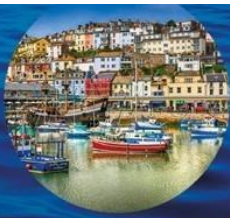




Marine
Management
Organisation

**A hypothetical
example of marine
plan use:
Decisions in
accordance with
the South Marine
Plans (section
58(1) of the Marine
and Coastal
Access Act 2009)**



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

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1. Introduction

Section 58(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) states that a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

Furthermore, if a public authority takes an authorisation or enforcement decision otherwise than in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, the public authority must state its reasons. MCAA defines “Public authorities” (section 322) as including local planning authorities, government departments and Ministers of the Crown. “Authorisation or enforcement” decisions are defined as relating to “the doing of any act which affects or might affect the UK marine area”. “Appropriate marine policy documents” includes marine plans and the Marine Policy Statement (as defined under MCAA section 59).

This guidance is, therefore, aimed primarily at public authority decision-makers. However, it is also relevant to applicants for authorisations in order to improve the quality of the consideration of marine plans in their applications (and in turn support efficient determinations by the decision-makers). Furthermore, while focussed on the marine licensing process, the MMO recommends a similar approach to marine plan policy assessment be utilised by public authorities when taking decisions on applications for their s58(1) authorisations that affect the marine area (eg planning consents by local planning authorities).

It will take a hypothetical example, from the development of a proposal, through a marine licence application, to a licensing decision. It complements and illustrates the guidance provided in the marine plan documents¹. This example will use the [South Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans](#) (hereafter referred to as “the South Marine Plan”) as its appropriate marine policy document and is sited in the south inshore marine plan area. However, the approach described can be applied to any marine plan and area (although similar examples for other marine plans are available on the [Using Marine Plans](#) webpages).

Please note that this guidance uses the hypothetical worked example purely for illustrative purposes only. It is designed as a helpful guide to the process. It does not provide step-by-step instructions. Importantly it should not be considered advice or give an expectation that future applications will be considered in any particular way. Each application is individually considered on

¹ Implementation advice is found in chapter 3 of the South Marine Plan, chapter 4 and paragraphs 47-49 of the [East Marine Plan](#), and chapter 3 of the [North East](#), [North West](#), [South East](#) and [South West](#) Marine Plans.

its own facts and circumstances, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and guidance applicable. Decisions taken in this example are not to be taken as representative of how the MMO will consider and decide future applications¹. If, having read this guide, applicants remain unsure as to the application process then they should seek their own independent professional advice.²

Marine plans provide a clear, evidence-based approach to inform decision-making by marine users and regulators on where activities might take place within the marine plan area. The vision and objectives of the marine plan aim to deliver sustainable development in the marine environment, through a combination of plan policies.

Marine plan policies should be applied proportionately, considering the scale, complexity, and impact of a proposal. Several policies provide support for specific sectors. Other policies help identify potential challenges and offer direction. As a result, a marine plan:

- provides a strategic approach to decision-making, considering future use and providing a clear approach to managing resources, activities, and interactions within the marine plan areas
- reduces burden, providing developers with greater clarity on where to invest, encouraging public authorities and plan users to communicate earlier in the process
- enables projects to move more quickly from concept to consent, reducing the number of inappropriate or unfeasible proposals, saving time and resources
- applies and clarifies national policy and existing measures, taking account of the issues, opportunities, and characteristics of busy marine plan areas – marine plans do not introduce new requirements

This example focuses on plan policy considerations and does not consider other aspects of licence applications or decisions in any detail, for example Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) or Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

2. Background

The Great Oyster Company (hereafter referred to as “the Company”) intends to restore native oyster production within an estuary on the south coast of England.

Historic overfishing, changes to habitat and environment led to the collapse of the oyster fishery 10 years ago. The Company seeks to take advantage of current

¹

² For more information on the assessment and approval process see [marine licence application timelines](#).

favourable conditions, including a reduction in terrestrial run-off and an increase in available dissolved oxygen, to test the viability of establishing a small-scale commercial oyster fishery. It plans to do this through the introduction of artificial reef structures, growing racks and native oyster seeding.

The site is within the south inshore marine plan area, 400 metres offshore and will be accessed via a nearby harbour using small vessels. The estuary is adjacent to a marine protected area (MPA) and contains a small but busy port. The area is used for a variety of commercial and recreational purposes including fishing (commercial and recreational), bulk transfer of products by sea, and is a popular recreational boating centre. The estuary has a number of sites important for overwintering birds and the estuary suffers from diffuse pollution from a number of sources, both terrestrial and marine.

3. Technical description

The Company proposes to place 241m³ rack structures and 181m³ reef structures close to the shore. The project will last for seven years as a test to establish the suitability of the site. It is anticipated the oyster spat will grow in racks with some being planted out in the seabed and reef structures when a suitable size to naturally colonise appropriate areas. The proposed development will employ three full time equivalent (FTE) employees and five part-time in the first year, increasing to eight FTE by year seven.

