

Cover page template:

1. Framework ownership

- Framework name: Fisheries Management and Support Framework
- Responsible portfolio Minister: Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
- Framework lead policy team: Paul McCarthy
- Committees that the framework is being actively shared with:
 - Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee Committee
 - Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (for wider Frameworks programme interests)

2. Points for Parliamentary committees to note:

Procedural

The published version of the provisional framework was agreed by UK portfolio Ministers in February 2022.

Content

Overview and purpose:

The Fisheries Framework is formed of the Framework Outline Agreement (FOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which sit alongside the Joint Fisheries statement (JFS) and will help shape the cross-UK governance of fisheries. The FOA explains the different components of the framework and how they relate to each other, including the MoU, the various operational agreements, the Joint Fisheries Statement, and existing legislation. The MoU sets out how the fisheries administrations will work together, where necessary, to deliver the Framework's legislative requirements, and collaborate on wider fisheries management issues of interest, whilst respecting devolution agreements.

The Fisheries Framework also consists of the Joint Fisheries Statement, which was legislated for in the UK Fisheries Act (2020). Due to the provisions of this Act the JFS is following its own statutory process, including a full public consultation running from 17 January to 12 April 2022.

Stakeholder engagement:

Scottish Government officials have discussed the framework in general terms with key Scottish stakeholders during its development, particularly with reference to where it is in relation to the JFS and Scottish Government's Future of Fisheries Management Strategy and they have been broadly supportive of the approach identified. They have also welcomed the emphasis placed on delivering on the

Fisheries Management Strategy and the emphasis placed on delivery of key policies under that Strategy such as the Future Catching Policy.

In particular, the publishing of the consultation on the Future Catching Policy in a similar timeframe to the JFS and fisheries framework should allow Scottish Ministers to make explicit links between the documents, highlighting the importance of devolution in delivering sustainable fisheries management that works for Scotland.

The Joint Fisheries Statement was produced in consultation with a Community of Interest stakeholder group. This Group were consulted on the high level content of the JFS and had opportunities to provide feedback on which areas they wished to see included in the document. The JFS is currently out for consultation and stakeholder sessions are being planned with both UK-wide and Scottish stakeholders.

Scotland specific policy interests:

Given the scale and importance of Scottish fisheries and the diverse nature of the Scottish fishing fleets, all aspects of the Fisheries Framework are of relevance to Scotland. It is worth noting that the JFS, MOU and FOA have been carefully drafted to support existing constitutional arrangements across the UK. Scottish Government is confident that the documents provide sufficient scope for each nation to develop their own policies in a manner that respects the devolution settlement.