Scottish
Marine
Environmental
Enhancement
Fund

Impact Report

2021-2023

Foreword

Tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss is a truly national endeavour that will require the collective effort of governments, businesses and our whole society to deliver the change needed.

NatureScot is working to protect, restore and value nature. We are committed to leading a step change in marine protection: ensuring that our seas are clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse; and managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people.

That is why we have come together with the Scottish Government and Crown Estate Scotland to develop the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF). This new fund brings together the collective resources of the public sector and business and has the potential to deliver truly transformative, and much needed, change.

We are proud of the work outlined in this first Impact Report and hope, over the coming years, that we can grow SMEEF to make a significant contribution to closing the green finance gap.

Francesca Osowska
CEO NatureScot

Introduction

SMEEF was born in response to a number of challenges. Nature in our seas is declining; there is growing awareness of the importance of recovering healthy seas; and we have a huge funding gap for nature restoration.

So, it seemed obvious that we needed a new fund; one that would allow users of our coasts and seas to invest in their health and restoration, pooling contributions and directing them to projects that would have the greatest impact. It's been a complex journey to create the fund and the governance structures that ensure we both receive and spend money robustly; and all this with an extremely small core staff team, but a much wider framework of supporters and advisers.

This review – our first annual impact report – is not intended to be a detailed audit, but provides an overview of the work that SMEEF is doing and a flavour of the projects that we can support as we seek to upscale our impact and funding base.

Already we are seeing a great impact from the programme. With a little over £3.2m distributed to 45 projects around our coasts and seas community run seagrass and native oyster projects are getting the support they need. Baseline surveys are providing valuable data to support new projects and ground breaking new equipment has been purchased to provide insights into how complex marine habitats function and what their carbon sequestration and biodiversity potential is.

We welcome feedback on the report and your ideas on how we further develop and grow the fund. If we are to reverse the trend of nature loss in our coasts and seas then we need everyone to help meet the challenge.

If you would like to join this success story or find out more please contact manager@smeef.scot.

Cathy Tilbrook
Head of Sustainable Coasts and Seas, NatureScot
Chair of SMEEF Steering Group

About SMEEF

The Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) is a new financial tool designed to help bridge the green finance gap. SMEEF enables users of Scottish waters to voluntarily contribute to the health and biodiversity of our seas by creating a grant pot which is then strategically distributed to projects across Scotland.

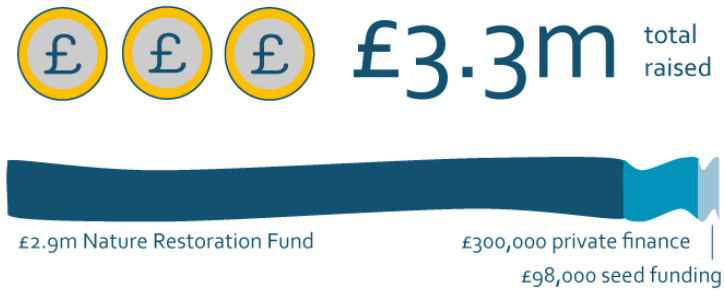
The unique placement of SMEEF, which is managed by a Steering Group of the Scottish Governments Marine Directorate, Crown Estate Scotland and NatureScot, provides exceptional insight and assures robust governance and transparency.

What does SMEEF aim to do?

SMEEF can play a key role in delivering important policy areas including the Blue Economy Vision for Scotland[1] and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy[2] (SBS). The Fund aligns with the Principles for Responsible Investment in Natural Capital and is one of the nine pillars of the Nature Conservation £1Billion Challenge and Route Map.

Priorities for the fund have been established to help deliver the SBS marine and coastal targets:

- Ecosystems will be diverse, healthy, resilient and deliver a wide range of ecosystem services
- The abundance and distribution of species will have recovered and there will be no loss of diversity within species
- Scotland's internationally important species will have increased in numbers and have healthy resilient populations
- Nature-Based Solutions, such as blue carbon habitat restoration, will be central to our efforts to deliver NetZero and adapt to climate change
- Harmful invasive non-native species (INNS) will be managed so that established INNS no longer degrade native habitats and species or impede their restoration and regeneration and new introductions are managed quickly and effectively.



grants in all local authority coastal areas

[1] By 2045, Scotland's shared stewardship of our marine environment supports ecosystem health, improved livelihoods, economic prosperity, social inclusion and wellbeing. https://www.gov.scot/publications/delivering-scotlands-blue-economy-approach/pages/4/

[2] Increase investment in Scotland's Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund and the benefits delivered to Scotland's coasts and seas, Goal D and Target 19. https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/

SMEEF could also contribute to important global objectives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Testing new approaches to restoration, providing insight into effective techniques, and sharing this learning, is another important aspect of SMEEF's work. The development of SMEEF's website (www.smeef.scot) has created a valuable hub for information on marine and coastal restoration, and an online decision support tool is being finalised to assist project developers to access guidance and help in designing appropriate schemes.

How does SMEEF function?

We want organisations to feel confident in contributing to SMEEF, and we want to provide grantees with a good service which enables them to get on with the important work of restoration. In order to do this we have set up a robust governance system where the financial and staff resources are overseen by a Steering Group made up of NatureScot, Crown Estate Scotland and the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate. This provides clear and accountable reporting as well as ensuring criteria and grant themes are aligned with national strategies and policy.

