



Local management pilots – Stage 2 project summaries

This document contains a summary of the four Stage 2 ‘preferred’ projects in our Local Management Pilots Scheme. Each summary is reproduced verbatim from the applicant **and should not be construed as representing the view of Crown Estate Scotland, nor should any of these proposals be considered as having become operational at this stage.**

A map showing the boundaries of each of the application areas follows the summaries.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Galson Estate Trust

“The Outer Hebrides Marine Asset Management Pilot represents a unique partnership between a Local Authority and a leading Community Landowner. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Local Authority for the Outer Hebrides, has partnered with Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (UOG), owner of Galson Estate (North Lewis), to enhance decision making in the marine environment and empower island communities.

Through the Pilot, UOG will determine leases for Marine Renewable Energy developments in its own sea area while the Comhairle will determine leases for non-Renewable Energy developments in the Galson sea area and all developments scoped in to the pilots scheme across the remaining Hebrides Marine Region. In both cases, determinations will be made by individuals accountable to the community, advised by a new Outer Hebrides Marine Development Partnership (OHMDP). The OHMDP will comprise representatives of all agencies active in the Hebrides Marine Region and will provide expert advice on areas such as environment, socioeconomics, fisheries and shipping. Over time, other Community Landowners will be encouraged to acquire asset management powers.

The community credentials of the Pilot are further enhanced by a Community Impact Assessment – this vehicle will allow affected communities to make their views on a proposed development known to decision makers and to highlight negative and positive impacts.”

Forth DSFB

“Managing the salmon fishing rights in the Forth’s Rivers that form part of the Scottish Crown Estate will realise a number of positive benefits for the fisheries improving both the natural resource and the opportunities for people to get involved. The Forth District Salmon Fishery Board will support local angling groups to empower them to improve and promote the clubs and associations they run. The project will also include working with existing and other groups to open up dormant or underutilised fishings which will allow for active management and a greater variety of fishing opportunities.

As part of the work the Forth DSFB will investigate the options for a more flexible passport scheme of the fisheries allowing for collaborative work with a number of other bodies and groups in the area. This is expected to create a greater dynamism for the activity of fishing in the area and provide more options for local people and visitors alike.



The work will develop coordination of conservation measures and support for new anglers and the sharing of ideas and resources. Better dialogue between fisheries of all species will be created via a Forth Fishing Forum to promote and support local community decision making.”

Orkney Islands Council

“Orkney Islands Council pilot scheme proposes an innovative approach to deliver enhanced local decision making on sea bed leasing through an Orkney Islands Marine Planning Partnership. The pilot will demonstrate the effective implementation of a new way of doing business, with decisions to lease seabed assets around Orkney (to 12 nautical miles) taken within the local community through a robust local democratic process.

The Marine Planning Partnership will help to engage local stakeholders and wider community in the development of a statutory regional marine plan and sea bed leasing decisions for Orkney, taking account of local circumstances and enhance local accountability. The Council aims to take a lead role in the future Orkney Islands Marine Planning Partnership, supported by an Advisory Group of stakeholders representing local economic, environmental, community and recreational interests.

It is proposed that a locally accountable process will be established whereby Orkney Islands Council would consider an application and establish a position on whether to grant a new lease option and any special conditions that should be attached to the grant of a lease. Crown Estate Scotland would then be responsible for implementing the final decision made having taken into account the position established by the Council.

The pilot scheme will bring forward significant and measurable social, economic and environmental benefits, empowering the local community to maximise the value from sea bed assets and deliver sustainable economic growth.”

Shetland Islands Council

“From the mid-1970s the Sullom Voe Harbour Area (SVHA) has been a significant driver of Shetland’s economy, principally through oil and gas production. Alongside this industry presence, the area continues to support the inshore fishing sector and both operate alongside important environmental designations.

While its main use continues, changes in the energy sector now mean that there is scope to look at the potential for other future developments within the SVHA. To ensure that any potential development is sustainable and meets with community aspirations, a masterplan is being developed for the area. For the masterplan to be fully effective it is considered essential that all consent processes are delivered at the local level.

This pilot project sets out the case for use of a master planning process in conjunction with local control of leasing rounds and determination of lease option agreements to develop, promote and enhance local management and decision making over Scottish Crown Estate sea bed assets in the SVHA.



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The masterplan process will involve extensive public, community and industry consultation as it evolves so that certainty is provided to all stakeholders that any potential developments are appropriate and sustainable. It will also address possible conflict issues at the earliest opportunity. The returns from being able to manage all aspects of marine resource use locally will benefit stakeholders both locally and nationally.”

