



The Scottish Government

**A Fresh Start:
the renewed Strategic Framework
for Scottish Aquaculture**

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A Fresh Start – the renewed Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture



- Healthier fish and shellfish
- Improved systems for licensing aquaculture developments
- Improved containment
- Better marketing and improved image
- Improved access to finance
- Shellfish Forum



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Healthier Fish and Shellfish

Chair

Randolph Richards (Former Director; Inst of Aquaculture, Stirling University)

Issues / priorities

- Creation of a national system for the collection of sea-lice and mortality data (rec. by end of December 2009).
- Development of an improved strategy for control of sea-lice taking account of integrated sea-lice management approaches including effective sampling protocols and appropriate treatment interventions (rec. by end of March 2010).
- Delineation of appropriate scale management areas for all of Scotland to allow single year class stocking, simultaneous fallowing and area treatments (rec. by end of March 2010).
- Three smaller scale working subgroups now established



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Healthier Fish and Shellfish

Possible research requirements

- Extend armoury of treatment products
- Better understanding of patterns of resistance in different areas
- Hydrological information?
- MoU with Norway – making it “live”
- Other priorities remain e.g. alphavirus



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Improved Systems for Licensing Aquaculture Developments

Chair

Phil Thomas (Chair; Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation)

Issues / Priorities

- Support “Delivering Planning Reform for Aquaculture” process
- Encourage dialogue between industry and regulators (and regulator to regulator)
- Undeveloped Leases - Maximise the use of available sites
- Revise locational guidelines – nitrogen content, digestibility, wastage of feed
- Modelling for larger sites – discharge consents

Research requirements

- Focussed on streamlining bureaucracy. However some work required around:
 - Modelling discharges from larger sites (industry and SEPA)
 - Revision of locational guidelines (MSS supported by industry)



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Improved Containment

Chair

Steve Bracken (Business Support Manager; Marine Harvest, Scotland Ltd)

Issues / priorities

- Escapes caused by human error – need for improved training and qualifications in this area
- Use of inappropriate equipment, inappropriate combinations of equipment, poor maintenance
- Narrow range of Acoustic Deterrent devices for predators, can lose efficacy
- Time-lag between hole in net and discovery
- Perceived impact of freshwater escapes on wild stocks

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Improved Containment

Possible research requirements

- Develop a Scottish technical standard (similar to Norwegian NYTEK) – freshwater and marine
- Trial new net types
- Review and if necessary develop the causes of escapes project (SARF)
- Review impacts of freshwater smolt production
- Consider pros and cons of land-based/ recirculation technologies
- Review/ develop methods for traceability of escapees
- Review current position on use of Triploidy
- Develop “magic eye” or net tension sensor to provide early warning of holes
- Develop ADDs



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Better Marketing & Improved Image

Chair

Scott Landsburgh (Chief Executive; Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation)

Issues / priorities

- Address negative misconceptions amongst key opinion formers
- Raise the profile of the industry in Scotland
- Communicate key health messages
- Secure the Scottish premium

Possible research requirements

- Survey of key groups to develop a Clearer understanding of perceptions and misconceptions
- Better international market intelligence
- Research into the economic and social contribution of the industry, especially in remote and rural communities
- Analysis of the carbon footprint of aquaculture compared to the production of other forms of protein

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Access to Finance

Chair

David Bassett (Chief Executive; British Trout Association)

Issues / priorities

- Poor Historic Profitability Profile
- Financing of SMEs / collateral / borrowing
- Relationship of Insurance and Investment
- Clearing Bank Engagement
- Lack of appropriate data



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Access to Finance

Possible research requirements

- Commission Data Survey
- Ongoing annual production, developing the EC Data Regulation requirements
- Shellfish Fisheries 2010 (SARF)
- Economic Analysis and scope for Market Potential (in association with Marketing and Image group) e.g. WAG initiative
- Provision of a concise summary of production statistics and value for Scottish Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Considering the Norwegian example



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Shellfish Forum

Chair

Walter Speirs (Chair; Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers)

Issues / priorities

- Protection of water quality
- Harmonisation of FSA and SEPA led regulatory regimes
- Greater focus on influencing EU legislation as it affects shellfish
- The question of unused shellfish consents

Possible research requirements

- Tbc – first meeting end October

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Thank you..

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