



# News Release

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## NEW GUIDELINES TO INFORM FISH FARM PLANNING

The Scottish Government has today published the Environmental Impact Assessment Practical Guidelines Toolkit for Marine Fish Farming.

It follows the completion of a Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum project.

The publication provides a set of well founded guidelines for planners, applicants and stakeholders to ensure that appropriate and timely environmental impact assessments are conducted.

A set of templates to provide a clear structure to the Environmental Impact Assessment responses and streamline the consultation process have also been produced.

Minister for Environment Michael Russell welcomed the Guidance saying:

“We have a responsibility to assess the effects of any project that may impact on the environment.

“The EIA process and production of Environmental Statements, while essential, are both time consuming and costly to those involved.

“The new guidance and templates will help streamline the process and result in more concise Environmental Statements, whilst at the same time ensure our responsibility to protect the environment is not compromised.”