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**Sustainable development, Scot Marine
Bill and nature conservation:
an aquaculture perspective**



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Western Isles Aquaculture Association

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Aquaculture requires

- suitable space with control to invest
- maintained high quality environ status
- other coast and sea users to assist maintain enviro quality



Highly regulated

Costly process + complicated process

Applications are approved if acceptable predictions:

- seabed + water column impacts
- impacts on neighbouring fish farms
- impacts on wild salmonid populations
- landscape
- biodiversity
- other users of the sea space

Statutory nature conservation

Can present issues for industry, however

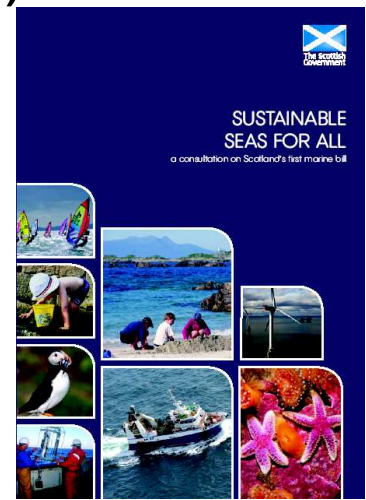
- “healthy and biologically diverse seas” also an industry objective
- examples of aquaculture within and adjacent to SACs e.g. Lochmaddy, L Roag
- already regulated thro ‘wider seas measures’

Marine Bill suggests

Greater efficiencies in marine resource allocations and management

Aqua industry seeks

- less complexity (consent layers)
- greater certainty
- room for growth



“Farming the loch ecosystem”

- Science based and approp regulation
- ‘Conservation’ no longer a necessary tag
- Requires other sea users to be party
- Can Coast Hebrides assist?



Thank you!

