

Marine Pen Fish Farm Permit

Beinn Reithe

CAR/L/SEPA2021-728

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Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet.

We call this **One Planet Prosperity**



Introduction

This introduction is not part of the authorisation.

Authorisations

Who we are: The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is a non-departmental public body of the Scottish Government. Our purpose is to deliver environmental protection and improvement in ways that, as far as possible, also create health and wellbeing benefits and sustainable economic growth.

Why we issue authorisations: SEPA is responsible for preventing or controlling pollution and improving the environment. One of the tools available to SEPA is the authorisation of activities that present environmental risk. Authorisations give permission for these activities to occur and set conditions that the activities must be comply with.

When we issue authorisations: SEPA will issue an authorisation following our determination of an application, when satisfied that the authorised person has put in place measures to protect the environment and is capable of carrying out activities in line with the conditions of an authorisation.

Changes to authorisations: SEPA can amend, suspend or revoke an authorisation in response to changes in legislation, the activities undertaken or authorisation holder performance.

Compliance and enforcement: SEPA Officers may undertake monitoring and inspections to assess compliance with authorisation conditions. All authorisations and inspection reports are publicly available. If an authorised person fails to comply with an authorisation, SEPA may take enforcement action in line with our enforcement policy and guidance.

General information:

Address:	Beinn Reithe Marine Pen Fish Farm Loch Long Argyll
Description of authorised activities:	The abstraction of more than 10m ³ /day of seawater and the discharge to the water environment of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances as listed in this permit resulting from the operation of a marine pen fish farm.
Environmental risks SEPA has regulatory powers to control:	The impact on the water environment due to the operation from a pen fish farm.



Notice: Grant of Authorisation

This authorisation has been granted by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in exercise of its powers under:

Regulation 8 of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 ("the Regulations")

Authorisation Number:	CAR/L/SEPA2021-728
Authorised Person:	Loch Long Salmon Ltd SC627565 21 Young Street Edinburgh Scotland EH2 4HU
Date of Authorisation:	17 December 2021
Authorised Activities:	The operation of a marine pen fish farm including the abstraction of more than 10m ³ /day of seawater and the discharge of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances as listed in this permit.
Authorised Place:	Beinn Reithe Marine Pen Fish Farm
Conditions applicable to this authorisation:	The conditions contained in the schedules of this authorisation. Terms used in this authorisation are, unless otherwise specified, defined in the Interpretation of Terms schedule.

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Schedule 1: The Authorised Person and Activities

Purpose: This schedule places responsibility on the authorised person to ensure compliance with the conditions of this authorisation and details the activities that can be carried out.

1.1 Duty of Authorised Person

1.1.1 The authorised person must ensure compliance with the conditions of this authorisation.

1.2 Authorised Activities

1.2.1 The authorised activities are the operation of a marine pen fish farm including the abstraction of more than 10m³/day of seawater and the discharge of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances as listed in this permit.

Schedule 2: Marine Pen Fish Farm Description

Purpose: This schedule limits the scale of the impact from the activities by controlling the maximum weight of fish, fallow periods and the specific location and layout of the fish farm

2.1 Fish Species

2.1.1 Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) must only be farmed at the site.

2.2 Maximum Weight of Fish

2.2.1 The maximum weight of Atlantic Salmon held on site at any one time must not exceed 3452 tonnes.

2.3 Fallow Period

2.3.1 In any 24 month period, there must be a minimum period of 42 consecutive days during which Atlantic Salmon must not be kept on site.

2.3.2 SEPA must be notified in writing within 14 days of the site being stocked.

2.3.3 SEPA must be notified in writing within 14 days of the site being fallowed.

2.3.4 The information required by 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 must be sent to aquaculture.notifications@sepa.org.uk.

