

**The Scottish
Salmon Company**



Pre Application Consultation Report

North Arran
Marine Fish Farm

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1 THE PROPOSAL

1.1 Introduction

This Pre-Application Consultation Report ("PAC Report") has been prepared by Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd ("Arcus") on behalf of the Scottish Salmon Company ("SSC", "the Applicant") to accompany the planning application submitted to North Ayrshire Council ("the Council") for the installation and operation of an Atlantic salmon fish farm with associated infrastructure ("the Proposed Development") located approximately 200 m off the northeast coastline of the Isle of Arran.

The Proposed Development, which would occupy a surface area of approximately 2.3 hectares (ha) inclusive of barge moorings, involves the installation and operation of an Atlantic salmon fish farm, comprising two groups of 10 pens of 120 m circumference (19.1 m) radius ("the Site"). The total surface area of the moorings would be [1km²];

This PAC Report provides a summary of the consultation undertaken with statutory consultees, local stakeholders, elected members and the local community. Throughout the duration of the consultation process, SSC has regularly committed to clear and transparent engagement with consultees and interested parties, including the local community on Arran and North Ayrshire Council ("the Council"). For instance, this was proven by the effort made by the Applicant to hold two informative public exhibition events in Lochranza (02nd April) and Brodick (27th May), in addition to the staging of a Q&A session following requests made by attendees at the first exhibition.

This Report should be read alongside the following application, reports and plans submitted in support of this application:

- Planning Application;
- Planning Statement; and
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The following appendices are submitted alongside this PAC Report as evidence of the depth of the consultation process undertaken by the Applicant:

- Appendix A: Proposed Development Leaflets;
- Appendix B: Kiscadale Engineering Commissioning Newspaper Article;
- Appendix C: Proposal of Application (PAN) Notice;
- Appendix D: Public Exhibition Photographs;
- Appendix E: Lochranza Exhibition Newspaper Advert;
- Appendix F: Community and Ward Councillor's Development Briefing;
- Appendix G: 1st Public Exhibition Boards;
- Appendix H: Community Update Newsletter April 2019;
- Appendix I: Brodick Exhibition Newspaper Advert;
- Appendix J: 2nd Public Exhibition Boards;
- Appendix K: Arran Banner Article Example 1;
- Appendix L: Arran Banner Article Example 2;
- Appendix M: Consultation Feedback Form;
- Appendix N: GAP Analysis;
- Appendix O: North Ayrshire Council 18th January 2019 Meeting Minutes;

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- Appendix P: North Ayrshire Council 27th of February 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix Q: Northern Lighthouse Board 7th March 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix R: Royal Yachting Association 21st of March 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix S: Marine Scotland and Scottish Government 27th of March 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix T: Scottish Natural Heritage 29th of March 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix U: Clyde Fisherman's Association 6th of June 2019 Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix V: Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board 10th of July Meeting Minutes;
 - Appendix W: SSC Community Engagement Officer's Meetings Summary;

1.2 Project Description

The Applicant is seeking planning consent for the installation and operation of an Atlantic salmon fish farm at North Arran, Firth of Clyde. The Proposed Development would consist of 20 circular pens each 120 m in circumference (19.1 m radius). The cages would be held in two groups of 5 x 2 cages.

All pens will be painted dark grey or black in colour to minimise visual intrusion and impact on the landscape.

The Isle of Arran has played a vital long-term role in the operations of the Applicant, with the Lamlash Bay site in South Arran having been established over 30 years ago by SSC and it is now one of the oldest fish farms in Scotland. The Lamlash site was assessed to determine whether an increase in production could be supported, as well as examining other potential new sites in the wider area.

However, the site of the Proposed Development at North Arran was identified from initial surveys as being a suitable site for development, with favourable bathymetry and hydrography levels. Additionally, the location of the proposed Development has been influenced by and represents a balancing of a number of factors:

- SSC's objectives for sustainable growth;
- Regulation and Guidance within the Aquaculture industry;
- Environmental Considerations

Further detail on the site selection process can be found in Chapter 4 Alternative Sites & Design Innovation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIAR").

The Proposed Development is led by innovative technology, ensuring robust fish health, welfare and environmental sustainability. The Applicant, in collaboration with Gael Force, is proposing to implement an innovative 'SeaQure Farm' concept.

