

Blue Economy Vision for Scotland



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1. Ministerial foreword



We are increasingly aware of the importance of the marine environment to the health of our planet. We recognise the beauty of our seas and the diversity of life that they support, as well as the potential of marine assets and resources to support the prosperity of people and communities.

Scotland's seas and coasts are home to a diverse range of species. They support vital jobs across our economy, especially in coastal and island communities, and provide many goods and services as well as contributing to our overall wellbeing. They are an important part of our heritage, our present and our future. We need to nurture them to ensure that they can continue to play these roles in our lives now and in the years ahead. Scotland, like other nations around the world, is facing the twin crises of climate change and nature loss, while also living through the Covid-19 pandemic and working to address poverty and inequality. We are also managing the consequences of leaving the European Union. Scotland's blue economy has the potential to make a significant contribution to how we respond to these challenges. Protecting and enhancing our marine assets is key.

To do this, we need to transform the way we use the marine environment and manage our 'blue' resources. We must respond with innovative new ideas and new ways of working together, if we are to truly maximise the benefits the sea can deliver to all of Scotland's society, and live within sustainable limits. There is potential for an ambitious and inclusive blue recovery for people and nature, and the blue economy vision starts us on that journey.

Our seas can, and should, create and maintain economic prosperity for the nation, especially in our remote, coastal and island communities. Our seas contributes to our commitment to being a Good Food Nation, with seafood and fish from Scotland renowned globally for its quality. Ensuring it is harvested and farmed sustainably will position Scotland at the forefront of "Blue Food" opportunities.

A blue economy approach will also help us to realise our ambitions for a wellbeing economy in Scotland where the country's successes are defined and measured beyond economic growth and Gross Domestic Product, and we emphasise the importance of addressing inequality. Human wellbeing is multidimensional and nature plays an important part in ensuring a high quality of life for our people.

This vision sets out the Scottish Government's long-term ambition for Scotland's blue economy to 2045. It promotes an approach that is consistent with Scotland's National Performance Framework and our international obligations. It demonstrates how much we value our marine environment and its significance. This is captured in the six outcomes that we want to achieve.

We are fortunate in Scotland to benefit from a wealth of committed and passionate marine stakeholders and international partners who we will work with to help us achieve our ambition. This is just the start of the work to deliver a collaborative approach in Scotland. The next step is to develop the programmes and policies to deliver these outcomes through a blue economy action plan. I see the blue economy vision as the beginning of a conversation, to drive forward positive collaborations to deliver action.

Together, we can achieve an ambitious transformation of the value of Scotland's seas as we move from blue economy theory into delivery, driving forward innovative solutions to deliver bold and ambitious change, helping to tackle the twin crises of nature and climate change and bringing real benefits to people and communities throughout Scotland and globally.

Mairi Gougeon

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

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2. Vision

This document sets our vision for Scotland's blue economy. Drawing on the latest evidence, it builds on our current direction of travel and identifies six outcomes up to 2045 (summarised by theme below) that will deliver our long term aspirations for the marine environment. At its core, our vision recognises that economic prosperity and well-being are embedded within nature, and in order to harness blue opportunities, we must transform our economy and society to thrive within the planet's sustainable limits. The blue economy extends the Scottish Government [Environment Strategy](#) vision of "One Earth. One Home. One Shared Future" to include 'One Ocean':

Scotland's Blue Economy Vision. By 2045 Scotland's shared stewardship of our marine environment supports ecosystem health, improved livelihoods, economic prosperity, social inclusion and wellbeing.

Environment → Scotland's marine, and inter-linked freshwater and coastal environments are restored, adapted and resilient to climate change and sustainably managed to achieve good environmental status.

Social → Our blue economy is managed to ensure fairer, healthier, happier communities across Scotland, with equal access to the benefits from marine resources. All of Scotland's population is aware of and engaged with their fantastic marine and freshwater resources, and they value the part it plays in their lives. We have improved governance and transparency and a shared stewardship of our blue economy.

Economic → A healthy marine environment is enabling innovative blue sectors. Blue sectors are resource efficient, internationally competitive and operating to meet net zero and nature-positive commitments, supported by a skilled workforce that is inclusive, diverse, and fair, reflecting our commitment to equality and human rights.

