

# South West Aquaculture – Overview of status, constraints & positive tipping points

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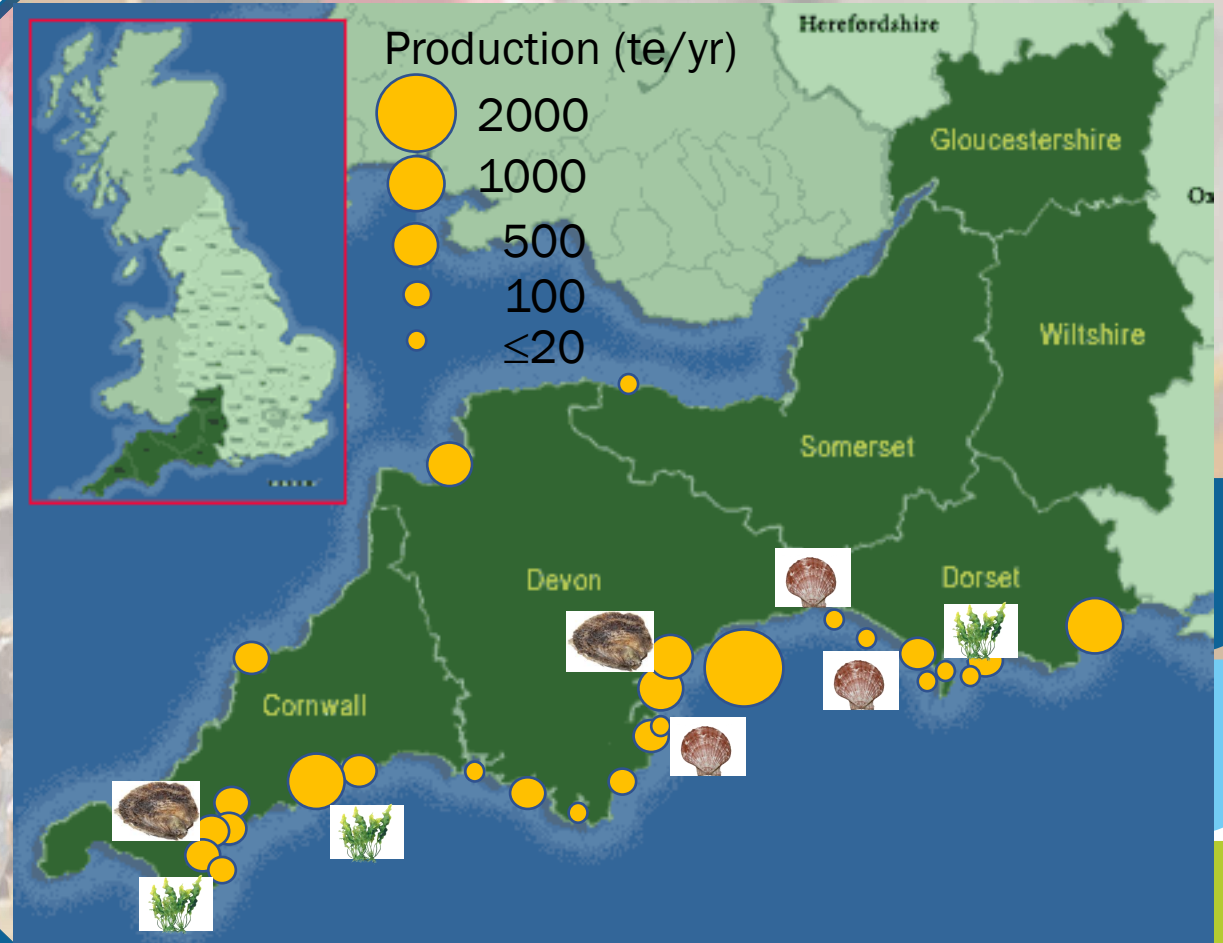
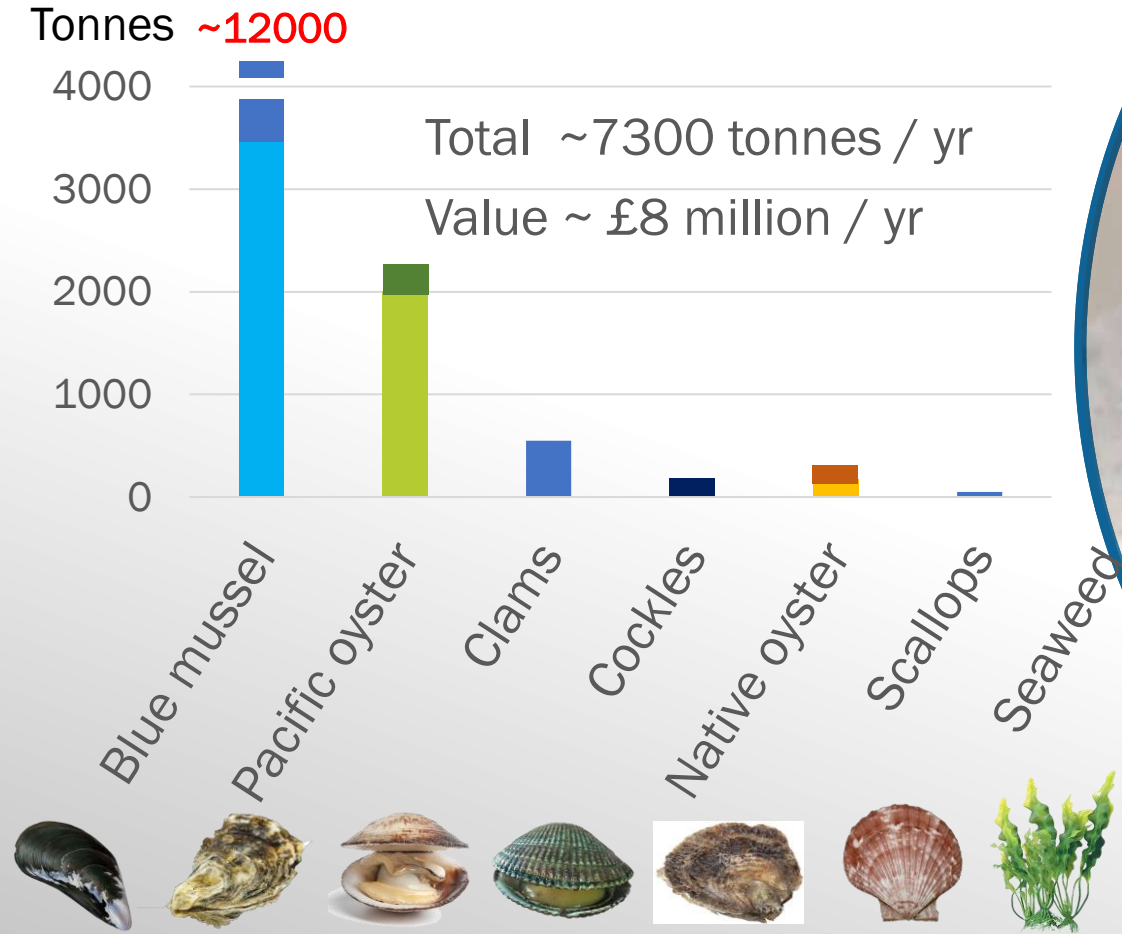
# Mariculture methods

