

Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
Wednesday 11 March 2026
10th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Salmon farming inquiry – 12-month follow up with the Cabinet Secretary

Introduction

1. The Committee will take evidence on the progress made in implementing the recommendations in its '[Follow-up inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland](#)' report, published in January 2025.

Background

2. In April 2024, the Committee began a follow-up inquiry focused on how the recommendations in the Session 5 Rural Economy and Connectivity (REC) Committee's 2018 report, '[Salmon farming in Scotland](#)', were being implemented.
3. The REC report considered the state of the salmon industry in Scotland, identified opportunities for its future development, and explored how fish health and environmental challenges could be addressed. The REC Committee made 65 recommendations to address the concerns it identified and called for more research to improve understanding of the impact of open pen fish farms and to improve their regulation.
4. This Committee's follow-up inquiry was focused on the implementation of the main recommendations made by the REC Committee, spread across four key themes of fish health and welfare; environmental impacts; interactions between wild and farmed salmon; and salmon farm consents and planning.
5. The Committee's January 2025 report concluded that, although the 'status quo' has changed to some extent since 2018, the slow rate of progress in improving the regulation and enforcement of the industry needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency to future-proof the industry and to enable it to grow sustainably.
6. The report stated that, while some REC Committee recommendations had been implemented, the Committee remained concerned about the lack of progress and called on the Scottish Government to implement all outstanding recommendations as a matter of urgency. The Committee asked the Scottish Government to set out a clear timetable for the implementation of its own January 2025 recommendations over the next 12 months, including information about how implementation would be measured.

Evidence session

7. On 11 March 2026, the Committee will take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary and her officials to measure the Scottish Government's progress in implementing the recommendations, one year on from the Committee's report recommendations.
8. This follows [the evidence session the Committee held on 25 February 2026 with a panel of stakeholders, including industry, regulators and Fisheries Management Scotland.](#)
9. In addition to the Committee's oral evidence sessions, the Committee has received written submissions from a number of organisations. [This correspondence, together with information about the Committee's inquiry into salmon farming in Scotland, can be found on the Committee's webpages.](#)

Clerks to the Committee
March 2025