4. Proposal development

In developing their proposal, the Company used the [South Marine Plan](#) policy assessment process (see Table 2: Policy walk through on page 32 of the [South Marine Plan](#)) as part of the MMO's Marine Case Management System to assess the relevant plan policies in context. [The South Marine Plan](#) prioritises an order in which to consider policies in six steps as outlined below:

- First the Company used the [Explore Marine Plans](#) marine plan policies tool to identify “general policies which cover the whole plan area and spatial policies which prefer one activity over another” across a number of potential sites. The policies act as a test to ensure that applications are in accordance with the marine plan. The [Explore Marine Plans](#) results automatically exclude plan policies that do not spatially overlap with their sites of interest, for example:
 - [S-DEF-1](#) – there are no Ministry of Defence installations or exercise areas nearby

- A number of the policies highlighted by the search were ‘scoped out’ by the Company where they were not found to be relevant to their proposal, for example:
 - [S-AGG-4](#) – the proposal does not require marine aggregates for construction
 - [S-CAB-2](#) – there are no landfall sites for subsea cables in the area
 - S-OG-1 – the proposal is not in areas licensed for oil and gas extraction
- Next, “policies which support existing uses of the marine area” were reviewed. These policies identified potential conflicts and ensure resolution with other marine users, for example:
 - [S-TR-2](#) – the estuary contains a significant amount of recreational vessel traffic. The Company does not know whether their proposal will have a significant impact on this. They decided to seek advice from the relevant decision maker (MMO)
- Following this, “policies safeguarding areas for future development” were reviewed, for example aggregate extraction and renewable energy:
 - [S-AGG-1](#) – there are no areas subject to an Exploration and Option Agreement with The Crown Estate in the vicinity of the proposal
 - [S-TIDE-1](#) – there are no areas under seabed agreement for tidal energy generation in the vicinity of the proposal
- Next, “policies which directly support certain sectors, support diversification, skills enhancement or employment” i.e. aquaculture and general marine skills and employment were reviewed for example:
 - [S-AQ-2](#) – directly supports the installation of infrastructure to enable the development of sustainable aquaculture. The Company’s proposal to re-establish an oyster fishery fully met the requirements of the policy
 - [S-EMP-1](#) and [S-EMP-2](#) – this proposal will help rejuvenate an historic oyster fishery and increase employment opportunities and skills in this traditional coastal community
- Finally, “policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice” were also considered for example:
 - [S-NIS-1](#) – the proposal introduces structures suitable for the settlement of nonindigenous species. The Company recognise the need to develop measures to regularly monitor for non-indigenous species colonising their structures and have a plan in place to report and destroy any organisms found

The Company understood that its proposal was to be measured against each policy to consider how the proposal met the aims and requirements of the policy wording. Where there were instances where the application did not meet the criteria of the policy, or appeared to be in conflict with the [South Marine Plan](#), The Company stated reasons why the application should still be supported, for example:

- S-UWN-2 – while the proposal would generate ambient underwater noise through small boat operations, it is not at a significant level in the context of local noise generating activities, and it would not be proportionate to the scale of the proposal to implement mitigation measures

It is entirely possible that apparent conflict identified between a single policy and a proposal is mitigated when considered in the context of the proposal and against all scoped-in policies.

The Company's full assessment of their proposal against relevant policies is in Annex A. Each policy test was either met or an issue was identified, and appropriate mitigation or adaptation was added to the proposal. If appropriate mitigation or adaptation was not possible, that site was considered non-viable.

Through policy assessment the Company gained an understanding of where their proposal would be best supported by policy, and where they might have to introduce new design and operating measures to eliminate or reduce their impact on other users or the environment. Along with technical considerations this informed the cost-benefit analysis used to make their final site selection.

5. Pre-Application

The Company has developed a proposal in accordance with, and compliant with, the relevant marine plan documents, referring to Chapter 3 of the [South Marine Plan](#) for guidance.

The Company found using the [Marine licence interactive self-service tool](#) that the proposal did not qualify for a self-service application and therefore needed a full application and assessment against plan policies. Following this The Company took the decision to request pre-application advice by submitting an enquiry through the [Marine Case Management System](#).

As part of the pre-application advice discussion, The Company raised their question about policy [S-TR-2](#), regarding their potential impact on tourism and recreation activities. The MMO suggested that a Navigational Risk Assessment and/or a consultation of local user groups may inform their proposal design and demonstrate they have sufficiently considered then avoided, minimise or mitigate their impact. The Company understood that their application submission would be assessed by the

MMO against all relevant plan policies through a marine plan policy assessment completed by the marine licence applicant which demonstrates consideration of the policies, vision and objectives of the [South Marine Plan](#) (proven through the submission of supporting evidence), they would benefit from a faster processing time and would be better prepared to answer any queries related to the proposal.

The applicant-facing marine plan policy assessment uses the site location of the Company's restoration project to provide relevant marine plan policies and automatically screen out those that are not applicable to the site, similarly to the Explore Marine Plan policy identification function for a specific area. Each relevant policy has a prompt asking the Company to explain how they have considered the policy. They used the policy text provided, along with the accompanying links for further information about each policy, to complete the prompts (see Annex A for full example). For more detail see the guidance on the [enhancements to the Marine Case Management System](#) and the applicant-facing [Marine Plan Policy Assessment](#).

For a high quality marine plan policy consideration the applicant should provide detail on how they will meet the policy aim including any policy hierarchy (avoid, minimise, mitigate, or case for proceeding), reference any relevant evidence such as Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment (sHRA) and Environmental Assessment (EA), consultations with other relevant authorities such as harbour authorities or how it may be linked to national policy such as the Marine Policy Statement or the National Policy Statement.

6. Submission of Application

The Company had completed the additional work and amendments to their proposal identified during pre-application.

Their application was submitted via the Marine Case Management System to the MMO, along with any relevant plan policy evidence, Habitats Regulation Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment.

The case officer starts the consultation on the application, including any supporting documents and assessments. Standard marine licences undergo a four-week consultation period in which they gather information from consultees and the public.

As responses are received, if the case officer considers that there is insufficient information to continue assessment or if new issues are identified, further consultation with the applicant and advisers may be required at this stage. Therefore, any additional supporting evidence, such as the pre-application consultation of local user groups conducted by The Company, has the potential to reduce processing time at this stage of the application.

