

Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan – Supporting Guidance on Waste Minimisation and Management

Introduction

This guidance has been produced by the Shetland Islands Marine Planning Partnership (SIMPP), a partnership of Shetland Islands Council and UHI Shetland. The SIMPP was directed by Scottish Ministers to prepare the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan (SIRMP) that was adopted in 2025.

It is intended that the guidance is used by consenting authorities, regulators and developers to help ensure that the requirements of this particular SIRMP policy (MP WST1: Waste Minimisation) are applied and met in a proportionate manner.

Shetland Islands Council shall apply this policy to aquaculture developments, which require planning permission under the Town and County Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), and also developments which require a works licence from the Council under the Zetland Country Council Act 1974.

The Marine Directorate of the Scottish Government should apply this policy for developments which don't require planning permission, or a works licence from Shetland Islands Council, but require a marine licence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

All decision makers should have regard to this policy when they are determining a licence or consent, where relevant, and where proposals fall within devolved competencies.

Background

The SIRMP contains the following policy on the Waste Minimisation:

Policy MP WST1 Waste Minimisation

Proposals for marine development and use should consider measures to safely dispose of waste material and debris associated with the relevant construction, operational and decommissioning stages. The production of waste should be minimised as far as possible through consideration of the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse or recycle) and disposal of any waste must only be through the use of appropriate licensed facilities.

Applicants may be required to provide a waste minimisation and management plan documenting a strategy proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposal. Applicants should refer to the associated SIRMP guidance on Waste Minimisation and Management.

Waste Minimisation & Management Plan Details

The waste minimisation and management plan may provide different levels of detail depending on the nature and scale of the proposed development. For example, a plan for a salmon farm may require more detail than a mussel farm due to the different levels and types of waste produced. It is considered that a waste minimisation and management plan will be required for the following developments:

Aquaculture

- All new aquaculture developments (finfish & shellfish farms).
- Any development that seeks to increase biomass at an existing aquaculture site.
- All finfish developments, which require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should aim to provide a waste minimisation and management plan within the accompanying EIA report or within additional information submitted alongside the planning application. Where EIA is required, Shetland Islands Council will aim to ensure that the requirements of this policy are covered within their response to the EIA scoping/EIA scoping report.
- Variations to existing sites, such as changes to equipment on site, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Works Licences

Due to the wide scope of developments that are covered by works licences issued by Shetland Islands Council the requirement for the provision of a waste management and minimisation plan will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Examples of developments which are likely to require a plan, include developments for cables, pipelines, renewables, seaweed farming, piers, coastal protection/defences and land reclamation.

Works for developments that require EIA under other regulations*, such as marine works or electricity works, should aim to address the requirements of this policy in the EIA report or through the additional information prepared in support of marine licence and/or section 36 applications. Where a works licence is also required from Shetland Islands Council, the EIA or supporting information on waste management and minimisation should also be submitted alongside the works licence application.

*More information can be found here: [Marine licensing and consenting - Environmental Impact Assessment: overview - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-and-consenting-environmental-impact-assessment-overview/pages/2.aspx)

Shetland Islands Council will be proportionate in their approach and will collaborate with industry to establish the type and format of information required within waste minimisation and management plans. Industry or specific sectors may already have established approaches/best practice that is followed for waste minimisation and management. It is therefore envisaged that a standardised waste minimisation and management plan could be adapted to suit particular applications and utilised for the purposes of meeting this policy requirement.

It is recommended that standardised plans and approaches are firstly agreed between the Shetland Islands Council and industry/industry representative bodies as this will reduce the burden on individual applicants providing information.

The example below contains a table, which can be used to help industry, and developers produce a waste minimisation and management plan for submission alongside their development proposals.

Example Waste Minimisation & Management Plan Table

We have provided a basic example of a Waste Minimisation & Management Plan which could be adapted and submitted alongside a development proposal. The table is divided into solid waste, organic waste, liquid waste, hazardous waste, other waste and recyclable waste. There may be some overlap with one type of waste appearing under multiple headings or some not being applicable depending on the development. Where the waste produced is not applicable, this should be highlighted.

It is recognised that certain waste from developments may be controlled and regulated through other regimes and by other consenting authorities, such as SEPA under the Controlled Activities Regulations. Where this is the case, the waste minimisation and management plan should set out to describe the procedures that apply and will be followed.

The production of waste should be minimised as far as possible through consideration of the waste hierarchy (reduce, re-use or recycle) and disposal of any waste must only be through the use of appropriate licensed facilities.

