

Submitted to Draft Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan
Submitted on 2025-10-17 15:17:02

Introduction

Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2024)

Plan structure

Aims, Scope and definitions

Geographic Scope

Definitions

Historic Presence

Restoration baselines and targets

Theme 1: Restoration Opportunities and Priorities

1 On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?

Question 1 - Establish a rolling programme of opportunity maps:
4 - Somewhat important

Question 1 - Develop criteria for priority habitats and species:
5 - Very important

Question 1 - Support and enable landscape scale restoration:
5 - Very important

Question 1 - Promote the importance of a place-based approach and baseline surveys:
3 - Neutral

2 Please choose for each action in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Develop opportunity maps for habitats and species, taking into account restoration priorities:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Gather and incorporate further data to refine opportunity maps and develop new layers:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Explore appetite for more localised and/or regional opportunity maps:
Reserve for future plan(s)

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Set out priorities at national scale, while supporting regional partnerships and other local coalitions to identify regional priorities:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Review and update priorities using the criteria established to ensure action is targeted where it is most urgently needed:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Improve understanding of connections between habitats and species to generate ecosystem level benefits:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Encourage landscape scale funding:
Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Enable join-up between projects:
Include in this plan

3 Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

Please give us your views:

We welcome the scope of the plan and particularly the inclusion of 'terrestrial restoration where it directly benefits marine and coastal habitats, or species that spend at least part of their life cycle in the marine environment'.

On page 3, we would like to see reference to Scotland's Wild Salmon Strategy.

In our answers to the above questions, we have prioritised areas that we believe will help to accelerate urgently needed action to restore the marine environment.

The term 'place-based' is starting to appear across Scottish government and agencies, but we don't consider this to be a particularly useful term. Is there any form of marine restoration that would not occur in a 'place'?

Theme 2: Regulatory Environment

4 On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?

Question 4 - Support restoration projects navigating the regulatory environment:

5 - Very important

Question 4 - Encouraging better join-up, transparency and information sharing across regulators and public bodies:

4 - Slightly important

Question 4 - Establish protection mechanisms for habitats and species undergoing restoration:

5 - Very important

5 Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Identify opportunities to create and fund a support post(s) to help projects navigate regulatory requirements:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Update and produce further guidance on regulatory requirements, including mapping what is needed and when:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Create a 'one-stop-shop' for guidance, information and knowledge exchange, including a database of projects to improve oversight of where restoration is happening:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Set up a forum for relevant bodies to share regular updates:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Invite Local Authorities to information workshops to raise awareness of restoration:

Reserve for future plan(s)

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Work with regulatory bodies to ensure support for restoration is a key priority:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Explore how best to implement a protection mechanism, in law, for habitats and species undergoing restoration:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Set out clear monitoring requirements as well as procedures for cases where restoration is not successful:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Encourage early engagement with local communities and other sea users to consider voluntary arrangements, for example codes of conduct:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Include policies in NMP2 to support active restoration:

Include in this plan

6 Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

Please give us your views:

We strongly support the proposal to identify opportunities to create and fund a support post(s) to help projects navigate regulatory requirements, but we also consider that simplifying the regulatory requirements should not be lost or deprioritised.

We believe that suitable protection mechanisms, coupled with early and meaningful engagement with other sea users, is vitally important in securing marine restoration.

Theme 3: Funding and finance

Links with wider areas

7 On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?

Question 5 - Address the funding gap for project development and groundwork phases:

5 - Very important

Question 5 - Continue investment in pipeline of projects:

5 - Very important

Question 5 - Ensure private sector investment can support restoration at scale but does not bypass local communities:

5 - Very important

8 Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.

6.a - Support to develop innovative funding streams (public and private sector):

Include in this plan

6.a - Highlight existing public and private sector funding streams such as SMEEF that already target this phase:

Include in this plan

6.a - Promote the importance of funding project development activities to a wider range of funders:

Include in this plan

6.a - Work with regulators and other public bodies to de-risk project development (for example by providing more clarity on costs and timelines for licenses and consents):

Include in this plan

6.a - Maintain support for SMEEF for duration of this first plan:

Include in this plan

6.a - Explore the potential for a matchmaking service linking businesses to projects:

Include in this plan

6.a - Use SMEEF to leverage funding into community-led projects:

Include in this plan

9 Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

Please give us your views:

Adverse environmental pressures affecting the marine and coastal environments due to a range of industrial and commercial activities are increasing. As well as ensuring that the effects of adverse impacts from these activities are mitigated as far as possible through regulatory and planning mechanisms, it makes good economic sense to secure adequate compensatory private (and public) finance through mandated and voluntary corporate commitments to implement restorative measures commensurate with anticipated adverse impacts.