7. Decision-maker Assessment

Upon receipt of the proposal, the MMO Marine Licensing function assessed how the application met the aims of the [South Marine Plan](#) policies, checking the information already supplied by the Company. Failure to provide effective consideration of marine plan policies would cause a delay while the MMO Marine Licensing function made a new assessment against the [South Marine Plan](#). This would be likely to have involved refusal to process the application further and to seek further information to improve the quality of marine plan policy assessment with the application held as “pending” each time. Guidance on Common Issues with marine plan policy assessments is available from the [Using Marine Plans](#) webpages.

As the Company had considered the marine plan policies when designing their proposal and had provided sufficient evidence to support their marine plan policy assessment, the application process progressed more quickly compared to a marine licence applicant who had not submitted an effective assessment. This saved the Company both time and expense. The pre-application discussions also helped ensure the policy assessment information provided was relevant and proportional.

Once the MMO Marine Licensing function had considered the proposal application against plan policies the Company was asked for additional information to address any outstanding policy considerations, for example, their method for monitoring water quality throughout the project lifetime.

8. Decision

The final decision on whether to provide a positive determination for the marine licence was dependent on a number of considerations (e.g. including legislation (e.g. HRA and EIA), however, the assessment against the marine plan was the key to plan-led decision making. In this example, the MMO was able to issue a marine licence to The Company and the proposal went ahead.

9. Making authorisation decisions in accordance with marine plans

As outlined above (see 1 Introduction) section 58 (1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires public authorities to take their authorisation (or enforcement) decisions in

accordance with the relevant marine plan , in this case the [South Marine Plan](#) and the [UK Marine Policy Statement](#) unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise (in which case the public authority must state its reasons).

Public authorities may implement internal processes to conduct their own marine plan policy assessments during their decision-making process (see Table 2 of the [South Marine Plan](#) for policy walk through example). In addition the MMO endeavours to work closely with other decision-making authorities to promote strategic alignment with their decision-making documents (eg local plans including minerals and waste plans). This alignment aids the other decision-making authorities by providing a cohesive framework for evaluating applications under both their local plans and the marine plan. This also benefits applicants requiring a number of authorisations by streamlining their proposals to enhance compliance with marine plans together with the other decision-making documents.

Coastal planning authorities can also sign up to the [Coastal Concordat](#), which sets out principles for coordinating the consenting process for coastal development in England. This framework enables public bodies involved in this process (including the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Environment Agency and coastal planning authorities) to deliver a more effective and efficient service.

Applicants for a marine licence are expected to demonstrate how their proposal is in accordance with marine plans by using the marine plan policy assessment format from the Marine Case Management System. The information provided will be assessed by marine licensing case officers against the marine plan policies to ensure compliance.

While this is the process recommended by the MMO, the manner in which decision-makers consider whether proposals are in accordance with the marine plans, and therefore Section 58 (1) of MCAA, should be determined by each organisation's internal systems and protocols.

Annex A – Marine Plan Policy Assessment

Table 1: South Marine Plan policy assessment example

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-ACC-1	Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreation, should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on public access.	Provision for marine access is essential to enabling the economic and social benefits that will come from the growth of tourism and recreation in the south marine plan areas. S-ACC-1 requires proposals to manage impacts on public access to the marine area and contributes to the health and well-being of communities.	The site chosen for the proposed activity (deposit of 24 oyster racks in shallow water outside of any navigable channel) has avoided any public access routes and therefore it will not impact on any public access. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-ACC-1.	6
S-ACC-2	Proposals demonstrating enhanced public access to and within the marine area will be supported	S-ACC-2 builds on S-ACC-1 by ensuring support will be given to proposals which enhance public access to the marine area, such as physical, digital, and interpretative access and signage. Support will also be given to proposals which enhance access by removing unsuitable access arrangements. Identifying positive	The proposed activity is not intended to enhance public access to and within the marine area. Therefore, S-ACC-2 is not considered applicable to the proposal.	6

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		<p>impacts of a proposal does not negate the need to assess adverse impacts in line with relevant legislation. Enhancement is not a substitute for avoidance, protection or mitigation measures.</p>		
S-AQ-1	<p>Proposals for sustainable aquaculture in identified areas of potential sustainable aquaculture production will be supported. Proposals in existing or within potential sustainable aquaculture production areas must demonstrate consideration of and compatibility with sustainable aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise 	<p>Aquaculture is an important industry in the south inshore marine plan area, with the potential to increase supply, contributing to food security in the UK. S-AQ-1 enables the continuation of existing production and sustainable expansion of aquaculture to maximise opportunities. S-AQ-1 highlights current and potential sites for future expansion, where other industries are required to demonstrate their compatibility with aquaculture. Where proposals support sustainable aquaculture production, relevant supporting information should be included. Adverse impacts must be addressed in addition to describing any positive impacts. Evidence in support of sustainable aquaculture production is not a substitute for avoiding, mitigating or minimising adverse impacts.</p>	<p>This policy supports aquaculture development in areas identified as suitable for sustainable development. Adverse impacts will be addressed through communications with aquaculture operators. Further supporting information provided includes more detail on mitigation measures to show how potential adverse impacts will be addressed. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-AQ-1.</p>	1

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.			
S-AQ-2	Proposals that enable the provision of infrastructure for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and related industries will be supported.	Fisheries and aquaculture are important particularly to coastal communities in the south marine plan areas. S-AQ-2 makes sure support is given to proposals that provide supporting infrastructure either at sea or on land for fisheries and aquaculture to support safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses. This encourages supporting infrastructure for these industries, enabling their benefits to be realised	The proposed restoration of the fishery and resultant improvements to water quality due to the ecological function of the restored oysters, which will result in evidence with a positive influence on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure and will therefore be supporting the industry. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-AQ-2.	2
S-BIO-1	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity must demonstrate that they	Competition for space, increased levels of development and predicted effects of climate change can affect the south marine plan areas' natural habitats and species connectivity, ability to adapt to change and migrate. S-BIO-1 requires proposals to manage negative effects	The draft Habitats Regulation Assessment concludes that the proposed project will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the adjacent MPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It is also unlikely that the	12

