



## Section 2: Sector Policies

The policies within this Plan are designed to guide all marine and coastal users in terms of proposed and existing development(s) and activities. Users of this Plan must also comply with the National Marine Plan and other relevant legislation.

The general policies within Section 1 of the Plan provide a framework for the sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal environment. These general policies should be adhered to in advance of policies within Section 2 as they are all potentially relevant to any proposal for development or activity by any sector or user of the marine and coastal environment.

Section 2 outlines policy relating to the key current economic activities taking place in the Clyde Marine Region. These policies provide a framework to ensure that the economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered for each sector. The chapters are ordered in the same way as the National Marine Plan.

Each chapter follows the same format, this includes:

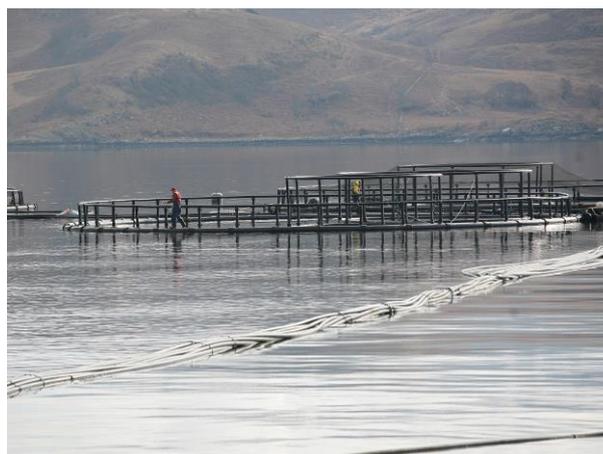
- A context which sets out a summary of the main information relevant to the policy area. More information on each of the areas can be found within the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).
- Objectives and policies; objectives provide a measurable strategic aim or goal for each policy area and policies which will deliver the objectives are set out underneath.
- Maps are included at the end of the chapter. For the latest available spatial data, see [National Marine Plan interactive](#) (NMPi). It is recommended that NMPi is used in conjunction with this Clyde Regional Marine Plan.
- Links to further information on the policy area.



## Chapter 10: Aquaculture

### Clyde Marine Region Context

Aquaculture is the production of marine species such as finfish and shellfish within aquaculture installations including cultivated shellfish beds. It also includes the growing and harvesting of seaweed, although there is no commercial seaweed cultivation within the Clyde Marine Region.



Salmon farm on Loch Fyne.

Aquaculture is a major contributor to the Scottish economy, providing jobs in rural areas. Within the Clyde Marine Region, the aquaculture sector comprises Atlantic salmon, mussels, oysters and scallops and represents 9.4 % of sectoral employment in Scotland<sup>1</sup>. Finfish farming accounts for the majority of production sites, with activity concentrated in and around Loch Fyne. The sea lochs in the Clyde Marine Region are identified by the Scottish Government as Category 3 areas, which have additional carrying capacity and further development potential for finfish farming<sup>2</sup>. Shellfish farming in the Clyde is generally smaller scale, single owner businesses. Again, activity is largely concentrated in Loch Fyne. The sector remains important for supporting rural and coastal communities both directly and through supply chain linkages.

For further detail on this sector, see Chapter 6.3 of the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).

### Objectives



**Objective AQUA 1** Enable the sustainable development and diversification of the aquaculture sector within the carrying capacity of the Clyde Marine Region, providing socio-economic benefits to rural areas and islands and supporting the wider supply chain in Scotland.



MEASUREMENT: Marine Scotland sectoral data. SEPA water body status. Local Development Plans and supplementary guidance.



**Objective AQUA 2** Aquaculture sites in the Clyde Marine Region contribute to research & development initiatives which support sustainable development of the sector and aim to contribute to the protection and enhancement of the marine environment.



MEASUREMENT: Marine licence and Town and country planning determination processes as applicable. Information from the sector.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Business Register and Employment Survey for 2017 – [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [Locational Guidelines for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters](#)

**Policy – Authorisations and consents**

**Policy AQUA 1** Development of new sites, alterations to existing sites or applications for change of use will be supported where applicants can demonstrate that they are in compliance with:

- the Local Development Plan from the relevant Planning Authority, including any related planning guidance as appropriate,
- Marine Scotland and Scottish Environment Protection Agency licensing requirements and guidance, and
- for shellfish sites only, any future guidelines on shellfish production environmental constraints and opportunities, or critical mass of sites within the Clyde Marine Region.

**Policy AQUA 2** Applications for the development of seaweed cultivation should demonstrate that proposals are in accordance with the Scottish Government's Seaweed Cultivation Policy Statement and any subsequent guidance and/or planning requirements.

