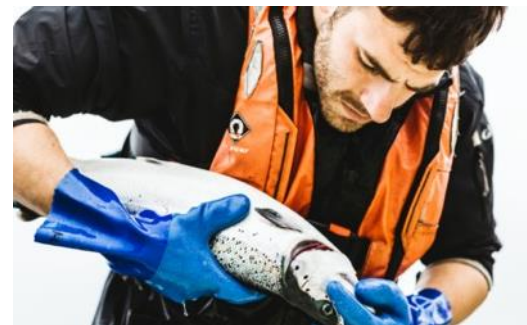


Bring Head Farm Expansion



July 2021



Background

In 2007, Scottish Sea Farms bought five existing Orkney salmon farms. We invested in bringing each farm up to the same high standards as our other farms: infrastructure, equipment, staffing, health and safety, training and development. With the local knowledge gained, we then researched other good farming locations, resulting in the development of four new farms. The ambition? To grow a quality of salmon befitting of the region's reputation for premium food and drink, which our Orkney farms have a proven track record of delivering, while also growing the economy, benefiting the local and wider supply chain and creating skilled jobs.

Our teams work diligently to farm evermore responsibly and sustainably. Our Orkney farms have an excellent performance history in terms of production and fish welfare and our teams have achieved a 95% average fish survival rate across our farms.

Bring Head Farm

The Bring Head farm is located within Bring Deeps off the coast of Hoy and has been in operation since 2001.

Detailed modelling shows that the environment has the capacity to sustainably support a larger farm at Bring Head. To accommodate an increase in production we would need to reconfigure and expand the farm, replacing the existing equipment with larger cages and a feed barge with a larger storage capacity.



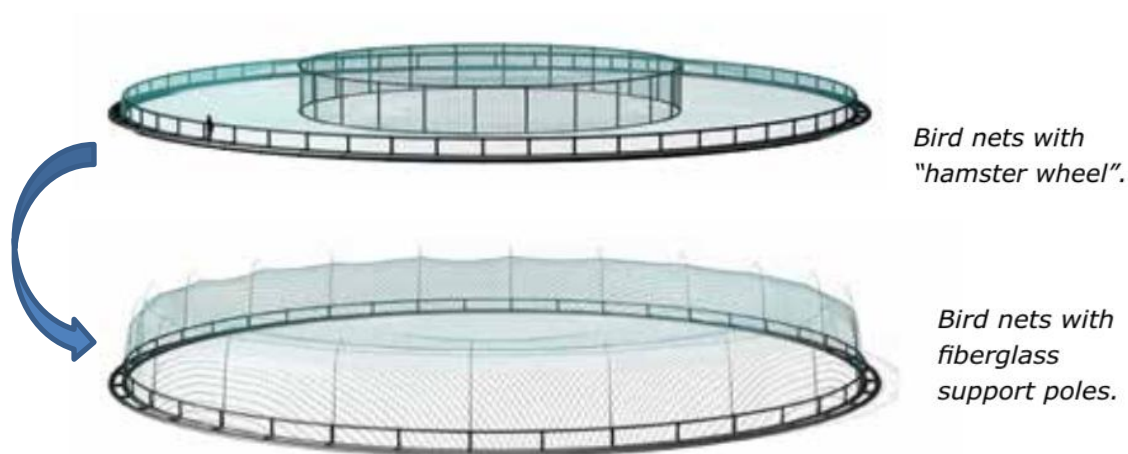
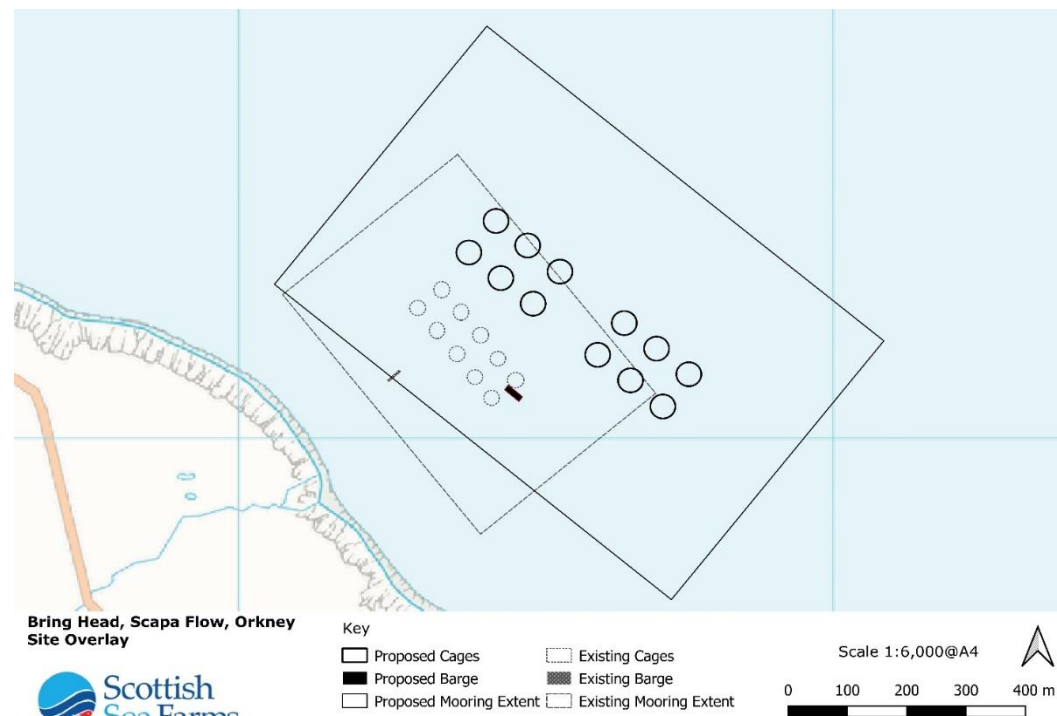
Bring Head Expansion Proposal

