



# MARINE FISH FARM MONITORING REPORT

Report From **Marine Ecology Aquaculture Advice**  
Report To **Operations**

## SITE DETAILS

Company	<b>Bakkafrost Scotland Ltd</b>
Location	<b>West Gigha</b>
Receiving Water	<b>Sound of Gigha</b>
Pen Group	
Licence	<b>CAR/L/SEPA2021-872</b>
NGR	<b>NR629504</b>
Team	<b>AHSH</b>
Site ID	<b>WGIG1</b>

## SURVEY DETAILS

Monitoring Method	<b>Visual</b>
Survey Type	<b>Self Monitoring</b>
Survey Date	<b>01/06/2021</b>
Received Date	<b>31/10/2022</b>
Report Date	<b>20/12/2022</b>
Biomass (t)	<b>0</b>
Maximum Biomass (t)	<b>0</b>
Survey ID	<b>N 4992</b>

**CLASSIFICATION: Baseline**

Pen Edge Result

Reported by

Reported by

AZE Result

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SITE ID: WGIG1      SUBMISSION NO: N 4992

## SUMMARY

Evaluated against quality criteria stated in SEPA's Fish Farm Manual according to NWM/MAR/010

This baseline survey mapped the seabed habitats for a proposed new farm in the Sound of Gigha. The survey used existing EUNIS data and performed its own underwater camera survey using a high-definition video and digital stills drop-frame camera system along 5 transects parallel to the shore. The transects extended beyond the mixing zone in both directions over sloping seabed between a depth of 15 - 50 metres.

The habitats found directly under the locations for the proposed farm include 'Circalittoral mixed sediments' with outcrops of rocky reef. Both bedrock and stony reef features were found within the mixing zone.

These reef features are consistent with Annex I bedrock and stony reef (T2 and T3), although the location is not within or near to a marine Special Area of Conservation designated for reef features. The reef features include the EUNIS classifications: 'Echinoderms and crustose communities on circalittoral rock', 'Brittlestars overlying coralline crusts, *Parasmittina trispinosa* and *Caryophyllia smithii* on wave-exposed circalittoral rock', and 'Caryophyllia smithii with faunal and algal crusts on moderately wave-exposed circalittoral rock'. Conspicuous epifauna include ascidians, hydroids, echinoderms and a number of red and brown seaweeds.

Closer to shore, in a band of <20 metres (probably beyond the mixing zone), the PMF habitat 'Kelp and seaweed communities on sublittoral sediment' has been identified.

The circalittoral mixed sediments were characterised by clumps of hydroids and *Cerianthus lloydi* while the sandy mud was fairly sparse in fauna but contained species such as Paguridae and Ophiura.

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## SITE DETAILS

New farm of 8 x 160m pens, 3104t proposed

## DATA QUALITY

A thorough baseline survey has been carried out at this MPFF site using video and stills. Five transects at increasing distances from the shore have been carried out and species and habitats have been assessed from digital stills and drop frame video. The survey area extends to beyond the predicted mixing zone.

The habitats and species have been assessed well (and well illustrated in Figure 1). The report provides a comprehensive habitat map making good use of existing EUNIS and bathymetry datasets.

## COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