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise c) mitigate significant adverse impacts.	which may not enable the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems. Proposals must consider the available evidence and identify any significant adverse impacts on natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity.	proposed activity will result in significant impacts on natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-BIO-1.	
S-BIO-2	Proposals that incorporate features that enhance or facilitate natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity will be supported.	<p>S-BIO-2 supports proposals that incorporate features that enhance or facilitate natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity, enabling the environment to respond to climate change and development. This may include novel designs, and collaboration between developers and public authorities.</p> <p>Proposals should incorporate features which enhance or facilitate natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity within the south marine plan areas.</p> <p>Enhancement refers to measures taken which have a positive impact, for example coastal protection works that enhance fish habitat by creating additional saltmarsh. Where artificial structures are used to recreate habitat,</p>	<p>The proposed activity will enhance biodiversity because it will incorporate features that enhance or facilitate natural habitat and species adaptation, migration and connectivity through its aim to restore a collapsed native oyster colony.</p> <p>The UK native or European flat oysters (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) are classified as a priority species in the national Biodiversity Action Plan because of a population loss of 50 per cent over 25 years and so this project will be benefitting and increasing the numbers of this priority species. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-BIO-2.</p>	12

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		these proposals must be in line with policy S-NIS-1.		
S-BIO-3	Proposals that enhance coastal habitats where important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of goods and services will be supported. Proposals must take account of the space required for coastal habitats were important in their own right and/or for ecosystem functioning and provision of goods and services and demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate for net loss of coastal habitat.	In the south inshore marine plan area there is a lack of space for coastal habitats. This is due to coastal squeeze, a process where habitats have decreasing space between rigid coastal structures and rising sea level or coastal erosion. S-BIO-3 requires proposals to manage their impacts on these habitats to support the functioning of healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystems. Proposals should include supporting information demonstrating how they enhance coastal habitats. Enhancement refers to measures taken which have a positive impact. An example of enhancement could include the creation of saltmarsh habitat as part of a coastal realignment scheme, which can provide natural flood and erosion defence while acting as important habitat for wading birds.	The proposed activity will not result in any loss of coastal habitat, therefore no mitigation is required. Successful re-establishment of a native oyster colony, as the proposal aims to achieve, will help improve water quality and thereby enhance ecosystem function. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-BIO-3	12
S-BIO-4	Proposals that enhance the distribution and net	Maintaining the extent and distribution of priority and coastal habitats is	The proposed activity will not reduce net extent of priority habitats. The	12

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	<p>extent of priority habitats should be supported. Proposals must demonstrate that they will avoid reducing the distribution and net extent of priority habitats.</p>	<p>important as it reduces habitat fragmentation, species isolation and supports strong, biodiverse biological communities. S-BIO-4 maintains the distribution and net extent of priority habitats throughout the south marine plan areas by ensuring proposals do not adversely affect them. Proposals must demonstrate that they avoid reductions in the distribution and net extent of priority habitats within the south marine plan areas.</p>	<p>only priority habitat identified within 500m is intertidal foreshore, whereas the proposed works are sub-tidal and so wont impact the intertidal habitat. The proposal is therefore considered to be in accordance with S-BIO-4.</p>	
S-CC-1	<p>Proposals must consider their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions arising from unintended consequences on other activities. Where such consequences are likely to result in increased greenhouse gas emissions, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise,</p>	<p>S-CC-1 addresses the indirect greenhouse gas emissions of a proposal. Indirect emissions are those that have occurred due to the impositions of a proposal on other activities. Proposals must include and consider available evidence and identify interactions which may result in indirect greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>The proposed activity is not thought to have a significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions as it will only generate greenhouse gas emissions when transporting and installing the structures. Considering the scale of the proposed works no further information is considered necessary. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-CC-1.</p>	7

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	c) mitigate unintended consequences on other activities.			
S-CC-2	<p>Proposals should demonstrate for the lifetime of the proposal that:</p> <p>1) they are resilient to the effects of climate change</p> <p>2) they will not have a significant adverse impact upon climate change adaptation measures elsewhere. In respect of 2) proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid,</p> <p>b) minimise,</p> <p>c) mitigate the significant adverse impacts upon these climate change adaptation measures.</p>	<p>S-CC-2 makes sure that proposals should not compromise existing adaptation measures, which will enable improvement of the resilience of coastal communities to coastal erosion and flood risk. S-CC-2 enables enhanced resilience of developments, activities and ecosystems within the south marine plan areas to the effects of climate change. Proposals that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on existing climate change adaptation measures, such as those highlighted in reports through the National Adaptation Programme, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, avoid, minimise or mitigate significant adverse impacts upon these climate change adaptation measures.</p>	<p>The cages proposed to be used in this project have been purposely designed from corrosion-resistant materials that will be stable, durable and able to withstand harsh environmental conditions including predicted future effects of climate change. The location has been strategically chosen to avoid impeding natural water flow or sediment transport, minimising the impact on the cages and extending their lifetime.</p> <p>The proposed activity will not have a significant adverse impact upon climate change adaptation measures elsewhere due to its small scale and may in fact benefit measures to address climate change as oyster reefs act as a natural coastal defence, reducing erosion and buffering storm surges. They also play a role in carbon sequestration, contributing to a reduction in atmospheric carbon dioxide and supporting ecosystem services. The proposal is therefore</p>	7