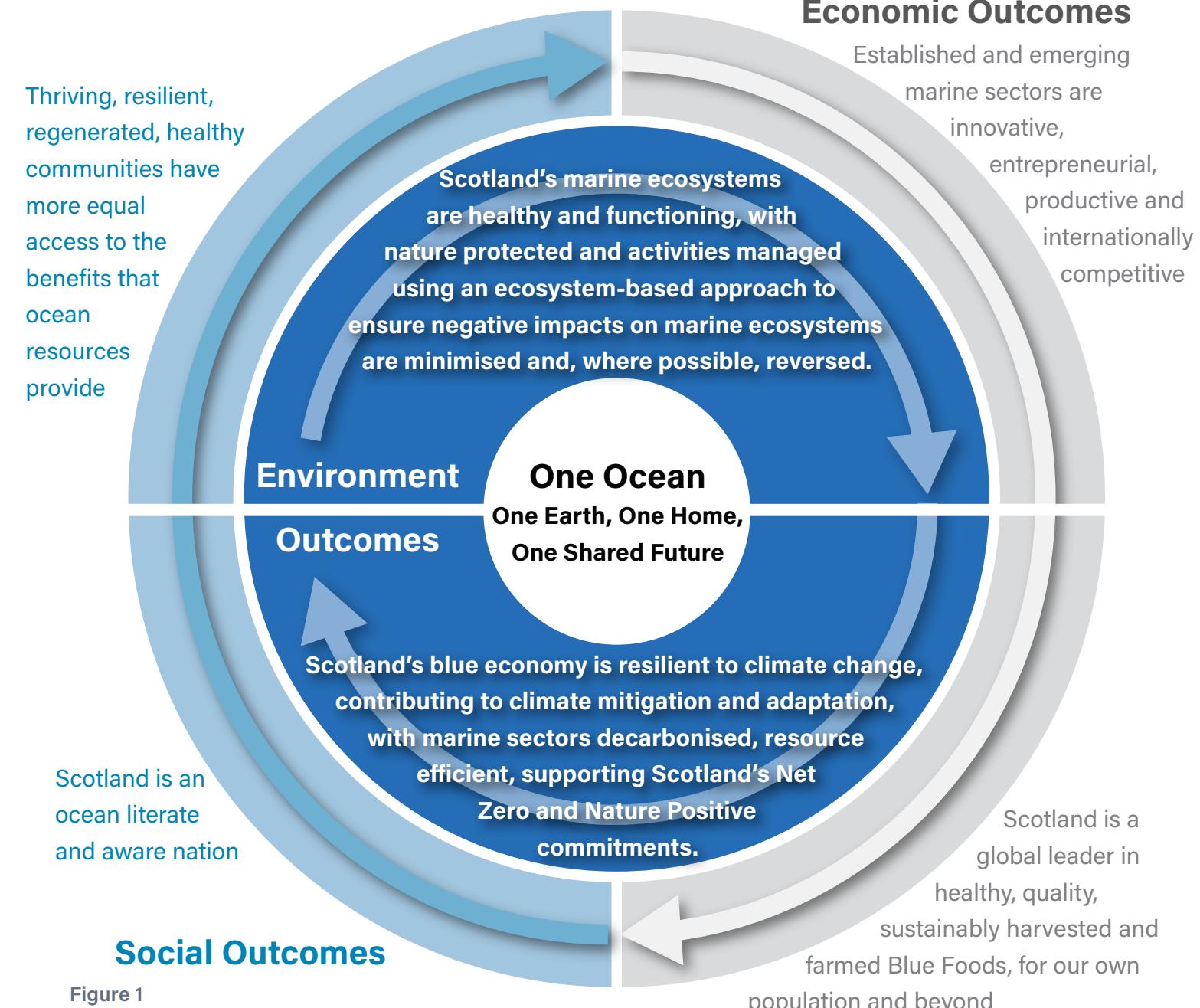


Figure 1
Scotland's Blue Economy Outcomes

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3. Defining the Blue Economy

There is no single global definition of a 'blue economy approach'¹.

The blue economy approach recognises that "*our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature*", where nature provides a flow of benefits to people and the economy, called natural capital. It helps demonstrate the interconnections between economic, societal and environmental challenges in a more holistic way. If we want to transform our economy and society, we must thrive within the planet's sustainable limits and harness the opportunities this creates for our prosperity and well-being.

