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| **Pen layout changes at marine finfish farms**  **22 March 2021, Version 2** | P:\COMMUNICATIONS\NEW FOLDER STRUCTURE\3. Brand Marketing\Brand\Logos\SEPA logo\SEPA Gaelic logo wEnglish.jpg |

**Screening environmental risk assessment**

For a pen layout change to be authorised by admin variation, the answer to all the following screening risk assessment questions must be “no”.

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| **Screening assessment questions** | **No** | **Yes** |
| 1. Is an increase to the farm’s permitted biomass limit being sought? |  |  |
| 1. Is an increase to a permitted medicine discharge limit being sought? |  |  |
| 1. Will the proposed infrastructure change result in an increase in pen stocking density? |  |  |
| 1. Do either of the following apply? The farm failed a pen-edge standard in the: 2. last production cycle. 3. last but one production cycle and the permitted biomass limit or stocking density was not reduced in the last production cycle from that permitted in the last but one production cycle. |  |  |
| 1. Will the location of the centre of the new pen group layout be more than a distance of 180 metres from the centre of the last modelled layout? |  |  |
| 1. Will the length and width of the new pen group layout be more than 180 metres greater than the length and width of the last modelled layout? |  |  |
| 1. Will the orientation (bearing) of the proposed pen layout be more than ± 30 degrees of that of the last modelled layout? |  |  |
| 1. Is the difference in the average depth of water around the proposed new layout compared with the average depth of water around the last modelled layout greater than 10 metres?   For the purposes of this assessment, “the average depth of water” means the average depth calculated across a box drawn around the farm layout at a distance of 180 metres seaward from the outer edges of the pens on each side of the layout. |  |  |
| 1. If there is a sensitive, protected seabed feature within 500 metres of the last modelled layout, will any pen in the proposed new pen layout be closer than any pen in the last modelled layout to that sensitive seabed feature? |  |  |
| **Notes:**   1. The purpose of question 8 is to assess whether a proposed layout change could result in a farm moving to a place where the assimilative capacity of the surrounding coastal waters to accommodate the farm’s discharges is significantly different from the assimilative capacity of the coastal waters immediately surrounding the existing layout. For example, this may be the case if there is a rapid change of seabed depth in the vicinity of the farm. 2. To assist with question 9, guidance on identifying sensitive, seabed features is provided in Appendix 1 | | |