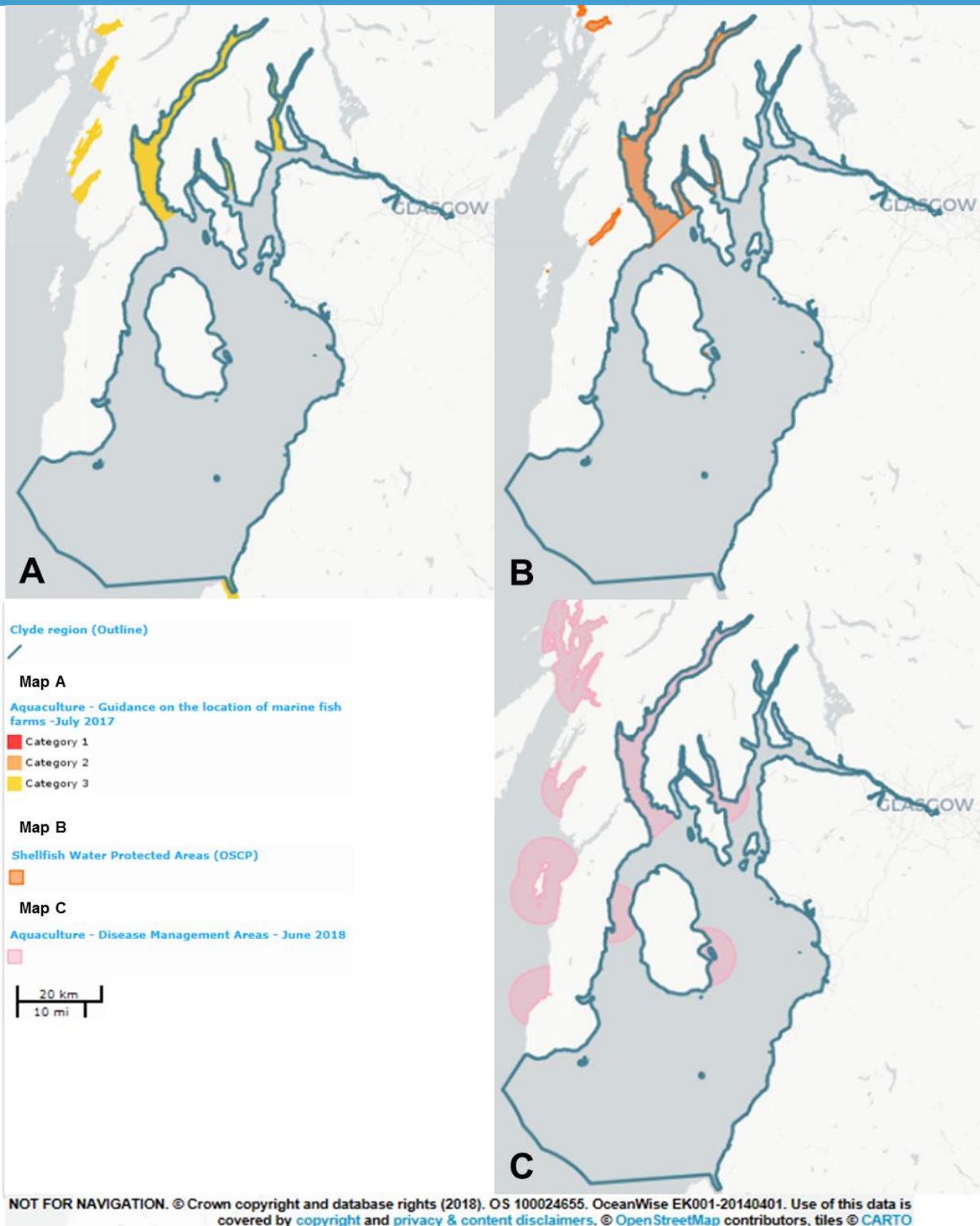
**Policy AQUA 3** Development of new sites, alterations to existing sites or applications for change of use are encouraged, when in line with policies AQUA 1 and 2, and where applicants can demonstrate that they include research and development initiatives aiming to:

- reduce environmental impacts; for example by improving sea lice and disease management, including the sustainable sourcing of cleaner fish, or offshore closed or partial containment systems, in particular where renewable sources of energy are used,
- use integrated multi-trophic aquaculture,
- diversify farmed species which are native to the Clyde Marine Region with due consideration of the implications of climate change, or
- site farms at high energy sites which promote good dispersal, minimising organic impact on the seabed.

