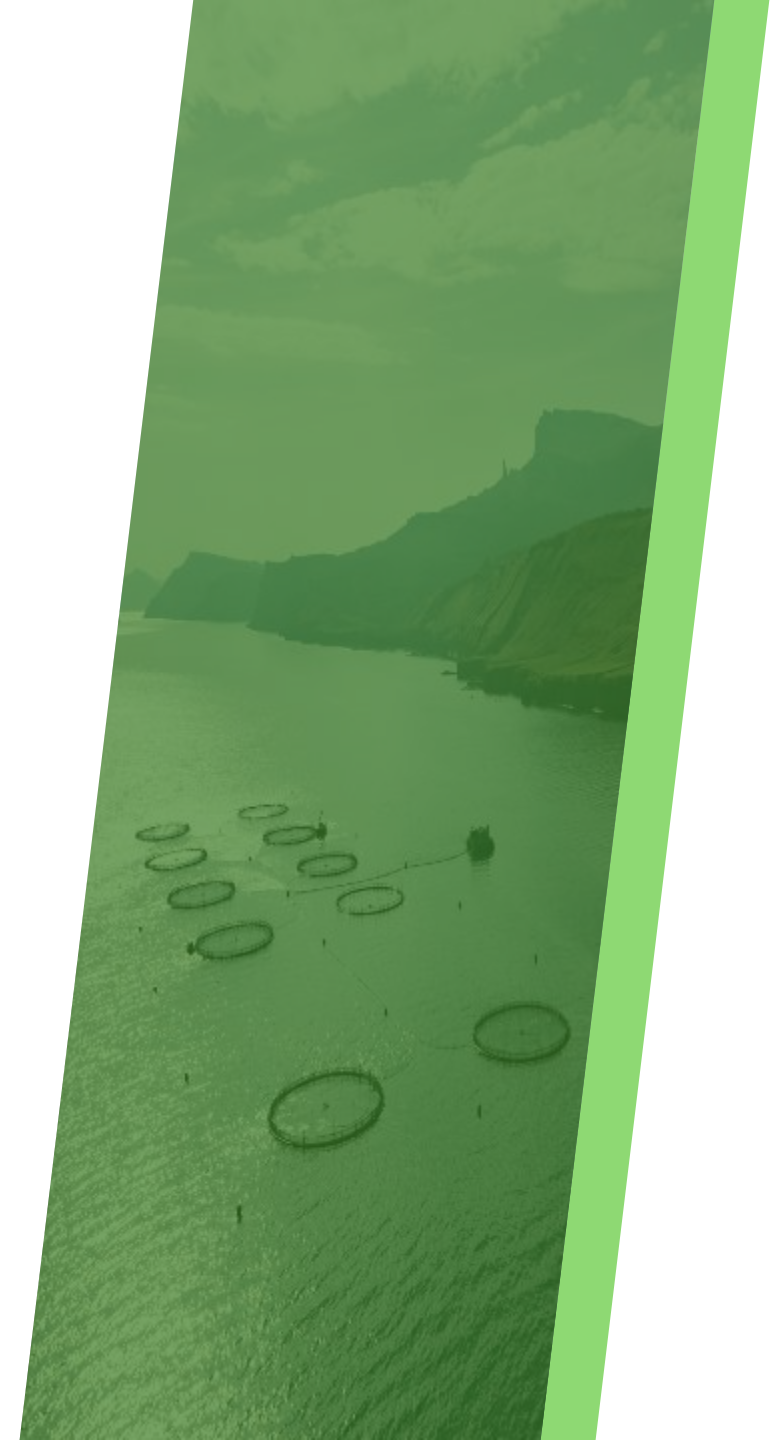


# Improving our Farm Designs

How community feedback has helped Organic Sea Harvest change our farm development proposals at Balmacqueen and Flodigarra



In 2021, Organic Sea Harvest's most recent planning application to develop a farm near Balmacqueen was refused.

Whilst disappointed by this decision, our business took on board the feedback and started the process of revising the development of our farms to address the concerns highlighted by the local community.