The blue economy approach requires a transition from '*environment versus economic growth (the prevailing status quo in Scotland and globally) to 'shared stewardship'*' of natural capital that is facing common pressures. It draws from scientific findings that ocean resources are limited and that the health of the marine environment has declined through human impact. The aim is to achieve a triple bottom line where ambitious economic, social and environmental objectives can be progressed in balance with a clear emphasis on building a wellbeing economy that promotes sustainability, prosperity, innovation, resilience and inclusion.

¹ Voyer, M., Quirk, G., McIlgorm, A., and Azmi, K. (2018). Shades of blue: what do competing interpretations of the Blue Economy mean for oceans governance?, *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 20(5), pp. 595–616.

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4. Scotland's Blue Economy

It is important to establish what is included in Scotland's blue economy in the context of this vision. The term 'blue economy' has been used in different ways to describe the various aspects that make up a country's marine environment and sectors.

Scotland's blue economy includes the marine, coastal and the inter-linked freshwater environment of Scotland, the different marine and maritime sectors it supports, and the people connected to it. It also encapsulates the legislation, policies, programmes and international commitments that determine its management, as well as the under-pinning scientific research that provides data and information for evidence-informed policy development and is used to evaluate our success.

Together, these environmental, social, economic, scientific and political components make up Scotland's valuable and vibrant blue economy.

Defining Scotland's blue economy in this broad sense illustrates that it includes a range of interconnected policies and activities. As the blue economy vision is developed into an action plan, we will set out the pathways in which these various policies, programmes and activities can help to deliver our blue economy outcomes.





Figure 2
Scotland's Blue Economy

4.1 Why do we want to implement a Blue Economy approach in Scotland?

There is growing recognition, globally, of the importance of the marine environment to the health of the world. Collectively, we need to manage marine resources sustainably and take co-ordinated action at pace to drive forward transformative change. Scotland's industrial past is a source of pride but also a real cause for [reflection](#), in terms of the legacy of impacts. We understand the severity and urgency of the situation in Scotland. Scotland has seen a dramatic decline in its biodiversity and there are significant pressures from human activities that need to be managed.

The science suggests that the world may be approaching a tipping point for nature and for the climate, with warnings from the latest IPCC report as being "code red for humanity". The rationale is clear - more can and must be done, building on current positive actions to benefit nature, people and our economy. Furthermore, given the interdependencies of nature, people and our economy, decision making needs to be done in a managed and balanced way.

The drivers for action for the Scottish Government to implement a blue economy approach are set out below (Figure 3). These drivers support a renewed focus on Scotland's blue economy.



1. Global climate change emergency

There is growing evidence of the impact of climate change on the marine environment, including on the ocean's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Changes already detected in Scotland include ocean warming, oxygen reduction, sea level rise and ocean acidification.



4. Competition for marine space and resources as the intensity and range of human activities continues to increase in response to demand for marine products, energy and transport. Managing co-existence in the same shared marine space or competition for space and resources requires a new approach to achieving the most effective use of the sea.



2. Nature Crisis

Threats to Scotland's natural capital from biodiversity loss. Scotland has one of the lowest biodiversity intactness indexes globally and is seeing a dramatic decline in its biodiversity. 11 out of 15 indicators of Good Environmental Status in Scotland's marine environment had not been achieved by 2020.



3. Statutory obligations for a just transition

to a net-zero society by 2045 (75% by 2030) will require transformation in our use of the sea and decarbonisation across marine sectors and supply chains, including an energy transition with expansion in offshore renewables, carbon capture and storage and hydrogen.



7. Brexit and Covid

EU Exit has changed policy making in Scotland, especially for marine management as an area heavily regulated by direct EU legislation. The Scottish Government has new powers, obligations, opportunities and risks placing increasing importance on governance, accountability and open government principles. The combined economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and EU Exit trade issues have had a significant negative impact on the economy as a whole, including marine sectors and the seafood sector in particular. Investment in the Blue Economy will need to deliver multiple benefits for Scotland's sectors and communities.

Figure 3

Blue Economy Drivers

5. Scotland's Leadership

Continuing to build global momentum for positive action, following the success in strengthening ocean-based action during COP26. We are at the beginning of the UN decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development which are bringing together the global community to focus on marine challenges.



