

# The Burial of Fish Waste and Installation of Fish Waste Dryer System at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd, North Uist

## 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Task and Finish Group

Thursday 22 July 2021, 10 am to 11:30 am

### Attendees

Chair, <redacted>, Scottish Government (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Scottish Government (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Scottish Government (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Scottish Government (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Animal and Plant Health Agency (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Animal and Plant Health Agency (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (<REDACTED>)  
<redacted>, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (<redacted>)

### Responsibilities of the Fish Waste Working Group

#### **Scottish Government**

- Legislative responsibility around animal by products (ABP).
- Set conditions for burial derogation.

#### **Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**

- Responsible for inspection and assessing regulations of ABP sites. For new ABP sites, once APHA are satisfied that conditions are met approval recommendation passed to SG for approval.
- Responsible for fish welfare.
- Complaints regarding live fish and disposing of mortalities.

#### **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES)**

- Official supervision for fish waste burial at Whiteshore Cockles Ltd (WCL).

#### **Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**

- PPC licensing for site equipment. Normally takes between 4-6 months to process an application but can be up to a year and even longer if problems.

### Discussion and Action Points (AP)

Conditions for new fish waste burial derogation under the Animal By-Products Regulations. Failure for WCL adhere to burial conditions will result in any burial derogation being revoked. Other disposal options are available so it should not come as a shock to the aquaculture industry if WCL is no longer a disposal option. **AP - <REDACTED> to send Group what conditions CnES feel should be in the new burial derogation.**

Discussion on Official Supervision. <REDACTED> expressed concerns regarding site capacity and the actual numbers of fish being buried. **AP - <REDACTED> to engage with WCL to request quantities of fish waste buried at site in past year on a monthly basis.** <REDACTED> raised concerns that no actual burying is taking place and instead fish are being stored in open pits and containers. New conditions should be set to address this. Council visits would need to be monthly to check records and visit the site.

Engagement with Whiteshore Cockles Ltd and aquaculture industry. The Group agreed wider aquaculture industry needs to be involved in any future meetings. **AP - <REDACTED> to engage with Marine Scotland to let them know about meeting with the aquaculture industry that operate in the Western Isles and ask for contact details.** Looking to meet with WCL and aquaculture industry in September. **AP - <REDACTED> to draft invite letter.**

Deadline for new derogation. PPC permit application process is likely to take 6 months to a year. Need APHA input about timings for ABP approval, including new method for validating rendering plants. No deadline set but discussion on possible rolling monthly derogation be put in place, subject to satisfactory inspection from CnES. **AP – <REDACTED> to engage with solicitors on legality of rolling derogation.**

On-going burial of fish waste for contingency planning for event mortalities. Fish waste burial at WCL must stop when the fish waste dryer is operational. Burial may be granted for event mortalities but only under approval from Scottish Government. **AP – <REDACTED> to consider how/if this would work in practice.**