marinescotland
Aquaculture Planning Policy

[redacted]
E: fishfarmreview@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The Scottish Government

Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd
2-3 Lochnell Street
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8JL

06th June 2013

Dear Sirs

GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION

The Scottish Ministers, having considered your application dated 19 July 2011, hereby grant planning permission under section 31A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

APPLICANT:	Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd
APPLICATION No:	FFR/ORK/007
NAME / LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT:	Bay of Ham, Rousay Sound, Rousay, Orkney, position 59°10.229N 02°57.872W
NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT:	4 no. cages of 90m circumference, including ancillary cage grid and all moorings.

This is subject to the development being in accordance with the plans submitted and attached hereto as stamped and approved, and to the attached conditions.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Kate Smith

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MARINE FISH FARM PLANNING CONSENT
BAY OF HAM, ROUSAY SOUND, ROUSAY, ORKNEY
REFERENCE FFR/ORK/007

Location plan 1:50,000

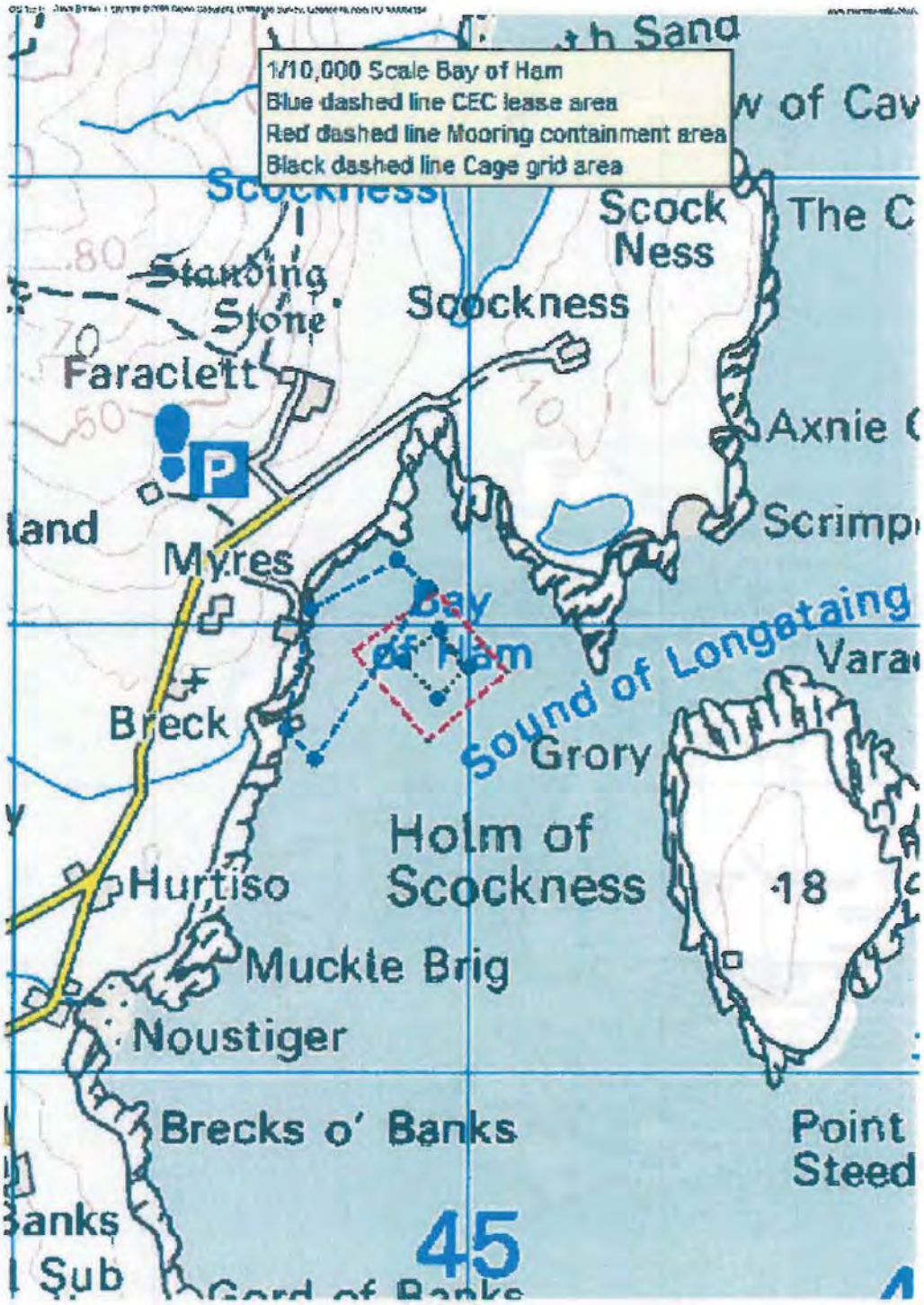
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Application Ref No: FFR/ORK/007
APPROVED by Scottish Ministers
(subject to the conditions of the attached permission)
06/06/13
[redacted]