2.4 Pen Configuration

2.4.1 The fish pens must be configured as set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Pen Configuration

Number of pens	5
Circumference of round pens	140m
Depth of round pen nets	40m
Length of square pen side	45m
Depth of square pen nets	40m
Number of different pen groups	1
Number of round pens in group	4
Number of square pens in group	1

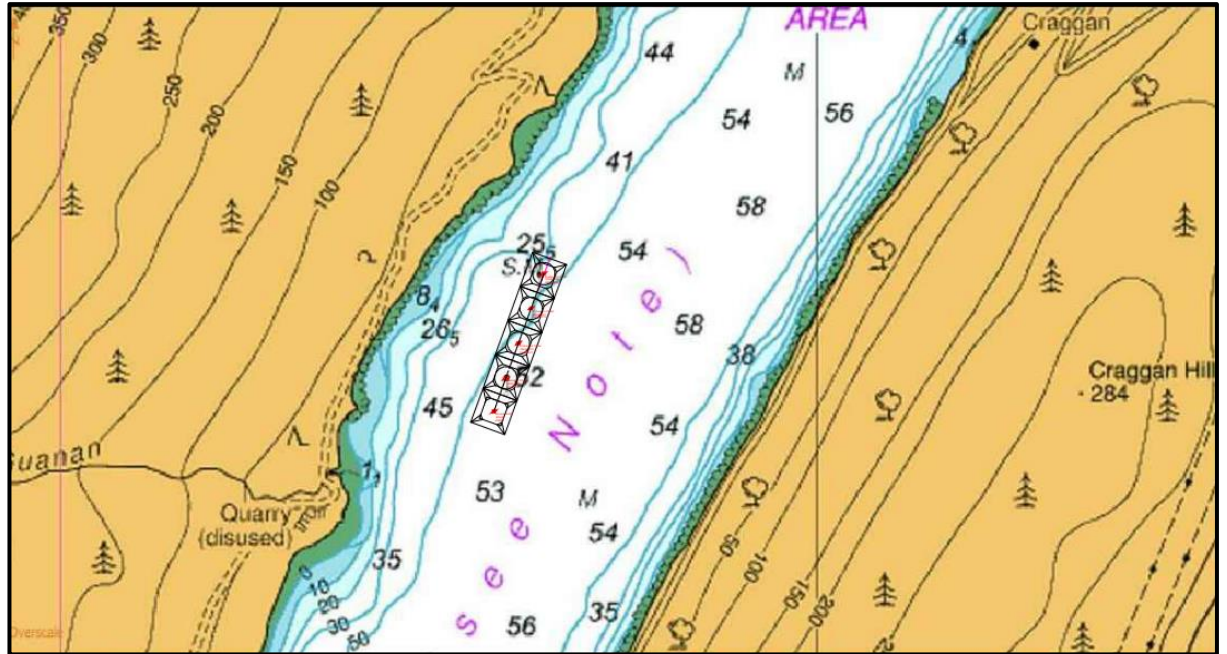
2.4.2 The authorised location of the fish pen group is within an area delineated by the black line in Figure 1 and bounded by the pen corner buoys located at the following National Grid References (NGRs):

1. NS 2553 9941 (NW)
2. NS 2561 9938 (NE)
3. NS 2547 9900 (SE)
4. NS 2539 9903 (SW)

2.4.3 The pen corner buoys must not be located at a distance greater than 50 metres in any direction from the NGRs listed in 2.4.2.

2.4.4 Each fish pen must be installed with infrastructure designed to capture 85% of the waste produced.

Figure 1 Fish Pen Location



Schedule 3: Medicine and Chemical Use

Purpose: This schedule sets out SEPA's expectation that the authorised person will manage their site in such a way that it minimises the discharge of medicines and chemicals into the water environment. Where it is necessary to use medicines and chemicals the conditions control their use to meet environmental standards.

3.1 Medicines and Chemical Use

- 3.1.1 Only those medicines and chemicals specifically authorised in the permit and in the Permitted Substance Working Plan (PSWP), PSWP/CAR/L/SEPA2021-728, Version 1, dated December 2021 may be discharged to the water environment.