An Ethical Contributions Board assesses the source of contributions and a separate Grants Panel decide the grant allocations (see sections below). We also maintain contact with scientific experts through a close partnership with the Scottish Blue Carbon Forum and MASTS; and operate a wider mailing list for anyone with an interest in SMEEF's activities. Finally, there is the Contributors Forum which meets regularly to be updated on activities and to share experiences.

Contributions to SMEEF

Green and blue finance is a new, complex and rapidly evolving area of work with numerous risks to be considered and managed. But it is essential that we do find a way through these emerging markets as our marine systems are in desperate need of investment and support. And it is important to note that the way we choose to navigate this complexity will be carefully watched critiqued.

The Ethical Contributions Board (ECB) exists to help SMEEF to navigate some of this challenge and to give confidence to stakeholders, supporters and recipients of funds alike. My role as Chair is independent, and as a group we work with leads from each of the partners to consider contributions from potential donors and partners before providing advice to the Steering Group. Our approach is proportionate to the nature of the donation and the donor and includes background checks and wider due-diligence process to ensure that the integrity of our work is not compromised by those we work with. This procedure has been welcomed by others in the green finance space and SMEEF is now seen as something of a blueprint from which to work.

Of course, things change over time and so we also oversee regular review processes and revisit decisions should new information come to light. Our role is not to remove risk – indeed sometimes leading in an area necessitates taking some considered risks – but to ensure SMEEF makes well-informed judgements about those who fund our activity.

Our core focus is on increasing the overall amount of money available for marine and coastal restoration in Scotland and in the first six months of operation (May – Dec 2022) we raised £295,000 from private sources. In addition, almost £3,000,000 of the public Nature Restoration Fund was made available to SMEEF to enable us to pump prime our grant delivery. A list of the projects funded, contributors and amounts given are on the last page.

James Stuart
Independent Chair of ECB
Director, One Planet Consulting

Fundraising summary

In total SMEEF has raised and distributed £3,293,291 to marine and coastal restoration and enhancement projects across Scotland since 2021. £295,000 of this was raised from private sources, £2,998,291 was from the Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund. In addition, the offshore renewable energy industry seed funded the programme with £98,000 of funding which was used to cover initial staff costs, and the Scottish Government and Crown Estate Scotland covered core costs in 22/23 and 23/24 with a contribution of £208,000. NatureScot cover all hosting costs for the project including support for financial and grant management.

A list of contributors is at the end of this report. We are very grateful for their support. In order to retain our independence and avoid any perceptions of influence, contributors have no role in how funds are distributed.

The SMEEF Grants programme

The SMEEF grants panel comprises experts from NatureScot, Scottish Government Marine Directorate, Crown Estate Scotland, Scottish Environment Link and I am the independent Chair. The Panel assesses every application received against an agreed set of criteria and each Panel member brings their own knowledge, experience and challenge to the process.

If anyone on the panel is directly involved with a project, or stands to gain in some way from the grant award, they step back from the decision making for that grant.

The Panel is looking for evidence that the proposal is informed by data and science, technology advances, innovation and potential for replication or scaling up of the approach to achieve the desired outcomes.

SMEEF wants to ensure that projects are well connected with one another and relevant experts and so we also check to see how applicants demonstrate how they will engage with other stakeholders and effectively communicate the outputs from their project. We've been delighted with the range of projects submitted representing different business and stakeholder interests and a geographical spread.

Looking forward the Grants Panel can see the need for more contributors to come forward to support SMEEF, for funds to be secured further in advance of the grant decision-making rounds, and to have a Fund which is at a scale that enables multi-year awards as marine restoration requires a long-term commitment.

Susan Davies FRSB
Chief Executive, Scottish Seabird Centre
Independent Chair of SMEEF Grants Panel

How have contributions been used?

The first two rounds of funding allocated by SMEEF (2021/22 and 2022/23) were from the public Nature Restoration Fund (NRF). In this report they are referred to as SMEEF/NRF 1 and 2. The NRF is a capital only fund and so the focus of the grants was for capital items such as equipment or facilities. This was a great way to boost productivity within the marine restoration community and enabled organisations to purchase crucial items from mobile response units and navigation equipment to survey vessels.

The third set of grants SMEEF has distributed has been our first true privately funded round using only contributions from industry. This round was opened in late 2022 and the grant offers were made in quarter 1 of 2023.

Leverage

SMEEF grants can be fully funded, in that we have not required applicants to have match funding secured to allow the project to go ahead. However, many projects have used SMEEF funding as a lever to pull in other grants or have voluntarily match funded part of our grant. We estimate the impact of this, along with the volunteer and staff time, to have effectively doubled the impact of the money allocated by SMEEF.

Monitoring and Reporting

To align as closely as possible with both business and the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and other key environmental management tools. For this Report, SMEEF has chosen to categorise our spending against the following categories:

- Seabed and coastal species and habitats*
- Cetaceans
- Seals
- Fish
- Birds
- Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (mINNS)
- Engagement.

* 'Seabed and coastal species and habitats' is a catch all term which encompasses anything which is sedentary by nature, for example sand dunes, seagrass beds or biogenic reefs.

All grants are subject to a reporting clause which ensures they will report back on outcomes beyond the lifetime of the funding. At this early stage of SMEEF we are primarily able to report on the activities that grant money has been spent on, in years to come we will be able to give more detail on the environmental outcomes and impact of that spending.

The Jobs Potential

Between 2015 and 2019 the overall 'green jobs' sector grew at five times the rate of all other jobs and accounts for one-third of all jobs growth in Scotland. Nature based solutions (NbS), such as those funded by SMEEF, have the potential to create employment opportunities in some of the most remote and fragile communities in Scotland. Alongside formal employment, there will also be citizen science and volunteering opportunities that can help to build skills and community cohesion. SMEEF plans to collaborate on skills and employment opportunities in partnership with the relevant Scottish enterprise agencies and other partners.