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MARINE FISH FARM PLANNING CONSENT

BAY OF HAM, ROUSAY SOUND, ROUSAY, ORKNEY

REFERENCE FFR/ORK/007

Location plan 1:10,000



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Application Ref No: FFR/ORK/007
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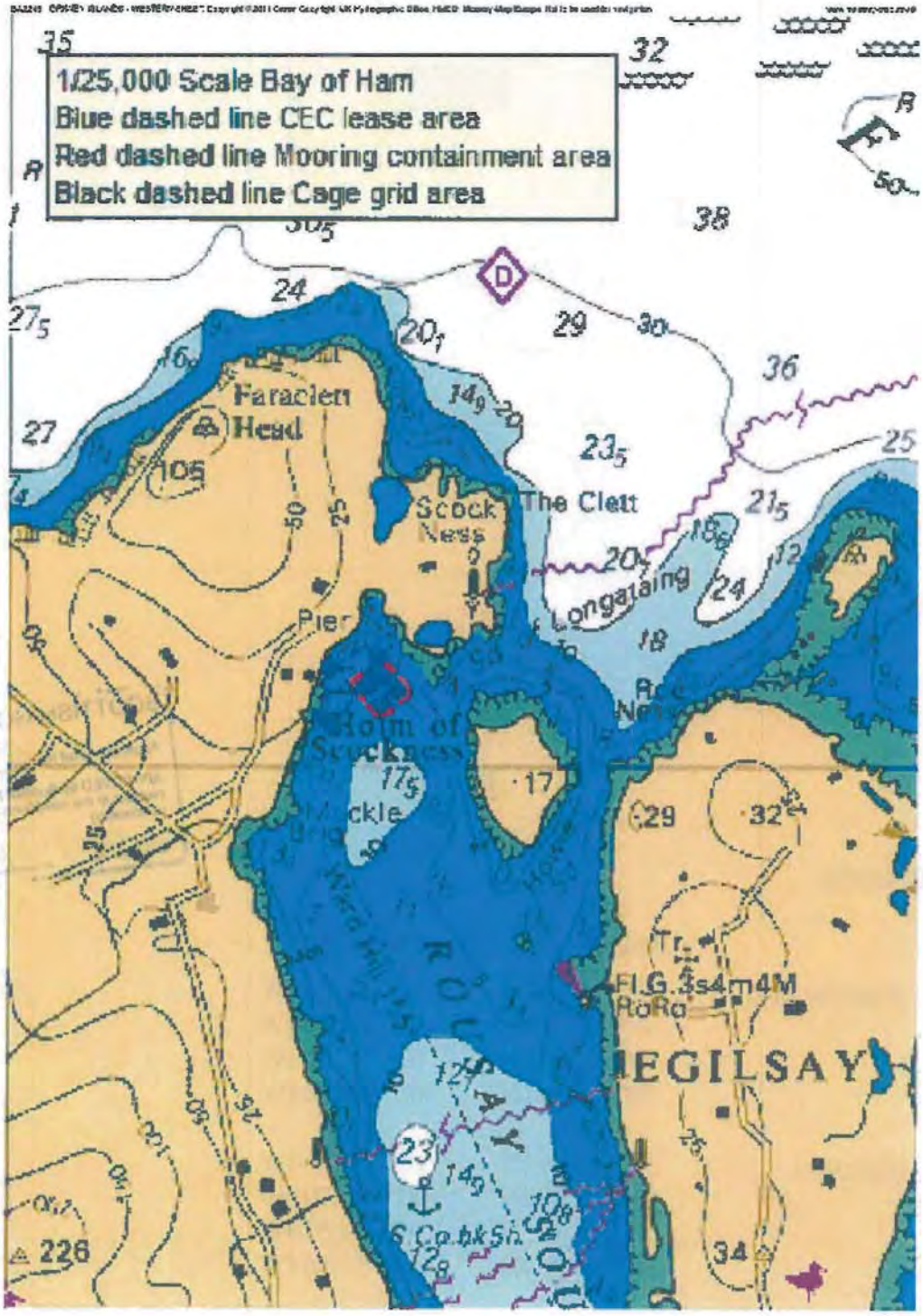
06/06/13
[redacted]

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MARINE FISH FARM PLANNING CONSENT

BAY OF HAM, ROUSAY SOUND, ROUSAY, ORKNEY

REFERENCE FFR/ORK/007

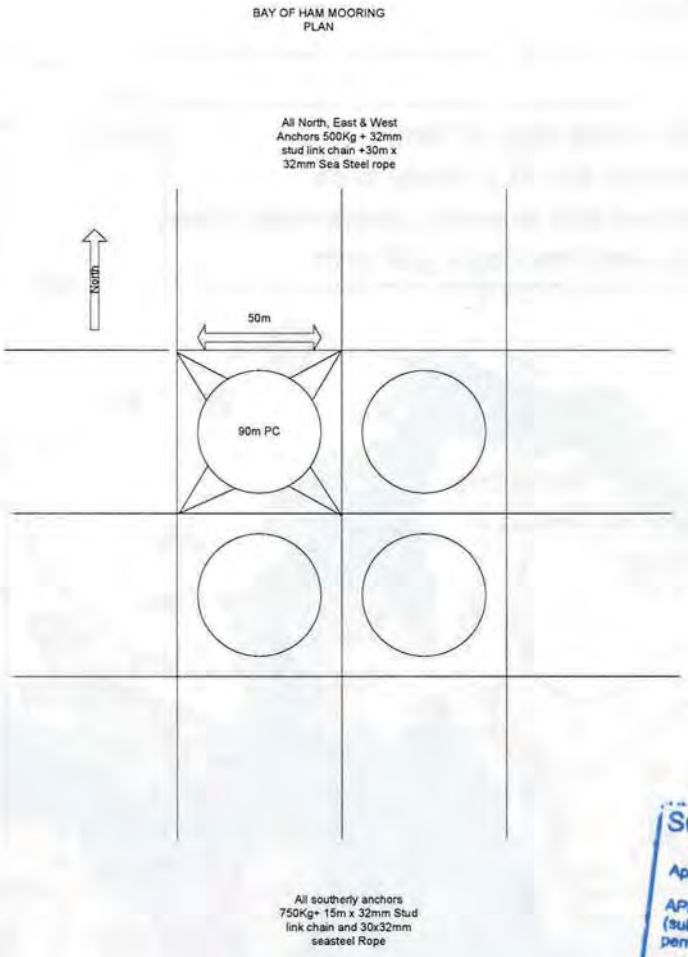
Admiralty chart 1:10,000



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Application Ref No: FFR/ORK/007
APPROVED by Scottish Ministers (subject to the conditions of the attached permission)
06/06/13 [redacted]

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT MARINE FISH FARM PLANNING CONSENT
BAY OF HAM, ROUSAY SOUND, ROUSAY, ORKNEY
REFERENCE FFR/ORK/007

Site plan



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Application Ref No: FFR/ORK/007
APPROVED by Scottish Ministers
(subject to the conditions of the attached permission)
06/06/13 [redacted]

Site co-ordinates

	latitude	longitude
mooring grid	59° 10.237N	02° 58.061W
	59° 10.131N	02° 57.884W
	59° 10.215N	02° 57.703W
	59° 10.311N	02° 57.868W
cage grid	59° 10.264N	02° 57.864W
	59° 10.220N	02° 57.797W
	59° 10.181N	02° 57.870W
	59° 10.264N	02° 57.864W

BAY OF HAM SITE POSITIONS

CAGE GRID

59°10.220N	02°57.797W
59°10.181N	02°57.870W
59°10.264N	02°57.864W
59°10.226N	02°57.945W

MOORING GRID

59°10.237N	02°58.061W
59°10.131N	02°57.884W
59°10.215N	02°57.703W
59°10.311N	02°57.868W

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
Application Ref No: FFM/ORK/1007
APPROVED by Scottish Ministers
(subject to the conditions of the attached permission)
06/06/13 [redacted]

Meridian
Salmon Group
A Morpol Company

Northern Isles Salmon Limited

PREDATOR DEFENCE & MITIGATION POLICY
BAY OF HAM, ROUSAY, ORKNEY.

