

Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan

Theme 1 – Restoration opportunities and priorities

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

- 1 = This objective is not at all important
2 = This objective is not very important
3 = Neutral
4 = This objective is quite important
5 = This objective is very important
0 = I am unsure

	1	2	3	4	5	0
Establish a rolling programme of opportunity maps	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Develop criteria for priority habitats and species	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Support and enable landscape scale restoration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Promote the importance of a place-based approach and baseline surveys	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Question 2: 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.

	Include in this plan	Reserve for future plan(s)	Do not include	Unsure
Develop opportunity maps for habitats and species, taking into account restoration priorities	☒	☐	☐	☐
Gather and incorporate further data to refine opportunity maps and develop new layers	☒	☐	☐	☐
Explore appetite for more localised and/or regional opportunity maps	☐	☒	☐	☐
Set out priorities at national scale, while supporting regional partnerships and other local coalitions to identify regional priorities	☒	☐	☐	☐
Review and update priorities using the criteria once established to ensure action is targeted where it is most urgently needed	☒	☐	☐	☐
Improve understanding of connections between habitats and species to generate and ecosystem level benefits	☒	☐	☐	☐
Encourage landscape scale funding	☒	☐	☐	☐
Enable join-up between projects	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.

Answer

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

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

- 1 = This objective is not at all important
2 = This objective is not very important
3 = Neutral
4 = This objective is quite important
5 = This objective is very important
0 = I am unsure

	1	2	3	4	5	0
Support restoration projects navigating the regulatory environment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Encourage better join-up, transparency and information sharing across regulators and public bodies	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Establish protection mechanisms for habitats and species undergoing restoration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 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.

	Include in this plan	Reserve for future plan(s)	Do not include	Unsure
Identify opportunities to create and fund a support post(s) to help projects navigate regulatory requirements	☒	☐	☐	☐
Update and produce further guidance on regulatory requirements, including mapping what is needed and when	☒	☐	☐	☐
Create a 'one-stop-shop' for guidance, information and knowledge exchange, including a database of projects to improve oversight of where restoration is happening	☒	☐	☐	☐
Set up a forum for relevant bodies to share regular updates	☒	☐	☐	☐
Invite local authorities to information workshops to raise awareness of restoration	☐	☒	☐	☐
Work with regulatory bodies to ensure support for restoration is a key priority	☒	☐	☐	☐
Explore how best to implement a protection mechanism, in law, for habitats and species undergoing restoration	☒	☐	☐	☐
Set out clear monitoring requirements, as well as procedures for cases where restoration is not successful	☒	☐	☐	☐
Encourage early engagement with local communities and other sea users to consider voluntary arrangements, for example codes of conduct	☒	☐	☐	☐

Include policies in NMP2 to support active restoration	☒	☐	☐	☐
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Question 6: Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?

This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.

Answer

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

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

- 1 = This objective is not at all important
 2 = This objective is not very important
 3 = Neutral
 4 = This objective is quite important
 5 = This objective is very important
 0 = I am unsure

	1	2	3	4	5	0
Address the funding gap for project development and groundwork phases	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Continue investment in pipeline of projects	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Ensure private sector investment can support restoration at scale but does not bypass local communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 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.

	Include in this plan	Reserve for future plan(s)	Do not include	Unsure
Support to develop innovative funding streams (public and private sector)	☒	☐	☐	☐
Highlight existing public and private sector funding streams such as SMEEF that already target this phase	☒	☐	☐	☐
Promote the importance of funding project development activities to a wider range of funders	☒	☐	☐	☐
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)	☒	☐	☐	☐
Maintain support for SMEEF for duration of this first plan	☒	☐	☐	☐
Explore the potential for a matchmaking service linking businesses to projects	☒	☐	☐	☐
Use SMEEF to leverage funding into community-led projects	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.

Answer

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

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

- 1 = This objective is not at all important
- 2 = This objective is not very important
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = This objective is quite important
- 5 = This objective is very important
- 0 = I am unsure

	1	2	3	4	5	0
Support knowledge exchange, data sharing and best practice learning on active restoration between projects and across the sector	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Increase participation and engagement of	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

other marine and coastal users in restoration						
Support more resilient supply chains for restoration while maintaining high standards of biosecurity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 11: 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.