6. Scotland's commitment to a wellbeing economy

as a founding member of the Wellbeing Economy Governments group. Building an economy that is inclusive, promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, supporting communities across Scotland to access opportunities and deliver wellbeing.



8. Research and Development

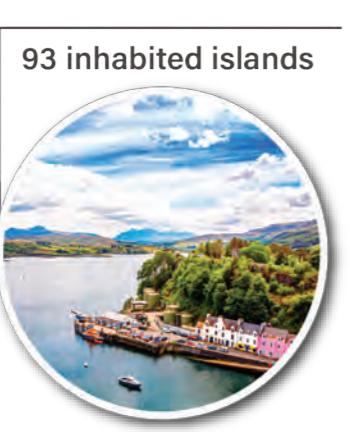
Advancements in science and generation of ocean observation data supports increased understanding, innovation and the development of new tools and approaches for marine management, including natural capital (see Box 1) and wellbeing metrics to support decision making.



The Importance of Scotland's Blue Economy



18,743 km of coastline



93 inhabited islands



125,000 km of rivers and streams



9,636 Mt CO₂ equivalent stored in 'Blue Carbon'
Equivalent to total carbon stored in Scotland's terrestrial ecosystem



A Marine Protected Area network covering 37% of Scotland's Seas



Home to 6,500 complex and 40,000 single cell species



A marine area of 617,000 km²
Seven times greater than the land



75,500 jobs in the marine economy
Contributing to 2.8% of total Scottish employment



£5 billion in GVA generated from the marine economy in 2019



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£614 million of Scottish-farmed salmon exports in 2020
40% of total UK fish and seafood exports



30 million tonnes of exports through Scottish ports in 2020

16 million domestic day trips to Scotland's coasts annually



10,000 maritime students trained annually at City of Glasgow College



1.9 GW of installed operational capacity from six offshore wind farms, supporting 2,200 jobs



£877 million of Scottish seafood exports in 2020
£709 million of which was export to the EU

Box 1 - Natural Capital and the Blue Economy Approach

We need to explore the feasibility of new tools to support evidence-informed decision making.

Ecosystem Services: “The benefits provided by ecosystems that contribution to making human life both possible and worth living”

Natural capital: “that part of nature which directly or indirectly underpins value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, soils, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions”

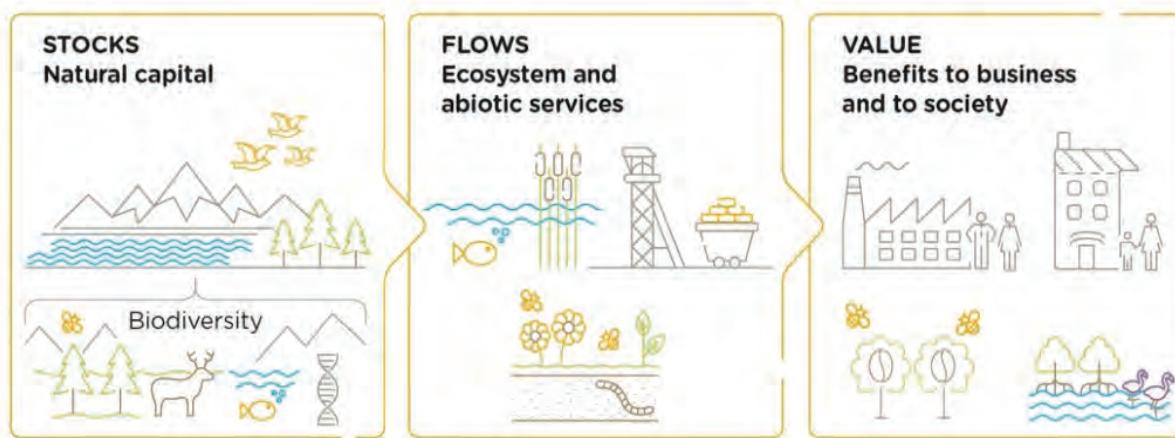


Figure 4

Global scale processes and biodiversity create the natural capital stocks that yield nature's contributions to people and society (Reproduced from A Nature-Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature, 2021).