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
			considered to be in accordance with S-CC-2.	
S-CC-3	Proposals in and adjacent to the south marine plan areas that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on coastal change should not be supported.	Large areas of the south marine plan coastline are subject to or vulnerable to change. S-CC-3 makes sure proposals do not exacerbate coastal change, enabling communities to be more resilient and able to adapt better to coastal erosion and flood risk where identified. Proposals should demonstrate they have consulted with relevant public authorities. Specifically, the Environment Agency, Catchment Partnerships, relevant Coast Protection Authorities, coastal groups and/or lead local flood authorities. Consultation should be carried out at the earliest opportunity, particularly in relation to considering how proposals might help support existing coastal adaptation policies. Public authorities should also apply this policy to proposals in adjacent terrestrial areas due to the interconnected nature of terrestrial and marine processes.	The proposed activity will not have a significant adverse impact on coastal change due to its small scale and localised restoration efforts. It may in fact benefit the aims of S-CC-3 because oyster reefs act as a natural coastal defence, reducing erosion and buffering storm surges. Therefore, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-CC-3.	7
S-CC-4	Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on habitats that	Habitats that provide flood defence and carbon sequestration provide natural resilience for coastal communities that	Adverse impacts on habitats that provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration service will be avoided,	7

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	provide a flood defence or carbon sequestration ecosystem service must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts.	are vulnerable to coastal erosion and change. SCC-4 requires proposals to manage impacts, enabling these important habitats to continue to provide this valuable service. Proposals should identify and describe habitats within the immediate vicinity and determine whether those habitats provide carbon sequestration or flood defence ecosystem services.	because the site was strategically chosen to not overlap with such habitats. It is also probable the proposal will add to the flood resilience of the location due to the ecosystem services provided by the restored oyster reef. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-CC-4.	
S-CO-1	Proposals will minimise their use of space and consider opportunities for coexistence with other activities.	Space within the south marine plan areas is limited and required to realise social, environmental and economic benefits. S-CO1 enables proposals to be spatially planned and make appropriate use of available space by minimising footprints. Those activities that can co-exist, should do so.	The proposed location has been selected and agreed with the local harbourmaster to avoid any adverse impact on other users of the sea, including any dredging activities. The local kayaking club has also indicated the proposed location will not adversely impact on any established recreational boating activities. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-CO-1.	1
S-DD-1	Proposals within or adjacent to licensed dredging and disposal areas should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:	There are a substantial number of existing maintenance dredging and disposal sites within the south marine plan areas. Dredging activities support the socio-economic benefits of port developments from direct and indirect job creation. S-DD-1 enables	The proposed site location is near to the estuary navigation dredge area. Although not ideal, a compromise in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding has been reached with the local harbour authority allowing collocation of activities where possible	1

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	<p>a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on licensed dredging and disposal areas, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>	<p>identification of dredging and disposal areas, clarifies requirements and encourages early consideration of the effects on maintenance dredging. This policy protects dredging and disposal activities in or adjacent to licensed dredging and disposal areas against other new proposals, including cables or built infrastructure that negatively impact ability to access or egress from these sites. The intent is to prevent activities that would compromise dredging and disposal which is essential in enabling continued access by vessels to ports and harbours.</p>	<p>as required by the marine plan (policy S-CO-1). The site has been chosen and agreed with the local harbourmaster to avoid any impact on other users of the sea, including dredging activities.</p> <p>The proposed activity will have no impact on licensed disposal sites, because the proposed site does not overlap with any disposal sites. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-DD-1.</p>	
S-DIST-1	<p>Proposals, including in relation to tourism and recreational activities, within and adjacent to the south marine plan areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant cumulative adverse physical disturbance or displacement impacts</p>	<p>Cumulative disturbance and displacement from activities, including those that do not require authorisation such as tourism and recreation, has caused a decline in some highly mobile species. S-DIST-1 reduces cumulative impacts by requiring proposals to manage impacts, highlighting good practice, and encouraging strategic management of un- authorised activities. Proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts of physical disturbance and</p>	<p>Due to the scale of the works, it is considered unlikely that the proposed activity will result in significant adverse physical disturbance or displacement impacts on highly mobile species. Vessel movements to and from the site will be limited to essential trips only and detailed records of this will be kept. The proposal, therefore, minimises adverse impacts and is considered to be in accordance with S-DIST-1.</p>	12

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	on highly mobile species.	include supporting information that is proportionate to the proposal.		
S-EMP-1	Proposals that develop skills related to marine activities, particularly in line with local skills strategies, will be supported.	Government seeks to bring supply and demand in the skills and labour market closer together. S-EMP-1 supports proposals that enhance or create marine related skills opportunities to enable maximum sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all. Proposals should demonstrate where training opportunities can be identified for new and existing marine activities, throughout the lifetime of the plan. This should be proportionate to the size of the proposal. Where proposals of a smaller scale may not have the scope to meet the policy requirements these should be outlined with reasons why.	The proposal will result in an increase in marine skills in the area for example through mandatory training for all employees and the options for further training courses provided. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-EMP-1.	4
S-EMP-2	Proposals resulting in a net increase to marine related employment will be supported, particularly where they are in line with the skills available in and adjacent to the south marine plan areas.	The south marine plan areas have employment structures with significant variation within and between local authority areas. S-EMP-2 encourages public authorities to consider the employment benefits of a proposal and how the required skills equate to those of the plan area. It enables maximum sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all, now and in the	The proposed activity will increase employment in the area by employing eight full-time employees or part-time equivalents and developing new skills related to aquaculture. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-EMP-2.	4

