

Proposed Marine Fish Farm Development Mullach Mor, Isle of Rum Engagement Report, June v1.0

1. Introduction

This document constitutes part of The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR) Water Permit Activity application submitted by Mowi Scotland Ltd. to SEPA to seek permission to establish a marine fish farm site in marine waters off the Isle of Rum to farm Atlantic Salmon. This document summarises the information and comments provided during community engagement relating to the proposed Mullach Mor Fish Farm development.

The purpose of these activities was to inform and engage with the local communities with an interest in the development proposal and record issues raised relevant to (1) the SEPA permit pre-application assessment process and (2) the planning pre-application process. Key documents were promoted and made available during and following the engagement events, specifically the SEPA Aquaculture Modelling Screening and Risk Identification Report Rum 2 (RUM2) v1.

A Public engagement event, in the form of community drop-in session and question & answer session, was held as follows:

- Wednesday 26th November 2025, Isle of Rum Village Hall, 4pm to 7pm.

The event was arranged in consultation with Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT). Presentation boards and materials, including a questionnaire were left in situ for at least 2 weeks following the event, and shared electronically with IRCT – see Table 1.

2. Consultation Approach

Mowi has undertaken a range of pre-application engagement activities with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders with an interest in the proposed development. This engagement will continue throughout the application process for both the SEPA permit process and Local Planning Authority planning process. An interim report was submitted to SEPA as part of the pre-application process and focused on community engagement activities undertaken and provided feedback on issues relevant to the SEPA permit pre-application assessment process from these events.

The Isle of Rum Community Trust & The Isle of Rum Community Association, together with local residents living on the Isle of Rum have been identified as the primary stakeholders having a potential interest in the development.

3. Community Engagement Undertaken

Table 1: Key community engagement activities to date

Stakeholders	Date	Detail
Isle of Rum Community, arranged via the IRCT	03.2024	Community Meeting – to present a potential project to explore a new Fish Farm Site
Isle of Rum Community, arranged via the ICRT	09.2024	Community Vote – to enable discussions and further assessment to continue
IRCT - Development Officer	03.2025	Email Update – explaining activities completed and scheduled for 2025, including data collections, early assessments, and the pre-application consultation process
Isle of Rum Community, arranged via the ICRT	11.2025	Drop-in session with Q&A - Presentation boards displayed project and assessment information including latest site plans, initial results, SEPA's Screening Report, and the EIA Screening-Scoping Report. Boards left for approximately 2 weeks and provided electronically to the Trust.
	11.2025 – 01.2026	Questionnaire together with a copy of the SEPA Aquaculture Modelling Screening and Risk Identification Report Rum 2 (RUM2) v1 , distributed and promoted at the November drop-in session . To provide an opportunity for local residents to highlight sensitivities, stakeholders, information, and to comment on the initial proposals.
	12.2025	Written Response provide to the community to questions raised at the Community Event in November 2025
ICRT and IRCA	05.2026	Notification sent that the pre-application process has been concluded and an application is to be submitted to SEPA for a new EASR site permit.
Isle of Rum Community, ICRT, and IRCA	On-going	Updates & Engagement will continue to be provided at key stages of the assessment and licencing process, and the ICRT notified prior to submitted an application for a site permit.

4. Public Engagement Events

4.1 Format

Drop in sessions were considered to be the most appropriate structure for the events, and were discussed and confirmed in advance with the IRCT. The intention was to provide an informal, accessible event. A series of presentation boards were used to cascade information on the licensing status of the development, both the SEPA permit process and the planning application EIA process, providing key information relating to both. A summary of work to date was presented including key data collected, initial assessment results, and draft proposal plans.

Members of the Mowi project team were available to answer questions, provided any requested clarification and offer any one to one discussion on issues. It was decided at the event that it would be appropriate to provide an opportunity for a questions and answer session to capture all the questions attendees wish to put forward and discuss.

Feedback forms were provided to allow people to leave written comments on the night or to take away and return comments by the 16th January 2025 to environment@mowi.com or at a later date agreed directly with Mowi.

Information relevant to the SEPA permit determination process was made available on the presentation boards, including the following:

- A project-licensing timeline & process.
- Preliminary proposal details
- A summary assessment of the key recommendations of the SEPA Aquaculture Modelling Screening and Risk Identification Report. Physical copies of the report were made available and a QR code weblink to the report on SEPA website was promoted on the presentation boards.
- A summary of the screening-scoping report (pre-response from the Local Planning Authority)
- Early data collection results and preliminary assessment (bathymetry, currents, seabed habitats, ornithology, zone of theoretical visibility, site photography, sea lice monitoring & compliance, and seabed standards, monitoring & compliance)

An electronic copy of the information boards was sent to the IRCT and can be provided to SEPA upon request.