	Rope	Net/cage	Trestle	Bed
	✓			✓
		✓	✓	✓
				✓
				✓
				✓
		✓		✓
	✓			



# SW Mariculture production (Current estimate)

Production across 35 sites; 53 beds



<https://www.cefas.co.uk/data-and-publications/sanitary-surveys/>

<https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/district-aquaculture>

<https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Environment-and-Research/Mariculture/Mariculture-within-D-S-IFCA-s-District>

# Initial conclusions

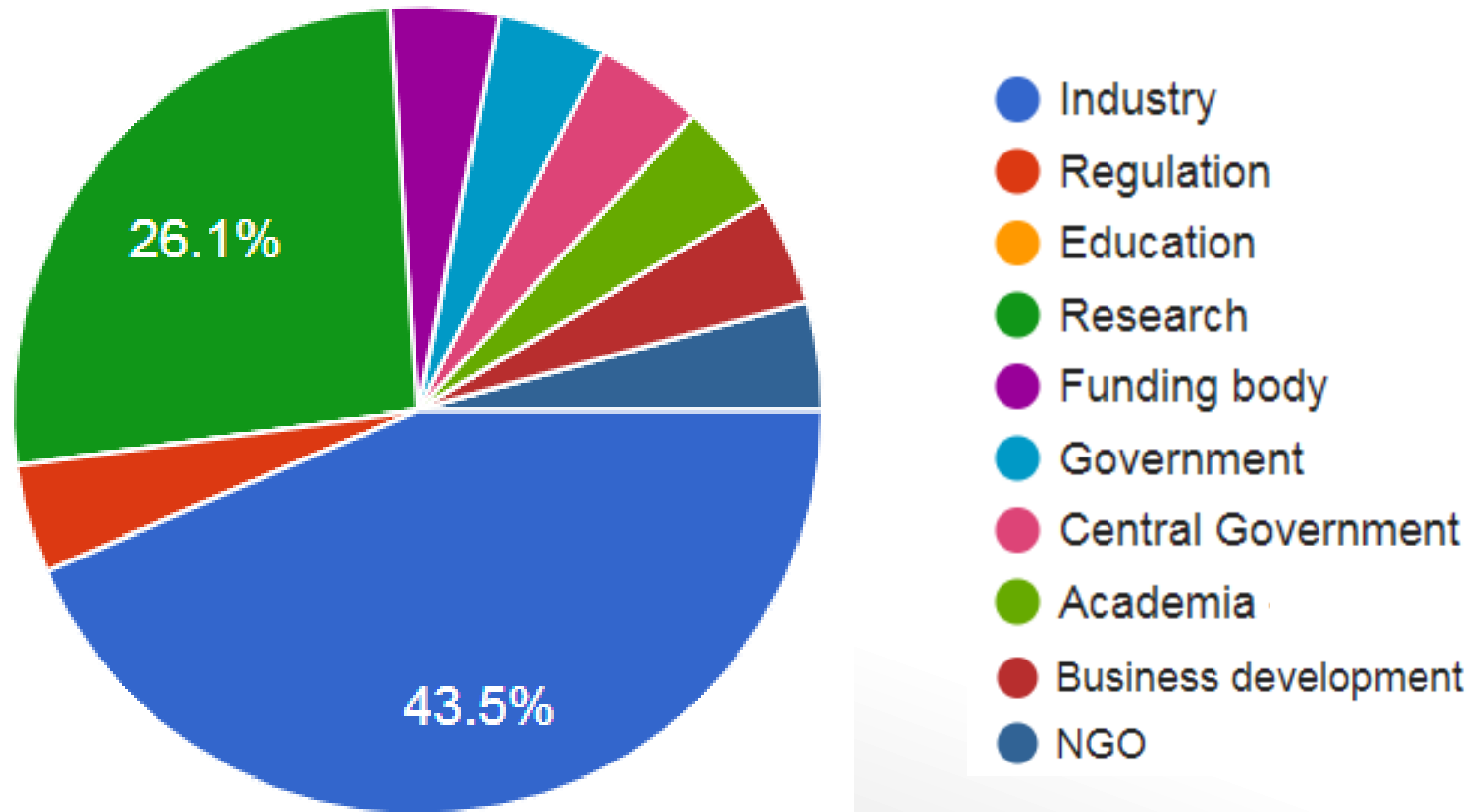
- ❖ There is scope to increase and diversify mariculture in the SW
  - Regional aquaculture strategies are being implemented by IFCA's
  - D&S <https://www.devonandsevernifca.gov.uk/Resource-library/H-Environment-and-Research>
  - Southern <https://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk/poole-harbour-fisheries>
- ❖ Additional regional support and collaboration is available via:
  - SWAN <https://maritimeuksw.org/oceanscienceaquaculture/south-west-aquaculture-network-swan/>
  - Dorset & East Devon Aquaculture <https://www.dorsetaquaculture.co.uk/>
  - Sustainable Aquaculture Futures <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/saf/>
  - SWEEP <https://sweep.ac.uk/portfolios/aquaculture/>
  - CEFAS <https://www.cefas.co.uk/news/interactive-map-and-report-to-support-dorset-and-devon-aquaculture/>
  - ARCH-UK <https://www.aquaculturehub-uk.com/>
- ❖ Constraints include licencing, planning, funding, WQ, markets, public image

