

<b>Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site</b>	
<b>Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 and associated Management Plan</b>	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Poole Harbour Several Order 2015</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Poole Harbour, Dorset</b>
<b>Nature/description of the plan or project</b>	<p><b>Purpose</b> To define the extent of the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 to manage aquaculture and cultivation of shellfish. The objective of the management plan is to outline the extent of the proposed Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 and the management of activity within this defined area.</p> <p><b>Description</b> The Order is designed to replace the existing Poole Fishery Order (1985), a hybrid Several and Regulating Order which was managed by the Southern IFCA and previously the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee (SSFC) between 1915 and 2015. The proposed Order is granted for a period of 30 years to allow the leasing of ground within the extent for the cultivation and farming of shellfish of any kind.</p>
<b>Date recorded</b>	

This is a record of the appropriate assessment, required by Regulation 61 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994, undertaken by **Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA)** (formally known as Southern Sea Fisheries District Committee) in respect of the above plan or project, in accordance with the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). Having considered that the plan or project may be likely to have a significant effect on the **Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA)** and Ramsar site, and that the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken of the potential impacts of the proposed fishery in view of the SPA and Ramsar site integrity and conservation.

### **1. Poole Harbour was designated a SPA for birds because it is:**

- 1.1 regularly used by over 1% of the national population 3 species (avocet, common tern and Mediterranean gull) listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive

- 1.2 used by 1% or more of two internationally important bird populations (shelduck and black tailed godwit)
- 1.3 supporting over 20,000 wintering waterfowl (including nationally important populations of dunlin, cormorant, dark-bellied brent geese, teal, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, curlew, spotted redshank, greenshank, redshank, pochard and black headed gull)

## **2. Poole Harbour was designated as a Ramsar site because it:**

- 2.1 regularly supports 20,000 waterfowl
- 2.2 regularly supports over 1% of the national population avocet, black tailed godwit, common tern, Mediterranean gull and shelduck
- 2.3 supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species including a nationally scarce hydroid species *Hartlaubella gelatinosa* and nationally rare sponge *Suberites massa*
- 2.4 is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a region because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna including supporting the nationally scarce plants narrow leaved eelgrass *Zostera augustifolia* and dwarf eelgrass *Zostera noltii*.

## **3. Identifying significant effects of the Proposal:**

- 3.1 The likely significant effects by the proposal on the international nature conservation interests for which the site was designated are detailed in Natural England's advice of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014. Aquaculture could prevent the site from achieving its conservation objectives through impacts on the following attributes:
  - a) Disturbance caused by human activity
  - b) Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat
  - c) Extent and distribution of supporting breeding habitat
  - d) Breeding population (productivity and survival)
  - e) Food availability (function and supporting processes)

## **4. The Poole Fishery Order 1985**

- 4.1 The Poole Fishery Order was first created in 1915 and has been renewed a number of times with the most recent renewal in 1985.
- 4.2 The Order covers the area of Poole Harbour excluding the areas of Brands Bay and Lytchett Bay.

- 4.3 There are 31 defined leased beds in the area of the seabed that the Southern IFCA leases from the Crown Estate. Through past decisions made by the then Southern Sea Fisheries Committee, 3 of the beds are not currently sub-leased and lie dormant. The remaining leased beds are sub-leased from the Southern IFCA to nine stakeholders/companies with the consent of the Commissioners of the Crown Lands to sub-lease under the provisions of the Southern IFCA lease from the Crown.
- 4.4 Under the Poole Fishery Order 1985 the Authority is the grantee for the right of several fishery for oysters, mussels, cockles and clams. The main species currently farmed on these leased beds are mussels and pacific oysters, in the past native oysters, clams and cockles have all been farmed or cultivated in this area.
- 4.5 The Authority require that certain conditions are met under the leases issue under the Poole Fishery Order 1985 including;
- The marking of the leased beds in accordance with the uniform systems of marking approved by the Authority and the Minister
  - To observe and comply with all byelaws and regulations under the Order
  - To facilitate access to the ground for the purpose of inspection or any other purpose
  - To provide accounts of the movements of shellfish on and off the ground

