



## NE SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP: 11 NOVEMBER 2022

### BULLETIN: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR SEAFOOD

#### 1 Reason for report

- 1.1 To inform NESFDP members

#### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that members note this bulletin**

#### 3 Discussion

- 3.1 On 6 October 2022, Scottish Government published its first strategy for the seafood sector, setting out new support measures to maintain and improve its competitiveness and sustainability within the government's [Blue Economy Vision](#) of 31 March 2022. The Vision 'recognises that Scotland's seas and waters have a key role to play in contributing to the nation's future prosperity, especially in remote coastal, rural and island communities – and that a healthy marine environment is essential to supporting this ambition'.

- 3.2 Seafood is Scotland's most valuable food export. Worth over £1Bn in 2021, seafood exports accounted for 60% of total Scottish food exports (£1.7bn) and 63% of the UK total for fish and seafood exports. The seafood sector is also a major employer, especially in coastal communities - an estimated 14,092 people were directly employed in 2019. The Strategy aims to fulfil the sector's growth potential. The intended outcomes for the Strategy for Seafood are:

- entrepreneurial, domestically and internationally competitive, with a secure supply chain
- providing healthy, quality, sustainably harvested and farmed seafood and ensuring a balanced natural capital asset approach
- adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, lowering greenhouse gas emissions in seafood production and supporting our Net Zero commitments.
- contributing to thriving, resilient and healthy coastal and island communities.

The Strategy is at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/strategy-seafood/>

- 3.3 In addition to the onshore seafood sector the Strategy refers to work to monitor and manage sustainably Scotland's marine space and, significantly, changes to licence conditions for Scottish fishing vessels under the Fisheries Management Strategy. These are intended to generate higher landing volumes - especially of pelagic fish - into Scotland. Further to a 2017 consultation on the Economic Link, changes will be introduced from 1 January 2023 'for vessels over 10 metres which land key commercial species'. Two options are available:

- Land a minimum set percentage into Scotland (with the percentage required being dependent on the species landed), or
- Give back fishing opportunities (quota) for the Scottish Government to allocate to others in the Scottish fleet

Further details on Scotland's future fisheries management are available at the links below:

- [2020 to 2030 Future Fisheries Management Strategy](#)
- [Fisheries management strategy 2020 to 2030: delivery plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

3.4 The Strategy refers to future developments including the forthcoming Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture, efforts to stimulate innovation ('through projects similar to ONE's Seafood Transformation Project'), skills development, partnership working, applying science and data to reduce sectoral emissions and support for coastal communities. There is also a commitment to promote careers in the sector and to raise the profile of seafood as a sustainable food source.

#### 4 Scheme of Governance

NE Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a NE Scotland focus to enable issues and concerns across the fisheries and related sectors to be addressed. This includes strengthening economic development links between fisheries science, catching and processing sectors and the wider seafood industry, contributing to regional and local priorities for the fisheries sector, improving links between marine environment and biodiversity and contributing to policy development and consultations.

#### 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken as the options presented within this report do not impact on protected characteristics, health and wellbeing or town centres.

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31 October 2022