# SWAN survey on the sustainable development of SW Aquaculture

## 1) What sector do you represent?

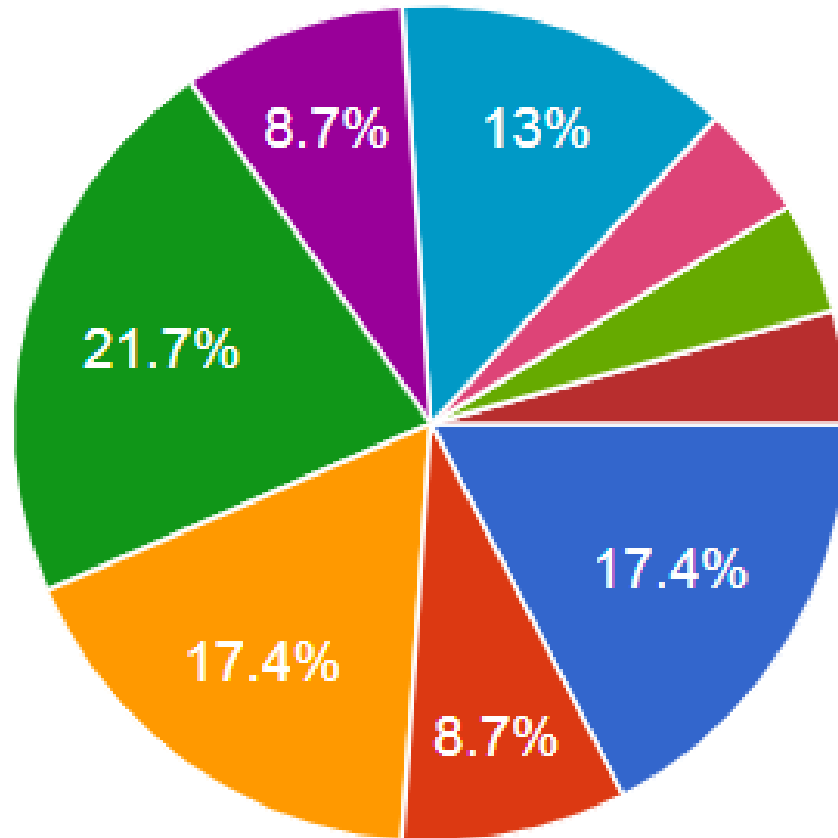
23 responses

Mainly industry and research



## 2) What is your area of expertise?

23 responses



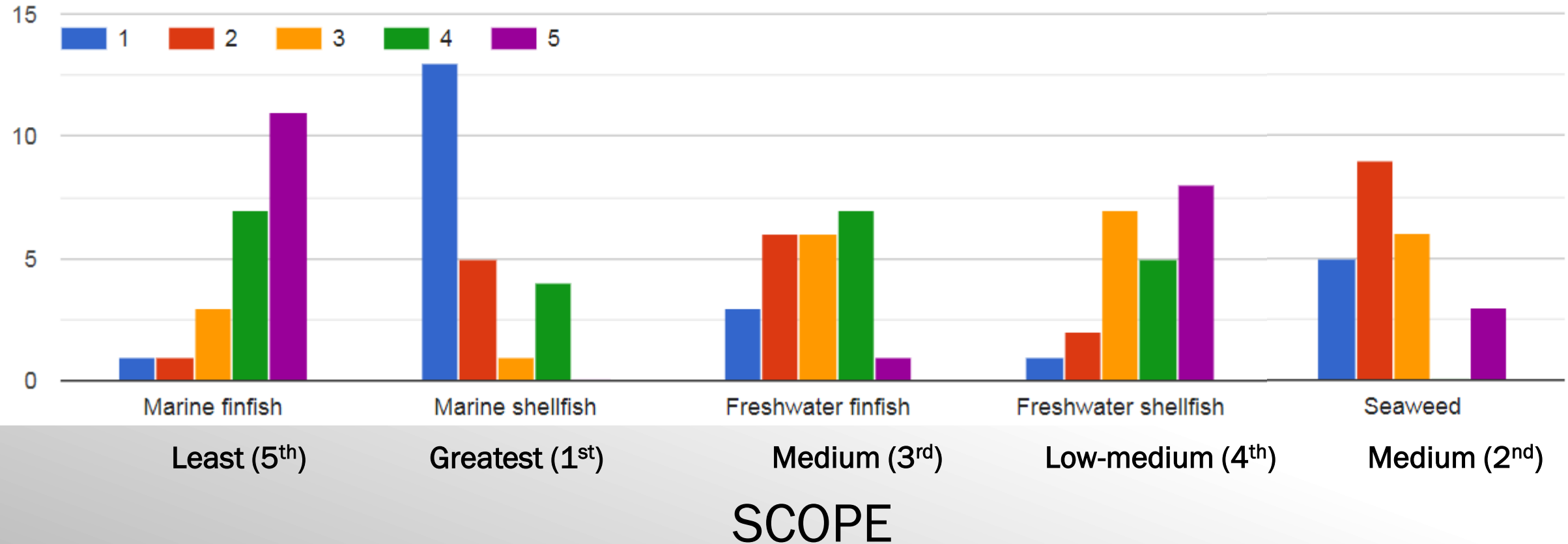
- Economic development/ investment
- Partnership/ engagement
- Technology development
- Environmental assessment
- Licencing/ planning
- Product supply chain development/ marketing
- Farming shellfish
- Production efficiency / animal health &...
- Occupational health and safety