Type of Waste Description	Possible Impacts and Risks	Methods & Procedures to Deal with the Issue
<u>Solid Waste</u> Describe the different types of solid waste that may arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the development.	<u>Solid Waste</u> The possible risks and impacts of each solid waste should be described. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste becoming pollution/debris in the water column, seabed or onshore• The potential danger/impact to wildlife• The potential danger/impact to other marine users.	<u>Solid Waste</u> Describe how each type of solid waste will be managed and minimised. For example, will the waste be reused, recycled, stored ashore, put to licensed waste disposal facilities, landfill etc. Please set out the practices that will be applied to minimise and manage the production of solid waste.

<p><u>Organic Waste</u></p> <p>Describe the different types of organic waste (i.e. any material that is biodegradable and comes from a plant or animal) that may arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the development.</p> <p>For aquaculture, this could include fish/shellfish mortalities, feed, seaweed, organic waste from cleaning etc.</p>	<p><u>Organic Waste</u></p> <p>The possible risks and impacts of each type of organic waste should be described.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste becoming pollution/debris in the water column, seabed or onshore • The potential danger/impact to wildlife • The potential danger/impact to other marine users. 	<p><u>Organic Waste</u></p> <p>Describe how each type of organic waste will be managed and minimised.</p> <p>For aquaculture this could include matters such as feed, husbandry/management, cleaning details, the procedure for the disposal of mortalities etc.</p>
<p><u>Liquid waste</u></p> <p>Where applicable, describe the different types of liquid waste that may arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the development.</p> <p>For example, chemicals, bilge water, sewage etc.</p>	<p><u>Liquid Waste</u></p> <p>The possible risks and impacts of each type of liquid waste should be described.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution/contamination in the water column, seabed or onshore • The potential danger/impact to wildlife • The potential danger/impact to other marine users. 	<p><u>Liquid Waste</u></p> <p>Describe how each type of liquid waste will be managed and minimised.</p> <p>For example, its disposal, treatment, and the controls which are in place and procedures to be followed etc.</p>
<p><u>Hazardous Waste</u></p> <p>Where applicable, describe the different types of hazardous waste that may arise during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages of the development.</p>	<p><u>Hazardous Waste</u></p> <p>The possible risks and impacts of each type of hazardous waste should be described.</p> <p>For example:</p>	<p><u>Hazardous Waste</u></p> <p>Describe how each hazardous waste will be managed and reduced.</p>

<p>It can be noted here that this may have already been covered with other types of waste already described.</p> <p>Examples may include chemicals, medication, contaminants, blood, fuel, oil, lubricants etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution/contamination in the water column, seabed or onshore • The potential danger/impact to wildlife • The potential danger/impact to other marine users. 	<p>For example, its disposal, treatment, controls which are in place and the procedures to be followed etc.</p>
<p><u>Other Waste</u></p> <p>Any other waste not covered under the other headings should be listed here.</p>	<p><u>Other Waste</u></p> <p>The possible risks and impacts of each type of other waste should be described.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution/contamination in the water column, seabed or onshore • The potential danger/impact to wildlife • The potential danger/impact to other marine users 	<p><u>Other Waste</u></p> <p>Describe how each other waste will be managed and minimised.</p> <p>For example, will the waste be reused, recycled, stored ashore, put to licensed waste disposal facilities, landfill etc.</p>
<p><u>Recyclable Waste</u></p> <p>Any types of waste that can be recycled should be listed and described.</p> <p>This might include waste such as wood, metal, plastic, floats, buoys, equipment, machinery etc.</p>	<p><u>Recyclable Waste</u></p> <p>The possible risks and impacts of each type of recyclable waste should be highlighted.</p> <p>For example, derelict at sea or land, possible risk to the environment, obstructions, marine debris etc.</p>	<p><u>Recyclable Waste</u></p> <p>Describe how the recyclable waste will be managed, recycled and waste minimised.</p> <p>This could include methods such as being sold to 3rd parties, dismantled for recycling, re-used etc.</p>



Pre-Application Advice

Shetland Islands Council strongly recommend that all proposals for development that require planning permission or a works licence are first subject to our pre-application advice service. This will help ensure that the information requested from developers on waste management and minimisation planning is proportionate and relevant. More information on pre-application advice can be found on the Council's website at:

www.shetland.gov.uk/coastal-marine-planning/make-marine-planning-application

Contact Us

If you have any queries about this guidance in relation to planning applications or works licence applications, please contact the Shetland Islands Council Marine Planning Team by email: marine.planning@shetland.gov.uk

If your query relates to a marine licence application, please in the first instance contact the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) by email: md.marinelicensing@gov.scot