2021-22 – SMEEF/NRF 1

This was a direct funding round administered late in 2021, however, even with tight timescales we were able to allocate £2,156,122 of grants to 23 effective capital work projects on marine restoration and enhancement across Scotland. A detailed breakdown of all grants can be found at the end of this report.

Case Study - British Divers Marine Life Rescue

£33,889

cetaceans

strategic support for entanglement and strandings

Another important strategic programme that the first round was able to support was the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). The Large Whale Disentanglement Team (LWDT) had been using unsuitable, cramped vehicles to transport people and equipment to entanglement incidents since it began. Recognising the limitations and safety risks associated with this SMEEF was delighted to be able to facilitate funding to cover the costs of purchasing and fitting out a 'mobile command and control' centre.

> "The vehicle is setup to carry 6 people including driver and the towbar is capable of pulling the RHIB and trailer meaning for the first time we have a vehicle which is fully capable of deploying the team for a rescue and supporting them in the field. Although it was designed for the LWDT we are aware that with 80% of the UK's mass strandings happen in Scotland the vehicle will be crucial for supporting other major operations. We are very grateful to SMEEF for making this possible."
>
> *Colin McFadyen, BDMLR*

Case Study - Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

£101,087

cetaceans

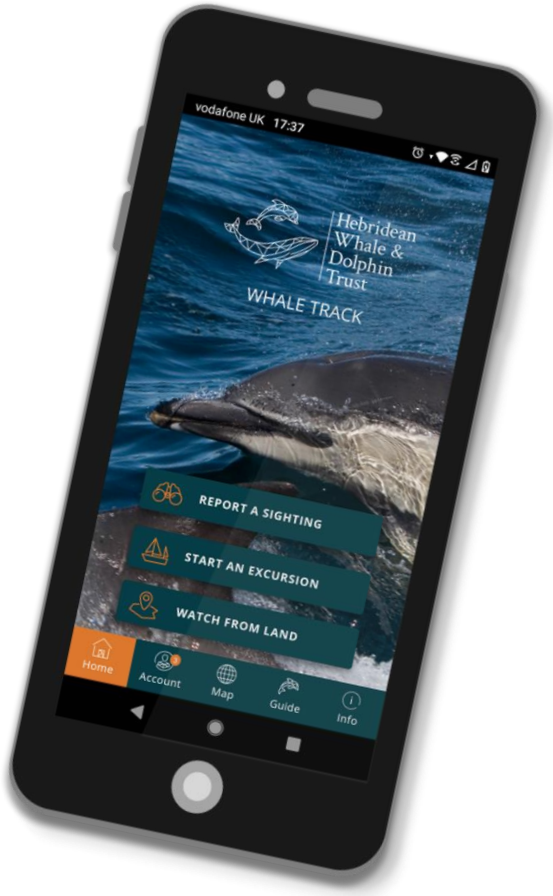
improvements in monitoring and citizen science/ engagement

SMEEF/NRF 1 included a grant to the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) for both new survey equipment for their sailing vessel Silurian and a rebuild of their citizen science reporting app 'Whale Track'.

> "The funding from SMEEF/NRF1 allowed for the first substantial upgrade of the acoustic setup on Silurian since HWDT's acoustic monitoring began more than 20 years ago. It really has marked a transformative step-change in our capability to assess the changing soundscape of the west coast marine environment and unearth what is potentially causing barriers to nature recovery in Scotland's seas."
>
> *Alison Lomax, HWDT*

The funding was focused on providing up to date equipment such as hydrophones, acoustic recorders for porpoises, navigation equipment and cameras therefore allowing for the best quality data to be collected for years to come. In agreement with the Scottish Government SMEEF was able to extend the definition of capital to include digital capital and so funded the update of the Whale Track App.

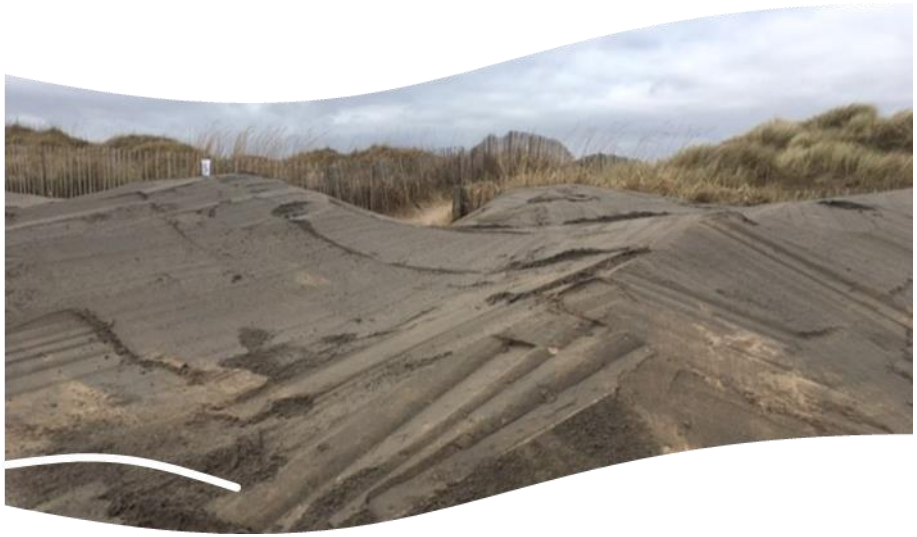
> "Upgrading the app to maintain the professional look and feel and improve the usability has been hugely important. The mapping and tracking functionality of the original app has been improved and enhancements made to the user experience."
>
> *Alison Lomax, HWDT*



Working with a stakeholder group to test the app was important, and something SMEEF encourages with all grantees. The feedback proved valuable ensuring that the app is easy to use and gives users more control over their records with the new edit function.