**This document explains the improvements we have made to our applications with the aim of addressing community concerns.**



Farming is part of our heritage, part of the landscape in which we live and part of our future food security. As with all agriculture, whether on land or at sea, our fish farms will be visible in the landscape. We've done everything we can to minimise our visible impact and we remain proud to farm healthy, nutritious salmon on Skye for people to enjoy.





# Impact on Views

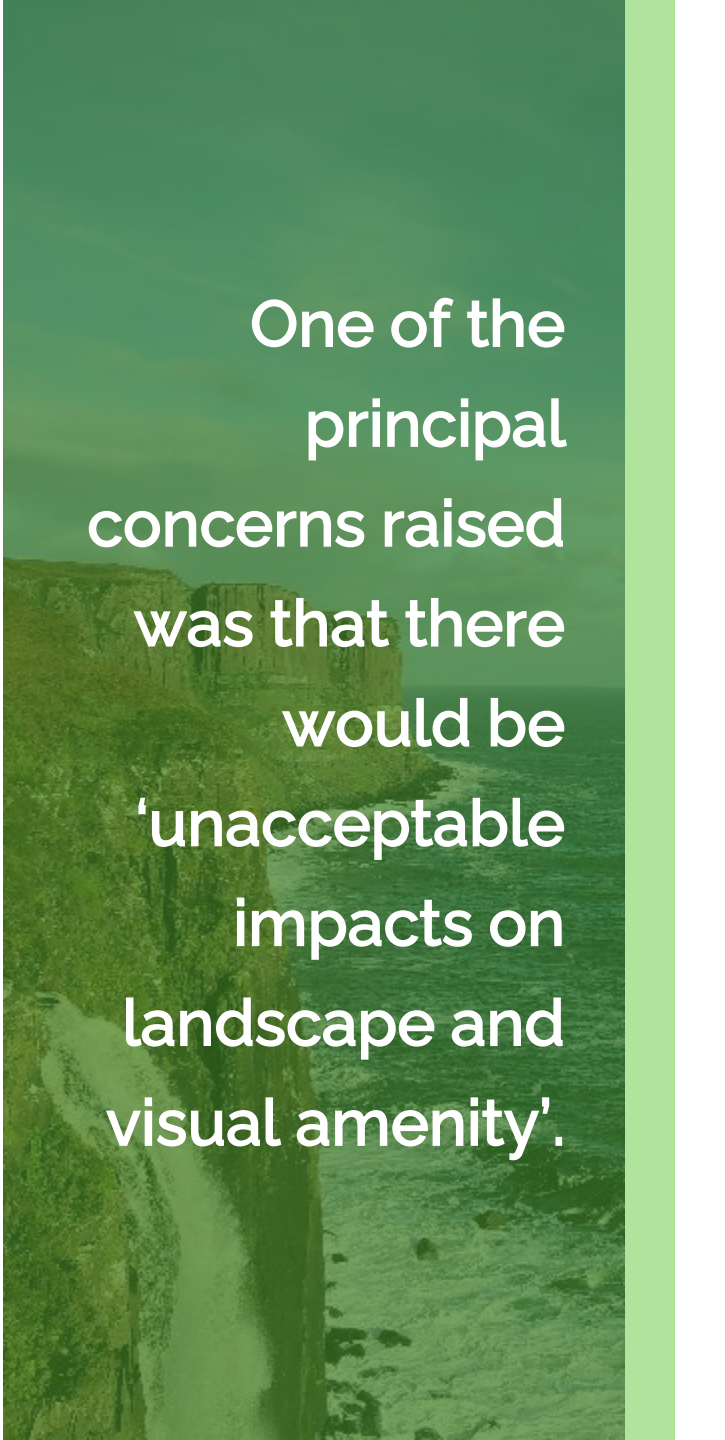
Our planning team has worked hard to address concerns about the potential visual impact of our proposed new farms, making changes which include:

- **Reducing the number of pens and size of each farm.**

We have reduced the visible footprint of our proposed farms by **16%**. This has been achieved by removing 2 pens from each farm.

- **Reconfiguring the sites to reduce visual impact.**

We have moved our pens (within the permitted boundaries of our lease) to **minimise their visibility** from key areas of concern.



One of the principal concerns raised was that there would be 'unacceptable impacts on landscape and visual amenity'.



To help our local community and stakeholders understand the changes we have made to reduce our visual impact, Organic Sea Harvest commissioned an accurate, fully interactive virtual model of our proposed farms at Balmacqueen and Flodigarry. To immerse yourself in this model please follow this link...

<https://online3d.realsim.ie/webgl/Isle-of-Skye/OSH/>

Please be patient while the model loads. The simulation uses data from many sources to create an accurate virtual simulation of our corner of Skye. Due to the amount of data, it may take a minute or two before you can interact and enjoy.

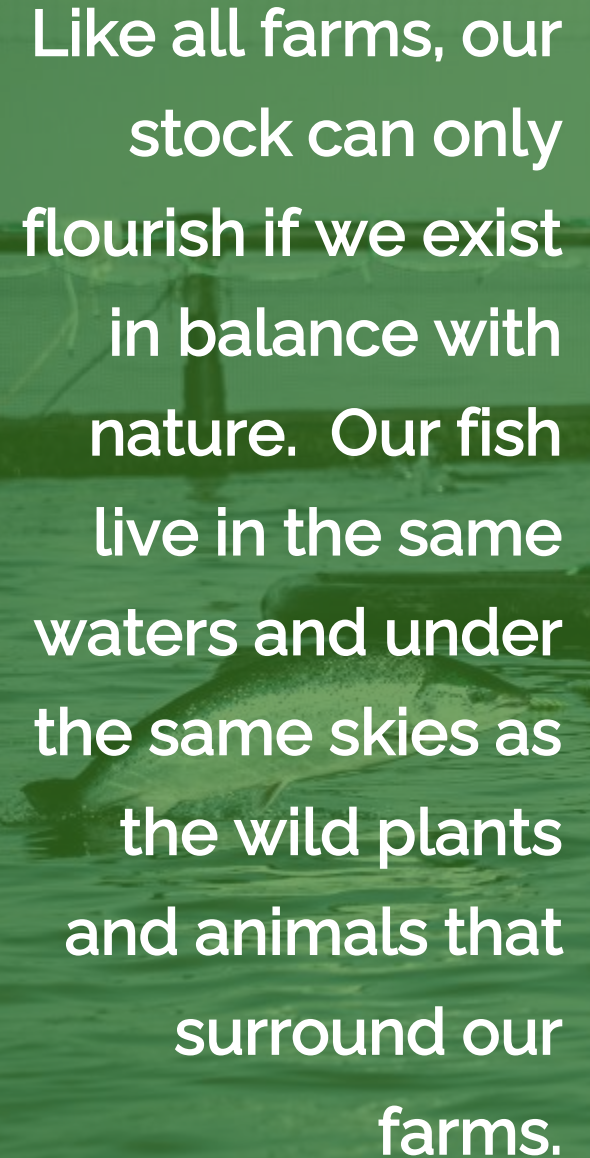
# Impact on Wildlife

Organic Sea Harvest recognises that we are privileged to live and work surrounded by the stunning flora and fauna of the Isle of Skye.

We have been operating farms at Invertote and Culnacnoc for the last four years. In that time, **we have not negatively impacted local mammals, birds, cetaceans, wild salmonid populations\* or transient marine species.**

It has, and always will be, our intent to farm responsibly in balance with our local environment.

\*OSH continues to work closely with Skye & Lochalsh Rivers Trust, Fisheries Management Scotland and all other stakeholders.



Like all farms, our stock can only flourish if we exist in balance with nature. Our fish live in the same waters and under the same skies as the wild plants and animals that surround our farms.



We're often asked about the potential impact our farms have on the environment surrounding our fish. Perhaps the best way to answer that question is to show you. The below link will take you to a video which includes film of the seabed under our existing farms taken during our most recent survey in the summer of 2023.