3.2 Permitted Substance Working Plan

- 3.2.1 All medicines and chemicals named in the Permitted Substance Working Plan (PSWP) PSWP/CAR/L/SEPA2021-728, Version 1, dated December 2021 must be used in accordance with the limits specified in the PSWP.

Schedule 4: Seabed Standards

Purpose: This schedule details the minimum environmental standards that must be met.

4.1 Biological Seabed Standards

- 4.1.1 The level of enrichment of the seabed immediately adjacent to the outer edge of any pen must not result in either:
- fewer than 2 species of re-worker polychaete worms per square metre; or
 - fewer than 1,000 individual re-worker polychaete worms per square metre.
- 4.1.2 In assessing compliance with 4.1.1, the results for a particular location may be disregarded if:
- the seabed has been sampled at 4 or more locations immediately adjacent to the outer edge of any pens during the same monitoring period; and
 - only one of the sampled locations does not meet the standard in 4.1.1.
- 4.1.3 The seabed around the fish farm at the boundary of an area of 125,598m² (the “mixing zone”) must meet as a minimum an Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR) of 0.64 IQI at any time.

Schedule 5: Environmental Monitoring

Purpose: This schedule requires the authorised person to carry out environmental monitoring in line with SEPA guidance.

5.1 Environmental Monitoring Plan

5.1.1 Monitoring to assess the standards in 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 must be carried out in accordance with:

The Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) Beinn Reithe Fish Farm
Environmental Monitoring Plan, Version V03, Dated 9 December 2021.

5.2 Biological Sample Timing

5.2.1 During each production cycle, sampling to assess the standards in 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 must be carried out within a 70 day period beginning 35 days before the weight of fish is reduced to 75% of final peak biomass.

5.3 Notification of Monitoring

5.3.1 SEPA must be notified no fewer than 14 days before sampling in accordance with 5.2.1 is undertaken.

5.3.2 SEPA must be notified as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any case within 48 hours if monitoring is not carried out in accordance with:

- (a) the monitoring requirements referenced in 5.1.1; or
- (b) the sampling period described in 5.2.1.

5.3.3 The information required by 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 must be sent to aquaculture.notifications@sepa.org.uk

Schedule 6: Environmental Events

Purpose: This schedule requires the cessation, prevention and reporting of any potentially polluting event that may arise from the authorised activities.

6.1 Notification of SEPA

6.1.1 SEPA must be notified via its pollution hotline contact telephone number as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours of identification of an event, of any of the following:

an event that has caused or could cause adverse impact to the environment or harm to human health;

an event that results, or could result, in an emission to the environment that is not authorised by this permit; and

an event that has caused a breach of a condition of this authorisation.

6.2 Management of the Event

6.2.1 All measures that are reasonably practicable must be taken to stop an event, as described in 6.1.1, and to minimise its effect on the environment.

6.3 Reporting of the Event

6.3.1 Within 14 days of an event as described in 6.1.1, a report must be submitted to SEPA detailing:

the reason(s) for the event;

the action(s) taken to stop the event and minimise the impacts; and

the action(s) taken to prevent the event from recurring.

Schedule 7: Record Keeping and Data Submission

Purpose: This schedule requires the authorised person to keep records of specific activities carried out on site and to provide SEPA with specified information at regular intervals, or upon request.

7.1 Data Recording

7.1.1 All information recorded, kept, or submitted to SEPA in accordance with a condition of this Permit must be:

true and accurate;

held for a minimum period of 6 years, and;

provided to SEPA upon request.

7.1.2 Records must be kept of the following:

weight of Atlantic Salmon at end of each medicinal treatment (t);

total weight of Atlantic Salmon harvested per month (t).

7.2 Data Reporting

7.2.1 The information specified in Table 2 must be submitted on a quarterly basis no later than the relevant submission deadline in Table 3 for every calendar year during which the site is operational.

