

ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Driving the transition to a resilient and inclusive future: the role of the ocean

A project funded by the Scottish Universities Insights Initiative (SUII)

<https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/UNGlobalGoals/RoleoftheOcean.aspx>



WORKSHOP 2 – 15th June 2021

Mobilising the science community in progressing towards a sustainable and inclusive ocean economy

Through a programme of activities from January to July 2021, this Scottish Universities Insight Institute (SUII) project seeks to accelerate progress towards an environmentally sustainable, resilient and equitable marine economy in Scotland, within the framework provided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Project aims to:

- Develop our understanding of interdependencies between marine and cross-cutting policy themes to promote policy coherence, promoting synergies and managing trade-offs.
- Mobilise the science and policy communities in co-developing knowledge for policy impact, including understanding data and evidence needs for innovation and measuring progress.

In Workshop 1, held on the 28 / 29th January 2021, we examined synergies and trade-offs, opportunities and challenges in achieving policy coherence for sustainability, focussing on the themes of: 1) the ocean / climate nexus and 2) sustainable seafood production and consumption. Our interactive sessions explored connections between marine policy and a breadth of policy themes, including the just transition, the circular economy and the green recovery, and we identified key actions and opportunities to promote synergies and manage trade-offs. The Event 1 [report](#) raised a wide range of insights and observations for developing more integrated approaches to marine policy and progress towards a sustainable marine economy.

In Workshop 2 we will build on the outcomes of Event 1 to better understand how Scotland's marine science community can more effectively engage with the policy world to support action towards policy coherence, and the science needed. This includes how to further our understanding of synergies and trade-offs in the themes of ocean/climate, and seafood production and consumption, how these can be addressed and how to measure progress. We will hear about the work underway in Marine Scotland to develop a **Blue Economy Action Plan** and consider this in our discussions.

This event is centred on the opportunity for discussion between participants which, including scientists from across disciplines, academia and industry, policy representatives from Scottish Government, particularly Marine Scotland, and other stakeholders. We will also produce a summary of priority outcomes identified by participants to support on-going action beyond the end of this Project in July 2021.

Our ambition is to continue to foster mutual understanding and a progressive culture across Scotland's marine community, to **enhance scientific capacity** and more effectively **bridge the science-policy interface**, in line with the principles of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Workshop Outline

SUII Project Event 2 - 15th June 2021: Science for a Sustainable Marine Economy	
09:15 – 09:30	Introduction and Workshop 1 reflections - Dr Lucy Greenhill (HMC)
09:30 – 09:55	Science Advice in the UN Ocean Decade - Prof Colin Moffat (Visiting Professor, Robert Gordon University, and former Chief Scientific Advisor for Marine at Scottish Government)
09:55 – 10:20	Scotland's Blue Economy Action Plan - Amy McQueen (Head of Marine Analytical Unit and Senior Economist, Scottish Government)
10:20 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 11:15	<p>Breakout 1: Science for addressing synergies and manage trade-offs</p> <p>In this session we will consider four key themes identified in Workshop 1 as priority areas of action to address synergies and manage trade-offs in marine policy and wider topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Transition – action to address climate change and social outcomes, focussing on decarbonisation of marine sectors and energy production in the marine area. • Nature-based solutions – protecting and restoring the marine environment for society benefits including climate change adaptation and mitigation (blue carbon). • Sustainable seafood – making the transition to a sustainable seafood sector. • Circular economy – redefining growth to focus on society-wide benefits, based on extracting less, re-using and reducing waste, including across marine sectors. <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What environmental, economic and social research, as well as other knowledge, is needed to understand and manage the synergies / trade-offs in these themes? 2. Where is innovation needed to promote synergies? 3. What indicators, data and evidence are needed to measure progress across these themes, in the context of the SDGs?
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Breakout 2: Science / policy integration</p> <p>Building on Event 1 and this morning's discussions, in groups we will consider the role of science / scientists in supporting policy for a sustainable marine economy, guided by the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does science contribute to the Blue Economy? 2. What are the challenges in integrating science into policy and decision-making for the Blue Economy? 3. How can we better engage scientists in the Blue Economy?
12:30 – 12:45	Highlights from breakouts - Facilitators
12:45 - 13:00	Our marine science community: the role of MASTS – MASTS (speaker to be confirmed)
13:00	Workshop close.