### [View Seabed Survey Video](#)

Our detailed environmental impact surveys show that native wildlife is flourishing on, under and around our farms. Our farm infrastructure of pens, ropes and moorings is providing shelter and a home for even more wildlife.

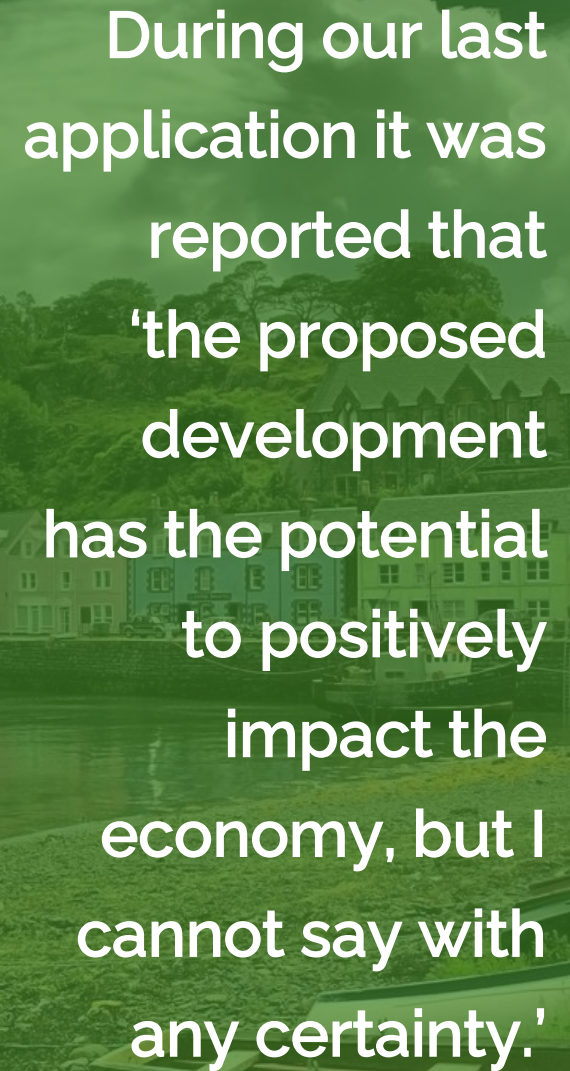
# Impact on Economy

With four years of farming in Staffin we can demonstrate that 'Organic Sea Harvest is having a meaningful, positive impact on the local economy'. These include:

- Creating 16 well paid careers in North-East Skye.
- Spending over £1,000,0000 with Skye businesses and people.
- Donating over £102,000 to community projects.

To view more details about the Economic and Social Benefits we have delivered please follow this link:

[View social and economic benefits document](#)



During our last application it was reported that 'the proposed development has the potential to positively impact the economy, but I cannot say with any certainty.'



# Other Impacts

Whilst visual, wildlife and economic impacts were the main concerns identified in our last applications, others were identified. Our hope is that over the last four years we have been a good neighbour and demonstrated that:

- By only using legally required navigation lights we aren't creating light pollution.
- Our farms don't create an adverse smell.
- Our farms don't create excessive noise.
- We haven't impeded or interrupted local marine traffic.
- Our experience shows that our farms provide additional interest for many tourists.

A green fishing boat is shown on the water, with mountains in the background. The boat has a cabin and a mast. The water is dark green, and the mountains are a lighter shade of green. The overall scene is a coastal or maritime setting.

At the time of our last applications Organic Sea Harvest hadn't been farming in Staffin and Skye for long. Four years later and we hope we are now part of the local community.

*'Home from the Herring Fishing'*  
Robert Weir Allan, 1876

As an island nation, Skye and Scotland has a long history of farming and fishing. Aquaculture (including salmon farming) is the latest incarnation of this legacy, and part of ensuring our nations future food security.

Organic Sea Harvest is proud to continue this tradition and be ambassadors for Skye and Scotland.

ISLE <sup>OF</sup> SKYE  
ORGANIC  
SALMON