Sustained economic development and prosperity derived from the marine environment relies on robust and resilient ecosystems. Natural capital is a way of thinking about nature as a stock that provides a flow of benefits to people and the economy, where the flow of benefits and the capacity of the ecosystem to deliver those benefits both need to be maintained. Including

natural capital in traditional economic tools that support decision making, helps us understand that natural capital is capable of being enhanced or degraded.

This approach puts environmental and societal issues on a more balanced footing when weighed against purely commercial considerations. This can help strengthen a shared stewardship approach to the management of the marine ecosystem. It can also help set biodiversity net gain policy targets.

Delivering a blue economy approach to managing ocean resources and balancing economic, social and environmental interests will require a clear decision-making framework. One approach would be the wider use of natural capital assessments in policy development and implementation to achieve a balance in the use of the ocean's resource. This would also bring marine decision making tools in line with those that exist for terrestrial systems, where the Natural Capital Asset Index (NCAI) tracks changes in the capacity of Scotland's terrestrial ecosystems to provide benefits to people.

The blue economy action plan will set out further proposals relating to this.

Whilst thought technically feasible, [natural capital asset indexes](#) are yet to be developed for the marine environment in Scotland, as they have been for terrestrial environments. Regional pilots already underway provide the first steps in testing this approach. It will therefore require further work to develop and deliver a clear assessment framework that can be used as a tool that can take account of the effects that human pressures have on ecosystem services to inform decision making.

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5. Vision and Outcomes Explained

Scotland's Blue Economy Vision. By 2045 Scotland's shared stewardship of our marine environment supports ecosystem health, improved livelihoods, economic prosperity, social inclusion and wellbeing.

Scotland's blue economy vision is consistent with the vision defined within the UK [Marine Policy](#) statement for a ***"A marine environment, which is clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people"***, and recognises that our economy and society are embedded in nature.



Complementing the position set out in Scotland's third Land Use Strategy (published 2021), the blue economy vision acknowledges that our marine, coastal and interlinked-freshwater resources are national assets and part of Scotland's cultural identity that has shaped our economy. For these habitats to continue to play this important role in lives and livelihoods, we must manage, protect, and enhance these ecosystems to achieve long-term health and sustainability. The blue economy

vision therefore offers framing for Scotland's existing and future marine management policies, strategies and plans e.g. [Scotland's National Marine Plan](#) and [Future Fisheries Management Strategy](#).

The blue economy vision will provide the context for marine related activity across the Scottish Government, support greater cohesion of policies and help guide our national and international marine ambitions. It sits alongside other existing high-level government strategies, including but not limited to the [Environment Strategy](#), [The National Plan for Scotland's Islands](#) and the [National Planning Framework](#), and [Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#)

Setting out our six outcomes to 2045 will provide a context for the development and delivery of existing strategies and plans and inform areas of development such as the new Biodiversity Strategy (which encompasses both terrestrial and marine environments), the Energy Strategy, and future updates to the Climate Change Plan. Our outcomes will help provide focus on areas for investment and help establish shared goals with stakeholders in the public, private and third sectors. Overall, the outcomes will support an ambitious and inclusive economic and social recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and the impacts of European Union withdrawal, in particular in rural, coastal and island areas.



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6. The Six Outcomes

The six blue economy outcomes have been identified to respond to major challenges of our time, such as the climate and nature crises, just transition to zero, a blue recovery from Covid-19 and EU withdrawal. They frame a direction of travel and provide focal points for our long term blue economy aspirations.

By setting out these long term outcomes to 2045, we hope this will support collaborative and co-productive actions with stakeholders to deliver the next phase of this work, the blue economy action plan. We will use the Scottish Government principles for [business engagement](#) to guide our engagement principles (see operationalising the blue economy vision).



Scotland's marine ecosystems are healthy and functioning, with nature protected and activities managed using an ecosystem-based approach to ensure negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed.

Scotland's blue economy is resilient to climate change, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation, with marine sectors decarbonised, resource efficient and supporting Scotland's Net Zero and Nature Positive commitments.

Thriving, resilient, regenerated, healthy communities have more equal access to the benefits that ocean resources provide.

Established and emerging marine sectors are innovative, entrepreneurial, productive and internationally competitive.



Scotland is an ocean literate and aware nation.

Scotland is a global leader in healthy, quality, sustainably harvested and farmed Blue Foods, for our own population and beyond.