# 3) Where is there greatest scope for sustainable development and growth aquaculture in SW England?

23 responses

Number of votes for each rank:

Greatest ←→ Least

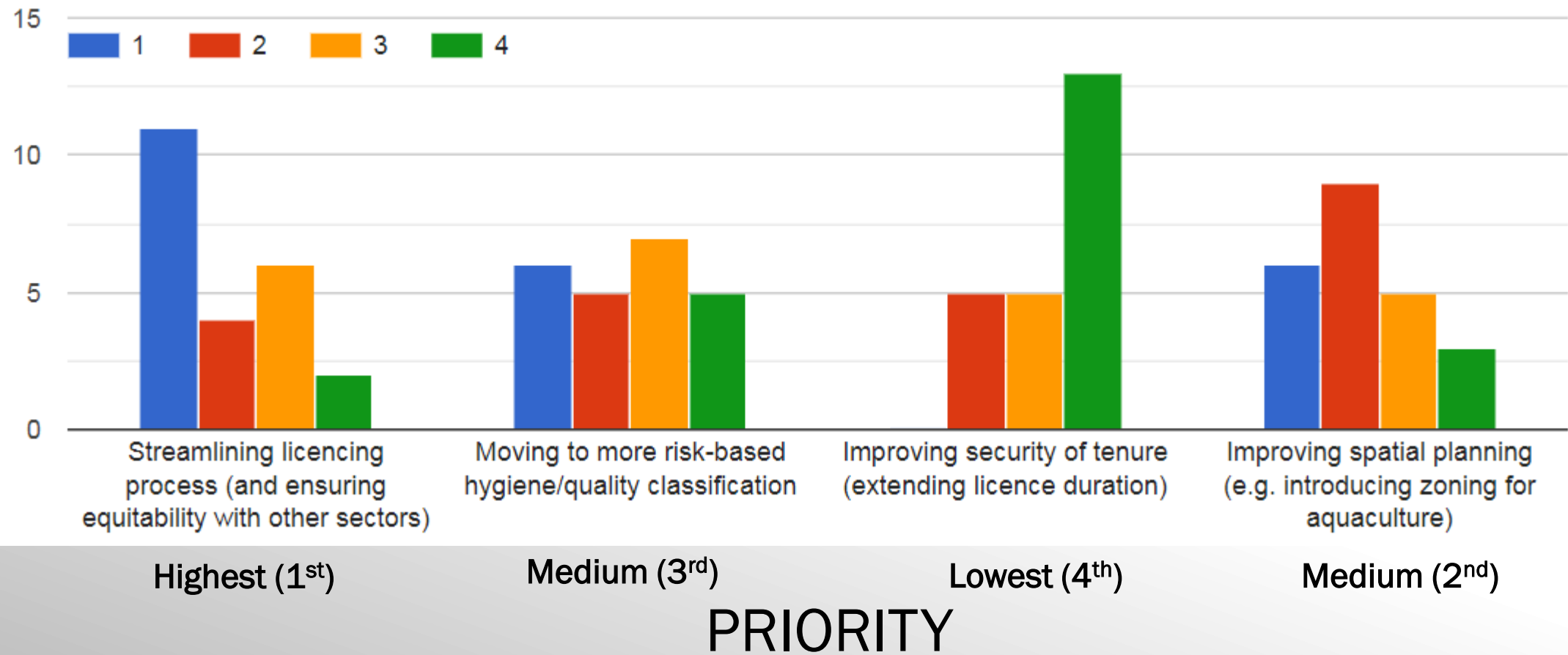


# Sustainable development and growth of aquaculture

## 4) Planning

Number of votes for each rank:

Greatest  Least





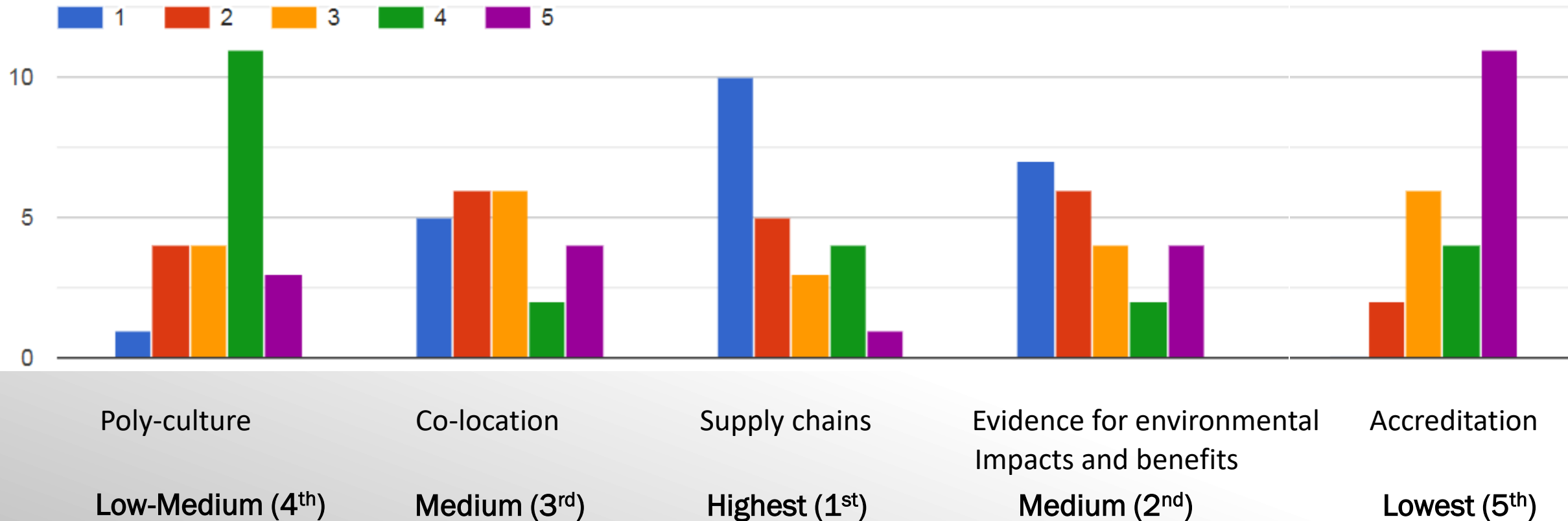
# Sustainable development and growth of aquaculture

## 5) Operating

Number of votes for each rank:

