

Seazou Aquaculture Ltd - Welsh National Marine Plan Signposting Document

WNMP Policy No.	WNMP Policy		Does the project have the potential to impact the Policy?	How Does the Proposed Project Comply with the Policy?
GEN_01	Planning policy	There is a presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area in order to contribute to Wales' well-being goals.	No	Seaweed farming certainly contributes to the Wales' well-being goals, in particular seaweed farming can support: - Blue growth - Climate change adaptation - The conservation and recovery of marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems - Clean and healthy seas which in turn impact people's physical and mental well-being - Coastal communities - Marine culture and heritage - Action to address climate change
GEN_02	Planning policy	Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach to application of relevant marine planning policies in decision making.	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.
ECON_01	Sustainable economic growth	Proposals for economically sustainable activities are encouraged, particularly where they contribute to: • the sustainable management of natural resources thereby supporting ecosystem resilience; • a more resilient economy; • employment opportunities particularly for coastal communities; • protecting and creating employment at all skill levels; • maintaining communities with a high-density of Welsh speakers; and/or • tackling poverty by supporting deprived coastal communities.	No	Seaweed farming supports ecosystem resilience, economic resilience and coastal community employment opportunities.
ECON_02	Coexistence	Proposals should demonstrate how they have considered opportunities for coexistence with other compatible sectors in order to optimise the value and use of the marine area and marine natural resources.	No	Seaweed farming can coexist with existing fishing areas and can be mutually beneficial as seaweed farms can improve the biodiversity of a water body. There are also opportunities for seaweed and other aquaculture farms to be used to benefit the tourism of an area through seafood tourism.
SOC_01	Access to the marine environment	Proposals that maintain or enhance access to the marine environment are encouraged.	No	The seaweed farm will not significantly impact access to the marine environment. A navigational risk assessment has been undertaken for the proposed seaweed farm which shows that the farm is located in an area of low vessel usage.
SOC_02	Well-being of coastal communities	Proposals that contribute to the well-being of coastal communities are encouraged.	No	The seaweed farm will contribute to the well being of the coastal community through: - Improving the water quality and biodiversity of the local water body. - Providing employment opportunities and partnerships with local businesses. - Liaising with local schools to provide education around the environmental benefits of aquaculture. - Partnering with local farmers to encourage the use of organic seaweed based fertiliser, which in turn could de-pollute local rivers and waterways.
SOC_03	Marine pollution incidents	Proposals should demonstrate how they minimise their risk of causing or contributing to marine pollution incidents.	No	Seaweed farming is a low impact, regenerative farming technique. The biggest risk of creating marine pollution is if the farm, or parts of the farm infrastructure, come adrift. The proposal outlines the emergency procedure that would be enacted if this situation arises. The proposal also highlights that upon completion of the aquaculture activities, the farm will be decommissioned.
SOC_04	Welsh language and culture	Proposals that contribute to the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and culture are encouraged.	No	Where possible, the seaweed farm activities will promote the use of the Welsh national language.
SOC_05	Historic assets	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on historic assets and their settings have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on historic assets and their settings; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance historic assets are encouraged.	No	The seaweed farm proposal does not impact any historic assets. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales have been consulted.

SOC_06	Designated landscapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and special qualities for which National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on designated landscapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged.	No	The seaweed farm is located off the coast and therefore does not directly impact the Gower Area of Outstanding National Beauty.
SOC_07	Seascapes	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on seascapes; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged.	Yes	There will be some visual impact from the seaweed farm on the local community of Southgate and Pennard, as the arrangement of floating buoys and the 4 special marker buoys will be visible from the adjacent cliff tops. Visual impact of the seaweed farm has been mitigated by positioning the farm 800m off the coast. The colour of the floating buoys will be selected to help blend into the colour of the sea.
SOC_08	Resilience to coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they are resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime.	No	The seaweed farm will be designed for various different loading conditions including extreme storm events.
SOC_09	Effects on coastal change and flooding	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid significant adverse impacts upon coastal processes; and minimise the risk of coastal change and flooding; Proposals that align with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan(s) and its policies are encouraged.	No	Seaweed farms could help naturally manage coastal flood risk. Seaweed innately slows waves and water currents. This has an insignificant impact on natural ecosystems, but it may help lessen the effects of storm surges on the coast. Seaweed grows through the winter, thus it may provide this protection at a time of the year where vulnerability to coastal inundation is most prevalent.
SOC_10	Minimising climate change	Proposals should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid the emission of greenhouse gases; and/or b) minimise them where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate them where they cannot be minimised. Where significant emission of greenhouse gases cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals for regulated activities must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	Seaweed farms help to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gases by absorbing carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus.
SOC_11	Resilience to climate change	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change and have incorporated appropriate adaptation measures, taking into account Climate Change Risk Assessments for Wales. Proposals that contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation are encouraged.	No	Seaweed farms are a valuable and effective tool at fighting climate change.
ENV_01	Resilient marine ecosystems	Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on marine ecosystems have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to the protection, restoration and/or enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged.	No	A Water Framework Directive Assessment and Biosecurity Plan has been included in the submission which illustrate that the seaweed farm proposal will not negatively impact the marine ecosystem and water body.
ENV_02	Marine Protected Areas	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid adverse impacts on individual Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the coherence of the network as a whole; have regard to the measures to manage MPAs; and avoid adverse impacts on designated sites that are not part of the MPA network.	No	The seaweed farm has been located so that it does not impact any individual Marine Protected Area (MPA).
ENV_03	Invasive non-native species	Proposals should demonstrate how they avoid or minimise the risk of introducing and spreading invasive non-native species. Where appropriate, proposals should include biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.	No	A Water Framework Directive Assessment and Biosecurity Plan has been included in the submission which highlight biosecurity measures that reduce the risk of introducing and spreading of invasive non-native species.
ENV_04	Marine litter	Proposals should demonstrate how they: avoid the deliberate introduction of litter into the marine plan area; and minimise the risk of accidental release of litter.	No	The seaweed farm installation, operations and maintenance will include methods of work that will minimise the risk of accidental release of litter.

ENV_05	Underwater noise	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered man-made noise impacts on the marine environment and, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	The seaweed farm installation, operations and maintenance will be low intensity and will not create adverse man made noise. As an example, during the growing season between October and April, the seaweed farm will be accessed once every three weeks for a visual inspection.
ENV_06	Air and water quality	Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered their potential air and water quality impacts and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	The seaweed farm installation, operations and maintenance will have negligible impact to the air and water quality. The seaweed farm will in fact act as a water purifier and help improve the quality of the local water body.
ENV_07	Fish species and habitats	Proposals potentially affecting important feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species of commercial or ecological importance should demonstrate how they, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse impacts on those areas; and/or b) minimise adverse impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised; If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.	No	The seaweed farm has been located so as to avoid feeding, breeding (including spawning & nursery) and migration areas or habitats for key fish and shellfish species.
GOV_01	Cumulative effects	Proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed potential cumulative effects and should, in order of preference: a) avoid adverse effects; and/or b) minimise effects where they cannot be avoided; and/or c) mitigate effects where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged.	No	The seaweed farm will not create cumulative effects.
GOV_02	Cross-border and plan compatibility	Relevant public authorities, in making their decisions, should have regard to: any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan; any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial development plans or related documents; the Natural Resources Policy; any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment); and evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.
SCI_01	Using sound science responsibly	Relevant public authorities should make decisions using sound evidence and a risk-based, proportionate approach. Where appropriate they should apply the precautionary principle and consider opportunities to apply adaptive management.	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.
AGG_01a	Aggregates (supporting)	Proposals for new aggregate extraction will be supported, within any tonnage limits, where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for new aggregate extraction.
AGG_01b	Aggregates (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities: for the sustainable use of wider marine aggregate natural resources; to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aggregates in order to support the sustainable development of the aggregate sector through marine planning.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for new aggregate extraction.
AQU_01a	Aquaculture (supporting)	Proposals for new aquaculture developments will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The seaweed farm proposal helps to contribute to the objectives of the Marine Plan.

AQU_01b	Aquaculture (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of aquaculture resources including the identification of: natural resources that provide aquaculture potential opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for aquaculture in order to support the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector through marine planning.	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.
D&D_01	Dredging and disposal (supporting)	Proposals that maintain navigable channels and long term access to open at-sea disposal sites for appropriate material will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for dredging and disposal.
ELC_01a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations. Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an NSIP for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan. Any determination in relation to energy developments of any scale will be taken in accordance with this plan alongside any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for offshore wind energy generation.
ELC_01b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wind	In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for offshore wind energy generation.
ELC_02a	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	Proposals for wave energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for wave energy generation.
ELC_02b	Low carbon energy (supporting) wave	In order to understand future opportunities for wave energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wave energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for wave energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for wave energy generation.
ELC_03a	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	Proposals for tidal stream energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for tidal stream energy generation.