Figure 5

Contribution of the Blue Economy vision and outcomes to National Performance Framework Outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Centre: Blue Economy Vision; Inner ring: Blue Economy Outcomes; Middle ring: National outcomes in the National Performance Framework; Outer ring: UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Key

National Outcomes in the National Performance Framework:

 **Economy:** We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive, and sustainable economy

 **International:** We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally

 **Poverty:** We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth, and power more equally

 **Communities:** We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

 **Children & young people:** We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential

 **Education:** We are well-educated, skilled, and able to contribute to society

 **Fair work & business:** We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone

 **Health:** We are healthy and active

 **Environment:** We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment

 **Culture:** We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely

 **Human rights:** We respect, protect, and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination

UN Sustainable Development Goals



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

The Six Blue Economy Outcomes Expanded:

Environment Focused Outcomes		<p>Scotland's marine ecosystems are healthy and functioning, with nature protected and activities managed using an ecosystem-based approach to ensure negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed. (Natural Capital outcome)</p> <p>The marine environment is clean, healthy, productive, adapted and resilient to climate change, and safeguarded for present and future generations, maximising the resources and services nature can provide. Pressures on habitats and marine nature are managed using an ecosystem-based approach to minimise negative impacts and, where possible, reverse historic impacts. New decision making tools are available to measure the social and economic value of marine natural capital.</p>
		<p>Scotland's blue economy is resilient to climate change, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation, with marine sectors decarbonised, resource efficient and supporting Scotland's Net Zero and Nature Positive commitments. (Net Zero/Climate Change outcome)</p> <p>Marine sectors and their supply chains are decarbonised using energy efficient fuels and processes, and apply circular economy principles to minimise waste. Scotland's offshore wind and marine renewables sectors provide low carbon, clean power to Scotland and beyond, making a significant contribution to maintaining atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gases within the Earth's safe limits to tackle the climate emergency. We continue to build our understanding of the climate impacts on Scotland's blue ecosystems and their role to adaptation. Blue carbon cycles and stocks are understood, and where appropriate protected/restored to support climate mitigation and adaptation. Carbon capture and storage is being sustainably implemented.</p>

Economic Focused Outcomes	 <p>Established and emerging marine sectors are innovative, entrepreneurial, productive and internationally competitive. (Economic & trade outcome)</p> <p>The success of Scotland's marine sectors is recognised as being embedded in nature, and reliant on the goods and services provided by nature to deliver economic and social value. Sectors invest in inclusive and sustainable economic development, supported by a skilled workforce that is demonstrating inclusive, diverse, and fair participation in the labour market. Sectors are underpinned by a secure skills base and are investing in the Scottish supply chain and wider community benefits. A diverse range of metrics for measuring economic performance are being utilised to inform decision making.</p>
	 <p>Scotland is a global leader in healthy, quality, sustainably harvested and farmed Blue Foods, for our own population and beyond (Food Security, Nutrition and Health outcome).</p> <p>The global reputation and success of Scotland's Blue Foods as nutritious, sustainable products is enhanced with investment in ports, harbours and trade routes. Scotland is at the forefront of growing, harvesting and farming Blue Foods. As a Good Food Nation, people in Scotland enjoy the dietary benefits of Blue Foods and contribute to lower food miles. The economic and social benefit from these natural assets is shared in Scotland through a supported, prosperous, and decarbonised supply chain.</p>

<p>Social Focused Outcomes</p>	 <p>Thriving, resilient, regenerated, healthy communities have more equal access to the benefits that ocean resources provide. (Social inclusion/ equalities outcome)</p> <p>Communities benefit from inclusive, fair, high-quality, and skilled blue jobs in Scotland's marine sectors. Those from areas of industrial decline or under-represented groups in the marine workforce are not discriminated against, including those with protected characteristics. Everyone can fairly access training and employment opportunities for Blue Jobs, and equal access to employment opportunities and fair work helps to support poverty reduction and wider community benefits. The physical health, mental health and wellbeing benefits from ocean, sea, coastal and inter-linked freshwater resources are being equitably accessed and enjoyed.</p>
	 <p>Scotland is an ocean literate and aware nation (Social outcome)</p> <p>People living and working in Scotland have access to knowledge and learning about the ocean, its benefits and its role in tackling the climate and nature crises. People value and respect Scotland's seas and they feel part of a coastal nation, with a long and proud heritage and culture, and a vibrant future. People understand the many and varied job opportunities within marine and maritime sectors. They are inspired to pursue marine careers, and have lifetime access to learning new marine skills, upskilling and retraining. People can make informed choices to support the sustainable use of marine resources and have access to opportunities to engage in activities supporting the blue economy. People are empowered to participate in governance and decision making forums about Scotland's seas.</p>