Greatest  Least

1 2 3 4 5



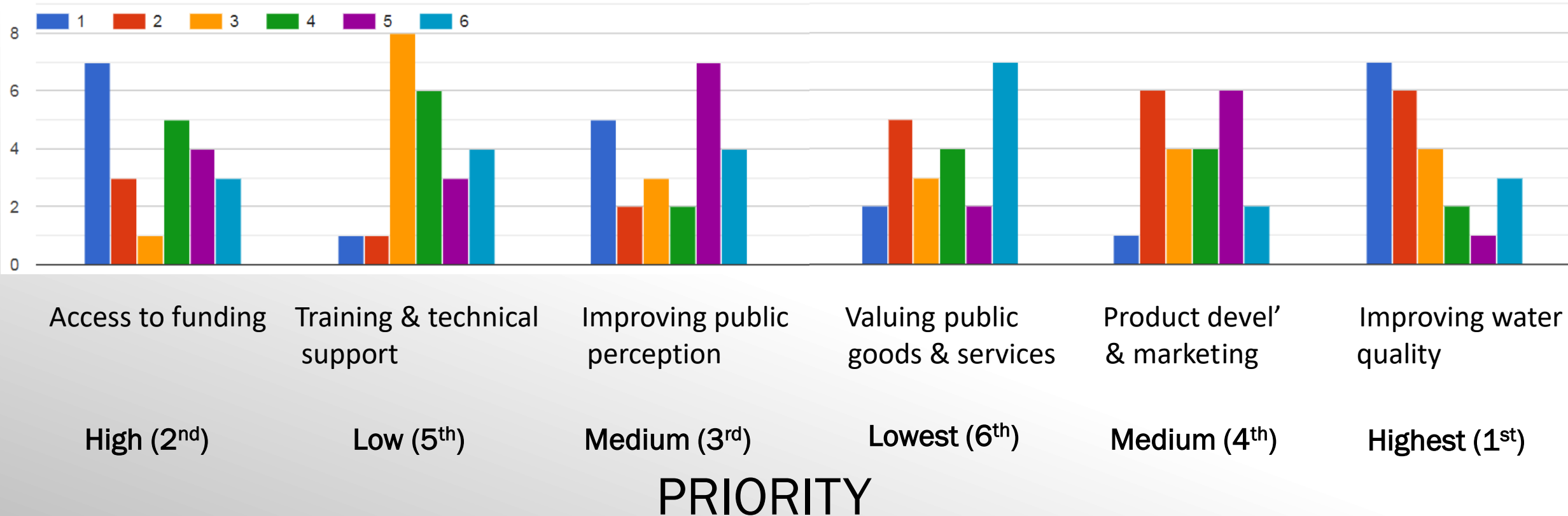
**PRIORITY**

# Sustainable development and growth of aquaculture

## 6) Enabling

Number of votes for each rank:

Greatest  Least



# 7) Other important issues raised by respondents

Licensing/planning

- Improve licencing and access for aquaculture (fewer steps/hurdles)
- Designate areas for aquaculture, allow operators to bid for access, provide support for applicants.
- Address issues around non-native Pacific oysters
- Ensure EIA's and HRA's are proportionate and should reflect the scale and type of operation
- Coordinate timing of grant funding and licensing – enable a more coordinated, responsive system

Government support

- Encourage cross-sector engagement and communication, such as with fishers to aid pre-application engagement and reduce chance for conflict during marine license application process
- Ensure coherent government support for aquaculture across the SW (not just Dorset)
- Ensure aquaculture is given at least the same level of support as capture fisheries
- Gain better understanding of the needs, aims & potential of the sector by government agencies (& academia)

Technology & infrastructure

- Support the development of technologies to aid aquaculture development
- Ensure appropriate local land-based infrastructure for processing of fresh aquaculture products.
- Improve supplies of equipment and services to aquaculture in the SW
- Develop RAS facilities and technology transfer to enable this