Northern Isles Salmon Limited is committed to reducing the potential risks to wildlife and the environment to a level that is as low as can be considered reasonably practicable, whilst maintaining sufficient protection for our stock.

In preparing this predator defence and mitigation policy we have made consideration with regards to the Rousay SPA, Orkney Mainland Moors SPA as well as the SACs that are in place to protect both Grey and Common seals within the locality.

Northern Isles Salmon limited wish to propose the outlined predator defence strategy which has a hierarchy of control measures to prevent predation from aerial birds, diving birds, seals and otters etc.

SITE OVERVIEW

The Bay of Ham site is used for smolt on growing prior to the movement of the stock to one of its sister sites Kirknoust and Bay of Vady, primarily due to the maximum biomass limits, imposed by SEPA.
This site is generally stocked with S1 smolts in the spring and the fish subsequently moved by well boat when they reach approximately 1kg in weight, as such the site is generally only stocked for a period of 9 to 12 months after which it remains fallow, with all nets being removed offsite for cleaning, disinfection and strength testing prior to re-use.
The site has historically had low levels of predation predominantly from Grey seals.

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PREDATOR DEFENCE MEASURES.

TOP NETS

Top nets will be used on all cages onsite for the length of the production cycle, these will be of 50mm black diameter mesh netting, which will be fully laced around the handrail of the cages, with no gaps to potentially allow ingress from either birds or otters. All top nets will be supported to raise the nets above the surface of the water to a height of 1.5m above water level. This prevents birds from being able to bag the net sufficiently to gain access to both feed and fish and subsequently discourages them from the site. By using 50mm mesh we have excluded all aerial predators whilst preventing entanglement incidents.

CAGE NETS

All cage nets used onsite will be of 14mm diameter smolt netting and be tensioned by the use of 24 x 25kg weights (Minimum) with 1 x 25kg centre weight. The use of a froyer ring net tensioning system at this site is not possible due to the site depth. As this site is relatively sheltered and does not experience strong tidal currents this method of net tensioning has proved to be efficient in previous cycles and is deemed to be adequate at ensuring a constant net tension thus eliminating net bagging and reducing predator interactions.

ANTI – PREDATOR NETS.

Anti-Predator nets shall be constructed of 50mm orange mesh and will only be deployed if seal predation is problematic or above 1% cumulative or greater than 0.25% monthly mortality with association to seal predation. The top two meters of netting will be constructed using a heavier gauge net to prevent chaffing and wear from bio-fouling on the cages.

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REPORTING OF ENTANGLEMENT INCIDENTS

Northern Isles Salmon ltd commit to provide RSPB and SNH with a regular update of entanglement incidents on at least a six monthly basis. Detailing the species of birds involved, the number of birds involved and whether the birds were caught in top netting or Predator nets. We will also detail how many cages predator nets were installed along with the number of cages onsite .We will review our predator defence policy at the end of each cycle or if any serious entanglement issues have taken place. Taking into consideration new developments in predator defence and entanglement mitigation measures.

ACCOUSTIC DETTERENT DEVICES.

ADDs will not be used in line with SNH guidance due to the potential interactions with cetaceans. If however an acoustic deterrent becomes available that does not pose a threat to cetacean movement, Northern Isles Salmon Limited may wish to pursue this option, subject to the appropriate European Protective Species license being granted if appropriate. Along with recommendations of their use by SNH.

SHOOTING SEALS

Northern Isles Salmon Limited has applied for a license to shoot seals under the MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: PART 6 – CONSERVATION OF SEALS. At the Bay of Ham site.
In accordance with the said act the shooting of seals will only be carried out as a last resort measure, by a qualified marksman. In line with any conditions laid down by the license issued by Marine Scotland for the year in question, relating to the number of each species of seals that can be shot directly related to the permitted biological removal numbers and when they can be shot if such limitations are in place.
Any seals shot at the site will be reported to Marine Scotland on a quarterly basis as per the specification on the license.

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Anti- Predator defence strategy for the Bay of Ham, Rousay, Orkney.

Proposed Anti- Predator Defence	Detail/ Description	Circumstances surrounding deployment	Decision making Surrounding deployment	Timings duration of deployment	Maintenance Mechanisms	Monitoring Protocols
Deployment of Top bird netting	Tensioned 50mm black mesh top nets	Deployed to discourage aggregations of birds accumulating around the cages and to prevent ingress from seals and otters over the hand rails.	To be deployed on all cycles to discourage bird activity and	Deployed from the 1st day of input, and removed when the last fish are harvested from the site at the end of each cycle	Regularly checked by site staff on a daily basis for holes, gaps and general wear and tear	Checked on a daily basis and any entanglement incidents will be reported to the RSPB on a minimum of a six monthly basis
Tensioned Cage Nets	Standalone tensioned cage nets using 24 x 25kg weights + 1 x 25kg centre weight. Constructed of 14mm nylon mesh which does not pose an entanglement risk	Tensioned cage nets will be deployed throughout the lifecycle of each generation of fish	N/A	To be used at all times throughout the operational lifecycle of the fish farm	Correct net deployment and regular maintenance to ensure no net bagging occurs	Checked daily by site staff using spy ball cameras and weekly by diver inspection to ensure nets are correctly tensioned and weighted to prevent bagging, wear points etc.
Tensioned anti predator nets	50 mm orange anti predator netting suitably weighted to ensure a constant tension	To be deployed if predator attacks become persistent	To be deployed if seal predation exceeds 1% of the cause of death cumulative of the stock held onsite or greater than 0.25% on a monthly basis	Will be deployed if predation is greater than 1% cumulative or greater than 0.25% monthly for the remainder of that cycle.	Correct net deployment and tensioning to ensure net entanglement risk is minimised to the lowest possible levels	Nets will be checked daily by site staff using spy ball cameras and weekly by diver inspection, to ensure nets are correctly tensioned with no bagging or holes

						present. Any entanglement incidents will be reported to RSPB on a minimum of a six monthly basis.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PLANNING PERMISSION No FFR/ORK/007

SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS

Condition 1

Subject to Condition(s) 2 – 5, the equipment shall be as set out in the application and submitted plans and the site operator shall operate the development in accordance with the provisions of the application, submitted plans, stamped coordinates and all supporting information.

Reason: To ensure that the appropriate mitigation measures, strategies and procedures detailed in the application are implemented in continuing to operate this site.

Condition 2

In the event of equipment falling into disrepair or becoming damaged, adrift, stranded, abandoned or sunk in such a manner as to cause an obstruction or danger to navigation, the developer shall carry out or make suitable arrangements for the carrying out of all measures necessary for lighting, buoying, raising, repairing, moving or destroying, the whole or any part of the equipment as agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the development does not cause a danger to other users of the area.

Condition 3

In the event that the fish cages or associated equipment approved by this permission cease to be in operational use for the growing of finfish for a period exceeding three years, they shall be wholly removed and the site restored to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority within 4 months of being notified, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the development is removed, in full, from the site once operation use has ceased ensuring the development will not adversely affect the area.

Condition 4

The finished surfaces of all equipment above the water surface, including surface floats and buoys associated with the development hereby permitted but excluding those required to comply with navigational requirements, shall be non-reflective and finished in a dark muted grey to match the existing fish farm, unless otherwise agreed, in writing, in advance with the Planning Authority.

Reason: To minimise the visual impact of the development in the interest of visual amenity.

Condition 5

At all times when equipment is on site the following navigational marks shall be provided:

This site shall be marked by means of a lit yellow pole, flashing group four yellow every twelve seconds, (Fl(4) Y 12s) and fitted with a yellow multiplication cross topmark.

The pole should be at least 75mm in diameter and not less than two metres in height such that, in any case, the light is exhibited from a point at least one metre above any obstruction on the group of cages. The visible range of the light should be two nautical miles. The multiplication cross should measure a minimum of 750m in length by 15cm in width.

The pole should be positioned at the most Southerly corner of the group of cages

Reason: In the interests of navigational safety.