The guiding principle of this concept is to deliver responsible development through innovation, with the key objectives being as follows:

- Improving fish health and welfare;
- Operating securely in higher energy sites (stronger tides, deeper waters, more exposed locations);
- Enhancing the safety of our people and equipment; and
- Ensuring environmental impacts are assessed, mitigated and monitored.

Information leaflets produced by the Applicant highlighting the key elements of the proposed Development are presented in Appendix A.

1.2.1 Economic Benefits

The site will have a significant positive, inclusive impact across Scotland's aquaculture supply chain in Arran, Argyll and Bute, North Ayrshire and the Central Belt. The GVA contribution to Scotland is calculated to be at least £8.61m per year.

1.2.2 Local Sourcing

In total it is projected to support a total of 61 jobs (FTE): 51 in the sector, and a further 10 in wider economic stimulus. Most of these jobs would be year-round and well paid (including engineering, farm management, manufacturing, and services).

During its time upon the island so far, the Applicant has developed strong relationships with local suppliers and is continually committed to sourcing work and materials locally wherever possible.

In March of 2019, for instance, the Applicant commissioned work for six new work boats from the Arran based firm Kiscadale engineering (Appendix B). The Development will only increase the need for local businesses to be resourced by the Applicant in the years to come.

Imani Enterprise Ltd have undertaken a Social and Economic Impact Assessment of the Proposed Development (refer to EIAR Appendix P) confirming that the Proposed Development will have a significant positive, inclusive impact across Scotland's aquaculture supply chain in Arran, Argyll and Bute, North Ayrshire and the Central Belt. GVA contribution to Scotland is calculated to be at least £8.61m per year.

The total medium term (to 2030) GVA is £36m from direct site production, and a total of £94m across production, supply chain and the wider Scottish economy.

The wider socio-economic impact of the proposed development has been considered, including that of additional jobs in the North Ayrshire Council region, and across Scotland. One example of the wider job creation would be W&J Knox in Kilbirnie (within the North Ayrshire region) has been one of the biggest private employers in the town, with a current complement of 77/78 employees and a turnover of around £11m. Should Knox be successful in obtaining the contract for supplying nets and maintenance to the North Arran site, it would amount to around £500,000 in initial purchasing (CAPEX) and around £500,000 in maintenance contracts over 5 years. This would equate to around 1-2 extra jobs (or Full Time Equivalents) or £120,000 per year (turnover) in Kilbirnie. However, overall around 95% of the Knox business relates to the aquaculture sector, meaning that over 70 jobs there are reliant on the sector.

Construction of the barge and pen system by Gael Force Group would take place in Corpach, Fort William (for the barge), with pen work likely in or between the Oban area (Barcaldine) and Inverness. The SeaQure system is seeking to be the best-in-class model to minimise negative impacts cited in recent reports.

1.2.3 Community Engagement

Close engagement with the communities in which they operate is a fundamental part of the Applicant's operations, with SSC passionately promoting health and wellbeing within their communities.

As a result of its existing operational activities at the Lamlash site, the Applicant helps to support the Brodick Highland games and in recent times its 'Salmon on a Bun BBQ' has raised money for Arran Cancer Support Trust ("ArCaS"), Riding for the Disabled Association ("RDA") Arran and swimming lessons for local primary school children. The Applicant has also supported the nearby Holy Island with the islands coastal path upgrades.

The Proposed Development and the socio-economic benefits it would bring would help to further increase the level of support the Applicant can provide to local communities on Arran.

Specifically the Development would enhance the island's economic diversity and resilience and help towards sustainable community development in Arran, supporting young working people with the creation of apprenticeships, year round jobs and career opportunities.

2 THE APPLICANT

SSC is a leading Scotland based producer of fresh Atlantic salmon. The Applicant employs over 650 staff across 60 sites on the West Coast and Hebrides, with 35 full time staff employed at 8 sites in the Highlands. The Applicant is focused on sustainable business development to meet international demand for Scottish salmon, the UK's number one food export.

The Applicant is engaged in all stages of the supply chain from smolt production through freshwater and marine farming to harvesting and processing, as well as sales and marketing; it therefore has the ability and experience to plan, build and operate major aquaculture developments successfully.

The Applicant is committed to the communities where it operates. This commitment is laid out in a Community Charter and demonstrated by initiatives such as an award winning apprenticeship scheme, supporting staff led local initiatives through a community fund, sponsoring major local events and, local to the Development, supporting the RDA Arran Group. In addition, SSC is committed to sourcing locally where possible, building relationships and long term partnerships. SSC spent £112 million with 650 Scottish suppliers in 2018 – accounting for more than 75% of their procurement spend.