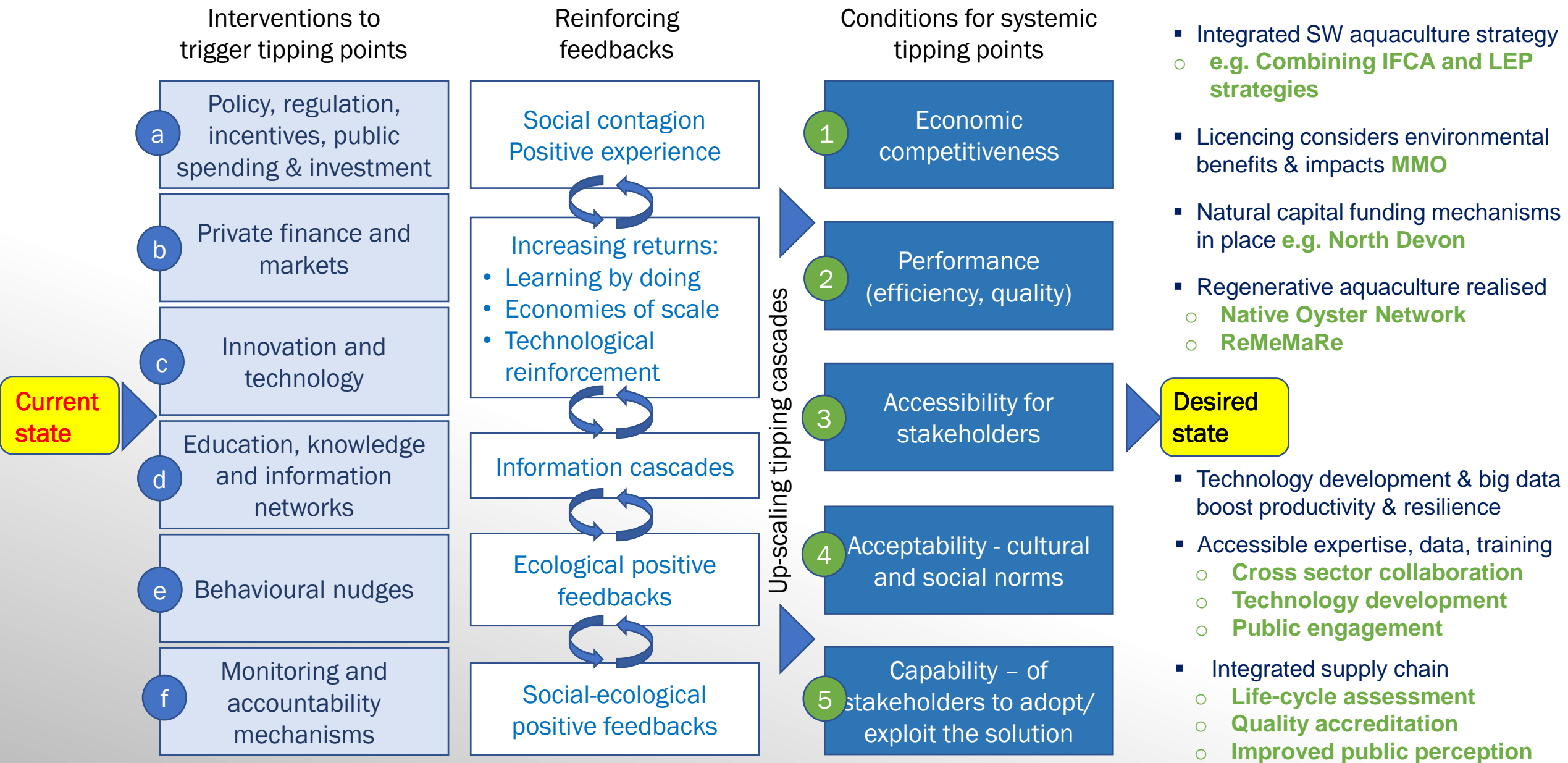
Others

- Occupational health and safety, recruitment and employee retention
- Reduce cost of export to market

## 8) Which of the top priority would you address first and why?

- Improve water quality (4) Risk based management
- Streamline licensing processes (3)
- Improve public perception (3)
- Gather evidence on environmental impacts and benefits (2)
- Improve access to funding (2)
- Improve spatial planning/zoning to minimise environmental impacts and conflicts with other users (1)
- Ensure critical links in supply chains (1)
- Co-location - lower operational costs, enable environmental monitoring, consensus & engage local economies (1)
- Enable access to funding - important because the industry is capital intensive (1)
- Gain government support for the sector to find solutions and enable aquaculture development (1)

# Positive tipping points



# Stakeholder engagement – volunteers?

- Focus on sustainable development and operation of SW shellfish & seaweed farming case studies
- Consult with stakeholders through a workshop and 1:1 interviews to obtain feedback and recommendations on the application of the positive tipping framework
- Gain understanding of how and where change in SW mariculture may come and how that links to regional and national interventions
- Generate a practical/workable decision framework for sustainable mariculture development

# Thanks for listening!

Please contact us about stakeholder engagement on positive tipping points for sustainable aquaculture



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# Priorities for ensuring the sustainable development and growth of aquaculture in SW England

Short 5 minute questionnaire

 **ross.brown@exeter.ac.uk** (not shared) [Switch account](#)

 Draft restored

\* Required

Informed consent



Volunteer for stakeholder engagement - Emma G-G of Dorset Biosolutions / Biogineers

Hi Ross - Happy to advise on relevant legislation in the Southern IFCA District. Also happy to answer anyone's questions - my email is [isabel.griffiths@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.griffiths@southern-ifca.gov.uk) Isabel Griffiths (Southern IFCA)

Rob Passmore – ND Biosphere

KTN seminar briefing

North Devon CRF report