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		<p>future. Proposals should demonstrate where employment opportunities can be identified for new and existing marine activities within the south marine plan areas. This should be proportional to the size of the proposal. Proposals that are not of sufficient size to meet the policy requirements should outline reasons why.</p>		
S-FISH-1	<p>Proposals that support the diversification of a sustainable fishing industry and or enhance fishing industry resilience to the effects of climate change should be supported.</p>	<p>Climate change can affect commercial fisheries by altering fish abundance, growth, distribution, or behaviour. S-FISH-1 supports long-term strategic proposals that enable the fishing industry to diversify or build in resilience to manage climate change risks and maximise opportunities for sustainable use of marine resources. Proposals should demonstrate how opportunities for diversification of the fishing industry or development of resilience to climate change are supported. Proposals could also demonstrate that they have consulted with the fishing industry during the early stages of project development to enable understanding of industry requirements and identify where they can support areas that are already diversifying.</p>	<p>The proposal will underpin good environmental practices, leading to improved water quality and greater biodiversity; all of which will aid in ameliorating the effects of climate change. We have consulted with the local fishing community to ensure there is coexistence and no conflict between fishing and aquaculture activities. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-FISH-1.</p>	3

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-FISH-2	Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on access to, or within, sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts, d) if it is not possible to mitigate the significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.	Sustainable fishing and aquaculture industries provide benefits to coastal communities and contribute to UK food security. These activities are restricted in where they can operate, making them vulnerable to loss of access caused by surrounding sea use. S-FISH-2 limits impacts of other marine activities on fishing and aquaculture access, enabling maximum marine resource use and generating prosperous, resilient and cohesive coastal communities. Proposals will identify potential impacts on access. Identification of impacts and appropriate measures may require consultation with the fishing industry and the preparation of co-existence and fisheries liaison plans, with relevant regulatory bodies identifying issues at scoping stage.	The proposed activity will have no significant adverse impacts on access to, or within, sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites. The proposed works are relatively small in scale and the required access will be sensitively managed (see S-DIST-1). We have also consulted with local fishers to ensure that there is suitable coexistence and therefore no conflict between the two activities. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-FISH-2.	5
S-FISH-3	Proposals that enhance access to, or within sustainable fishing or aquaculture sites should be supported.	Through co-existence and co-location of facilities, S-FISH-3 enables support for sustainable fishing and aquaculture by supporting proposals that enhance access to sites. Where fishing and aquaculture activities occur, proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed the extent to which these	We have consulted with the local fishing community to ensure there is coexistence and no conflict between fishing and aquaculture activities. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-FISH-3.	5

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		<p>activities could operate in the vicinity of the same footprint proposed by the development and considered opportunities to enhance access or maximise co-existence by minimising the use of space and mitigating conflicts. The development of co-existence and fisheries liaison plans is one example of how this may be achieved.</p>		
S-HER-1	<p>Proposals that may compromise or harm elements contributing to the significance of heritage assets should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate compromise or harm. <p>If it is not possible to mitigate, the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the compromise or harm to the heritage asset.</p>	<p>The south marine plan areas have many significant cultural assets. Some have little protection despite their contribution to the character of the south marine plan areas and tourism economy. Whilst some of these are protected through existing statutory designations, others are not. S-HER-1 makes sure that proposals do not have an adverse impact on marine and coastal heritage assets, regardless of their designation status. This enables the diversity of the marine environment ensuring the cultural heritage is protected. Proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, avoid, minimise or mitigate compromise or harm upon all heritage assets including those newly identified</p>	<p>The chosen site location avoided being nearby any heritage assets therefore no assets will be compromised. It is likely the successful re-establishment of this traditional fishery will add to the heritage value of this coast. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-HER-1.</p>	8

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		or discovered, or non-designated assets that are yet to be assessed for designation.		
S-INF-1	Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported.	Many marine activities in the south marine plan areas are reliant on land-based infrastructure and vice versa. S-INF-1 supports integration between marine and land- use plans in providing adequate infrastructure, especially where that infrastructure will predominantly support activity in the other environment. S-INF-1 enables public authorities to consider how a proposal may influence land-based or marine activity and their associated infrastructure.	The proposed activity will utilise existing infrastructure, including existing jetty and landing stages within the harbour. The increased use of the facilities will help secure future use of landing infrastructure and avoid potential for redevelopment into other uses. This will support and increase current use without overburdening existing landing capacity. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-INF-1.	2
S-ML-2	The introduction of litter as a result of proposals should be avoided or minimised where practicable and activities that help reduce marine litter will be supported.	The natural landscapes, wildlife and recreational opportunities on offer in the south marine plan areas attract visitors to the area. More visitors and increases in coastal development are likely to increase litter. SML-2 makes sure proposals avoid or minimise introducing litter to the marine area and encourages voluntary action to protect the marine environment and the services it provides for people. Proposals should demonstrate the consideration of potential introduction	The proposed oyster modules will not result in the introduction of litter and therefore no measures to minimise/avoid litter will be necessary. We have, however, considered ways of reducing production of marine litter through our ancillary activities and will ensure that we recycle any waste produced wherever possible. A protocol for sustainable use of materials and recycling of all waste has been supplied with the supporting application documents. The proposal	11