Table 2 Data Reporting Requirements

Requirement number	Information to be Submitted
1	Maximum weight of Atlantic Salmon held on site during each month (t)
2	Total amount of feed used per month (kg)
3	Total use of each anti-parasitic listed in the PSWP in each treatment (g)
4	Total use of each anti-microbial listed in the PSWP in each treatment (g)

5	Total weight of mortalities of Atlantic Salmon each month (kg)
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Table 3 Data Reporting Submission Deadline

Quarter	Reporting Period	Submission Deadline
1	1 January – 31 March	28 April
2	1 April – 30 June	28 July
3	1 July – 30 September	28 October
4	1 October – 31 December	28 January

7.2.2 Results from the analysis of all samples collected in accordance with 5.1.1 must be submitted to SEPA no later than 16 weeks from the final date of each sampling period, as described in 5.2.1 and 5.3.1.

7.2.3 The information required by 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 must be submitted via email, in the SEPA Marine Fish Farm Data Return Excel spreadsheet supplied by SEPA, to aquaculture.monitoring@sepa.org.uk.

Schedule 8: Interpretation of Terms

For the purposes of this authorisation, and unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply.

Term	Definition
authorisation	the water use licence granted by SEPA under Regulation 8 of The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 with licence number CAR/L/SEPA2021-728
authorised activities	the activities which may be carried on under this authorisation, as detailed in Schedule 1
authorised person	the holder of this authorisation, and person responsible for securing compliance with the conditions of it
authorised place	the geographic location or locations at which the authorised activities may be carried on.
biomass	the total weight of fish, in tonnes, held on site at any one time.
controlled activity	an activity to which the regulations apply, in accordance with regulation 3(1) of the Regulations
environmental harm	<p>(a) Harm to the health of human beings or other living organisms,</p> <p>(b) Harm to the quality of the water environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) harm to the quality of the water environment taken as a whole (ii) other impairment of, or interference with, the quality of aquatic ecosystems or terrestrial ecosystems directly depending on aquatic ecosystems, <p>(c) offence to the senses of human beings,</p> <p>(d) damage to property, or</p> <p>(e) impairment of, or any interference with, amenities or other legitimate uses of the water environment.</p>
event	<p>any accident which has caused or could cause environmental harm; or</p> <p>any malfunction, breakdown or failure of plant, infrastructure or techniques which has caused or could cause environmental harm; or</p> <p>force majeure or action taken to save human life or limb</p>

Term	Definition
final peak biomass	the period during which the total weight of fish held on site is at peak biomass for the last time before harvesting in each production cycle
maximum environmental quantity	the maximum residual quantity of Emamectin Benzoate in the environment at any one time taking into account excretion and decay of all previous treatments which if complied with will meet the environmental quantity standard at the edge of the mixing zone.
mixing zone	the area of seabed immediately under and extending outwards from a fish farm in which the discharge from the fish farm is likely to have an adverse impact on the environment.
peak biomass	the maximum weight of fish, in tonnes, held on site during a single production cycle.
pen	an enclosed cage, net or other structure in which fish are kept.
permit	an authorisation under regulation 8 of the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011.
production cycle	any period of time during which fish are on-grown in pens at sea until they are removed for transfer and/or slaughter.
SEPA Officer	any person who is authorised by SEPA under regulation 31(4) of the Regulations to exercise the powers specified in Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Regulations for the purposes specified in Regulation 31(5) of the Regulations.
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
the water environment	all surface water, groundwater and wetlands
vessel	any ship, boat, craft or other vehicle which is used to carry out sea lice medicine treatments
weight of fish	the weight of fish including stomach contents and body fluids. This shall not be after any period of starvation.

Except where specified otherwise, any reference to an enactment or statutory instrument includes a reference to it as amended (whether before or after the date of the authorisation) and to any other enactment, which may after the date of the authorisation replace or amend it.