Development Plans should:**

- guide new aquaculture development to locations that reflect the industry's needs and take account of environmental impact, including cumulative impacts, and wider marine planning;

### **Development proposals:**

- for further salmon and trout open pen fish farms on the north and east coasts of Scotland should not be supported;
- should be supported where they comply with the Local Development Plan, the National Marine Plan and, where relevant, the Regional Marine Plan;
- for fish farms should demonstrate that:
  - operational impacts are acceptable and that significant cumulative impacts are appropriately managed;
  - the siting and design of cages, lines and associated facilities are appropriate for the location; and
  - the siting and design of any land based facilities are appropriate for the location.

## **Responses to the Position Statement**

There was support for the priority assigned to Scotland's food and drink sector generally, and for the role of aquaculture in the Scottish Government's Economic Recovery Implementation Plan. Some concern was raised about the adverse impact of salmon farms in Marine Protected Areas, leading to suggestions that the development of salmon farms should be discouraged in these areas. There was support for regional strategies (such as Regional Marine Plans) being used as a means of controlling aquaculture development.

## **Policy changes**

Draft NPF4 builds on the support provided for sustainable aquaculture in NPF3 and SPP and confirms the presumption against further marine fish farming on the north and east coasts in order to safeguard migratory fish species. The guidance on consideration to be given to the impacts of fish farming, including cumulative impacts, in NPF3 and SPP is repeated and augmented in the draft NPF4 which continues the support for appropriate development while guarding against environmental and community impacts and linking to wider marine planning.