## **5. Extent of Poole Harbour Several Order 2015**

- 5.1 The extent of the Order is a reduction on the extent of the Poole Fishery Order 1985.
- 5.2 The extent allows for the potential expansion of aquaculture and cultivation activity within the Harbour without overlapping with habitats of conservation importance or areas where existing public fisheries may be adversely affected.
- 5.3 The extent covers a number of navigable channels however the allocation and siting of individual leased beds within the Order will take in to consideration overlapping interests including any existing public fisheries and any relevant parties/person(s) will be consulted on any proposals.
- 5.4 The siting and allocation of individual leased beds will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

- 5.5 There is no requirement for the Southern IFCA to lease the seabed under the extent from the Crown Estate unless the aquaculture activity places structures on the seabed. The proposed activity on each lay will be considered and ground will be leased from the Crown Estate if necessary should there be a requirement to place structures on the seabed.
- 5.6 Current aquaculture practice under the Poole Fishery Order 1985 has not adversely affected the undertaking of any recreational activity in the Harbour. The extent of the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 and the leased areas proposed under tranche 1 are not expected to impact on recreational activities and consideration will be made to the undertaking of these activities before any new leased beds are developed in further tranches.

## **6. Species**

- 6.1 The Order will cover shellfish species as defined in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 as 'crustaceans and molluscs of any kind'.
- 6.2 The Management Plan which accompanies the Order is adaptive to best serve the potential for aquaculture development in the Harbour. Therefore the definition of included species as 'crustaceans and molluscs of any kind' allows the IFCA to retain flexibility for shellfish species that could potentially be the subject of aquaculture activity within the Harbour. Management of individual species will be considered on a case by case basis as leased areas within the extent are developed.

## **7. Management**

- 7.1 Management of leased ground and the process, criteria and conditions for the selection of rights holders is set out in the Management Plan to accompany the Order.
- 7.2 Allocation of lays will be carried out under a tranche system with the first tranche introduced in 2015 with the commencement of the Order.
- 7.3 Tranche 1 lays will be offered to existing rights holders under the Poole Fishery Order 1985 with the existing maximum area criteria retained.
- 7.4 The Southern IFCA has considered its duties under section 153 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009<sup>1</sup> and has identified a number of risks to the attainment of those duties associated with the offering of existing lays in the Harbour at large. Following consideration, the Authority has determined that the removal of existing shellfish aquaculture resources, to accompany the termination of current leases, from the Harbour and the return of the beds

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga\\_20090023\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga_20090023_en.pdf)

would cause unnecessary damage to the seabed, when, in the context of the decision to pursue aquaculture anyway on these same beds this might result in:

- Unnecessary and unsustainable damage to the marine environment, by virtue of the damage to the structure and function of the seabed as contextualised by the Special Protection Area (SPA).
- Loss of ecosystem services. In particular an unquantified risk associated with the loss of the filtration by the enhanced biomass of bivalves in the Harbour which are currently farmed. Bivalves are known to reduce phytoplankton blooms and reduce hypoxia. This is particularly relevant to the Harbour as it is known to be at risk from these factors (in particular as a function of the diffuse point nutrient loading), increased bacterial load and hypoxia will result in the death of invertebrate communities reducing prey availability for SPA features. Additional risks are through the loss of the ability to remove organic matter through the removal of bivalves currently farmed. This would alter sediment composition by top loading with organic matter which may have an effect on the habitats under the SPA.
- A significant biological security risk by introducing wholly new shellfish stocks into the Harbour.
- A loss of established markets and supply chain associated with a discontinuity in supply from Poole.
- A risk of socio and economic discontinuity associated with the loss of existing business opportunities with the establishment of, as yet unproven, activity within the areas. The loss of the existing business opportunities will also deter long term investment through the creation of unstable regulatory systems.

## **8. Mitigation**

- 8.1 The Southern IFCA consider the following measures mean that there will be no likely significant effect on the Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar as a result of the proposal.
- 8.2 The Authority has laid down the following mitigation measures for the proposal:

### **a) Disturbance caused by human activity**

Natural England advise that “it cannot be dismissed that boat movements used for aquaculture together with other disturbance factors would not cause a significant disturbance to the features of the SPA when taking place in proximity to key feeding and roosting habitats. Aquaculture activity could cause noise and visual disturbance (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) to the features listed above when taking place at key times of the year for the overwintering birds and in proximity to important feeding and roosting sites”.