Along with SMEEF, a Scottish Rivers Fund supported through the Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS) and backed by NatureScot, SEPA and the Marine Directorate is currently in development. The inspiration for the Scottish Rivers Fund is in recognition of the important connectivity from source to sea, to address pressures affecting the freshwater environment from land and associated freshwater related activities. The Scottish Rivers Fund is being modelled on SMEEF, and designed to fit with Scottish Governments Natural Capital Market Framework.

Theme 4: Supply chains and communities

10 On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?

Please indicate the level of priority you would assign to each objective. - Support knowledge exchange, data sharing and best practice learning on active restoration between projects and across the sector:

4 - Somewhat important

Please indicate the level of priority you would assign to each objective. - Increase participation and engagement of other marine and coastal users in restoration:

4 - Somewhat important

Please indicate the level of priority you would assign to each objective. - Support more resilient supply chains for restoration while maintaining high standards of biosecurity:

5- Very important

11 Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Foster communities of practice, both through existing networks and new networks and platforms where helpful:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Work with interested institutions to explore the potential for a biennial conference and other workshops or training events for practitioners and academia, with a focus on sharing practical learning:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Use the one-stop-shop noted in Theme 2 as a platform for knowledge exchange, case studies and data sharing (including citizen science):

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Explore the potential for a prize for restoration innovation:

Reserve for future plan(s)

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Encourage early engagement with other marine users in project development:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Publish case studies on how restoration activities can benefit multiple marine users and/or where cross-sectoral efforts have been successful:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Promote the socio-economic development potential of restoration as a sector:

Reserve for future plan(s)

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Support new and existing enterprises aimed at developing supply chains:

Reserve for future plan(s)

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Update and expand guidance on supply chain best practice, for example biosecurity and genetic diversity:

Include in this plan

12 Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

Please give us your views:

No further comments.

Theme 5: Evidence and monitoring

13 On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?

9. - Support improved and more standardised evidence gathering and monitoring for active restoration:

4 - Slightly important

9. - Improve understanding of how active restoration can contribute to targets and generate environmental, social and economic benefits:

4 - Slightly important

9. - Improve the availability of information on restoration projects in Scotland:

4 - Slightly important

9. - Explore potential contribution of citizen science to data collection and monitoring:

3 - Neutral

14 Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Work with projects and research institutions to develop and share user friendly, standardised data collection best practices for before, during and post-restoration activity:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Develop understanding of ways to measure how restoration efforts contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status and other targets in our marine environment:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Help and encourage projects to capture data on social and economic impacts of active restoration:

Include in this plan

Please choose for each action set out below whether it should be: included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included. - Establish and maintain a database of restoration projects:

Include in this plan

15 Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

Please give us your views:

We have previously undertaken work, supported by The Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland (FIRNS), to develop a monitoring framework for river restoration projects – see:

<https://fms.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/250228-DLVRBL-Monitoring-Framework-FINAL1.pdf>

This project recognised the importance of monitoring, whilst emphasising the need for proportionality to the scale of the restoration project. The principles included in this document may therefore form a useful basis for designing a monitoring framework for marine restoration projects.

Plan implementation and review

Measures of success

Questions on overall approach and plan content

16 Overall, do you think this plan will support acceleration of restoration in Scottish coasts and waters?

1 - Yes a lot

17 Do you agree with the content of the plan?

1 - Strongly agree

18 Are there any actions or objectives that you feel are missing and should be included and prioritised for the first Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan?

Please provide detail below:

No.

19 Noting that we will develop a monitoring and evaluation approach for implementation and review of the plan, do you have any comments you wish us to consider at this stage?

Please provide any feedback on monitoring and evaluation of the plan below:

See comments above.

Questions for Impact Assessments

20 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Not Answered

Please use this space if you would like to expand on your answer, including in relation to any potential impacts discussed in the Environmental Report, or other relevant impacts you feel should be considered:

21 A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

Not Answered

Please use this space if you would like to expand on your answer, including in relation to any potential impacts discussed in the partial BRIA, or other relevant impacts you feel should be considered:

22 Island Communities

Not Answered

Please use this space if you would like to expand on your answer. If you answered 'Yes' this could include information on what significantly different impacts you think there may be, and whether these would be positive, negative or both.:

23 Equalities

Not Answered

Please use this space if you would like to expand on your answer. If you answered 'Yes' this could include information on what impacts you think there may be, and whether these would be positive, negative or both.:

24 Children's rights

Not Answered

Please use this space if you would like to expand on your answer. If you answered 'Yes' this could include information on what impacts you think there may be, and whether these would be positive, negative or both.:

Fairer Duty

About you

What is your name?

Name:
General@fms.scot

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Fisheries Management Scotland

Further information about your organisation's response

Please add any additional context:

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

Do you consent to Scottish Government contacting you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

What is your email address?

Email:
General@fms.scot

Where did you hear about this consultation?

If other, please say where::

Evaluation

How satisfied were you with this consultation?

Not Answered

Please enter comments here.:

How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?

Not Answered

Please enter comments here.: