ENIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 6 February 2018

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in the Robert Burns Room (CR1).

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to take item 3 in private.

2. **Inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming:** The Committee will take evidence from—
   
   John Aitchison, Member, Friends of the Sound of Jura;

   Sam Collin, Convener for the LINK Aquaculture subgroup, and Marine Planning Officer at the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Scottish Environment LINK;

   David Sandison, General Manager, Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation;

   and then from—

   Anne Anderson, Chief Officer, Compliance & Beyond Portfolio, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA);

   Mark Harvey, Planning Team Leader, Highland Council;

   James McKie, Head, Licensing Operations Team, and Rob Raynard, Aquaculture and Fish Health Programme Manager, Marine Scotland.

3. **Scottish Crown Estate Bill:** The Committee will consider its approach to the scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1.

4. **Inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming (in private):** The Committee will consider evidence heard earlier in the meeting.
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 2**

Inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming

cover note

PRIVATE PAPER

ECCLR/S5/18/5/1

**Agenda item 3**

PRIVATE PAPER

ECCLR/S5/18/5/3
(P)
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

5th Meeting, 2018 (Session 5)

Tuesday 6 February 2018

Inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming

Background

1. The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee has agreed to undertake an inquiry into the environmental impact of salmon farming in Scotland.

2. The ECCLR Committee agreed its approach to the inquiry into the environmental impacts of salmon farming on 19 December 2017. The Committee subsequently confirmed the timescale for the inquiry on 23 January 2018. The ECCLR Committee will report to the REC Committee in advance of its wider inquiry on aquaculture in Scotland.

3. The ECCLR Committee’s focus is the report commissioned by SPICe and undertaken by SAMS Research Services Ltd (SRSL). This report contains a review of literature on the environmental impacts of salmon farming in Scotland, the scale of the impacts and approaches to mitigating the impacts. This provides an update of the Scottish Government commissioned report: Review and synthesis of the environmental impacts of aquaculture, published in 2002.

4. The SRSL report was published on Thursday 25 January and includes the terms of reference for the research commission. The purpose of the research report is to inform the Committee’s consideration and assist it in reaching its own views.

Evidence sessions

5. The Committee heard from SRSL on 30 January and will hear from the following stakeholders on 6 February:

Panel 1:
- Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation (SSPO)
- Community organisation – Friends of the Sound of Jura
- Scottish Environment Link

Panel 2:
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Marine Scotland Licencing Operations Team (MS-LOT)
- Marine Scotland Science Fish Health Inspectorate (MSS-FHI)
- Highland Council
6. Written evidence received is published on the Committee’s webpage and available here. The Committee also received an update from Professor Paul Tett of SRSL on his oral evidence on 30 January 2018.

**Timetable**

7. The Committee has agreed the following timetable for consideration of this research in order to report to the REC Committee ahead of its wider inquiry:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 January 2018</td>
<td>Launch of inquiry including publication of research and call for evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 January 2018</td>
<td>Evidence from the SRSL (available on Facebook Live)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 February 2018</td>
<td>Evidence from Stakeholders</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 February 2018</td>
<td>Consideration of draft report to the REC Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>W/C 5 March 2018</td>
<td>Report to the REC Committee</td>
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**Clerks**

*Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee.*