The UN Sustainable Development Goals in Scotland

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Valuing and conserving nature

Promoting & supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources

Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges
A Flourishing Scotland
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Target 14.1
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

- Bathing Waters Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Forestry and water guidelines
- Plastic bag charge
- Public awareness – beach cleans
- Proposed microbeads ban
- Aquaculture
- Deposit return scheme
- Food packaging – single use plastics
- Coherent policy on Circular Economy
Target 14.2
By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

- Inshore fisheries bill
- Regional Marine Plans – progress on Shetland
- Recent recognition of importance of blue carbon

- Resolve aquaculture and wild stocks problems
- Speed up implementation of RMPs beyond Shetland
- Natural capital scenarios analysis for blue carbon and other benefits
- Decommissioning policy - Marine Stewardship Fund
Target 14.3
Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.
Recent EU progress in ending overfishing

IUU still an issue in Scotland
MSY and science-based management plans potentially under threat from Brexit
Continued cross-nation management mobile fish stocks
Improved monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities
Protection of important nursery grounds
Phase out destructive, indiscriminate fishing practices

Target 14.4
By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.
Target 14.5
By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

- Great progress towards completion of MPA network (particularly the 30 nature conservation MPAs)
- Designation of mobile species MPAs
- Support the development and implementation of Demonstration and Research MPAs that pilot innovative and novel approaches to marine conservation and sustainable resource management
Target 14.6
By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries.

Provide subsidies/incentives for fishing practices that promote sustainable exploitation of marine resources and non-destructive fishing practices.
Show leadership internationally through sharing science and knowledge.
Target 14.7
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
Top six policy recommendations for SDG14

1. New robust regulatory framework for aquaculture
2. Urgent implementation of Regional Marine Planning underpinned by ecosystem-based management
3. Introduce deposit return scheme for plastic bottles
4. Cross party long term commitment to using science-led ‘below Maximum Sustainable Yield’ approach to offshore fisheries – regardless of political developments
5. Complete and ensure proper enforcement of MPAs
6. Oil and gas decommissioning – national Marine Stewardship Fund