3 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997¹ as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006² ("the Act") requires all applicants with the intention of submitting a planning application for a national or major development to undertake the appropriate level of public consultation prior to submission.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013³ (Part 2, Reg. 7(1)), consultation should be undertaken with community councils within the area where the proposed development would be located. The applicant is required to hold at least one public event where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant regarding the proposed development. Reg. 7(2)(b) also notes that details of the event are to be advertised in a local newspaper at least 7 days prior to the event being held.

Additionally, best practice guidance on community engagement within the planning process is provided within the Planning Advice Note (PAN) 81: Community Engagement Planning with People⁴ and PAN 3/2010: Community Engagement⁵. PAN 81 lists ten National Standards in relation to community engagement. These can be used in order to effectively

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents> (Accessed 12/08/2019)

² Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents> (Accessed 12/08/2019)

³ Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Online) Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/155/contents/made> (Accessed 12/08/2019)

⁴ Planning Advice Note (PAN) 81: Community Engagement Planning with People (Online) Available at: <http://www.orkneywind.co.uk/advice/SE%20pan81%20community%20engagement.pdf> (Accessed 12/08/2019)

⁵ Planning Advice Note 3/2010: Community Engagement (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/planning-advice-note-3-2010-community-engagement/> (Accessed 12/08/2019)

and efficiently plan, monitor and evaluate the consultation process. The ten standards are as follows:

1. *Involvement*: Identifying and involving the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement;
2. *Support*: Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement;
3. *Planning*: Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions;
4. *Methods*: Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose;
5. *Working Together*: Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently;
6. *Sharing Information*: Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants;
7. *Working with others*: Work effectively with others with an interest;
8. *Improvement*: Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants;
9. *Feedback*: Feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected; and
10. *Monitoring and Evaluation*: Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standards for community engagement.

Overall, the purpose of the pre-application consultation (PAC) process is to improve the general quality of planning application submissions, hopefully mitigating any potentially negative impacts at an early stage and address any issues raised by the community living within the immediate vicinity of the development.

3.1 Purpose of the PAC Report

This PAC report is produced in accordance with the Act and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013. This report is submitted as a supporting document within the Application for the Proposed Development in North Arran.

This report demonstrates the scope and depth of the consultation undertaken with the local community and other stakeholders by the Applicant in accordance with the correct legislation. In addition, this report and its contents highlight the Applicant's pro-active approach to development consultation.

3.2 Consultation Period

The Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) (Appendix C) was submitted to North Ayrshire Council on 7th of March 2019 detailing the intended consultation process. The submission of the PAN marked the beginning of the 12-week period within which consultation must be undertaken before the submission of a planning application.

A PAN is a requirement within any application where the PAC process is taking place. The PAN will normally include details such as; a general description of the development to be carried out; address of the development; site location plan; details of the prospective applicant; and detail of how the applicant intends to carry out consultation and both where and when this will take place.

3.3 Public Exhibitions

As part of the consultation process, two public consultation events and one question and answer session were held with the local community, community council and local councillors all in attendance.

Throughout the events, the Applicant acted in a professional and polite manner, with the aim of informing local residents and any wider interested parties in attendance of its intentions and the benefits of the Proposed Development. The events were attended by professional representatives from the following organisations involved in the progression of the Proposed Development:

- SSC
- Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd
- Gael Force
- Imani Enterprise Limited
- 3X1
- Knox Nets

Photos from the events are presented in Appendix D.

3.3.1 First Exhibition

The first of these events was held on Tuesday 2nd of April 2019 at Lochranza Village Hall, and ran from 1 pm to 7 pm.

Prior to this exhibition and in accordance with legislation, local residents were notified of the event through an advertisement in the local newspaper, The Arran Banner (Appendix E). Councillors for North Ayrshire Council were issued a briefing regarding the Proposed Development and the scheduled consultation event on 4th of March 2019 (Appendix F).

A series of exhibition boards (Appendix G) were on display throughout the event to explain the proposals, and an information leaflet was available providing an outline of the Proposed Development, as shown in Appendix A.

These information boards and leaflets are a further example of the Applicant's commitment to informing and involving the local community within the Development process, with update newsletters (Appendix H) also having been produced as part of the consultation process.

The event was extremely well attended which indicates the strong level of interest in the Applicant's proposals, with a total of 160 members of the public attending in Lochranza. Attendees included amongst others - residents, members of the community council, landowners and local councillors.

3.3.2 Q&A Session

Following the high attendance of the first public exhibition and in response to requests by a number of attendees, it was elected to undertake a second consultation event and a separate question and answer session to further address any concerns and comments from the local community.

The Q&A session was held on Wednesday 22nd of May 2019 at Ormidale Sports Pavilion from 11 am until 7 pm. This involved several informal 45 minute sessions with up to 10 attendees at each where local residents were given the opportunity to speak with representatives from SSC, Arcus and Gael Force regarding any outstanding questions. The session was monitored by an independent mediator to facilitate productive discussion between all parties.

Following both exhibitions and Q&A session, SSC drafted a Q&A report summarising the recurring question in order to provide a 'go-to' document. This is due to be included on SSC's project website.

3.3.3 Second Exhibition

Following the Q&A session, a further public exhibition was held on Monday 27th of May 2019 from 3pm to 7pm at Brodick Public Hall at the request of NAC. The event was attended by representatives from SSC, and environmental, landscape and visual, planning and economic development professionals as well as Gael Force and Knox Nets.

Prior to this exhibition, local residents were once again notified through an advertisement in the Arran Banner (Appendix I). This advertisement was a requirement as part of the consultation process and provided an opportunity for the local community to be informed of the exhibition details, in order to provide sufficient notice for any interested parties to be able to attend on the day.

A variety of detailed exhibition boards (Appendix J) were on display throughout the public exhibition. They provided further information about the proposed project outlining key information in regards to the planning process, the economic benefits of the Proposed Development, and the proposed innovations of the technology being used on Site. The event was less attended in comparison to the first exhibition, with 8 members of the public attending.

4 COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

4.1 Feedback Summary

During the period of the public consultation and Q&A events taking place, the Applicant monitored social media activity in relation to the Proposed Development between the 5th of March 2019 and the 5th of June 2019. During this time period several articles were also published in the Arran Banner in relation to the Proposed Development, with example headings available to view in appendices K and L of this report.

Of all of the posts shared and tagged in relation to the Proposed Development, 71% of the posts were against the salmon farming industry as a whole, with only 29% directly related to issues surrounding the Proposed Development. This indicates that the majority of posts found are attributed to the current opinion many individuals or groups have taken against the fish farming industry in principle, and not the specific elements of the Proposed Development at North Arran.

Several comments and questions were raised during the consultation process through discussion during the various consultation events, in the available feedback forms (Appendix M), through the dedicated email address provided by the Applicant and through the use of social media.

The consultation period provided the local community with the opportunity discuss the Development in greater depth in person with a number of professionals involved in the development of the Application. As is the intention of such events, the exhibitions and Q&A also provided an opportunity for attendees to raise any questions or concerns they might have regarding the Proposed Development at an early stage, for the Applicant to then consider and address.

For instance, following the first exhibition in Lochranza, it was suggested by various attendees that they would benefit from a Q&A session with the Applicant in order to consult further on the feedback given and on any issues raised. This was duly noted by the Applicant and was organised and took place on the 22nd of May 2019.

A GAP analysis of social media and public feedback information (Appendix N) was undertaken to determine key themes from the public consultation process, with analysis undertaken for each of the events in order to summarise the current status of public opinion towards the Proposed Development. The key themes of this GAP analysis are discussed in section 4.2 below.

4.2 GAP Analysis

The key themes which emerged from the three consultation events and surrounding social media activity were as follows:

- The North Arran proposal has garnered a significant amount of attention from the Community of Arran Seabed Trust ('COAST');
- The majority of comments found on social media relate to criticism of the industry as a whole (71% of posts analysed), and are not focused on the Proposed Development;
- The Q&A feedback from the public consultation event showed that the majority (77%) of those in attendance at the event were opposed to the proposal;
- Key areas of concern to the public included visual, environmental and fish welfare issues;
- The lack of a public Q&A forum was also a key factor at the initial public consultation event, but was efficiently addressed by the Applicant with the addition of a Q&A event on 22nd of May 2019.
- Key areas for improvement fall into four main themes: Industry misinformation, the planning process, local investment and company values;
- The Applicant has had the opportunity to address many of the common public concerns at two public consultation events and the public Q&A event, where attention was drawn to the EIA process; fish farm regulations and management practices; the company's core values; the company's good neighbour policy and how its implementation will benefit the local community in North Arran. Appendix Y provides an overview of the recurring questions and answers.
- Following the public consultation events, two Stakeholder Engagement Officers have been appointed on Arran to provide a local presence to answer any queries the public may still have in relation to the Proposed Development. Part of their remit is to meet with local business owners, community councillors in a less formal manner in order to convey project specific information.