The extent of the Order excludes areas designated as ‘Bird Sensitive Areas’ in the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan<sup>2</sup> to avoid disturbance to bird species during key sensitive periods. The majority of these areas are also closed to shellfish dredging and hand raking through the Southern IFCA byelaw ‘Prohibition on using or carrying a shellfish dredge, scoop or handrake in certain areas of Poole Harbour’ ensuring that disturbance in these areas is further minimised. Existing aquaculture activity in the Harbour also does not take place within these defined areas.

### **b) Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat**

Natural England advise that “eelgrass beds within the intertidal sediment communities in Poole Harbour are known to support fish eating species such as red breasted mergansers as well as providing a food source for dark bellied brent geese. Physical damage could occur from laying of shellfish and structures support aquaculture on intertidal sediment communities including eelgrass beds. In addition shallow inshore waters provide important feeding and roosting habitats, some aquaculture practices could potentially have an impact on the extent of this habitat e.g. where floating structures are causing a loss in the extent of the habitat.”

The extent of the Order excludes the eelgrass beds in the Harbour. These beds are protected from bottom towed fishing gear and hand gathering under the Southern IFCA byelaws ‘Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw’ and ‘Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw’ respectively. Aquaculture activity currently taking place in Poole Harbour does not occur over this feature.

### **c) Extent and distribution of supporting breeding habitat**

Natural England advise that “shallow inshore waters provide key feeding habitat for breeding common and sandwich terns and Mediterranean gull. Some aquaculture practices could potentially have an impact on the extent of this habitat e.g. where floating structures area causing a loss in the extent of the habitat.”

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pooleharbouraqmp.co.uk/viewplan.html>

Shallow inshore waters will be included within the extent of the Order however areas where species are seen to preferentially feed will be assessed against the positioning of individual lays and proposed activity within those lays as part of the HRA for individual leasebed applications. Lays which are to be included in the tranche 1 allocation do not currently use floating structures and this will be considered against the business plans proposed through this tranche.

#### **d) Breeding population (productivity and survival)**

Natural England advise that “disturbance of Mediterranean gull nesting sites from boat movements for aquaculture taking place in proximity to Seagull Island could cause a decline in the annual productivity or breeding success of the population and this may adversely affect the overall size and age-structure of the breeding population and its long-term viability”.

The extent of the Order excludes the area of Seagull Island and Brownsea Lagoon. The extent into the Wareham Channel is deemed to be of a distance great enough not to cause disturbance to Mediterranean gull by remaining in the area of the channel and avoiding areas designated as intertidal sediment. Lays proposed under tranche 1 allocation are not within proximity to Seagull Island or Brownsea Lagoon.

#### **e) Food availability (function and supporting processes)**

Natural England advise that “sediment disturbance as a result of aquaculture (and in combination with other fishing activities) can potentially impact on bird prey availability, prey size and the birds ability to forage over intertidal sediment communities and shallow inshore waters. This can be through removal (mortality) or target and non-target species and impacts on non-target prey availability through changes in habitat structure of the intertidal sediment communities. In addition aquaculture practices could also potentially affect the water quality which in turn could impact on the prey availability”.

The extent of the Order excludes the main areas of intertidal sediment above mean low water (other than that already used for aquaculture), reedbed and saltmarsh are not contained within the extent. Lays under the tranche 1 allocation have been in place for a period of 30 years and therefore under the Order will have a minimal impact on prey availability and habitat structure as the seabed within these lays is already well defined and developed for aquaculture. Currently under the tranche 1 lays there are no structures placed on the seabed which may affect prey availability access, the majority of these areas are also not exposed at low tide making them unsuitable for foraging. Currently there are no structures placed on the seabed for aquaculture, should this be proposed in the future, the IFCA will require a lease from the Crown Estate to cover the ground where structures would be placed,

consideration will also be made to the impact on the available sediment on the placing of these structures.