	Include in this plan	Reserve for future plan(s)	Do not include	Unsure
Foster communities of practice, both through existing networks and new networks and platforms where helpful	☒	☐	☐	☐
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	☒	☐	☐	☐
Use the one-stop-shop noted in Theme 2 as a platform for knowledge exchange, case studies and data sharing (including citizen science)	☒	☐	☐	☐

Explore the potential for a prize for restoration innovation	☐	☒	☐	☐
Encourage early engagement with other marine users in project development	☒	☐	☐	☐
Publish case studies on how restoration activities can benefit multiple marine users and/or where cross-sectoral efforts have been successful	☒	☐	☐	☐
Promote the socio-economic development potential of restoration as a sector	☐	☒	☐	☐
Support new and existing enterprises aimed at developing supply chains	☐	☒	☐	☐
Update and expand guidance on supply chain best practice, for example biosecurity and genetic diversity	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.

Answer

No further comments

Theme 5 – Evidence and monitoring

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

- 1 = This objective is not at all important
2 = This objective is not very important
3 = Neutral
4 = This objective is quite important
5 = This objective is very important
0 = I am unsure

	1	2	3	4	5	0
Support improved and more standardised evidence gathering and monitoring for active restoration	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Improve understanding of how active restoration can contribute to targets and generate environmental, social and economic benefits	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Improve the availability of information on restoration projects in Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Explore potential contribution of citizen science to data collection and monitoring	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
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Question 14: 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.

	Include in this plan	Reserve for future plan(s)	Do not include	Unsure
Work with projects and research institutions to develop and share user friendly, standardised data collection best practices for before, during and post-restoration activity	☒	☐	☐	☐
Develop understanding of ways to measure how restoration efforts contribute to achieving Good Environmental Status and other targets in our marine environment	☒	☐	☐	☐
Help and encourage projects to capture data on social and economic impacts of active restoration	☒	☐	☐	☐
Establish and maintain a database of restoration projects	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.

Answer

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

Questions about the overall approach and content of the plan

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

1	2	3	4	5	0
Yes a lot	Yes a little	Neutral	Not a lot	Not at all	Unsure
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Question 17: Do you agree with the content of the plan?

1	2	3	4	5	0
Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Question 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 in below

Answer

No

Question 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

Answer

See comments above.

Impact assessments

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Question 20: Do you think that the SEA Environmental Report is an accurate representation of the potential impacts (positive or negative) on the environment resulting from the objectives and actions proposed in this plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other

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

NOT ANSWERED

Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

Question 21: Do you think that the partial BRIA is an accurate representation of the potential costs, benefits and risks on the public, private or third sector, and regulators, associated with the objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other

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

NOT ANSWERED

Island communities

Question 22: Do you think that objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact that is significantly different (positive or negative) for some or all island communities than for other communities (including other island communities)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other

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.

NOT ANSWERED

Equalities

Question 23: Do you think that the objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact (positive or negative) on protected characteristics, with particular regard to

eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and promoting good relations?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other

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.

NOT ANSWERED

Children's rights

Question 24: Do you think that the objective and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact (positive or negative) on children's rights and wellbeing?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Other

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.

NOT ANSWERED

Thank you for providing your views

Should you wish to provide further information you can contact us via email at marinerestoration@gov.scot or write to:

Marine Restoration policy team
Area 1B North
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 19 October 2025.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, [Citizen Space](#). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/draft-marine-and-coastal-restoration-plan/>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 19 October 2025.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form and send to:

Email: marinerestoration@gov.scot

By post:

Marine Restoration policy team
Area 1B North
Scottish Government
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

Please see [our privacy policy](#) to find out how we handle your personal data.

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public on [our website](#). If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at marinerestoration@gov.scot.

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our [consultations online on our website](#). Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Facilitating marine nature restoration through legislation



Respondent Information Form and Consultation Questionnaire

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

Please see [our privacy policy](#) to find out how we handle your personal data.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

☐ Individual

☐ Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Fisheries Management Scotland

Phone number

Address

11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh

Postcode

EH1 2AS

Email Address

General@fms.scot

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

☐ Publish response with name

☐ ~~Publish response only (without name)~~

☐ ~~Do not publish response~~

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

☐ Yes

☐ No