Existing

10 x 80m cages in a 50m mooring grid
 50 tonne capacity feed barge
 Surface area of 5,270m²
 968 tonnes maximum biomass
 Hamster wheel top nets
 Seal Pro cage nets
 No acoustic deterrent devices used

Proposed

12 x 120m cages in a 70m mooring grid
 420 tonne capacity feed barge
 Surface area of 14,065m²
 2500 tonnes maximum biomass
 Pole-mounted top nets
 Seal Pro cage nets
 No acoustic deterrent devices to be used



How will the proposed expansion affect the landscape?

Bring Head is located within the Hoy and West Mainland National Scenic Area.

The proposed cages would be slightly higher than the existing cages due to the proposed use of pole-mounted top nets instead of the traditional hamster wheel top nets. A single grid with 14 grid spaces is proposed however only 12 of the grid spaces will be filled leaving empty spaces. This would result in a visual arrangement of two groups of six cages broadly aligned parallel to the coast. The new feed barge would be positioned on the shore side of the farm. The proposed replacement feed barge would be designed to appear like a boat. Farm cages, nets and the feed barge will be of dark matt colours.

The additional extent of theoretical visibility of the proposed expanded farm is principally limited to small areas on Hoy with some increases in visibility along the Quoyness coast, from the high north-east facing slopes of Ward Hill, from the promoted viewpoint on Lyrava Hill and from parts of the B9047. Landscape visualisations on the following slides show a before (existing farm) and after (proposed expanded farm) view of Bring Head from these viewpoints.

A Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has concluded that additional landscape and visual effects from the proposed expansion, compared to the existing farm are expected to be minimal and that there would be no significant effect on the special qualities of the National Scenic Area.

Visualisations

- B9047 near Bring Head, Hoy
- 0.84km from Bring Head
- Elevated and close views from the road



Visualisations

- Ward Hill, Hoy
- 4.42km from Bring Head
- The highest hill in the Orkney Islands and popular with walkers visiting Hoy
- The black outline indicates the location of the expanded Bring Head farm



Visualisations

- Lyrawa Hill, Hoy
- 3.33km from Bring Head
- Promoted viewpoint accessed from the B9047 and start of a circular walk to Scad Head WWII battery
- Before and after photographs below include the consented expanded Chalmers Hope farm
- The black outline indicates the location of the expanded Bring Head farm



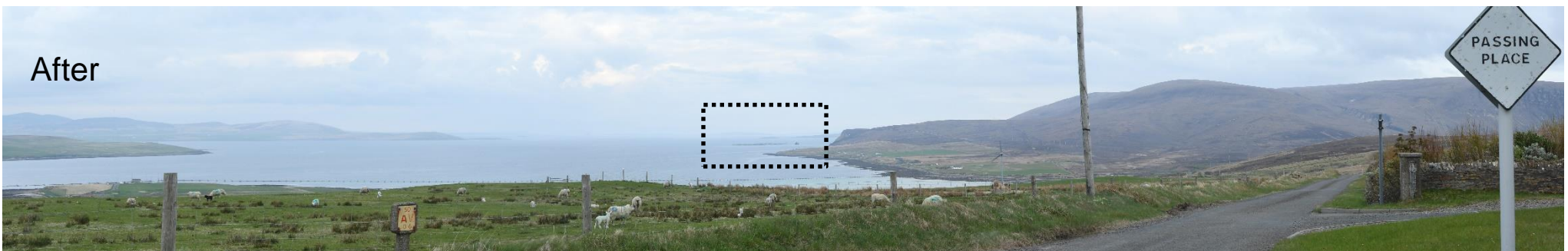
Visualisations

- Hoy Outdoor Centre
- 4.2km from Bring Head
- Views from near the Outdoor Centre which is also on the walking route to Rackwick and access to the RSPB Hoy Reserve
- The black outline indicates the expanded Bring Head farm

Before



After



Will the expanded farm result in an increase in farm lighting?

Lighting on the current farm includes the following:

- Navigational lights as required by the Northern Lighthouse Board - a marker buoy on the north and west corners of the cage group and a fixed all-round light on the feed barge with a nominal range of 2 nautical miles.
- Underwater cage lighting used during the winter months (December to April) every second year. These downward facing lights are installed 6m below the water surface and result in a slight underwater illumination with minimal visibility from the surface.
- Occasional use of downward facing deck safety lighting on visiting vessels and the feed barge would be limited to normal working hours for a farm (8am to 5pm) and very occasional activity outwith these hours. In the winter months there would be some, but limited overlap between normal working hours and periods of dark or low lighting where safety lighting may be necessary on vessels.

The proposed expansion of the farm would not result in any change to the normal working hours for farm operations or frequency of vessels and therefore no change in lighting levels or duration is anticipated. There will be no obvious difference in navigational lighting for the proposed expanded farm as the same number and type of navigational lights would be in use. The proposed expanded farm would use the same type of underwater cage lights as currently used but with 12 cages instead of the current 10. A night-time landscape visualisation on the following slide shows a before (existing farm) and after (proposed expanded farm) view of Bring Head from the nearest viewpoint along the B9047.

Night-time Visualisation

- B9047 near Bring Head, Hoy
- 0.84km from Bring Head
- Elevated and close views from the road



Will the expanded farm result in an increase in noise?

Potential noise sources on the current farm include cranes, generators and associated hydraulic systems, and feed blowers on supporting vessels and the feed barge. The same vessels that service the existing farm will service the proposed expanded farm and the same feeding system will be used, other than it being housed within a new and higher specification feed barge than the existing barge. Generators and feed blowers used in the feeding system will be housed within the new barge within sound-proofed compartments.

The frequency of site vessels bringing site staff to and from the farm and visits from supporting maintenance and treatment vessels will not change. The frequency of feed deliveries and well boat trips for harvesting will also not increase despite the increase in biomass as the new feed barge will have an increased capacity to store feed and the well boats have available capacity to harvest a larger tonnage of salmon during each visit.

The proposed expansion is therefore not anticipated to result in any increase in noise levels compared to the operation of the existing farm.