

Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre

Terms of Reference

19 February 2026



Introduction

1. The Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (SFCC) is an association of Rivers and Fisheries Trusts, District Salmon Fishery Boards, Scottish Government, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and NatureScot.
2. SFCC is an integral part of Fisheries Management Scotland but retains a distinct membership and funding stream due to its specific functions.
3. The role of SFCC is to promote and support evidence-based fisheries management across Scotland. Since its inception, SFCC has played a central role in advancing consistent data collection, knowledge sharing, and scientific collaboration to support the conservation and management of freshwater fisheries. SFCC provides vital coordination and training services, empowering members to use high-quality data and spatial tools to inform management decisions, support local projects, and contribute to national strategies.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the SFCC are to help its members to collect, collate, use, and provide information on freshwater and coastal ecosystems, aquatic biodiversity and fish conservation, in an effective and co-operative way.
5. To these ends it:
 - i. promotes and supports habitat restoration, climate resilience strategies and whole-catchment management practices;
 - ii. encourages discussion of fisheries science and management in a forum informed by data-driven evidence;
 - iii. facilitates cross-Scotland scientific projects and provides data to inform national policy decisions, and to evidence local management decisions;
 - iv. co-ordinates and disseminates spatial data relevant to the freshwater environment and biodiversity in a way that can assist informed discussion and decision making;
 - v. provides training in methods of data collection, management and analysis;
 - vi. promotes the development of specialist software in a cost-effective way;
 - vii. informs Fisheries Management Scotland in matters relating to evidence-based fisheries management.

- viii. provides a mechanism for members to standardise data collection.

Membership

6. Any organisation listed in Article 1 is entitled to full membership.

Subscriptions

7. Each member shall make an annual subscription to the SFCC.
8. The annual subscription for each member shall be agreed at the annual meeting of the SFCC. The subscription shall be payable on joining the SFCC and annually thereafter on or before the 6th April or such other date as may be decided at any general meeting.
9. Member organisations should pay their subscriptions within 30 calendar days from the date of the invoice. A member organisation failing to pay their subscription within this time period shall be issued with a reminder, whereupon a review period of 30 days shall be initiated. During this review period, the SFCC Chairman will seek to establish the reason for delayed payment.
10. An organisation failing to pay their subscription within 30 calendar days from the date of the reminder shall cease to be a member of the SFCC, and the SFCC will withdraw its services from them.
11. Subscriptions and reserves will be used solely for the activities of SFCC. Fisheries Management Scotland will provide regular financial updates to the SFCC Committee.

Annual and general meetings

12. There shall be an annual meeting of members at a time and place decided by the SFCC Committee.
13. A general meeting may be called by the SFCC Committee at any time within 30 days of a written request by at least four members. At any general or annual meeting, each member shall have one vote. The Chairman shall have a casting vote and a deliberative vote. The quorum shall be ten.

Chair

14. There shall be a Chair who shall be elected at the annual SFCC meeting from amongst the membership. The Chair will normally preside at the general meetings of the SFCC and at meetings of the SFCC Committee. In the absence of the Chair, the representatives at the meeting shall elect a person from amongst themselves to take the Chair.

SFCC Management

15. The SFCC Committee will be responsible to the membership for the development and management of the SFCC.
16. Two representatives from the Marine Directorate (Science and Policy), one representative from SEPA, the Chief Executive of FMS and one representative from NatureScot will be invited to join the SFCC Committee.
17. Five people (including the Chair) will be elected from the membership. Every effort should be made to have at least one member from East and West Coast rivers.
18. One person will be elected from the membership as an early career committee member. Eligible candidates shall be individuals early in their career working within a Rivers/ Fisheries Trust or DSFB.
19. Members of the SFCC Committee are expected to attend 75% of Committee meetings. If they cannot attend, they will endeavour to send a suitable representative instead.
20. A person who has served on the SFCC Committee for a period of 6 years shall automatically vacate office on expiry of that 6 period and shall then not be eligible for re-election for a further 3 years. This provision shall not apply to the Chair, or to representatives listed in Article 18.
21. Any member who is not represented on the committee shall be entitled to send a person to attend its meetings, but the Committee may conduct some of its business in private if, in its view, the circumstances warrant it.
22. The Committee may invite any person to attend a Committee meeting.
23. The SFCC Committee will meet four times a year or as it may otherwise decide.

Staff

24. Fisheries Management Scotland will, at the request of the SFCC Committee, employ or otherwise engage the services of a Manager, using SFCC funds, to develop and progress the work of the SFCC, and will engage such other staff or services as the committee considers appropriate.

Alteration to the Terms of Reference

25. Following consultation with the membership, the Terms of Reference may be updated through agreement between the Fisheries Management Scotland Board and the SFCC Committee.