As noted in Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, following the first consultation event, the Applicant held a separate public Q&A session and second consultation event at the request of NAC at a later date in time, both with the aim of allowing for further public discussion of the Proposed Development and to address any additional outstanding questions.

Following all 3 events, the GAP analysis summarised that there were four main 'areas for improvement' themes:

- Industry Misinformation: Much opposition on social media came from individuals who are against the wider Salmon farming industry and in general were using the Proposed Development as another opportunity to state their case, on many occasions with inaccurate information which is not directly relevant to the Proposed Development. This issue is summarised further in Appendix N.
- The Planning Process: A number of attendees to the public exhibitions and Q&A session raised concerns over potential Environmental and Visual impacts of the Proposed Development. These issues are effectively addressed by the Applicant by materials provided within the detailed exhibition boards provided at both events, in particular the more detailed boards at the second exhibition. Additionally, the visuals and video animations produced were met with excellent feedback from attendees to the events. Further assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development is provided within the EIAR documents which were not

available at the time for attendees to view. This issue is summarised further in Appendix N.

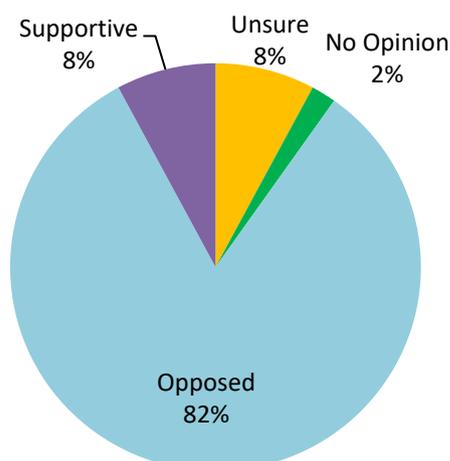
- **Local Investment:** Across the various social media responses, it was found that one of the concerns from the public was that the Proposed Development would not provide a significant enough financial benefit for the local community and would instead benefit foreign based companies. Engaging with the local community is of paramount importance to SSC and the Proposed Development would provide a further opportunity - in addition to the existing Lamlash Bay site - on Arran for SSC to invest in facilities and amenities for the local residents. This issue is summarised further in Appendix N.
- **Company Values:** This relates to a number of social media responses questioning the benefits of the Proposed Development to the local community and questioning the Applicant's commitment to providing financial support to local areas. The Applicant is a successful organisation founded and operated in Scotland with a strong set of core company values. Throughout its presence on Arran at Lamlash for over 30 years, the Applicant has already shown commitment to funding facilities and interacting positively with the local community, with this also due to be the case with the Proposed Development. This issue is summarised further in Appendix N.

4.3 Feedback Statistics

Attendees of the public consultation events and Q&A sessions were provided with a feedback form as shown in Appendix and invited to give feedback relating to both the Proposed Development and the consultation events. A total of 51 feedback forms were received.

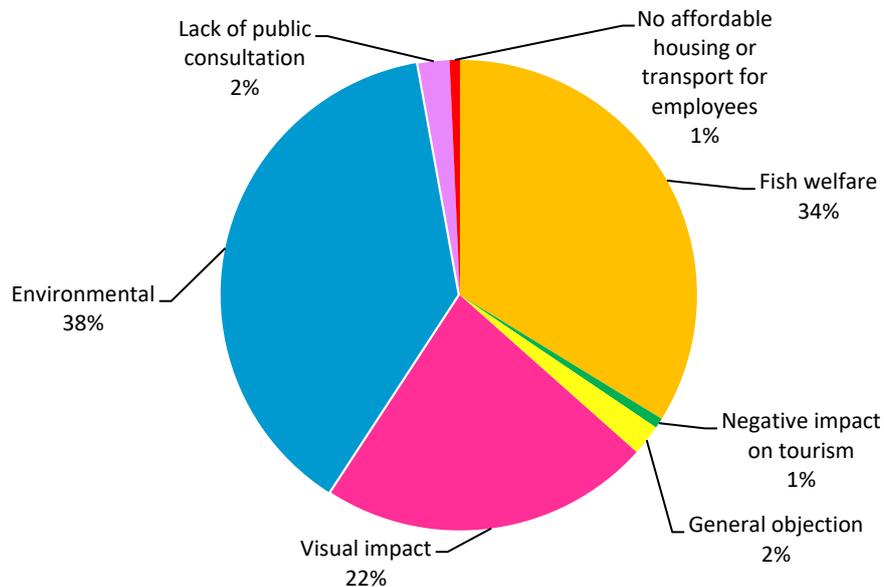
Of those that returned a feedback form at the first public exhibition in Lochranza, 8% were supportive of SSC's proposed development on North Arran and 82% were opposed (Figure 1). Figure 1 statistically summarises the responses received throughout the first exhibition

Figure 1: Support Status of 1st Exhibition Attendees



The key factors that contributed to the opposition of the proposal were related to environmental concerns, potential visual impacts, fish welfare and impacts on the local tourism industry (Figure 2). In addition, the current lack of affordable housing and transport options for fish farm employees was also highlighted.

Figure 2: Key Concerns Identified By Those Opposed to the Proposed Development



4.3.1 Key Attendee Concerns

As is visible from the figure 2, the majority of concerns from the local community related to Environmental issues and landscape and visual impact, with these making up approximately 60%. It is anticipated that these concerns will be addressed through the EIA process.

The application of a site-specific Environmental Management Plan, in addition to a robust Integrated Sea Lice Management Plan (ISMP), will ensure that fish welfare remain of the highest concern during the operation of the Site.

SSC's Good Neighbour policy supports investment at a local level and the site development proposal takes cognisance of the need to invest in local housing and community resources. Given housing and transportation links have been identified by the public as important considerations, the SSC has the opportunity to invest in these areas, benefitting both the local community and potential future employees.

5 CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC RESPONSES

Opinions expressed during the public consultation exercise helped outline areas where more information was required. As has been highlighted, following on from comments raised during the first public exhibition and feedback from NAC, the Applicant duly conducted two further consultation exercises and provided a dedicated project email address for members of the public to contact should they have any further questions.

As such, it is evident that the Applicant is fully committed to engaging with the community at all stages of the Development process and has welcomed responses from the public throughout and continues to do so following the process.

6 CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant also arranged a number of meetings with statutory consultees and interested parties including North Ayrshire Council ('NAC') and Scottish Natural Heritage ('SNH'), SEPA, NLB, RYA, MS and MSS, ADSFB and the CFA.

These meetings have helped to further inform the consultation process and provided an opportunity for the Applicant to consult with and notify the meeting attendees of key aspects of the Proposed Development at as early a stage in the application process as possible. The effort made to arrange them and information provided within these meetings is a further example of the Applicant's commitment to engaging effectively with statutory consultees and interested parties throughout the application process for the Proposed Development.

6.1 North Ayrshire Council Meetings

Three meetings were held with NAC on the 18th of January 2019, 27th of February 2019 and 9th August 2019 respectively at the NAC offices in Irvine.

The first of these meetings on the 18th of January was organised in order for the Applicant to inform NAC of the plans for the upcoming marine aquaculture projects in the North Ayrshire area, in particular the Proposed Development. A presentation was provided by the Applicant to the Council, with the meeting also providing an opportunity for discussion on the key areas of concern NAC had, as well as the proposed approach towards the Application. The minutes from this meeting are provided in Appendix O, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Design
- Policy Issues (Scotland/NAC)
- Local Concerns (consultation) & Consultee Comments (SEPA etc)
- Decision Process (committee)
- Economic Impact (benefits)
- Any Other Business (AOB)

The second meeting with NAC on the 27th of February 2019 was once again aimed at providing the Council with an update on the Applicant's upcoming aquaculture projects in the area, specifically North Arran. The minutes from this meeting are provided in Appendix P, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Description
- Policy Issues (Scotland/NAC)
- Economic Impact (benefits)
- Local Concerns (consultation)
- Initial thoughts and Opportunities NAC (feedback)
- Any Other Business (AOB)

Throughout the process contact has been made with the NAC planning department to discuss various points in relation to the application and procedures.

The third meeting was held on 9th August 2019 between Marc Browne (Head of Site Development / SSC) and Su Cox (Comms Director / SSC), Craig Hatton (Chief Executive / North Ayrshire Council), Russell McCutcheon (Head of Service / Commercial); Caitriona McAuley (Head of Service / Economic Development & Regeneration); and Iain Davies (Snr Development Management Officer / Planning).

6.2 Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB) Meeting

One meeting was held with the NLB on the 7th of March 2019 at the Applicant's head office in Edinburgh.

This meeting was organised in order for the Applicant to inform the NLB of the plans for the upcoming marine aquaculture projects in the North Ayrshire area, in particular the Proposed Development. A presentation was provided by the Applicant to the NLB, with the meeting also providing an opportunity for any areas of concern – such as navigation – to be discussed. The minutes from this meeting are provided in Appendix Q, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Design
- Fish Health and Welfare
- Policy issues (Scotland/NAC)
- Consultation
- Economic Benefits
- Environmental Impact
- Any Other Business (AOB)

6.3 Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Meeting

One meeting was held with the RYA on the 21st of March 2019 at its head office in Edinburgh.

This meeting was organised in order for the Applicant to inform the RYA of the plans for the upcoming marine aquaculture projects in the North Ayrshire area, in particular the Proposed Development. A presentation was provided by the Applicant to the RYA, with the meeting also providing an opportunity for any areas of concern – such as recreational navigation – to be discussed. The minutes from this meeting are provided in Appendix R, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Design
- Fish Health and Welfare
- Policy Issues (Scotland/NAC)
- Consultation
- Economic Benefits
- Environmental Impact
- Any Other Business (AOB)

6.4 Marine Scotland and Scottish Government Meeting

One meeting was held with both Marine Scotland and the Scottish Government on the 27th of March 2019 at the Applicant's head office in Edinburgh.

This meeting was organised in order for the Applicant to inform both Marine Scotland and the Scottish Government of the plans for the upcoming marine aquaculture projects in the North Ayrshire area, in particular the Proposed Development. A presentation was provided by the Applicant to both organisations present, with the meeting also providing an opportunity for any areas of concern and the proposed approach to the Application to be discussed. The minutes from the meeting are provided in Appendix S, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Design
- Health and Welfare
- Policies
- Consultation
- Economic Benefits
- Environmental Aspects

6.5 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Meeting

One meeting was held with SNH on the 29th of March 2019 at Arcus' Glasgow based office.

This meeting was organised in order for the Applicant to inform SNH of the plans for the upcoming marine aquaculture projects in the North Ayrshire area, in particular the Proposed Development. A presentation was provided by the Applicant to both organisations present, with the meeting also providing an opportunity for any areas of concern and the proposed approach to the Application to be discussed. The minutes from the meeting are provided in Appendix T, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- Project Design
- Environmental Aspects

6.6 Clyde Fisherman's Association (CFA) Meeting

One meeting was held with the CFA on the 6th of June 2019 at SSC's head office in Edinburgh.

This meeting was organised in order for SSC to discuss proposals for a number of sites including North Arran, in addition to any other business. The minutes for this meeting are provided in Appendix U, with the following topic headings:

- Introductions
- East Tarbet Bay
- Best Practice Discussion
- Ardyne
- North Arran
- Summary of Meeting Actions

6.7 Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board (ADSFB) Meeting

One meeting was held with ADSFB on the 10th of July 2019 at the Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow.

This meeting was organised in order for the Applicant and ADSFB to provide an update on Environmental Management Plans ('EMP') already permitted by Local Authorities and still in development; to discuss the feasibility of collaborative project work; and for the Applicant to provide an update on development proposal at Ardyne and North Arran. The minutes from the meeting are provided in Appendix V, with the following topic headings:

- Introduction and Welcome
- EMP Update
- Future collaboration opportunities
- SSC Development Update
- Any Other Business (AOB)
- Actions

6.8 Community Engagement Officer's Meetings

As part of its aim to engage clearly and effectively with the local community, the Applicant has also incorporated two community engagement officers into the consultation process. This has helped to keep local businesses and community members informed of the progress of the Proposed Development, with meetings having been regularly held, with more planned. Examples of meetings to date are listed below, with full dates, times and locations provided in Appendix W:

- Armitage Groundworks/Armitage Haulage 26th of June 2019;
- Chair of Visit Arran, AEG & ADT board member 26th of June 2019;
- Chair of Arran Community Council, Board member of ADT, Secretary of Ferry Committee - 28th of June 2019;
- Board Director of ADT, former NAC Planning Committee councillor and former NFU Secretary - 2nd of July 2019;
- Arran Dairies & Ice Cream owner, Taste of Arran Chair, VisitArran Board Member and AEG & ADT - 2nd of July 2019;
- Murchie Sand & Gravel/Murchie Haulage, B&B and Farm owners - 3rd of July 2019;
- Chair of Arran Access Trust – 10th of July 2019;
- Chair of AEG, ADT Board Member – 10th of July 2019;
- Managing Director of John Thomson Construction Ltd – 11th of July 2019; and
- Owner and CEO of Auchrannie Resort, ADT Board Member – 11th of July 2019

7 POST-CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Following the consultation events, the Applicant has been able to assess and review the general outcome and in turn gain a greater understanding of both the public and stakeholder opinion towards the Proposed Development.

