

# Marine Scotland Research Priorities for UKRI's Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources (SMMR) Programme

Priorities for developing the evidence base in relation to the three SMMR themes are outlined below.

**Theme 1:** Understanding the different value systems people hold when they connect with the marine environment and how this affects their decision making, in order to inform and direct policy development.

- a. Community lived experiences of offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, fishing
- b. Equalities in marine industries
- c. Perceptions, social and cultural value of marine industries to communities
- d. Community resilience – to economic, environmental, social shocks
- e. Balance large scale and potentially competing policies – e.g. tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, renewable energy and other marine industries versus impacts on biodiversity and actions to address climate change (i.e.; renewable energy, Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS))
- f. Balancing national priorities with local priorities

**Theme 2:** Development and integration of modelling tools to support coastal and marine natural capital approaches and accounting.

- a. Natural capital – reviewing evidence available and exploring interactions between fish capture and ecosystem impacts i.e. benthic habitats, carbon sequestration. Moving away from just fish capture as a measure of the marine natural capital.
- b. Gamification to explore solutions for gear conflict
- c. Blue carbon – modelling tools to enable the exploration of how blue carbon habitats and species can be integrated into marine planning and policy.

**Theme 3:** Development of interventions that support government policy to improve the marine environment for the next generation.

- a. Improved engagement, governance and communication for better outcomes: National Marine Planning, solutions for different users of the marine environment
- b. Cost-effectiveness of marine climate change mitigations and adaptations
- c. Understanding of the impact of upscaling offshore windfarms (for example in the North Sea region) and/or CCUS on the marine environment and other marine industries
- d. Understanding the relevance and implementation of the National Marine Plan: e.g. implementation of the NMP, and possible barriers to implementation, whether the plan still adequately addresses the current range of marine activities and, what changing circumstances, legal, political or otherwise, which may inform whether the time is right to amend or replace the plan.
- e. Blue carbon – understanding the scale and significance of blue carbon habitats and species, and the degree of protection and enhancement required

- f. Government intervention for COVID-19 Green Recovery and interaction with natural capital, climate change targets, the marine economy and marine users.