

1st meeting of the Seaweed Review Steering Group

Paper 4 – Scenario mapping

Context

During the parliamentary scrutiny of the Scottish Crown Estate Act 2019, Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform committed to establishing a steering group to advise on a work programme which takes into account the environmental implications of the removal of seaweed from the marine environment by any method but also considers the socio-economic opportunities seaweed could bring.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the work would be to *consider possible future scenarios for the sector in Scotland to assess potential economic and social impacts if the industry was to establish and grow.*

The objectives would be to:

- Determine the potential scale of a seaweed industry in Scotland, and where it may establish;
- How supply chains for the seaweed industry may develop in Scotland and internationally;
- Determine potential scale of direct and indirect socioeconomic impacts, and where they may occur.

Current position

An initial review of evidence on how the seaweed industry has established in other countries is about to be completed by the Marine Analytical Unit. This will inform development of scenarios for the industry in Scotland. The work will focus on:

- Understanding market opportunities and recent trends in seaweed related industries;
- Identifying globally the countries in which the industry is establishing and growing;
- Identifying the value chains that are establishing in different countries, i.e., which sectors are seaweed industries contributing to? (e.g., cosmetics, biotech, food, etc);
- Evidence strategies that different countries have taken to support growth of the sector.