- 8.3 In addition to overwintering waders and wildfowl the Ramsar site is designated for eelgrass beds. Natural England advise that physical damage could occur to this habitat if shellfish or structures supporting aquaculture were laid over the eelgrass beds. Eelgrass beds are excluded from the Order extent, and will not be subject to aquaculture activity. In addition these areas are protected from bottom towed fishing gear and hand gathering under the Southern IFCA byelaws 'Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw' and 'Prohibition of Gathering (Sea Fisheries Resources) in Seagrass Beds Byelaw' respectively. Aquaculture activity currently taking place in Poole Harbour does not occur over this feature.
- 8.4 In addition to the overwintering birds the SSSI is designated for nesting birds using the fringing reedbed and saltmarsh habitats of Poole Harbour and several marine invertebrate species. Natural England advise that aquaculture has the potential to damage the breeding bird assemblage feature through disturbance in proximity to their nesting and feeding sites. Additional notable communities, including *Sabella*, have been identified in some channels in the Harbour. Natural England advise that proposals for aquaculture could potentially damage these communities. The extent of the Order excludes reedbed, saltmarsh and key areas of intertidal sediment. The extent also excludes areas defined as 'Bird Sensitive Areas', which are also closed to shellfish dredging and handraking, removing disturbance impacts and providing an area for nesting and feeding sites. Any proposals for aquaculture activity will be considered in relation to any notable communities present in designated areas as part of a subsidiary HRA.
- 8.5 In addition to the above considerations, Southern IFCA are advised that bird count data analysed by Natural England in 2012 indicates declines in numbers of overwintering birds in sectors of the Harbour. The areas of Lychett Bay and Brands Bay were highlighted; these areas are excluded from the extent of the Order.
- 8.6 Individual lays will have to be assessed on the basis of the proposal and business plan for the area outlining the type of activity to occur, the species fished and the methods employed. The activity will need to demonstrate no significant effect on the SPA features either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and be compatible with the special interest of the Poole Harbour SSSI. The Appropriate Assessments will be carried out by the Southern IFCA corresponding to the data that is provided as part of the application for several ground under the process defined in section 6.

## **9. Monitoring**

- 9.1 Monitoring of the site will be carried out prior to the siting and allocation of any new leased ground.

- 9.2 Monitoring is being carried out to assess presence and absence of *Sabella pavonina*, identified as a notable community in Poole Harbour. The presence of this community has not been assessed since the 1980s. By surveying in 2015, the IFCA can be assured that activity within the extent avoids the presence of this community.
- 9.3 Detailed monitoring plans will be developed based on a site by site consideration of the activity and species to be carried out within the extent and their potential impacts alone and in combination with other plans and projects (eg impacts on the structure and function of supporting habitats through changes in food availability, water quality, hydrodynamics and sediment movement) These plans will be developed based on the proposals of the individuals applying for rights under the Order and considering advice provided by Natural England, and will consider the location, type of activity and shellfish species involved.

## 10. Conclusion

- 10.1 Taking into account all the information outlined in the table below provided it is the opinion of the Authority that the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015 overall extent will not have a likely significant effect on Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar site when assessed at a strategic level. The rationale for this assumption is:
- That aquaculture has been managed in Poole Harbour since the introduction of the Poole Fishery Order in 1915. Since this time there has been significant development in Poole Harbour from a wide range of sectors and the Order has been renewed a number of times, the most recent being in 1985, each renewal considering new designations for the site. The 1985 review is the most relevant with regard to recent designations in the Harbour and in the past 30 years aquaculture activity has not been seen to have an adverse impact on the features of the site either alone or in combination with other activities and developments in the Harbour. The existing leased ground, which will be considered in the first instance under tranche 1 of the Poole Harbour Several Order 2015, does not overlap with the features and habitats of the SPA, Ramsar or SSSI and the current type and level of activity conducted on these leased beds has not been shown to have an adverse impact on the features or habitats for the site.
  - The overall extent for the Order is a reduction on the area of the Poole Fishery Order 1985 and excludes features and habitats designated for the SPA/Ramsar site.
  - That the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan provides a framework for the effective, co-ordinated management of the Poole Harbour SPA and serves as a Management Scheme for the European Marine Site. This scheme of management recognises the aquaculture activity operating in the Harbour but does not identify the placing or activity carried out on the leased ground as a risk to the features of the site.

