

## Management of Plastics – reporting information

[illegible]



- (ii) The comparison of records for the current and previous reporting period indicates that our aggregated procurements of **short term/ single-use plastics** used on leased sea-sites has remained the same.

This was due primarily to the following reasons: (refer to *Guidance for completing the Environmental Management of Plastics: Aquaculture Leaseholders Report*).

*We have, during January 2025, begun the process of implementing an ESG reporting software (Figbytes™) across [REDACTED] This software includes material procurement and waste management sections, and we expect this will allow us to track single use plastics more effectively. Waste disposals options in Orkney and Shetland are limited, and we have very limited scope to track separate materials at point of disposal, so this system will hopefully allow for more detailed understanding of single use plastic procurement and plastics stocks/inventories.*

- (iii) The comparison of records for the current and previous reporting periods indicates that **changes to the proportion of waste plastic from leased sea-sites disposed of by recycling, re-use or to landfill** are as set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Aggregated changes to disposal methods across waste and redundant plastic used on lease sites in this reporting period.**

*(Tick as appropriate or enter 'n/a' if the disposal method is not used by your company for waste plastics disposal)*

Disposal method	Change from last reporting period	Single use (v)	Multi use (v)
Recycling	Increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Stay the same	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-use/re-purpose	Increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Stay the same	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licensed Landfill	Increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Stay the same	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licensed Incineration-licensed (on-site is illegal)	Increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Stay the same	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(Shetland – Lerwick District Heating System)			
Other means of disposal.  n/a	Increase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Stay the same	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The increases and/or decreases in different disposal means listed in Table 1 are due primarily to the following reasons: (refer to [Guidance for completing the Management of Plastics: Aquaculture Leaseholders Report](#)).

*Increased recycling and re-use/re-purpose rates are the result of concerted efforts to establish new partnerships and collaborations with third parties. A result of this progress is a concomitant reduction in landfill rates for multi-use plastics. Licenced Incineration is established in Lerwick as part of a highly successful local district heating scheme. This system is a better use of waste materials than going directly to landfill.*

(Tenants may wish to comment on relative proportions of the different waste plastic disposal methods from their sea-sites, particularly where high levels of recycling are consistently achieved).

## 2. Improvements in management of plastics on leased sea-sites

Please provide any information you wish to share on measures undertaken over the reporting period regarding improvements in the management of plastics.

*The management of waste, including plastics, is a key environmental aspect, and we are continually collaborating with third parties to explore novel waste and end of life solutions for our plastics.*

*During 2024 we have developed an innovative waste stream for recycling redundant pens. Pen sections are transported to Paisley on the Scottish Mainland for recycling. The facility can handle both HDPE and polystyrene infill, which is a significant improvement. We have also collaborated with Knox Nets Ltd in the development of a new technique for recycling HDPE pen netting at end of life. This is a significant development as we begin to envisage end of life waste streams for our first deployed Sapphire Seal Pro nets – which are used across our farming estate.*

*We are also working with a separate third party in NE Scotland in relation to a novel recycling route for our remaining nylon containment nets. Whilst these nets are not used at our marine farms, we still use nylon netting in freshwater operations. This shows our commitment to continual improvement and innovation.*

## 3. Opportunities and challenges

*Please comment on any opportunities, challenges and mitigating circumstances relevant to management of plastic used on leased sea-sites during the reporting period which you would like to share.*

[REDACTED]. *Waste management facilities are limited within Orkney and Shetland, and this remains a challenge to optimum waste management. As mentioned in section 2 above, this doesn't prohibit the development of novel waste management systems with Mainland Scotland partners, however there are significant cost and logistical considerations which are less of a pressing concern for mainland based aquaculture operators.*

#### **4. Any other relevant information**

*Please comment on any other factors you wish CES to be aware of regarding plastic use or waste management on your leased sites.*

[REDACTED] *coastlines of the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland are generally open and exposed with significant tidal flows. Such conditions are optimum for producing healthy and well-muscled fish; however such areas do present challenges in terms of physical infrastructure. Durable plastic pens and ancillary equipment are our preferred infrastructure in these environments owing to their flexibility and overall robustness. Durable plastic equipment is also easy to maintain, clean and sterilize. Plastics are therefore considered the most suitable material for marine farming operations in Orkney and Shetland.*

[REDACTED]. *This standard requires best practice in terms of equipment design, materials, construction, installation and maintenance. Adherence to best practices within the standard minimizes the likelihood of equipment failure and/or loss of plastics to the marine environment. [REDACTED] follows best practices which are laid out in the Code of Good Practice (CoGP) and external standards such as GlobalGAP.*

[REDACTED] *beach cleans on an annual basis in the Northern Isles in areas where we operate marine farms. We actively contribute to the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Great British Beach Clean and the data we collect provides particularly useful considering the more remote and less publicly accessible areas in which we operate.*

*We also extensively support the Voar Redd Up in Shetland, and the equivalent Bag the Bruck initiatives in Shetland and Orkney respectively on an annual basis. In Westray during 2024 we established waste collection containers at beaches which the public were encouraged to use should they collect any wastes (including plastics) during visits to the beaches. [REDACTED] removed 1,200 kg of waste during the year. We intend to repeat this initiative for 2025.*



**Crown Estate  
Scotland**

Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba

[REDACTED] *Salmon Scotland marine debris initiative (<https://www.salmonscotland.co.uk/initiatives/marine-debris>). This scheme commits our sector to retrieve and responsibly remove any fish farming waste which is reported by members of the public. Although the scheme is tailored towards the removal of fish farming waste, the majority of marine waste and debris which we have happily assisted with removal are from other marine sectors. We have skilled staff, capable vessels, and well established waste management practices so are only too happy to assist others with waste removal when required.*

**5. Report Completed by:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Once complete, please send your Annual Report by e-mail to:  
[aquareporting@crownestatescotland.com](mailto:aquareporting@crownestatescotland.com)

Please title the e-mail as the Annual Plastic Report (year) for (your company name).

Or, tenants may post their completed Annual Report to the Crown Estate at the below address.

*Additional page for reporting on the improvements in management of plastics on leased sea-sites.*