Data sharing is an important requirement of all SMEEF grants and all validated sightings data from HWDT's marine mammal monitoring programme and Whale Track sightings community are shared with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

The SMEEF/NRF 1 grants were also able to be spent on 'natural capital' and so we were delighted to fund not only a dune recharge in St Andrews (case study opposite) but also some work on assessing the carbon storage potential of seagrass beds.



Case Study – St Andrews Links Trust

£68,897

seabed & coastal species & habitats

flood risk management and habitat enhancement

The St Andrews Links Trust have a long record of strong community engagement and effective management of the dunes near the golf course at St Andrews both for positive nature outcomes but also for their amenity value. Between 2010 and 2013 there had been several flood events due to storm surges which had damaged the integrity of the dune system. A programme of dune recharge and stabilisation has been underway since then under licence and with full stakeholder and community support, culminating in this the most recent restorative effort. Areas to the southern end of the dune system had been identified a priority for restoration by local monitoring and within the Dynamic Coast report.

> "Thanks to funding from SMEEF/NRF1 St Andrews Links Trust was able to harvest 2600m3 of sand from our licenced area and use it to boost the target areas and the new dunes were profiled into wind aspect sensitive dune shapes and compacted to assist with sand loss. Washed out areas were raised between 3 and 6 meters in places protecting and restoring valuable habitats and improving erosion resistance as well as adding amenity value for recreational users. 48 volunteers helped with replanting using local donor Marram and Lyme grasses."
>
> *Sandy Reid, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links Trust*

This important work has meant that the dunes in this area are now better 'equipped' with gate dunes along two linear access points affording much needed protection against east driven storm floods. The dunes are now higher in areas where they vulnerable to storm surges and also hold increased volume, which is critical.

Case Study – Project Seagrass/ReSOW

£98,231

seabed & coastal species & habitats

increase understanding of blue carbon sequestration

Understanding seagrass carbon sequestration potential is an important part of the climate jigsaw and so the SMEEF team was pleased to be able to fund an important piece of research into just that. Restoration of Seagrass for Ocean Wealth (ReSOW UK) from Southampton National Oceanography Centre and Project Seagrass teamed up to collect and analyse core samples from sites in Loch Craignish in Argyll and in Orkney.

Despite the short timeframe the team were able to complete analysis which will support an unprecedented understanding of carbon stocks and flows in two key habitats of Scottish marine environment, namely islands and lochs. Importantly this will support better understanding of how carbon in sequestered in the sedimentary material below seagrass meadows. For example, the influence of factors such as energetics of the system and proximity to organic matter sources. The project has also served to build better connections amongst the seagrass community and so has promoted the exchange of further samples for analysis and new partnerships to develop the work into the future.

> "The project has been driven from a grassroots level by partnering with ongoing seawilding initiatives, NGO's and fellow academics in Scotland. As such the project has yielded a wide array of benefits including upskilling and involving local communities in generating an evidence base to underpin management of this coastal resources. Plus mentoring the next generation of marine conservationists and scientists, as much of the data intepretation will be conducted by students under the supervision of the senior project team. The gross effect of the project is to support a pathway towards healthier and productive seas to benefit us all."
>
> *Dr Claire Evans, National Oceanography Centre*

2022-23 – SMEEF/NRF 2

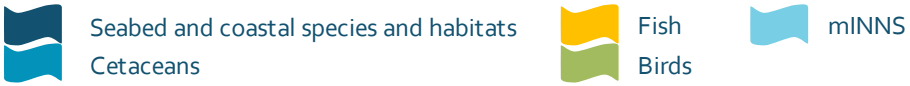
SMEEF is committed to accelerating and scaling up the restoration of the marine environment in Scotland and so we are keen to fund new approaches to restoration. In the second round of SMEEF/NRF funding we allocated £845,588 to 11 projects to advance the restoration agenda, a selection of these projects are highlighted below.

Spend

£845,588

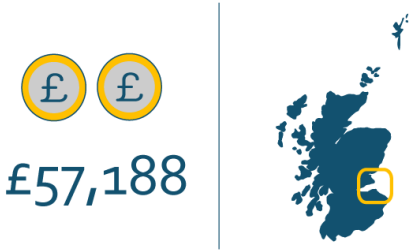
Projects

11



Making best use of existing infrastructure means repurposing some sites such as in the Canting Basin (in the case study opposite), or retrofitting equipment to existing resources such as with HWDT. From the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme new Northern Hub (SMEEF/NRF 2 Grant Amount £224,495) where an old barn has been repurposed into a purposeful storage and management unit, to the retrofitting of the North Berwick Lobster Hatchery we aim to make our grants go as far as possible by encouraging grantees to think about how to make best use of existing resources.

Case Study – WWF Scotland



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The North Berwick Lobster Hatchery refit was a great example of just how much can be achieved by utilising existing businesses and working with knowledgeable people. By learning from the lobster hatchery staff, the Restoration Forth team were able to better design, in a more cost-effective way, the seagrass facility. This will enable the project to harvest and process more seeds for restoration in coming seasons. The funding from SMEEF allowed for the purchase of a range of equipment which has extended the capacity of the facility to process seagrass seeds thus accelerating substantially the restoration effort.

> "Over the winter, the Hatchery usually shuts down due to the natural cycle of their usual activities with lobsters. Now they will be able to stay open and process seagrass seeds for Restoration Forth during these months. This will double the project capacity to process seagrass seeds at the Firth of Forth. The education, citizen science and research equipment purchased has seen the team already booking in groups for education and engagement events to utilise the new kit!"
>
> *Lisa Talbot, WWF Scotland*

Case Study – Glasgow Science Centre

£256,852

seabed & coastal species & habitats

testing new approaches to increasing biodiversity in urban areas

The Glasgow Science Centre applied for funding to create a unique floating reedbed system in the Canting Basin in the Clyde. This unusual structure turns a barren urban site into a more diverse, enhanced system and demonstrates that nature can thrive in unexpected places. The wetlands span 200m², have more than 2000 native plants and trees, and feature nesting platforms to provide a new habitat for wildlife to thrive. The Glasgow Science Centre have created an excellent short video on the dedicate webpage here which brings the project to life.

Using the reedbed system to springboard a whole community engagement programme, the Glasgow Science Centre's Community Learning and Development team have engaged with eight community groups and developed and delivered workshops to over 140 participants. 60 community group representatives attended the launch in March 2023 and 6000 people received details of the project in a newsletter. Social media outreach has amassed thousands of hits.

> "This project would not have been such a success without the collaboration between ourselves and the School of Geographic and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow. The University has installed monitoring equipment and undertaken a baseline study of the biodiversity and ecosystem within the basin, allowing for future evaluation to be carried out to measure the impact of the project, and hopefully encourage similar projects to 'green the grey' in our cityscapes."
>
> *Dr Gillian Lang, Director of Experience Development, Glasgow Science Centre*

2023-24 – First 100% privately funded SMEEF grants round

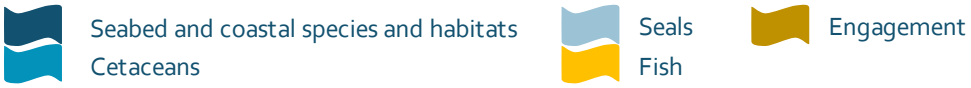
All of the NRF related grant giving occurred before the formal public launch of SMEEF in May 2022. Once our doors were open for donations from private companies the unique work of SMEEF began. By the end of 2022 we had pledges of nearly £300,000 and felt able to undertake a meaningful grant round. The Steering Group decided to focus this funding on 'Project Development' and we developed grant criteria around this to encourage applications for baseline surveys and assessment work. 18 applications were received and by the time you read this the 11 successful applicants will be getting on with their projects.

Spend

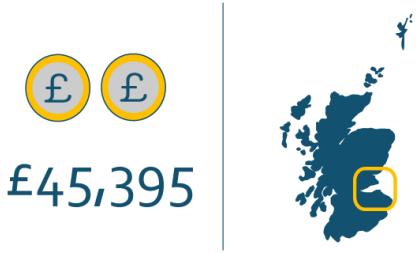
£290,811

Projects

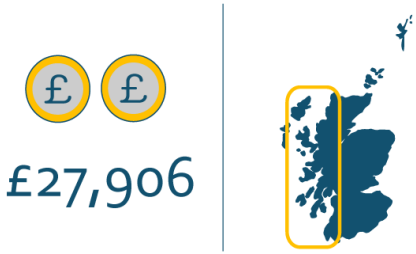
11



RSPB Scotland were awarded £45,395 to develop the Inner Forth intertidal habitat creation programme.



Edinburgh Napier University were successful in their bid for £27,906 to assessing spawning herring under the WOSHH-eDNA-Sound project.



The Sea Mammal Research Unit at the University of St Andrews were awarded £25,000 to develop their programme for surveying seals with static sensors at Ythan Estuary, Forvie National Nature Reserve.

The Highland Council were awarded £25,000 towards their Climate Action Coastlines Programme which will assess the current condition of saltmarsh habitat in Loch Fleet, through both desk-based and on-site research.

£25,000

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Shetland were awarded £23,683 to do further work on the Flapper skate (Dipturus intermedius) creating a baseline assessment of population, distribution, movement, and critical habitats .

£23,683

fish

data to support project development

RSPB Scotland were awarded £10,037 to create a plan for sea level rise adaptation at Udale Bay in the Cromarty Firth.

£10,037

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

The team at MacArthur Green/Seawilding were awarded £10,549 to undertake a survey of Loch Gair to inform the native oyster restoration programme there.

£10,549

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) were awarded £24,950 for a unique project using remote sensing to identify lost creel fleets, characterise them and evaluate recovery options to reduce megafauna entanglement risk in Scottish Waters.

£24,950

cetaceans

data to support project development

A second team at University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Shetland were awarded £24,995 for their project searching for Shetland's lost seagrass – establishing a baseline through science-led community surveys of Shetland's seagrass and shallow maerl habitats.

£24,995

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

Berwickshire Marine Reserve were awarded £23,284 for baseline survey work on their horse mussel restoration project.

£23,284

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

Outside of the main grants programme the team behind the Salamander offshore energy development funded a discrete project into the enhancement opportunities at offshore energy sites. The Nature Enhancement at Offshore Energy Sites (NEMOES) project will be managed by MASTS and results are expected by spring 2024. This unique funding package began with a £50,000 contribution from Simply Blue Energy.

£50,000

seabed & coastal species & habitats

data to support project development

The Opportunity

SMEEF is designed to access NEW money for environmental enhancement, and we are reaching out to ALL the sectors, and their supply chains, who make use of, or have an interest in, the Scottish marine environment. We estimate there is a demand for £5m per annum for projects, many of which will require a minimum of 3-5 years support before the true ecological benefits can be measured.

SMEEF presents an exciting opportunity for all:

- It is an opportunity to make a voluntary financial contribution towards the health of our seas, enabling users benefiting from the rich natural marine resource to enhance the natural capital so important to them.
- It is also a chance to support sustainable growth of marine sectors by safeguarding and enhancing that natural resource whilst also demonstrating commitment to healthier seas.
- It is a way to build a stronger wellbeing economy for Scotland's coastal communities and visitors by building community capacity to engage with habitat enhancement and improve resilience to climate change.

SMEEF is a safe and effective way for business to play a role in enhancing the natural environment in Scotland. With our unparalleled access to the best policy and scientific advice we can make sure that your contributions are targeted effectively, saving you time, increasing your impact and lowering risk for your organisation.

SMEEF needs businesses to come forward and contribute to the marine restoration grant pot. We will provide your company with:

- A trustworthy and transparent grant management programme,
- Unparalleled expertise to drive the programme of restoration projects,
- Capacity to make it happen.

SMEEF is uniquely placed to ensure the greatest positive impact for nature and people. Your business should find out more about how you can get involved. Get in touch today for a no obligation chat about what SMEEF can do for you. Email manager@smeef.scot.

Meet the Team

Sarah Brown
SMEEF Manager
Fundraising, strategy and oversight

Chris Perkins
SMEEF Officer
Due diligence, grant management, green finance

Vasiliki Katsorida
SMEEF Co-ordinator
Website, monitoring, newsletter, administration

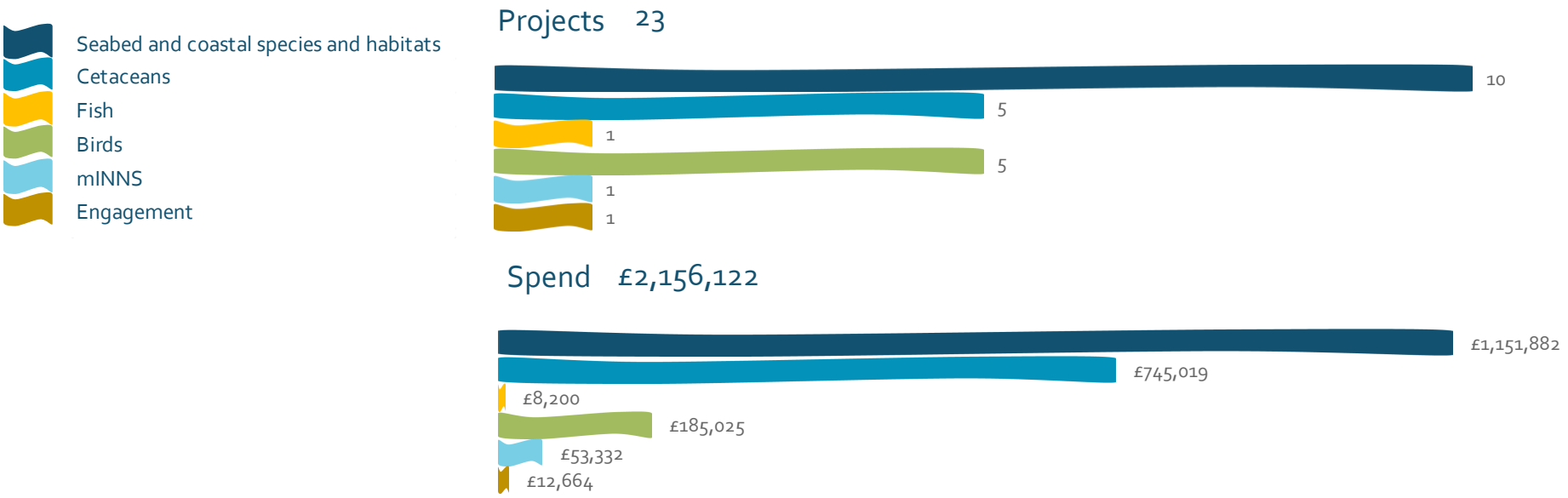
Annex 1: 2021-22 – SMEEF/NRF 1 (Nature Restoration Fund allocated by SMEEF)

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
RSPB	**Predator protection** – Erection of fencing at RSPB Loch Gruinart to protect wetland habitat from grazing animals and prevent erosion.	£13,414
RSPB	**After LIFE** – To provide effective surveillance tools and quick response control equipment to support ongoing effective biosecurity measures to safeguard the UK's 42 seabird island SPAs.	£53,332
RSPB	**Tern Rafts** – To deliver improved nesting areas for Arctic terns at a key sites in Shetland, Loch Spiggie. Work included an interpretation panel.	£29,278
RSPB	**Puffins, Petrels and Kittiwake** – To provide a package of equipment to automate seabird monitoring, with the emphasis on kittiwake, storm petrel and puffin to help determine breeding success, and support effective future conservation management and planning.	£51,745
Marine Scotland	**Multibeam Acoustic** – To purchase a high resolution, true beam forming, MultiBeam EchoSounder system (MBES) for seabed surveys within MPAs and off the shelf edge for vessels Scotia and Alba na Mara. This project supports the Scottish MPA Monitoring strategy, wider marine environmental monitoring (e.g. UK Marine Strategy), the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, and research supporting offshore renewable energy.	£472,000
NatureScot	**Benthic and Basking Shark Equipment** – To purchase benthic and basking shark survey equipment as part of ongoing work to deliver the Scottish MPA Monitoring Strategy, and understand more about the distribution and movement of Priority Marine Features.	£241,456
NatureScot	**Marine Ornithology** – To purchase marine ornithology equipment to enable remote seabird and marine bird monitoring with a focus on establishing effectiveness of restoration efforts and informing future management.	£30,759
University of St Andrews	**The Blue Carbon Lab** – A specialised drone for mapping and modelling of saltmarsh, seagrass and other sensitive and blue carbon habitats. A 3D scanner for high resolution analysis of maerl and other marine deposits to quantify their structural complexity which relates to their biodiversity value and contribution to blue carbon. Elasmobranch Conservation - A versatile, robust and modestly sized, coded workboat and campervan to open up opportunities to undertake field work to investigate locations where skate may be laying eggs. Also a tags, ROV and drone for investigation of seasonal Tope aggregations in shallow waters off Coll and Tiree.	£316,264

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust	**Equipment/App Update** – To expand acoustic monitoring, enable wintertime surveys, and improve photo-identification research from Sv Silurian. To rebuild the current Whale Track app to safeguard the future of HWDT's community monitoring project.	£101,087
Community of Arran Seabed Trust	**Survey Vessel** – To purchase a versatile and suitably-specified boat to enable the delivery of a marine restoration programme, to include the nurturing and establishment of existing and new biogenic reefs in Arran waters.	£136,000
St Andrews Links Trust	**Dune recharge** – West Sands dune replenishment programme – four recharges to dune blow outs and planning for restoration works at the Jubilee site.	£68,897
Restoration Forth	**Seagrass and Native Oyster nursery** – To provide equipment for seagrass and oyster restoration projects in the Firth of Forth including restoration aquaria/tanks	£68,005
SeaWilding/Resow	**Seagrass and Native Oyster** – Equipment to accelerate survey and planting work as well as enhance monitoring abilities, to support projects to restore degraded marine habitats and species, including native oysters.	£41,891
Project Seagrass/Resow	**Carbon restoration potential research** – Collection and analysis of sediment cores to provide baseline data on the carbon storage capacity of existing seagrass beds (degraded versus healthy beds, and reference sites).	£98,321
University of St Andrews	**Blue Carbon Research Centre –** To contribute to new state-of-the-art analytical facilities to be set up at the Scottish Oceans Institute, St Andrews. • SECRON Intergra2 - EA-IRMS, which is an integrated EA -IRMS system which can run N and C isotopes with S and O as an option • Pyrolysis gas chromatography mass spectrometry (Py-GCMS) which will complement existing thermal methods (e.g. TGA-CSI) recently developed at St Andrews	£249,217
OpenSeas	**Survey Equipment** - To provide a Pro ROV and battery pack to support habitat restoration projects.	£6,000
Orkney Skate Trust	**Survey Equipment** - To provide a Pro ROV and battery pack to support habitat restoration projects.	£8,200
Clean Coast Outer Hebrides	**Survey and Roadshow Equipment** – To purchase survey equipment and display trailer to support beach clean work in Outer Hebrides.	£12,664

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
Whale and Dolphin Conservation	**Shorewatch** – Purchase of equipment to support Shorewatch volunteers, and Shorewatch app development.	£52,323
Marine Conservation Society	**SeaSearch** – To purchase equipment to support Seasearch volunteers and community work.	£2,106
Marine Conservation Society	**Beachwatch** – Purchase of Beachwatch equipment to support citizen science beach litter projects.	£9,444
British Divers Marine Life Rescue	**Command Unit** – Purchase and outfit of a long wheel base van as a command and control unit (mobile control room) for the Large Whale Disentanglement Team	£33,889
Scottish Seabird Centre	**Remote monitoring** – Purchase of interactive wildlife cameras and equipment for research, biosecurity and conservation.	£59,829

Summary by receptor – 2021-22 – SMEEF/NRF 1



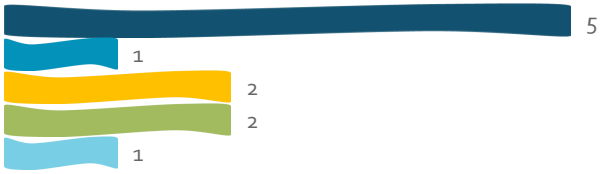
Annex 2: 2022-23 – SMEEF/NRF 2 (Nature Restoration Fund allocated by SMEEF)

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
RSPB	**Predator protection** – To install an anti-predator fence at RSPB Crook of Baldoon reserve.	£ 97,000
University of Glasgow	**Beachtrack**- To update the marine ecosystem health monitoring and knowledge exchange platform.	£64,786
Solway Firth Partnership	**Mini-Buoys** – To undertake hydrodynamic and hydrological habitat classification for restoration planning using a Mini-Buoy monitoring approach in the Solway Firth	£11,969
RSPB	**Forth Islands Habitat Enhancement** – To undertake invasive species removal at key sites in the Forth to improve breeding success.	£8,188
Glasgow Science Centre	**Clyde Floating Estuarine Gardens Project** – To install innovative man-made floating reedbed system and increase biodiversity in an urban area.	£256,115
Atlantic Salmon Trust	**West Coast Salmon Smolt Tracking Project 2023** – tracking smolts as they migrate through west coast waters to inform management.	£84,632
University of Glasgow	**SMASS Northern Hub** – To retrofit a bespoke facility to support Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.	£224,495
Seawilding	**Pilot Seagrass Nursery** – To install seagrass nursery equipment in Loch Craignish.	£25,403
Orkney Skate Trust	**Orkney Baited Remote Underwater Video** – To collect data on Skate to inform management measures.	£11,866
RSPB	**Camera Installation at the Mull of Galloway Seabird colony** – use of remote cameras to survey and inform management.	£12,303
WWF Scotland	**North Berwick Lobster Hatchery Retrofitting** – installation of seagrass nursery equipment.	£48,832