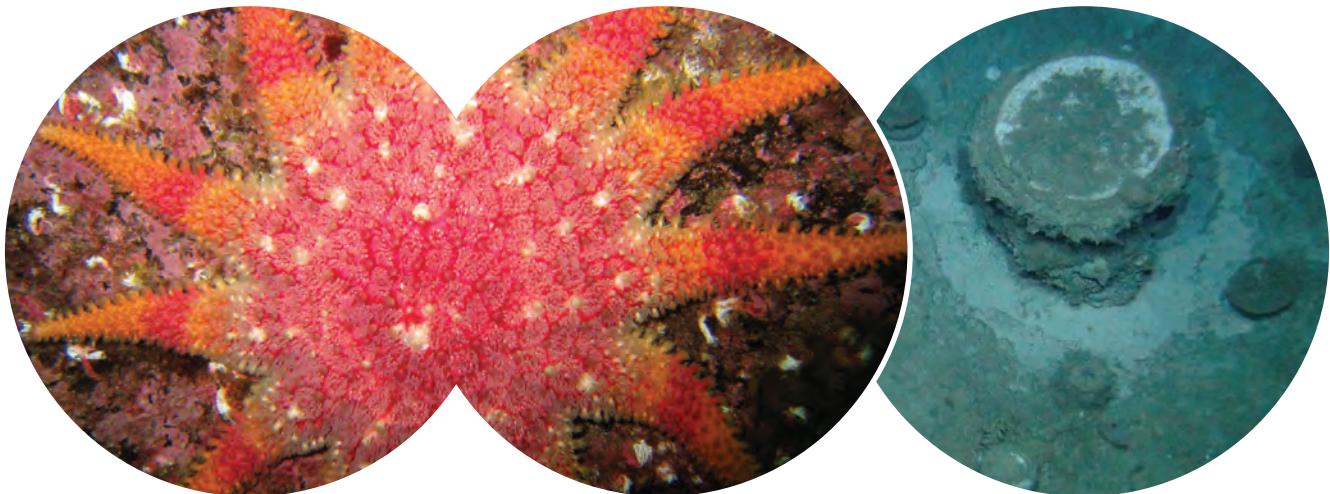
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7. The International context

The 'blue economy' concept, which came into focus during the 2012 [United Nations Convention on Sustainable Development](#), has been increasingly recognised internationally as an approach to sustainably manage marine resources. The lack of a single global definition of a 'blue economy' has not hindered progress towards developing blue economy approaches around the world. The extent to which the [underpinning principles](#) – improving wellbeing and social equity, reducing environmental risk and ecological scarcities and economic transformation – are considered, varies between nations. The blue economy approach has been pioneered by Small Island Nations such as the Seychelles, which have significant coastal resources and populations. Other international examples of the blue economy approach include those set out by the United Nations, the European Union, Canada and the World Bank. We have reviewed these international approaches to inform the Scottish Government's blue economy approach and we will continue to be informed by blue economy work that is taking place, globally, as it develops.

Scotland is committed to maintaining, and where possible enhancing, the high environmental standards that we enjoyed while the UK was a member of the EU. Our blue economy vision will



be developed and implemented in line with the Scottish Government's policy of aligning with EU law, standards and outcomes wherever appropriate, and with due regard to the EU environmental principles that we have enshrined in Scots Law.

International cooperation underpins the blue economy approach to support the overall advancement of sustainable ocean governance and build global capacity to develop 'blue economy' policy programmes. This includes working across international boundaries on marine planning, fisheries management, marine protected areas and to ensure effective monitoring, control and surveillance. International multi-disciplinary science partnerships will be needed to support evidence-informed decision making, development of adaptive management approaches and new decision making tools and measures such as natural capital and wellbeing metrics. Scotland has a strong track record and reputation for scientific excellence and developing innovative marine policy.

