



Sustainability Planning for Seaweed

ALGET 2 Oban 18/19 Sept 2019

INTEGRITY, COLLABORATION, COMMERCIALISM, EXCELLENCE

Who we are and what we do



- Investing in property, natural resources and people to generate lasting value for Scotland.
- Scottish Crown Estate spans length and breadth of Scotland. Includes rural estates, commercial property, mineral and salmon fishing rights, just under half of the foreshore and almost all of the seabed.
- Return all revenue profit to Scottish Government.

What does 'sustainability planning' mean?

- 'Sustainable' is everybody's default position – what are we planning for?
- Sustainability is often in the eye of the beholder and so can be viewed from a variety of linked but sometimes contradictory perspectives;
 - Environmental
 - Economic
 - Social
- Criteria for each can vary over time – due to environmental variation, market volatility and societal changes - so views on 'sustainable' continue to evolve.
- We're really planning for is proportionate, on going and acceptable **balance of risk** – encompassing all of these perspectives

What's the strategy?

- Emphasis will vary depending on whether cultivating or harvesting seaweeds but broadly strategy is the same for both.
- Chief consideration is the **commercial scenario(s)** that is either likely to emerge or more importantly, that is preferable with respect to risk
- So, for example;
 - What businesses and markets are we dealing with?
 - What are they likely to need, how much and where?
 - How will they operate?
 - What are the challenges involved
 - How may these change over 5/10/20 years – is there scope for growth?

What risks to plan for?

Those likely to arise in the performance of the anticipated scenarios - across the risk types

The main issues for each in a seaweed industry scenario are;

- Environmental – irreversible or unacceptable change
- Economic – costs/benefits of viable scale
- Social – who benefits/is impacted - who has the 'right to be heard' ("*locus standi*")



Environmental

To avoid irreversible or unacceptable change, planning must consider strategic aspects of:

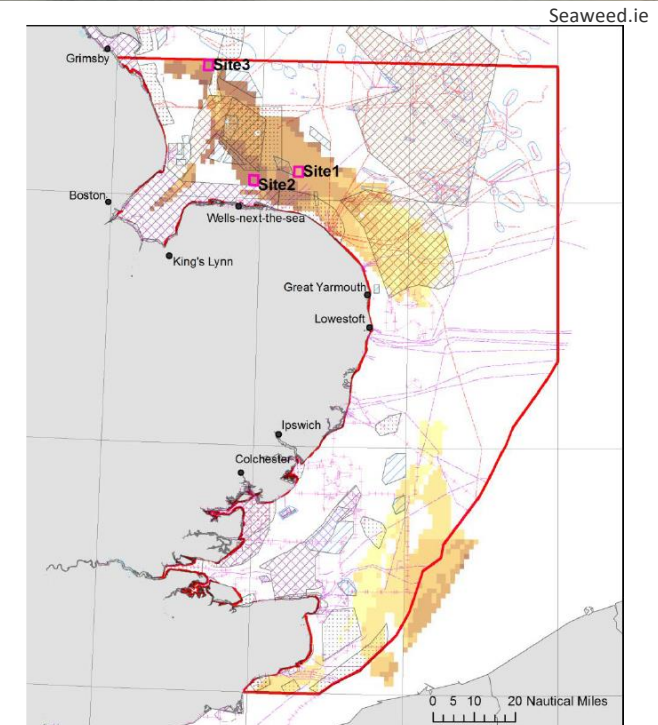
- Location and extent of available resource - stock for harvest or space/nutrients for farming
- Associated effects on habitats/ecosystem services
- A governance framework that can confidently;
 - assess evident environmental risk of proposals
 - provide demonstrable accountability for obligations
 - review, assess and confirm necessary changes
 - offer clarity for developers and investors



Economic

Assess the costs/benefits of necessary scale -

- Developers and investors will require critical mass
 - to deliver commercial viability
 - to attract necessary investment
 - to deliver long-term confidence
- Weigh requirements against opportunity cost of alternatives and existing user interest constraint/burden
- Where do the economic benefits accrue – how critical?
- What's the economic legacy prognosis – long/short term



Social

A deciding influence in ‘environment vs economy’?

- Balance local vs national economic interest (“what’s in it for us?”)
- Cultural acceptance – whose?
- Balance agreement on the ‘acceptable price’ of development
- Social sustainability must address
 - Local governance – consenting framework
 - Assurance – necessary local accountability
 - Controls over balance of risk – rights?

- 1 Clean Coast Outer Hebrides (CCOH)
- 2 Community Association of Lochs and Sounds (CAOLAS)
- 3 Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)
- 4 Craignish Restoration of Coastal and Marine Habitat (CROMACH)
- 5 Eigg Environmental Action Group
- 6 Fair Isle Marine Research Organisation (FIMRO)
- 7 Fairlie Coastal Trust
- 8 Friends of Loch Etive
- 9 Friends of the Sound of Jura
- 10 Knoydart Foundation Ranger service, Loch Nevis Group
- 11 Orkney Skate Trust
- 12 Save Seil Sound
- 13 Sea Change, Wester Ross
- 14 Skye Communities for Natural Heritage
- 15 South Skye Seas initiative (SSSI)
- 16 St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve



And lastly,

“Man plans, and God laughs”

Sustainability Planning is a Process, not an Event

It never stops!

Thank you

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Map of assets: www.crownestatescotland.com/what-we-do/map

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