



# OFFSHORE WIND

Policy Update Webinar | Dec 17, 2025

# Agenda

## **10:00 – Welcome**

Getting the most out of your Scottish Renewables membership

## **10:10 – Consultation Updates**

Alice Tirbooman | Policy Manager – Offshore Wind

Maggie Olson-Jow | Policy Manager – Offshore & New Technologies

## **10:25 – Offshore wind policy and barriers to deployment update**

Colin Palmer | Director of Offshore

Alice Tirbooman | Policy Manager – Offshore Wind

Maggie Olson-Jow | Policy Manager – Offshore & New Technologies

## **10:50 - AOB**

- Questions
- Upcoming Events
- Meeting Close



# Offshore Wind Team Update



COLIN PALMER | DIRECTOR OF OFFSHORE



MAGGIE OLSON-JOW | POLICY MANAGER - OFFSHORE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES



ALICE TIRBOOMAN | POLICY MANAGER - OFFSHORE WIND

# Member Input Requests

We have changed the way that we request input for consultation responses:

An email is sent to all relevant forums **every** Tuesday afternoon when we have active consultations.

Another email will be sent on **Thursday morning** if there are any new additions.

Details on how to respond will be included in the email.

# WHO WE ARE

## The voice of Scotland's renewable energy industry.

We work to grow Scotland's renewable energy sector and sustain its position at the forefront of the global clean energy industry.

Our policy work is separated into 11 Forums:



**Grid & Systems**



**Hydrogen**



**Onshore Wind**



**Economics  
& Markets**



**Offshore Wind**



**Planning  
& Consents**



**Hydro**



**Low-Carbon Heat**



**Solar**



**Supply Chain**



**Wave & Tidal**



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to find out more.

# Consultation Updates

# Scottish Marine Recovery Fund consultation response

- SR submitted a [final response](#) to the Scottish Government [Scottish Marine Recovery Fund \(MRF\) consultation](#) (August 19, 2025) which closed September 30, 2025.
- The consultation sought views on proposals for establishing a Scottish MRF and how it would be operated and managed.
- SR raised the following points on behalf of members:
  - We support the proposal to establish a Scottish MRF.
  - We highlighted the urgency of implementation of the Scottish MRF, noting that members consider its timely establishment essential to provide confidence in the deliverability of required compensation measures.
  - We emphasised the need for alignment between the UK MRF and the Scottish MRF. However, we noted that the exact mechanism of interaction between the two Funds remains unclear and called for clear guidelines on how they will manage overlapping responsibilities and how they will account for projects with cross border impacts.
- RUK submitted an endorsement letter supporting SR's response.

# Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan consultation response

- SR submitted a response to the [Scottish Government Draft Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan consultation](#), which closed on October 19, 2025.
- SR members are broadly supportive of the identified objectives and actions. The plan represents a valuable opportunity to provide an enduring framework for both policy measures and practical actions to protect and restore marine and coastal environments.
- Clarity is needed on whether the Scottish Government will consistently apply the biodiversity enhancement requirements in Policy 3 of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) to consenting applications for offshore wind projects and associated grid connections.
- Members recommend that the role of environmental compensation measures in contributing to restoration should be given greater attention in the final version of this plan.
- Read [SR's response](#).
- Scottish Government published the [First Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan](#) (December 16), which includes that the Scottish Government will consider how developing policies relating to strategic compensation and offshore wind could align with this plan.



# **Offshore Wind Policy and Barriers to Deployment Updates**

# The Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC)

- SOWEC = a partnership between the Scottish public sector and the offshore wind industry
- SR chairs Environment & Planning, Data & Route to Market theme
- SR chairs Communities & Stakeholders theme

# NatureScot Cost Recovery

- Following the ScotWind and INTOG leasing rounds NatureScot are seeking options to grow their marine advisory team to deal with the increase in marine energy casework.
- NatureScot have held two cost recovery workshops (July, September 2025).
- SR have convened one NatureScot Cost Recovery Developer Working Group (October 2025).
- Recommendations have been communicated to NatureScot.
- Next workshop is Thursday, December 18.

## *Developer Recommendations:*

- *We accept the need for NatureScot to proceed with cost recovery and understand the risk to the offshore wind pipeline and consenting process if measures are not agreed for NatureScot to grow its marine advisory team.*
- *Dual-charging model*
  - *Standard service package*
  - *Enhanced service package*

# SR/SOWEC Ornithology Support Role

## 1. Bespoke work

- Precaution: Challenging current approaches to applying precaution in impact assessments, requesting transparency around where and how precaution is applied. Report due to be published December 2025
- Streamlining: Working with Scottish Government (MD-SEDD + MD-LOT), NatureScot and RSPB to discuss and agree simpler ornithology impact assessment approaches and reporting

## 2. Engagement with Scottish Government on Sectoral Marine Plan

- Inputting to steering groups for:
  - ornithology quantitative HRA assessment for SMP
  - Developing strategic compensation measures

## SR/SOWEC report requesting transparency in application of precaution in ornithology impact assessments

Undertook an evaluation of how precaution is applied in SNCB advice.

Issues of concern:

1. Precaution is applied at incorrect points in impact assessment process. Precaution should be applied to outputs (decision-making) not to inputs (scientific advice)
2. Precaution accumulates through the impact assessment process, leading to high estimated impacts (impacts are 'precautionary')
3. Lack of transparency in extent of overestimation of impacts. Impacts that are most likely to occur are unknown, don't know how much larger precautionary impacts are
4. Likelihood of occurrence is unknown for high precautionary impacts – could be very unlikely to occur and biologically implausible
5. Lack of transparency in how SNCBs use evidence to derive precautionary inputs. Transparency needed on how evidence has been used
6. Precautionary principle requires a risk-based approach to decision-making, with scientific uncertainty taken into account. Current approaches preclude this

# SR/SOWEC report requesting transparency in application of precaution in ornithology impact assessments

## Key outputs:

- Current impacts are an overestimate of true impacts but no transparency in extent of overestimation – could be very large
- Projects and the plan may not need as much seabird compensation as is currently predicted
- Precaution must be applied to decision-making, not to scientific evaluation

## Next steps:

- Changes to current approaches are urgently needed
- Request response from Scottish Government and NatureScot

# Underwater Noise – OSPAR requirements

- [JNCC, Natural England and Cefas position on UWN](#)
- SOWEC – SG meeting held November 26.
- OSPAR Action 1: Targets and thresholds.
- OSPAR Action 5: Construction of marine infrastructure.
- UWN probably not a consenting risk – *but* – it could be a significant risk to delivery.
- How can we ensure that these policy measures are based upon a robust understanding of the science and efficacy of NAS?

# SR/SOWEC B2D-C Fisheries Workshop update

- SR participated in the SR B2D-Coexistence workshop with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and the Scottish White Fish Producers Association, hosted by Scottish Government on November 25, 2025.
- Scottish Government has not progressed measures to address the issues relating to short-term disruption payments or longer-term potential strategic fisheries funds.
- SR and SFF aligned on the need for Scottish Government to develop a statutory backstop supporting short-term disruption and longer-term strategic agreements between offshore wind projects and commercial fisheries.
- SR and SFF submitted a joint letter to Gillian Martin MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, and Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, calling for further progress from Scottish Government to establish a statutory footing.



# SR/SOWEC B2D-C Fisheries Workshop update

The [FLOWW Best Practice Guidance](#) was launched on November 27, 2025. The Scottish Fishermen's Federation and Scottish White Fish Producers Association have not signed UK FLOWW.

SR/SOWEC B2D-C will further explore a Scottish FLOWW, but the following considerations need to be addressed:

- Overlap and interaction with UK FLOWW Best Practice Guidance, especially for cross-border offshore wind farms and fisheries
- If Scottish FLOWW would cover fixed wind, floating wind or both technologies
- Specification on which offshore wind projects would fall under Scottish FLOWW guidance
- Clarity on the gaps in UK FLOWW guidance and what would need to be added or changed in Scottish FLOWW

# Community Benefits update

- The Scottish Government posted the [consultation analysis](#) of the [Community Benefits from Net Zero Energy Developments](#) on October 22, 2025. Read [SR's Response](#).
- The Offshore Review Advisory Group held a series of 'deep dives' on key issues in consultation responses, focused on capacity building and defining community.
- SR hosted the final session in person on October 30, 2025, covering governance, maximising impact, and funding.
- The UK Government is expected to publish a response to its [working paper on community benefits and shared ownership for low-carbon energy infrastructure](#) in the coming weeks. Read [SR's Response](#).
- The Scottish Government is continuing to engage with UK Government counterparts and will consider any potential impacts on the GPP refresh. Final guidance will be published later in 2026.

# Policy updates for offshore wind

- Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (SMP – OWE)
- Secondary Legislation for Strategic Compensation
- Scottish Marine Recovery Fund (MRF)
- Updated Offshore Wind Policy Statement
- National Marine Plan 2 (NMP2)

**AOB**

# New Member Space Open!

- We're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new **Member Space**, created exclusively for you, our members.
- The Member Space offers a comfortable and convenient place to work while visiting SR in Glasgow – all at no cost to you. Enjoy access to:
  - 11 fully-equipped hot desks
  - A collaborative breakout area
  - A private six-person meeting room
- Booking a slot is quick and easy. Just use the dedicated [Skedda Booking System](#) online or by downloading the app. You can find out more in [this short video](#).
- Our new Boardroom will also be available for commercial opportunities shortly.



# Recent Policy Update Webinars

November 19

[Grid & Networks](#)

December 02

[Planning & Consents](#)

December 08

[Hydrogen](#)

December 09

[Onshore Wind](#)

December 10

[Economics & Markets](#)

**Details of the upcoming 2026  
Policy Update Webinars will  
be added in due course. And  
will be found [here!](#)**

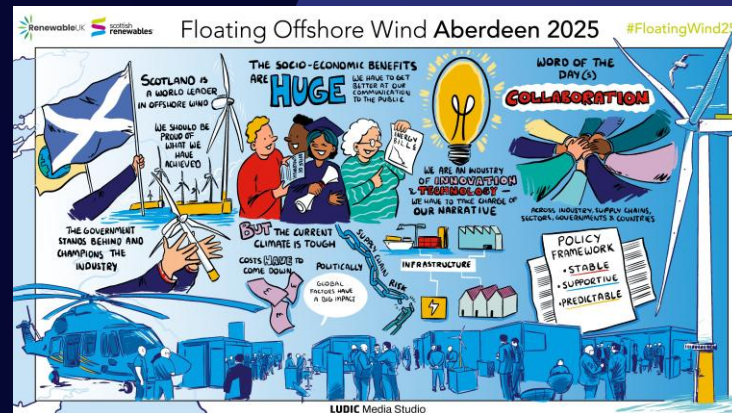
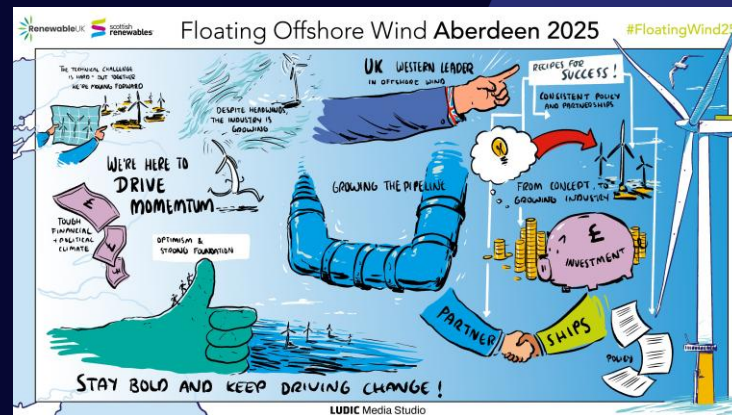
## Recent Events & Visits

- AGM & Member Forum 2025
- Onshore Wind Conference 2025
- Scottish Renewables Westminster Reception
- Reformed National Pricing: Where next for the GB Electricity Market?
- Floating Offshore Wind Conference 2025
- Scottish Green Energy Awards



# Floating Offshore Wind Conference 2025

- Scottish Renewables and RenewableUK hosted 2,000 guests in Aberdeen on November 12-13, 2025.
- Keynotes from:
  - Michael Shanks MP, Minister of State for Energy
  - Kate Forbes MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic





# Upcoming Events

January 28-29 | Glasgow

[Offshore Wind Conference 2026](#)

February 25 | Glasgow

[Heat Seminar 2026](#)

February 26 | Glasgow

[Grid & Networks Conference 2026](#)

March 18 | Glasgow

[Planning Conference 2026](#)

May 7 | Aberdeen

[The Scottish Green Energy Supply Chain Awards 2026](#)

[Book Now!](#)

