

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

13th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), Wednesday, 1 December

Climate and nature emergencies evidence sessions: Marine solutions and innovations and public agencies

Background

1. At its meeting on 27 October, the Committee agreed to undertake a number of evidence sessions around the impact of the climate and nature emergencies on the Committee's remit over November and December 2021. This would coincide with the COP26 (climate change) and COP15 (biodiversity) international conferences being held this year.
2. The purpose of these sessions was to—
 - explore how these significant 'drivers of policy change' may impact on sectors in the Committee's remit and the rural (and potentially islands) economy generally; and
 - inform subsequent scrutiny which may benefit from having undertaken initial evidence-gathering on this topic; for example, in relation to the development of future land use policy, the blue economy, and upcoming environmental strategies which will engage the Committee's remit, such as the Biodiversity Strategy and the next Climate Change Plan.
3. Today's meeting will consist of two panels of witnesses. The first will cover marine innovations and solutions and was postponed from the meeting on 24 November due to technical issues. The second panel will explore the role of Scottish public agencies on nature and the environment in relation to rural sectors and communities.

**Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee clerks
November 2021**