**Policy – Management**

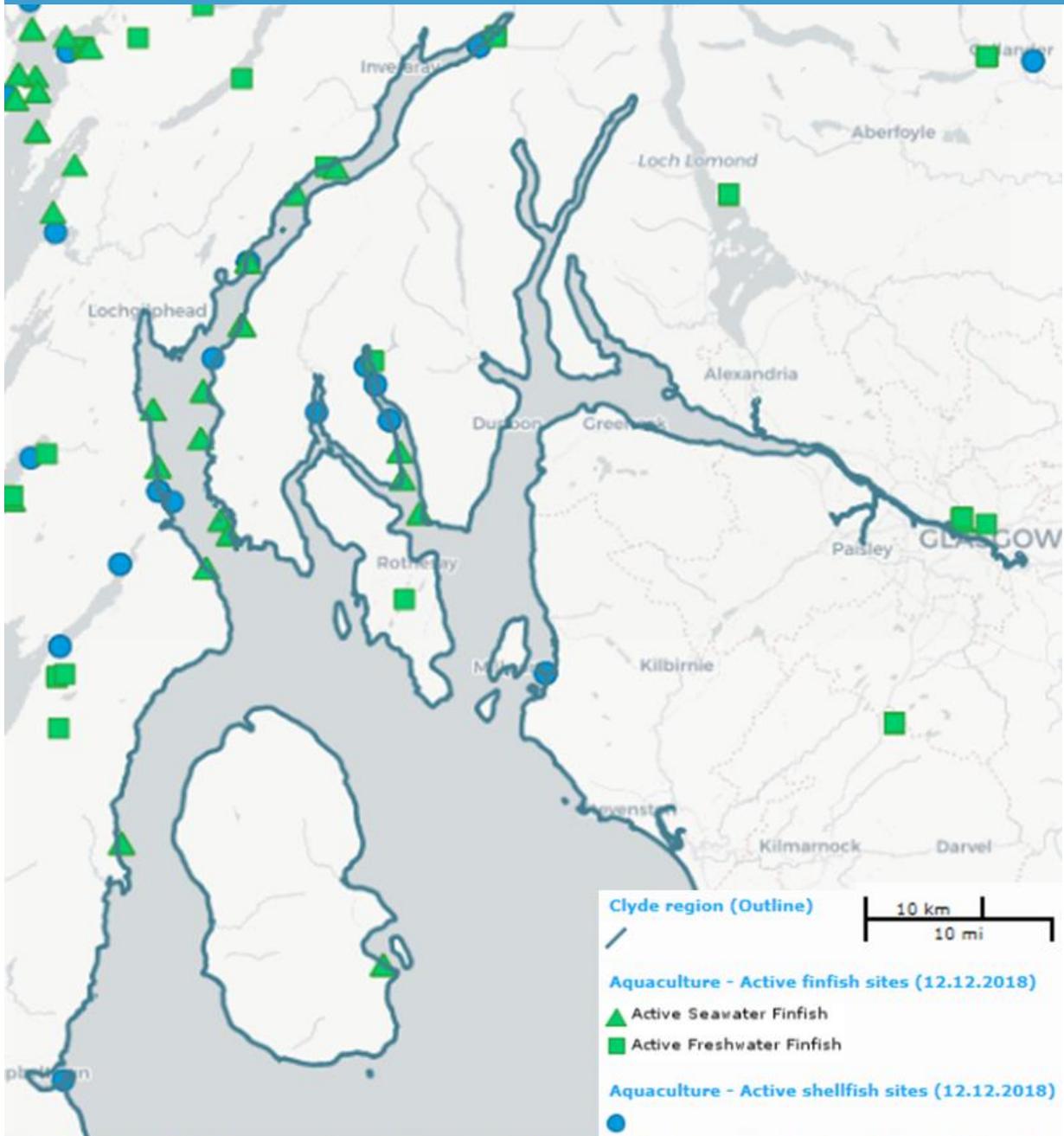
**Policy AQUA 4** Finfish aquaculture operators should ensure that any wild caught cleaner fish used in facilities in the Clyde Marine Region are sourced from sustainable commercial fisheries in agreement with the relevant local Inshore Fisheries Group or Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

Map AQUA 1 – Main aquaculture designations within the Clyde Marine Region.



These maps are indicative only. For up-to-date mapping with interactive features, visit [National Marine Plan interactive](#).

Map AQUA 2 – Active finfish and shellfish sites within the Clyde Marine Region.



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### **Further information**

Scottish Natural Heritage: [Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture](#), [The siting and design of aquaculture in the landscape: visual and landscape considerations](#), [Visualisations for aquaculture: guidance note](#)

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership: [Seascape/Landscape Assessment of the Firth of Clyde](#)

Argyll and Bute Council: [Local Development Plan and supplementary guidance, including the Loch Fyne Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan](#)

North Ayrshire: [Local Development Plan](#)

The [Aquaculture Working Arrangement](#) sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of each of the statutory consultees in relation to aquaculture planning applications.

Scottish Government: [Seaweed Cultivation Policy Statement](#)

[Code of Good Practice Chapters](#) for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture.