

Aquaculture Development in England:

Pre-Application Regulator/Authority Consultation Guidance for Developers

The organisations listed below are those that regulate aquaculture development, routinely advise those regulators, or grant seabed and foreshore title rights. Failure to acquire the required consents listed for development, or agreement on favourable recommendations for those consents, or secure seabed/foreshore rights, will preclude any development. It is therefore essential that all those authorities relevant to the particular development proposed are consulted at an early stage to identify any significant and potentially insurmountable issues prior to proceeding with any application process.

Regulator/Authority	Regulatory/Authorising Remit	Consent/Authorisation	Applicable Species		
			Finfish	Shellfish	Seaweed
Local Authorities	Granting of development consents for land based fish farms. Consultee for marine based aquaculture developments.	Planning Permission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marine Management Organisation Licensing team(MMO)	Licensing of all finfish farms and those shellfish farm where exemptions do not apply. Screening if an EIA or HRA is required	Marine Licence	Yes	Possibly	Yes
Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture science (Cefas).	Advisors to regulating authorities on certain environmental impacts of development proposals. In some situations responsible for ensuring HRA takes place.	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)or Habitats Risk Assessment (HRA)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI)	Authorisation of aquaculture production businesses (APBs) under the Aquatic Animal Health (England & Wales) Regulations 2009	Authorisation to operate an APB Authorisation to import livestock	Yes	Yes	No
	Permitting under the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England & Wales) Regulations 2011.	Permitting farming of alien species.	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Environment Agency (EA)	Licences waste and veterinary discharges from fin fish farms & Abstraction and Discharges under Environmental Permitting Regulations (England & Wales) 2010 (as amended). Statutory consultees to Local Authorities for development consents. Tasked to deliver water quality objectives for protected shellfish growing waters so consultees for applications for shellfish.	Abstraction & Discharge Licences. Fish supplier permitting.	Yes	Yes	No
The Crown Estate (CE)	Grant seabed/foreshore rights for aquaculture developments	Seabed/Foreshore Lease	Yes	Yes*	Yes
Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)	Works towards the prevention of the loss of life on the coast and at sea. Production of legislation and guidance on maritime matters, and provide certification to seafarers.	Documentation/training of Seafarers, Seafarer Safety and Health, Counter Pollution, Environmental Policy, Search and Rescue, Survey and Inspection, Ship Standards, Enforcement, Receiver of Wreck	Yes	Yes	Yes

Natural England (NE)	Government advisors on natural heritage protection, particularly designated conservation areas. Statutory consultees to planning and licencing authorities		Yes	Yes	Yes
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Food Standards Agency (FSA)	Classification and administration of shellfish harvesting areas and bio-toxin monitoring.		No	Yes	
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	Protects animal health, human health and the environment. Sampling and monitoring of aquaculture premises.	Marketing authorisations Approval for manufacture of medicated feeds.	Yes	No	No
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Fisheries & conservation management and enforcement under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, national and European fisheries legislation.	Inspection of vessels & premises Permitting of certain activities.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	Welfare in Transport, at slaughter & on farm Fish Mortalities (regulation via local authorities)	Transporter authorisation Animal Transport Certificates	Yes	No	No
Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)	Protection of workers from exploitation set up under the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004. The GLA regulates those who provide or employ workers to gather shellfish by hand. It would	GLA Licence	Possibly	Possibly	No

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	also cover those who supply workers to carry out processing and packaging of any fish or shellfish and any associated products.				
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* - Shellfish farms located on the foreshore may fall on non-Crown land, and so require permission from the landowner.

Contact Details

Regulator/Authority	E-mail	Telephone	Website
Local Authorities	https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council		https://www.gov.uk/planning-permissions-for-farms/when-you-need-it
Marine Management Organisation Licensing Team (MMO)	https://www.gov.uk/contact-local-marine-management-organisation	0191 376 2791	https://www.gov.uk/planning-development/marine-licences
Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture science (Cefas).	helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk	01502 562244	https://www.cefas.co.uk/
Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI)	FHI@cefas.co.uk	01305 206700	https://www.gov.uk/fish-and-shellfish-farm-authorisation-and-registration https://www.gov.uk/introduce-or-keep-non-native-fish-and-shellfish
Environment Agency (EA)	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk	03708 506 506	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency https://www.gov.uk/environmental-management/water https://www.gov.uk/permission-to-move-live-fish-to-or-from-a-fishery
The Crown Estate (CE)	enquiries@thecrownestate.co.uk	0131 260 6070	http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/coastal/aquaculture/working-with-us/
Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA)	infoline@mcga.gov.uk	023 8032 9100	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency

Natural England (NE)	enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk	0300 060 3900	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
Food Standards Agency (FSA)	helpline@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk	020 7276 8829	http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/fish-shellfish/

Contact Details

Regulator/Authority	E-mail	Telephone	Website
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	inspections@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk	01932 336911	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAS)	http://www.association-ifca.org.uk/	See link for relevant area.	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fishing-offences-penalties-and-inspections
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)	apha.corporatecorrespondence@apha.gsi.gov.uk	See link for relevant area.	https://www.gov.uk/farm-animal-welfare-during-transportation https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening
Gangmasters licencing authority (GLA)	licensing@gla.gsi.gov.uk	0345 602 5020	http://www.gla.gov.uk/



Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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