4.2 Event Images



4.3 Feedback

A summary of key issues raised during each engagement event that are relevant to the determination process are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of key issues from community engagement event held at the Isle of Rum village hall, Nov 2025

Comment	Detail
In person on the night	Lighting - Awareness raised about Shearwater bird's sensitivity to lighting including lighting at the farm, pontoon, shorebase, and properties.
	Physical Seabird interactions - discussion regarding potential and historical interactions with seabirds i.e. entanglement and entrapment standards, recording, and reporting

	Timescales - When could the farm be established and stocked. Stocking dependant on authorisation process, but practically possible in Q3 2026. Q3 2027/28 more likely.
	Ancillary Equipment and development (Housing, shorebase, boats etc) Would the development require additional accommodation on the island? Discussion about potential agreements that could be discussed with the community, and for solutions to encourage employee/community integration. No change to shorebase, one additional boat may be required, or existing boat upgraded.
	ADDs – Commitment made not to use these and this would be put forward as a planning condition
	Changing sea temperatures – salmon is farmed in much warmer temperature in other parts of the world.
	Magnitude of effects - Will the development double emission e.g. pollution, microplastics, mortality etc.
	Future Production – What may happen in the future. The farms can only operate at the assimilative capacity of the environment and the regulatory authorities govern this.
	Additional Questions - Agreement that Mowi would respond to a list of questions in writing following the event, see Confidential Appendix 2.
Via event feed-back forms	A copy of the questionnaire was requested via email. However, no written comments were submitted including no relevant feedback to SEPA's determination process.

5. Summary

The event was publicised in advance with the help of the IRCT and was well attended by island residents.

The comments received in relation to the SEPA permit process were low in relation to numbers of people attending with a number of comments raised by a discrete group of attendees. No new information was raised e.g. on any priority marine features or other sensitivities that might be affected by the development proposal or methodologies to be applied.

In addition to the comments received relevant to the SEPA permit process, a number of comments are relevant to the planning application process and will be considered separately during the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

6. Supporting Documents

Relevant supporting documents:

1. Appendix 1. Engagement Feedback Questionnaire
2. CONFIDENTIAL Appendix. Engagement – Community Questions
3. AVAILABLE TO SEPA UPON REQUEST. Engagement – Community Event presentation boards

Versions

Version no.		Date
F 1.0	Updates applied for engagement activities & feedback since April 2026 to date of submission	June 2026
F 0.1	Interim Pre-Application Stakeholder Engagement Report submitted to SEPA as part of the pre-application process for an EASR permit	April 2026

Appendix 1. Engagement Questionnaire



MULLACH MOR FISH FARM, ISLE OF RUM CONSULTATION QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK FORM

Please return written comments to environment@mowi.com by the 16TH January 2026 or a date agreed with Mowi. Details about how feedback information will be reported is provided at the end of this form.

Name	
Resident upon the Isle of Rum (Yes/No)	
Register your interest e.g. business, scientist, visitor etc.	
Would you like to request a conversation? (Yes/No)	
<i>If so, please provide you interest, name, and appropriate contact details in the box for additional comments</i>	

PRE-APPLICATION & EIA REGULATORY GUIDANCE

A regulatory report (Ref CAR/L/5010344) is available to view at <https://beta.sepa.scot/topics/water/aquaculture/screening-modelling-and-risk-identification-reports/> This report is a mechanism to communicate material considerations and explains the information needed to reach a regulatory decision.

A Screening-Scoping Report has also been submitted to the Highland Council to determine if and EIA is need and the content of an Environmental Report - <https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> Ref..25/04318/SCRE & 25/04321/SCOP.

Answers to the following questions will improve understanding of the local area, and the form provides an opportunity to influence the development and its assessment by the regulatory authorities.

- 1) Are there any **stakeholders** you would like to bring to our attention (individuals, groups, or other marine users etc)?
- 2) Are there any potential land-based or marine **sensitivities** we should be aware of that are relevant to the study area?
- 3) Would you like to provide further **information or data** to be taken into consideration?
Please attach with the form or explain the nature of the information to be sent separately.

- 4) Do you have any **further comments** to the pre-application report, such as feedback regarding material considerations and their assessment?

STUDY AREA & DRAFT SITE PLANS

A refined study area and draft site plans have been shared with this form. The following is an opportunity to provide feedback to inform a proposal

- 5) Would you like to provide any information, comments, questions or feedback about the site location, draft site plans design, opportunities, farming equipment, mitigation, management, or farming activities?

CALL FOR LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT IDEAS

We are seeking ideas for a biodiversity project to potentially support. This is to deliver a legislative requirement in the National Planning Framework 4 (see Biodiversity Policy 3a).

Where local options are not available, offsite, regional, and national projects will be considered as an alternative.

Please speak with us today if you would like to put forward an active, proposed, or potential Biodiversity Enhancement Project for consideration. Alternatively please pass ideas to the Isle of Rum Community Trust or make suggestions below

HOW WILL WE REPORT FEEDBACK?

Feedback will be collated, summarised, and submitted to the regulatory authorities in an Engagement Report. Individuals will not be named and sensitive details of a confidential nature emitted.

Comments made are not formal representations to the licencing authorities nor a live licence application. The authorisation processes include a separate public consultation that provides the opportunity to make formal representations to the Local Planning Authority.