To achieve global blue economy ambitions, the management of ocean resources requires collaboration internationally and across the public and private sectors on a scale that has not been previously achieved. We will proactively seek opportunities to engage with our European and international partners to learn from others' experiences, share Scottish expertise and work together



to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes for our shared marine space and resources. Scotland will look to maximise opportunities for international knowledge exchange, and collaboration, to develop and deliver evidence-informed blue economy approaches. We will also continue to participate actively in international fora to deliver on our commitments, further our shared values, support global ocean governance and maintain Scotland's international influence.

*"The '*Blue Economy*' is an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of our ocean or 'blue' resources.....it supports all the of United Nations Sustainability Goals.....and recognises that this will require ambitious, co-ordinated actions to sustainably manage, protect and preserve our ocean now, for the sake of present and future generations"* **Commonwealth Secretariat, May 2018.**

"The heart of SG14 [Sustainable Development Goal 14] is the Sustainable Blue Economy...from sustainable aquaculture to the greening of shipping, from marine genetic resources to offshore energy production, developing the sustainable blue economy will mitigate climate change, create massive employment in blue green industries and provide us with medicines and nutrition we need for a secure future" (**Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, 22nd January 2022**)



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8. Operationalising the Blue Economy and next steps

Delivering a blue economy approach in Scotland will be challenging, but it will create new opportunities. It will require greater policy cohesion across government, partnership working across disciplines and sectors, and new tools to inform decision making. The next phase of work will support improved governance, transparency, data sharing and accountability regarding the shared stewardship of our blue economy and it will ensure that people are empowered to participate in decision making.

There will be difficult choices in delivering the aspirations contained within this vision. Science and evidence must underpin decision-making about what activities are prioritised where and when. This will involve consideration of co-dependencies, synergies or trade-offs between different interests and any cumulative impacts. Actions already being taken by Marine Scotland directorate, Transport Scotland and across the Scottish Government put us on the pathway to achieving these outcomes.

This vision and outcomes document sets out the Scottish Governments aspirations for implementing a blue economy approach in Scotland. The next phase will be to work in partnership with stakeholders to develop a blue economy action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework, which will begin to set out in more detail the actions and pathways required to achieve change and how this change will be monitored and reported upon.

Developing clear actions, supported by measurable indicators, will ensure that we can articulate how supporting the blue economy delivers against the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework and the global Sustainable Development Goals and why we are making bold decisions. We will draw on existing Scottish Government best practice guidance on achieving societal and environmental outcomes, for example the [Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit from Onshore Renewable Energy Developments](#) and the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#).

As we progress the blue economy approach in Scotland into an action plan, we will develop and consult on a Strategic Environmental Assessment to describe and test the effect of the vision

and outcomes on the environment. We will also carry out other Impact Assessments on the blue economy action plan.

Since the heart of the blue economy approach is the sense of shared stewardship, to operationalise the next phase of work, the following principles of partnership working will be used. We hope this will foster trust and respect by creating space for open and honest dialogue, consistent with Scottish Government [principles for business engagement](#) as set out below:

- » **Alignment with Scotland's economic vision** – a shared recognition that we all want economic policies which deliver and optimise positive outcomes, demonstrated through co-production of a programme of action;
- » **Co-production adds value** – collaboration, whilst often resource-intensive and difficult, will optimise outcomes;
- » **Lived experience adds value** – will be at the heart of developing all Scottish Government policy and services which impact on business;



- » **Evidence is paramount** – a shared commitment to evidence-based policy development, and evaluation, that promotes diversity and inclusion in a transparent way
- » **Effective Communications** – communications should be timely, meaningful and avoid surprises, underpinned by confidentiality where appropriate and mutual respect including when we do not agree.

The Scottish Government wants to position Scotland at the forefront of activity to develop the blue economy approach from a model into reality. We will work collaboratively, at home and internationally, to do so. **We will now develop a blue economy action plan that will set out what we are doing and what we need to do to deliver these six outcomes and bring this vision to life.**

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Page 9 (righthand image),

Page 13 photos - 9,653 MT CO₂, 93 inhabited islands, 125,000 km of rivers, 3 photos in the pie chart
Marine tourism, Oil and gas and Transport related

Page 14 - 16 million.... and 10,000 maritime students

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