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		of litter. Proposals should avoid, or where this is not possible, minimise introductions of litter to the marine environment during the construction period and throughout the lifetime of the proposal.	is considered to be in accordance with S-ML-2.	
S-MPA-1	Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported. Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice	S-MPA-1 makes sure proposals take account of adverse impacts on individual sites and the overall MPA network, protecting important habitats, species and geological features, enabling the successful and continued management of these sites. Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas should include information demonstrating how this will be achieved. The conservation objectives for individual sites are provided by the statutory nature conservation bodies and describe whether the condition of features for which the site is designated should be maintained or restored. Where proposals support the objectives of marine protected areas, public authorities should assess if they support the ecological coherence of the network and seek advice from the	A Habitats Regulations Assessment was conducted to evaluate likely significant impacts on the protected sites, considering impacts both alone and in combination with other works on the Marine Protected Areas in the vicinity. Further detail can be found in the attached Habitats Regulation Assessment document. The assessment concluded that the project would not have an adverse impact on the objectives of marine protected areas or the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects due to its small scale and low impact techniques. Therefore, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-MPA-1.	10

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	on an ecologically coherent network.	statutory nature conservation bodies on a case-by-case basis.		
S-MPA-2	<p>Proposals that enhance a marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change and so enhance the resilience of the marine protected area network will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals that may have adverse impacts on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change and so reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts. 	<p>The effects of climate change on habitats and species poses a challenge to designated marine protected area sites in the south marine plan areas. S-MPA-2 makes sure proposals account for adverse impacts on individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change, improving resilience and working towards a well-managed marine protected area network.</p> <p>Proposals should include supporting information demonstrating how they will enhance the ability of marine protected areas to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Proposals are still required to be in compliance with relevant legislation and regulations including Habitats Regulations Assessment, Marine and Coastal Access Act, Environmental Impact Assessment and other national legislation. Enhancement refers to measures taken which have a positive impact, for example, removal of hard coastal defence structures in favour of soft engineering which enables habitat roll back.</p>	<p>The drafted Habitats Regulation Assessment has concluded that the project would not have an adverse impact on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change or reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, either alone or in combination with other plans of projects. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-MPA-2.</p>	10

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-MPA-4	<p>Until the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network¹ is confirmed, proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate adverse impacts on features² that may be required to complete the network, d) if it is not possible to mitigate adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding. 	<p>It is important to make sure that possible locations for further marine protected areas, which may be needed to complete the network, remain in sufficient condition to merit designation. S-MPA-4 makes sure proposals do not prevent the future inclusion of features which may be required to enhance network coherence. The focus of S-MPA-4 is on Features of Conservation Importance, priority habitats and species, and Annex 1 habitats. When assessing proposals, public authorities should consider Features of Conservation Importance, Annex 1 habitats, and species listed under the S41 list (2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act) and Oslo/Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North- East Atlantic. Where it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the</p>	<p>The proposed site location was specifically chosen to avoid adverse impacts on features that may be required to form part of the MPA network.</p> <p>Due to the low impact of the proposed activity, it is unlikely that any features in the chosen site would be at risk of adverse impact from the proposed works. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-MPA-4.</p>	10

¹ By government

² The potential features to consider for S-MPA-4 are restricted to [Features of Conservation Importance \(FOCI\) identified by JNCC](#), annex I habitats identified by the [Habitats Directive](#), and the [S41 list](#) identified in the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act](#)

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		case for proceeding, including how the proposal supports the South Marine Plan vision, objectives and other plan policies.		
S-NIS-1	Proposals must put in place appropriate measures to avoid or minimise significant adverse impacts on the marine area that would arise through the introduction and transport of non-indigenous species, particularly when: 1) moving equipment, boats or livestock (for example fish and shellfish) from one water body to another 2) introducing structures suitable for settlement of non-indigenous species, or the spread of invasive non-indigenous species known to exist in the area.	As the south marine plan areas are so close to the continent and have one of the busiest shipping channels in the world, there is a high risk of introducing or spreading invasive nonnative species. S-NIS-1 aims to avoid or minimise damage to the marine area from the introduction or transport of invasive nonnative species. Proposals are required to be in compliance with relevant legislation and regulations including Habitats Regulations Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ballast Water Management Convention and National Policy Statements where they apply.	We have considered the risk of introducing invasive non-native species (INNS) as a result of the proposed works and have concluded that the introduction of the small new modules is extremely unlikely to increase the establishment of INNS. We have also detailed a protocol for regularly checking our structures for INNS colonisation and have agreed in principle a standard protocol with the Environment Agency. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-NIS-1.	11
S-PS-1	Proposals that may have a significant	Ports and harbours are essential to realise economic and social benefits for	The proposed activity will have no impact on any future expansion plans	1

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	<p>adverse impact upon current activity and future opportunity for expansion of port and harbour activities should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding. 	<p>the south marine plan areas and the UK. S-PS-1 makes sure proposals do not restrict current port and harbour activity or future growth, enabling long-term strategic decisions, and supporting competitive and efficient port and shipping operations.</p>	<p>of the local harbour. We have worked closely with the Harbourmaster to ensure the avoidance of any potential impact by selecting a discrete site which will not impinge on harbour operations. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-PS-1.</p>	
S-SCP-1	<p>Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact upon the seascape of an area should only be supported if they demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, 	<p>Seascape is important due to the prevalence of protected landscapes, their beauty and association with tourism and recreation activities. S-SCP-1 adds clarity to existing national policy by identifying the visual resource and important characteristics of the south marine plan areas, enabling these policies to be better supported. Proposals which may have a significant</p>	<p>The proposed suitability test site is sub-tidal and will only last for seven years. The scale of the racks and reefs is small and will only be visible at exceptionally low tides. The oysters are native to the area. The estuary is a popular boating area and the additional movements of the small maintenance and harvesting boats, that will only operate during daylight</p>	9

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
	<p>c) mitigate significant adverse impacts upon the seascape of an area, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.</p>	<p>adverse impact on seascape, should demonstrate measures taken to avoid, minimise or mitigate impacts on the area's visual resource or character.</p>	<p>hours, will not add to the overall background of vessel movements. The adverse impacts of the proposed activities will, therefore, be minimised and not have significant long-term adverse impacts upon the visual amenity and character of the area's seascape. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-SCP-1.</p>	
S-SOC-1	<p>Proposals that enhance or promote social benefits will be supported. Proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits.</p>	<p>S-SOC-1 requires proposals to manage negative impacts on activities with social benefits in an order of preference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid, - minimise or - mitigate <p>impacts which result in the displacement of other existing or authorised (but yet to be implemented) activities that generate social benefits.</p>	<p>We have liaised with the local commercial fishing community to ensure no displacement of existing fishing activities will take place. A minor change to the original location of the structures has been agreed to ensure that pot-fishers have access to their traditional grounds which lie close to the location of this proposed activity. We have a signed agreement between The Company and the local fisher's association that will be submitted as part of the supporting evidence with the application. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-SOC-1.</p>	5

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-TR-2	Proposals that enhance or promote tourism and recreation activities will be supported. Proposals for development must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities.	Tourism and recreation are growth industries in the south marine plan areas. S-TR-2 makes sure that any new development does not have an adverse impact on tourism and recreation activities. S-TR-2 enables the south marine plan areas to continue to benefit from the significant contributions to the economy, and health and well-being benefits to people that tourism and recreation bring.	On the advice of the MMO we have consulted local user groups (e.g. harbourmaster, yacht club and recreational fishers) to ensure the proposed development was able to identify and avoid any significant adverse impacts to tourism and recreation. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-TR-2.	5
S-UWN-1	Proposals generating impulsive sound, must contribute data to the UK Marine Noise Registry as per any currently agreed requirements. Public authorities must take account of any current agreed targets under the UK marine strategy part one descriptor 11.	Impulsive sounds can have an adverse effect on marine life and human enjoyment of marine areas. S-UWN-1 supports the established noise registry to record, assess, and manage the distribution and timing of impulsive sounds sources. S-UWN-1 encourages data collection to determine current baselines and levels of impulsive sound in the marine environment enabling effective marine management and protection of biodiversity or viable populations of species. Proposals should provide information to the	The proposed works will not generate impulsive noise, only ambient noise, and so we will not be required to submit data to the UK Marine Noise Registry. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-UWN-1.	11

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
		<p>Marine Noise Registry (through a licence condition) on the projected noise generated from the proposed activity prior to it taking place, and following the completion of the activity, the actual noise generated, in line with the requirements of the consenting regime under which the proposals are approved, or on a voluntary basis where no consenting process is currently in place.</p>		
<p>S-UWN-2</p>	<p>Proposals that generate impulsive sound and/or ambient noise must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts on highly mobile species, d) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding. 	<p>Underwater noise levels have increased with marine space use. Noise can affect highly mobile species, including causing chronic stress and death at higher intensities. S-UWN-2 supports management of underwater noise requiring proposals to take appropriate noise reduction actions. Proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference, avoid, minimise or mitigate significant adverse impacts of underwater noise on highly mobile species.</p>	<p>The proposed works will not generate impulsive noise. The vessel used to install the structures, and for ongoing operational activities, will only generate ambient noise and therefore minimises the impact on highly mobile species. Considering that the proposal is in an area of high marine traffic, and the relatively small number of project vessel movements, it is considered unlikely that this will have any increased impact on highly mobile species. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-UWN-2.</p>	<p>11</p>

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-WQ-1	<p>Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts upon water environment, including upon habitats and species that can be of benefit to water quality must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a) avoid, b) minimise, c) mitigate significant adverse impacts.</p>	<p>Much of the economic and cultural prosperity of the south marine plan areas is reliant on water quality. Activities can place stress on water bodies such that, in parts of the south marine plan areas water quality requires improvement. S-WQ-1 seeks to manage impacts on water quality, and the habitats and species which benefit water quality through the ecosystem service they provide. Public authorities should consider water quality when authorising land-based infrastructure. Examples of land-based infrastructure that should be considered include land-based handling and disposal facilities for refuse, waste water and sewage to support recreational, residential and commercial boating and shipping activities. Proposals may be required to undertake a Water Framework Directive Assessment as part of obtaining regulatory consent for their activity. Being exempt from the need to undertake an assessment does not exempt proposals from policy S-WQ-1 or S-WQ-2.</p>	<p>One of the key aims of the oyster restoration project is to increase oyster populations to levels that restore important ecological functions, including water filtration and nutrient cycling; habitat and community structure; and adequate brood stock to sustain regional populations.</p> <p>We have provided a WFD Assessment as the site location is within 2km of a designated site and have concluded that it is unlikely that the proposed works will have an adverse impact on the water environment, including habitats and species, that can be of benefit to water quality. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-WQ-1.</p>	11

Policy Code	Policy Wording	Policy Aim	Example to show assessment of the proposal against the policies (summary)	Plan Objective
S-WQ-2	Activities that can deliver an improvement to water environment or enhance habitats and species which can be of benefit to water quality should be supported.	Habitats such as coastal saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats, seagrass, reed beds and natural blue mussel beds provide ecosystem services which maintain and can improve water quality. S-WQ-2 encourages activities improving water quality including habitat restoration, bioremediation and voluntary measures. WQ2 aims to support activities that will improve water quality or enhance habitats and species which benefit water quality. Examples of relevant activities include, but are not limited to: habitat restoration works, provision of natural sediment settling areas, building in beneficial features as part of good design, development of bioremediation sites such as those suggested by the MMO 1105 report, activities undertaken by water authorities such as wastewater treatment and water infrastructure provision.	As per response for S-WQ-1, the proposal will deliver water quality improvements and should therefore be supported. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with S-WQ-2.	11