- The extent of the Order excludes areas designated as 'Bird Sensitive Areas', areas defined as eelgrass beds and avoids areas of important nesting sites at Seagull Island and Brownsea Lagoon and avoid the main areas of intertidal mudflat supporting the features of the SPA,
- That an additional HRA and likely Appropriate Assessment will be carried out for each individual leased bed based on the type of species and activity, area covered and specific methods of working as outlined in the business plan and supporting information required by individuals applying for rights under the Order. This will consider impacts alone and in combination with other plans and projects (eg other leasebeds. As stated in 6.2.1 of the Management plan The Southern IFCA will produce the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) based on, but not limited to, the information provided by the applicant recognising the duties of the IFCA under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- That monitoring is being conducted to improve knowledge on the presence of features in the Harbour and will be carried out prior and post the siting and allocation of any new leased ground within the extent to ensure no adverse effect on the site.

**ANNEX 1**

**SOUTHERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

**Table A: Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority table considering the likely significant effect and of the proposals within the Several Order and associated management plan to affect Poole Harbour SPA and Ramsar site**

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
<p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)</p>	<p>All sub-features</p>	<p>Disturbance caused by human activity (minimising disturbance)</p>	<p>Frequency, duration and/or intensity of disturbance affecting foraging and roosting overwintering avocet should not reach a level which significantly affects the feature.</p>	<p>Aquaculture can cause noise and visual disturbance (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) to the feature when taking place at key times of the year for the overwintering and in proximity to important feeding and roosting sites. The significance of this disturbance is likely to depend on the availability of alternative undisturbed areas for birds; and the frequency and intensity at which activity takes place.</p>	<p>Avocet have a localised distribution with respect to their preferred feeding (Wych Lake, Middlebere and Brownsea Lagoon) and roosting sites (Brownsea Lagoon, towards the end of Wych Lake, Middlebere and north Holes Bay). Disturbance should be minimised across the site at key times of year for this species but it is particularly important that disturbance of this feature is kept to a minimum at the locations listed above due to the lack of suitable alternative supporting habitat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the Order excludes the areas defined as 'Bird Sensitive Areas' in the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan including the sensitive areas identified (Wych Lake, Middlebere, Holes Bay).</li> <li>• The extent of the Order excludes the area of Brownsea Lagoon.</li> <li>• The extent of the several order therefore excludes all areas of supporting habitat for avocet</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
<p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)</p>	<p>All sub-features</p>	<p>Disturbance caused by human activity (minimising disturbance)</p>	<p>The frequency, duration and/or intensity of disturbance affecting nesting common tern and Mediterranean gull should not reach levels which substantially affects the feature.</p>	<p>Disturbance of Mediterranean gull nesting sites from fishing taking place in proximity to Seagull Island could cause a decline in the annual productivity or breeding success of the population (i.e. the number of chicks successfully raised per breeding pair per year) and this may adversely affect the overall size and age-structure of the breeding population and its long-term viability. Common and sandwich tern nest at Brownsea Lagoon where there is no fishing access and would therefore not be exposed to disturbance.</p>	<p>Breeding Mediterranean gull are present in significant numbers between April and August.</p> <p>The main breeding colony of Mediterranean gull is found at Seagull Island.</p> <p>Common tern breed at Brownsea Lagoon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent of the Order excludes the area of Seagull Island.</li> <li>• The extent of the Order excludes the area of Brownsea Lagoon</li> <li>• . HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may affect foraging Mediterranean gulls and common terns through disturbance</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)			No increase in obstructions to existing bird view lines.	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Shallow inshore waters	Extent and distribution of habitat	The extent, distribution and availability of breeding habitat which supports common tern, sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull for all stages of their breeding cycle (courtship, nesting and feeding) is maintained.	