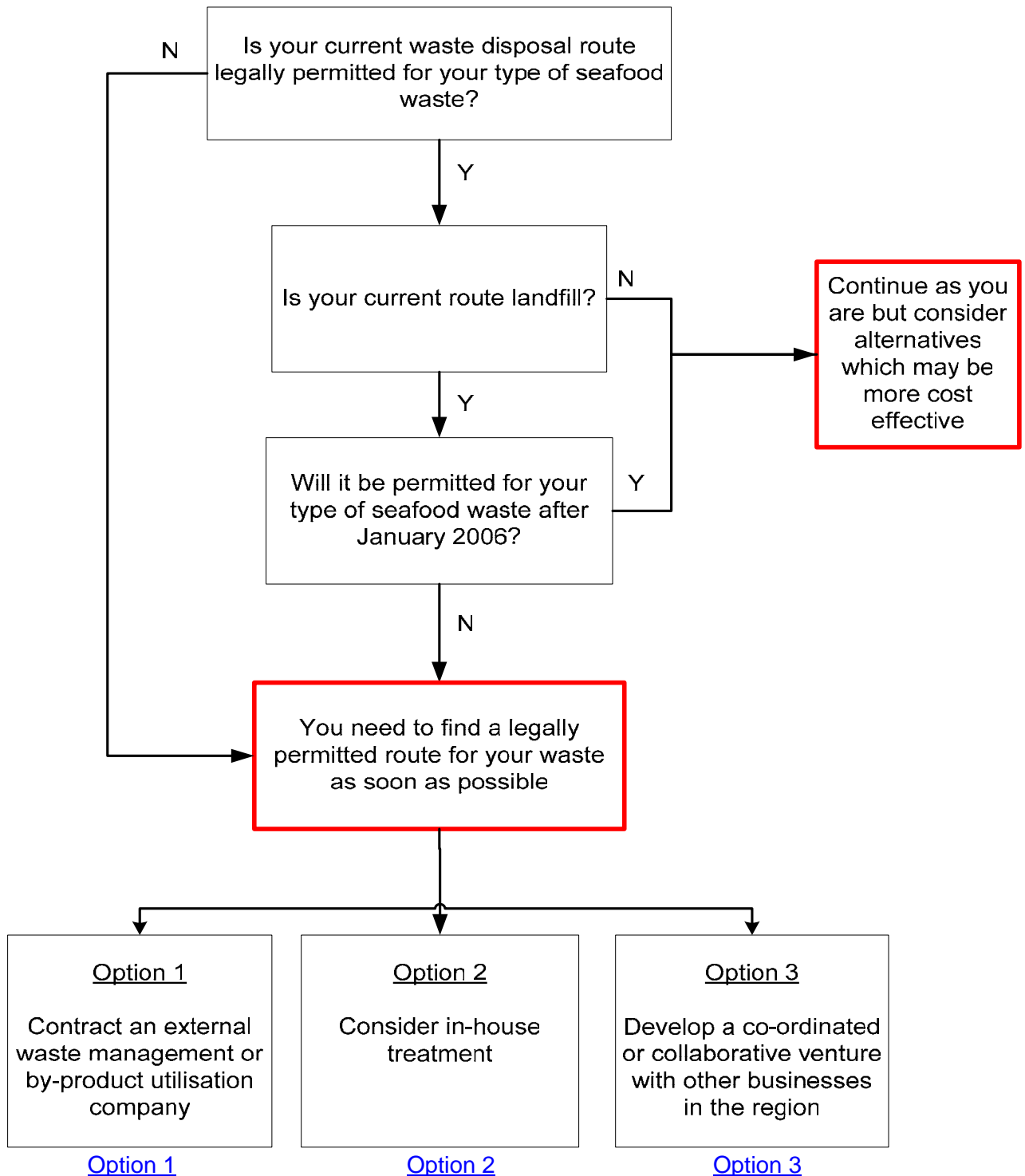




What to do about seafood waste management

Follow this simple set of questions to see whether you need to address what you currently do with your seafood waste. Further information on each option is available over the page.



The Three Options for Seafood Waste Management

As businesses produce different types of waste, each option should be studied carefully to identify the most applicable solution.

Before considering how to deal with waste it is important that businesses reduce waste at source wherever possible, as this can maximise revenue and reduce the costs of subsequent disposal. This generally involves removing and selling as much as possible of the edible portion for human consumption. Other waste reduction methods, such as dewatering (by use of centrifuge, presses or heat treatment), can be a useful pre-treatment to disposal as they can reduce the weight and volume (and hence disposal costs) of waste. However they do not provide a complete waste treatment process in their own right, and may not be suitable or effective on all types of seafood waste.

Option 1 – Contract an external waste management or by-product utilisation company

- Contact waste management companies in your area.
- Identify any companies who could use your seafood for other purposes. These can include fishmeal, pet food, bait for local fishermen or other more specialist companies.
- Contact your local authority to identify what disposal facilities are available for your types of waste.
- Speak with other seafood processors or local butchers/meat processors to identify what facilities they use.
- For some seafood waste (clean mollusc shell), contact local farmers to assess whether they can use them for technical products (paths, land drains etc).
- Once you identify suitable companies that are licensed to take your waste, establish the costs of collection and treatment. Sign a contract to retain their services in the long term.
- If your business does not have enough waste or by-products to make collection and treatment cost-effective, consider other local businesses that produce similar waste streams and see if you can develop a 'milk round' for the wastes. You could also consider preserving the waste (chilling, freezing) in order to build up a batch of material that may be more cost-effective to collect.

For sources of information see [pg4](#)

Option 2 – In-house treatment

If you are unable to find companies to take your waste or the costs are too high, consider whether there are any possibilities for treating the waste yourself, in order to develop a product for other uses.

- Assess your waste streams by type, quantity and frequency.
- Draw up a shortlist of any options for the on-site treatment or stabilisation of the waste that you produce.
- Evaluate the feasibility and costs of developing these options further, ensuring there are suitable licensed outlets for the treated animal by-products. Use this information to help decide which route is best for your business.
- Develop the treatment route ensuring all necessary licenses are in place.

For sources of information see [pg4](#)

Option 3 – Develop a co-ordinated, collaborative venture with other local businesses

If you are unable to develop an in-house treatment facility, consider whether there are any possibilities for developing a collaborative initiative with other businesses in the area and solution providers.

- Contact your local development agency or seafood representative organisation.
- Outline the problems faced by your company and industry in the region.
- Organise a meeting of businesses with the same problems. Include other interested parties including business development agencies, regional funding organisations, waste management companies, by-product utilisation companies, other solution providers, the local authority, local veterinary office and the environmental regulator.
- Identify the nature and scale of the problem. Characterise the waste streams by types, quantity and frequency, including accounting for seasonal variation.
- Look at the existing options available in the local region. If none are available, consider any that may be available in the near future or in other nearby counties.
- If existing solutions are available, develop collaborative collection and storage facilities to try to make any available options more cost-effective for your area.
- If no solutions are available, consider what options could be used to treat the waste from the region. Draw up a shortlist of these options and consider their suitability in terms of technology requirements, costs, outlets for the treated materials, handling, storage, infrastructure, logistics, and licensing requirements.
- Identify the preferred option, ideally working with existing solution providers or other relevant parties that are looking to upgrade develop facilities to take animal by-products. Develop a business plan for the proposed facility and obtain funding.
- Develop the facility, ensuring all necessary licences are obtained. Depending on the scale and type of facility this can take anywhere from 3 months to 2 years.

For sources of information, including funding and regulations, see [pg4](#)

Comparison of the advantages and disadvantages of the three options

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1 External company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established revenue schemes for finfish • Can be easy to contract out for some seafood wastes • Minimal obligations on the producer of the waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be difficult to find licensed companies for some types of seafood waste • Can be expensive, particularly if transport is required
2 In-house treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can maximise the value of any waste or by-products • Reduces waste for disposal • Ensures a solution is developed for the business • Any revenue comes back into the business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be expensive to set up and operate • Some technologies need to be proven on seafood wastes • Need regulatory approval which can be time consuming and not always granted • Specialist expertise required for some routes • Need to secure outlets for the processed products which can be difficult • Short timescale to meet compliance • Infrastructure requirements may be larger than a business's existing facility

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
3 Collaborative venture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops a solution where no others exist • Can reduce costs to businesses looking at this individually • Business opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time consuming • Ownership required • Start up costs can be high • Uncertainty about future waste management industry initiatives may make some solutions obsolete in time • Short timescale to achieve compliance • Specialist expertise required • Infrastructure requirements may be significant • Collaboration between businesses can be difficult to achieve • Some technologies need to be proven on seafood wastes

Sources of information

- Local authority – waste disposal or environmental health department
- Local environmental business support groups
- Other similar businesses in the area
- Seafish web pages containing relevant information
 - <http://www.seafish.org/land/sustainability.asp?p=fj476>
 - <http://www.seafish.org/land/legislation.asp?p=fi280>
- Government departments on animal by-products
 - England - www.defra.gov.uk 08459 335577
 - Wales - www.countryside.wales.gov.uk tel 02920 825111
 - Scotland - www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk tel 0131 556 8400
 - Northern Ireland - www.dardni.gov.uk tel 0289 052405
 - State Veterinary Service - www.svs.gov.uk tel 01905 768862
- Environmental regulators
 - England & Wales - www.environment-agency.gov.uk tel 08708 506506
 - Scotland - www.sepa.org.uk tel 01786 457700
 - Northern Ireland - www.doeni.gov.uk tel 028 9025 4754
- FIG Funding
 - England - <http://www.mfa.gov.uk/grants/default.htm> tel 020 7270 8060
 - Wales - <http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/default.asp?action=page&ID=233>
 - Scotland - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ERADFF/FFAME/00018821/page46092946.aspx>
 - Northern Ireland - <http://www.eugrants.org/frame-template.html> (Section 4)
- Regional Development Agencies
 - England - <http://www.englandsrdas.com/home.aspx>
 - Scotland - <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/>
 - Wales - http://www.wda.co.uk/index.cfm/wda_home/index/en2
 - Northern Ireland - <http://www.investni.com/>