ELC_03b	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal stream	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal stream energy development, relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of tidal stream energy resources including identification of: • natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use; • evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector; and • opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal stream energy resource safeguarding; in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for tidal stream energy generation.
ELC_04	Low carbon energy (supporting) tidal range	In order to understand future opportunities for tidal range development, strategic planning for the sector is encouraged. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to: • collect evidence to support understanding of environmental constraints and opportunities for the sustainable use of the tidal range resource; • support understanding of the optimal siting of tidal lagoon developments across Wales as part of a wider, UK perspective; and • identify opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for tidal lagoon safeguarding purposes. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for a tidal range development.
O&G_01a	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas sustainably will be supported where they comply with the objectives of this plan, and fully meet the environmental safeguards contained within the statutory processes of awarding production licences and subsequent activity-specific approvals. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for an oil and gas development.
O&G_01b	Oil and gas (supporting)	Welsh Government policy is to avoid the continued extraction of fossil fuels in intertidal areas and estuaries and coastal inlet waters that fall within the Welsh onshore licence area. Applications for new petroleum licenses in these areas should not be supported, unless required for mine safety or scientific purposes. Proposals for the development and extraction of oil and gas in these areas with land based elements must provide robust and credible evidence to demonstrate how they conform to the Planning Policy Wales Energy Hierarchy for Planning, including how they make a necessary contribution towards decarbonising the energy system.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for an oil and gas development.
O&G_02	Oil and gas (supporting)	Proposals that support the long-term development of carbon capture and storage technology will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for an oil and gas development.
FIS_01a	Fisheries (supporting)	Proposals that support and enhance sustainable fishing activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	Seaweed farming can coexist with existing fishing areas and can be mutually beneficial as seaweed farms can improve the biodiversity of a water body.
FIS_01b	Fisheries (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to develop a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of opportunities for the sustainable development of fisheries in order to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector through marine planning.	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.

P&S_01a	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals for ports, harbours and shipping activities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for ports, harbours and shipping activities.
P&S_01b	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities to support the sustainable development of the ports and shipping sector through marine planning.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for ports, harbours and shipping activities.
P&S_02	Ports and shipping (supporting)	Proposals that provide for the maintenance, repair, development and diversification of port and harbour facilities will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for ports, harbours and shipping activities.
CAB_01	Subsea cabling (supporting)	Proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communications networks and/or the optimal distribution of electricity will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	N/A	N/A - This is an aquaculture proposal not a proposal for new subsea cabling.
T&R_01a	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Proposals that demonstrate a positive contribution to tourism and recreation opportunities and policy objectives (for the sector) around the Welsh coast will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations.	No	The seaweed farm proposal can positively contribute to tourism in the local area. A good example of this is the 'Taste the Atlantic' seafood trail in Ireland which highlights and promotes all the seafood producers and products along the south west coast of Ireland.
T&R_01b	Tourism and recreation (supporting)	Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for sustainable tourism and recreation around the Welsh coast, including: a) developing a strategic evidence base to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities, including eco-tourism and other low impact activities; and b) opportunities to define areas of future opportunity for tourism and recreation; in order to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector through marine planning.	N/A	N/A - This clause is related to the relevant public authority and is therefore not applicable to the developers of the seaweed farm.
SAF_01	Safeguarding existing activity	a: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances. b: Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.	No	The seaweed farm proposal and consultations with relevant fisheries and fishing associations have illustrated that the farm will not have significant impact on existing, established fishing activities. Seaweed farming can also coexist with existing fishing areas and can be mutually beneficial as seaweed farms can improve the biodiversity of a water body.
SAF_02	Safeguarding strategic resources	Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered by this plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that potential resource use. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: a. Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use, and/or b. Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided; and/or c. Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised.	No	The seaweed farm location will not have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered in the marine plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use.

DEF_01	Defence (safeguarding)	Proposals that: • potentially affect Ministry of Defence (MOD) Danger Areas, Exercise Areas or strategic defence interests; and/or • potentially interfere with communication, surveillance and navigation facilities necessary for defence and national security; should only be authorised with the agreement of MOD.	No	The seaweed farm does not impact any MOD danger areas, exercise areas or strategic defence interests and will not interfere with communication, surveillance and navigation facilities necessary for defence and national security.
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