



The Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland
57 Melville Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7HL

Tel: 0131 226 1959
Fax: 0131 226 1909
www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 262865
Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 037841

Email to: aquaculture3@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

4th November 2008

Dear Sir / Madam

Scottish Aquaculture: a fresh start

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation which sets out a renewed strategic framework for the development of aquaculture in Scotland.

The RTPI is the UK body chartered to represent the planning profession and offers these comments from the point of view of a diverse and policy-neutral professional body committed to supporting devolved government in Scotland. The Institute has approximately 2100 members in Scotland, working across all sectors of central government, local government, government agencies, the voluntary sector, private consultancy, the development industry and academia.

Since devolution, the Institute has empowered its RTPI in Scotland Office, together with its Scottish Executive Committee, with the responsibility for working with government and public bodies generally for the improvement of the planning system in Scotland. This is in accordance with its charter obligation to work for the public interest.

The Institute welcomes the publication of the new strategy which sets out the issues to be tackled and proposes a flexible approach to delivery. We note its close relations to the forthcoming Scottish Marine Bill, the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy and the EU Aquaculture Strategy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The Institute does not wish to respond to all the questions raised. Our comments are set out below under the relevant headings.

The Ministerial Group and its way of working

In general, the Institute agrees with the proposed way of working. Further clarification of relations with the wider Aquaculture Forum, and with communities might be helpful.

The five themes approach

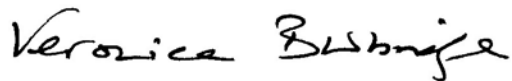
The Institute considers that the five themes provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate new and emerging issues, it may help to identify cross-cutting issues and to consider actions at different levels of policy and planning particularly in relation to the Marine Bill proposals.

The main issues

The Institute agrees with the main issues identified within each key theme. Issues relating to planning and consent will need to be clearly related to local development plans, any related supplementary planning guidance and to policies of coastal zone management. A considerable amount of good work has been done to-date on a voluntary and best practice basis and it will be important to build on this experience and to find effective means of co-ordinating the new system under the proposed Marine Bill with the regime for aquaculture which is currently in place.

The Institute trusts that these comments are of assistance and has no objection to its comments being made available to the public in the usual way. Should you wish any clarification or further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Edinburgh office: 57 Melville Street Edinburgh, EH3 7HL phone: 0131 226 1959, or email: Scotland@rtpi.org.uk

Yours sincerely



National Director
RTPI in Scotland