Shallow inshore waters provide key feeding habitat for breeding common tern and sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull. Some aquaculture practices could potentially have an impact on the extent of this habitat e.g. where floating structures are causing a loss in the extent of the habitat.	Defined areas as preferred feeding sites for species some of which occur within the area of the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shallow inshore waters will be included within the extent of the Order however, areas where species are seen to preferentially feed will be assessed against the positioning of individual lays and proposed activity within those lays. Lays which are to be included in tranche 1 allocation do not currently use floating structures and this will be considered against the business plans proposed through this tranche.</li> <li>HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may affect the extent and distribution of foraging habitat in shallow inshore waters</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
<p>Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)</p>		<p>Food availability</p>	<p>Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.</p>	<p>Leasebeds (alone or in combination) could affect food availability of Mediterranean gull and common tern (ie fish prey) eg through effects on water quality,</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may affect the distribution, abundance and availability of fish prey that may adversely affect the population</li> </ul>
	<p>Intertidal sediment communities</p>	<p>Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat, seagrass, intertidal sediment</p>	<p>The extent and distribution of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all stages of the non-breeding period (moulting, roosting, loafing, and feeding) is maintained.</p>	<p>Eelgrass beds within the intertidal sediment communities in Poole Harbour are known to support fish eating species such as red breasted mergansers as well as providing a food source for dark bellied brent geese. Physical damage could occur from laying of shellfish and structures to support aquaculture on intertidal sediment communities including eelgrass beds.</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat from lying</p>	<p>Defined eelgrass beds are excluded from the extent of the Order. Main areas of intertidal sediment excluded from Order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined eelgrass beds are excluded from the extent of the Order.</li> <li>Impact on the remaining areas assessed when HRA takes place for individual leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)		Food availability (function and supporting processes)	Maintain the overall prey availability of key prey species of preferred prey sizes which supports avocet, breeding common tern, sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull.	structures on intertidal sediment  Indirect effects such as Sediment disturbance, water quality effects, changes in sediment movement as a result of aquaculture can potentially impact on bird prey availability, prey size and the birds ability to forage over intertidal sediment communities.	Areas of intertidal sediment defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main reas of intertidal sediment defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.</li> <li>Consideration of location of future leasebed applications with respect to preferential feeding areas</li> <li>HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may affect the distribution, abundance and availability of prey that may adversely affect the population</li> </ul>
	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat	The extent and distribution of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all stages of the non-breeding period (moulting, roosting, loafing, and feeding) is maintained.	Aquaculture if taking place in close proximity to saltmarsh roost sites could potentially also cause erosion of this supporting non-breeding habitat.	Areas of saltmarsh defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of saltmarsh defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 bird species (e.g. avocet, Mediterranean gull, common tern)	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of supporting breeding habitat	The extent, distribution and availability of suitable breeding habitat which supports feature for all stages of their breeding cycle (courtship, nesting, feeding) is maintained.	Mediterranean gulls nest primarily at Seagull Island in the Wareham channel. Aquaculture if taking place in close proximity to saltmarsh nesting sites could potentially cause erosion of this supporting breeding habitat. Common and sandwich tern nest at Brownsea Lagoon where there is no fishing access.	The main breeding colony of Mediterranean gull is found at Seagull Island.  Common tern breed at Brownsea Lagoon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent of the Order excludes the area of Seagull Island.</li> <li>The extent of the Order excludes the area of Brownsea Lagoon.</li> </ul>
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Vegetation characteristics	Vegetation height throughout areas used for roosting should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Reedbed	Extent and distribution of habitat	No decrease in extent from an established baseline, subject	N/A	N/A	N/A

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
			to natural change.			
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species	All sub-features	Disturbance caused by human activity (minimising disturbance)	Frequency, duration and/or intensity of disturbance affecting foraging and roosting overwintering waterbird assemblage, black tailed godwit, shelduck and little egret should not reach a level which significantly affects the feature.	Aquaculture can cause noise and visual disturbance (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) to the feature when taking place at key times of the year for the overwintering and in proximity to important feeding and roosting sites. The significance of this disturbance is likely to depend on the availability of alternative undisturbed areas for birds; and the frequency and intensity at which shellfish dredging takes place.	Extent of the Order excludes the areas defined as 'Bird Sensitive Areas' in the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extent of the Order excludes the areas defined as 'Bird Sensitive Areas' in the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan providing areas where disturbance from aquaculture cannot occur all year round.</li> <li>HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider whether disturbance is reaching a level which could effect the features eg roosting seafoal</li> </ul>
	Shallow inshore waters inc. lagoons	Extent and distribution of habitat	The extent, distribution and availability of breeding habitat which supports g foraging and roosting overwintering	Shallow inshore waters provide key feeding habitat for breeding common tern, sandwich tern and Med gull. Some aquaculture practices could	Defined areas as preferred feeding sites for species some of which occur within the area of the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shallow inshore waters will be included within the extent of the Order however, areas where species are seen to preferentially feed will be assessed against the positioning of individual lays and proposed activity within those lays. Lays which are to be included in</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species			waterbird assemblage, black tailed godwit, shelduck and little egret is maintained.	potentially have an impact on the extent of habitat e.g. where floating structures are causing loss in the extent of the habitat.		<p>tranche 1 allocation do not currently use floating structures and this will be considered against the business plans proposed through this tranche.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may effect the extent and distribution of foraging and roosting habitat in shallow inshore waters</li> </ul>
		Food availability	Presence and abundance of prey species should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Intertidal sediment communities	Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat, seagrass, intertidal sediment	The extent and distribution of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all stages of the non-breeding period (moulting, roosting, loafing, and feeding) is maintained.	Eelgrass beds within the intertidal sediment communities in Poole Harbour are known to support fish eating species such as red breasted mergansers as well as providing a food source for dark bellied brent geese. Physical damage could occur from laying of shellfish and structures to support aquaculture on	Defined eelgrass beds are excluded from the extent of the Order. Main areas of intertidal sediment excluded from Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined eelgrass beds are excluded from the extent of the Order. impact on the remaining areas assessed when HRA takes place for individual leasebeds Indirect impacts on intertidal sediment (eg changes in hydrodynamics and sediment movement) assessed when HRA takes place for individual leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species	Intertidal sediment communities			intertidal sediment communities including eelgrass beds. Direct loss of habitat from lying structures on intertidal sediment		
		Food availability (function and supporting processes)	Maintain the overall prey availability of key prey species of preferred prey sizes which supports avocet, breeding common tern, sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull.	Indirect effects such as Sediment disturbance, water quality effects, changes in sediment movement as a result of aquaculture can potentially impact on bird prey availability, prey size and the birds ability to forage over intertidal sediment communities.	Areas of intertidal sediment defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main areas of intertidal sediment defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.</li> <li>• Consideration of the location of future leasebed applications with respect to preferential feeding areas</li> <li>• HRA of future leasebeds alone and in combination with other plans and projects to consider direct or indirect impacts which may affect the distribution, abundance and availability of prey that may adversely affect the population</li> </ul>
	Absence of obstructions to view lines	No increase in obstructions to existing view lines.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Saltmarsh	Extent and distribution of supporting non-breeding habitat	The extent and distribution of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all stages of the non-breeding period (moulting, roosting, loafing,	Aquaculture if taking place in close proximity to saltmarsh roost sites could potentially also cause erosion of this supporting non-breeding habitat.	Areas of saltmarsh defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of saltmarsh defined for the SPA are excluded from the Order.</li> </ul>

FEATURE	SUB-FEATURE	ATTRIBUTE	TARGET	POTENTIAL IMPACT	NATURE AND LIKLIHOOD OF IMPACT OCCURING	PREVENTATIVE MEASURES
Internationally important assemblage including internationally important populations of migratory species			and feeding) is maintained.			
	Saltmarsh	Food Availability	Presence and abundance of soft leaved and seed bearing plants should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Vegetation characteristics	Vegetation height throughout areas used for roosting should not deviate significantly from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Absence of obstructions to viewlines	No increase in bird obstructions to existing viewlines.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ramsar feature Zostera spp		No Loss of habitat	Laying of shellfish could result in loss in habitat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seagrass beds are excluded from boundary of the order</li> </ul>	