The strong turnout for the first public exhibition in Lochranza on the 2nd of April 2019 indicated that there is a high level of interest in the Proposed Development, with a large number of feedback forms also being returned. Despite slight disruption, the event as a whole went well and helped to boost the overall understanding of the Proposed Development within the local community.

After the first exhibition, the Applicant cooperated with NAC to organise and host a second event, this time in Brodick, highlighting once more the Applicant's commitment to fully

engaging with the local community and ensuring the Application process is as transparent as possible.

The Applicant ensured that the environment within the exhibition hall was welcoming across all events and a good number of professionals from each organisation involved in the Proposed Development were able to attend and answer any queries related to their role, particularly during the first and second public exhibitions in Lochranza and Brodick. For instance, the videos and visualizations provided by both Arcus and Gael Force were well received by attendees to the exhibition in Lochranza.

It was also noted from the attendee responses from the first exhibition that further Q&A opportunities would be useful and this was acknowledged and in turn addressed by the Applicant, with the separate Q&A session promptly held on the 22nd of May 2019. This is a further example of the Applicant's commitment to engaging with the local community and interested stakeholders throughout the consultation process.

The information highlighted within the numerous appendices attached to this report also indicate the significant amount of effort that the Applicant has undertaken to ensure the minimum legislative requirements of the consultation process were met. It can also be concluded that the Applicant has gone beyond these minimum requirements in an effort to inform the consultation process.

8 IMANI SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

An independent socio-economic impact report was undertaken by Imani to examine the anticipated socio-economic impacts of the proposed North Arran Development. The report has considered views from the public and community organisations in Arran over two consultation events (Lochranza on 2nd of April and Brodick on 27th of May 2019), along with interviews with SSC, supply chain company representatives, the Arran Economic Group, and North Ayrshire Council. The full report is presented within Appendix P of the EIAR.

The key findings identified in the report are as follows:

- **Positive economic and social impact:** The Proposed Development will have a significant positive, inclusive impact across Scotland's aquaculture supply chain in Arran, Argyll and Bute, North Ayrshire and the Central Belt. GVA contribution to Scotland is calculated to be at least £8.61m per year;
- **Employment:** In total it is projected to support a total of 61 jobs (FTE): 51 in the sector, and a further 10 in wider economic stimulus. Most of these jobs would be year-round and well paid (including engineering, farm management, manufacturing, and services);
- **Benefit to Arran:** The degree of social and economic benefit to Arran depends largely on the affordability of physical housing stock on the island, its effect on available labour, and the effectiveness of stakeholders in addressing constraints (including positive support from SSC as an option);
- **Natural Capital:** As long as environmental compliance is achieved through the EIA and the Proposed Development is managed in accordance with best practice, optimal husbandry / welfare standards, and emerging regulatory frameworks, there appear to be no significant impacts on the natural capital of Arran, and a positive case can be made for the site's positive contribution to low carbon animal protein production;
- **Adding Value:** There are ways in which the Applicant can improve and mitigate current challenges on Arran, for example through upgrading coastal path infrastructure, supporting housing development, and supporting the business case for better ferry services through increased commercial traffic.

9 SUMMARY

In accordance with Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 the Applicant has fulfilled the minimum statutory requirements for consultation activity and further exceeded these requirements through additional consultation and engagement with the local community, through both the second public exhibition event, as well as the Q&A session following feedback from the first exhibition.

The Applicant has documented and reported on all activities throughout the consultation process, with evidence of this activity presented in the Appendices of this report.

Where appropriate, the Applicant has responded directly to comments raised or directed people to the relevant information provided during the consultation and continues to do so.

The Applicant has engaged with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has allowed for a greater understanding of the concerns of local residents, and created an opportunity to address these concerns at as early a stage in the Application process as possible. Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant has helped to provide additional information and understanding of the proposed North Arran Atlantic salmon marine fish farm to any interested parties and improved the quality of the proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.