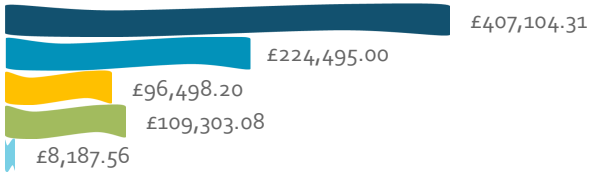
Summary by receptor – 2022-23 – SMEEF/NRF 2

Final figures subject to change

Projects 11



Spend £845,588



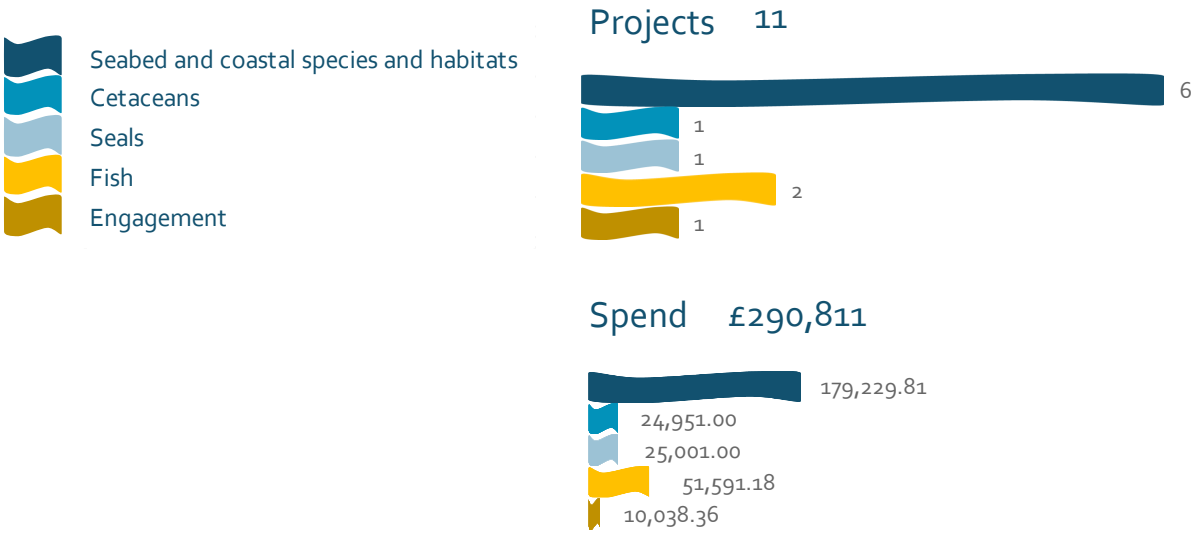
Annex 3: 2023-24 – SMEEF Private Funding Round 1 – Project Development

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
The Highland Council	**Climate Action Coastlines** – To assess the current condition of saltmarsh habitat in Loch Fleet, through both desk-based and on-site research.	£25,000.00
UHI Shetland	**Flapper skate (Dipturus intermedius) in Shetland** - To collect vital baseline data on the population, distribution, movement, and critical habitats of flapper skate in Shetland.	£23,683.18
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)	**Lost creel fleets** - To detect, characterise and evaluate recovery options to reduce megafauna entanglement risk in Scottish Waters.	£24,950.00
RSPB Scotland	**Sea level rise adaptation at RSPB Udale Bay** - To investigate and implement ways of adapting the Udale Bay Nature Reserve to climate change, by finding a way to allow saltmarsh to continue to develop, whilst protecting neighbouring property.	£10,037.36
Shetland UHI	**Searching for Shetland's lost seagrass** – Establishing a baseline through science-led community surveys of Shetland's seagrass and shallow maerl habitats. Creating an up-to-date picture of seagrass distribution in Shetland.	£24,995.81
MacArthur Green	**Loch Gair Native Oyster Restoration** - To establish whether a viable population, if any, of native oysters (Ostrea edulis) exists in Loch Gair; and what the potential might be for restoration/enhancement	£10,549.00
RSPB Scotland	**Inner Forth Intertidal Habitat Creation** - To undertake the technical aspects of completing an EIA; apply for planning permission and any other consents required to undertake the Inch of Ferryton scheme on the Inner Forth	£45,395.00
Edinburgh Napier University, Centre for Conservation and Restoration Science (CCRS)	**Assessing and Protecting Spawning Herring and Associated Biodiversity:** WOSHH-eDNA-Sound - To detect if, when and where large spring-spawning herring shoals are present in inshore waters.	£27,906.00
Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews	**Surveying Seals with Static Sensors**: Developing Remote Camera Technologies to Monitor Mobile Species Populations – To produce autonomous low-cost dual camera monitoring (ACM) systems, capable of providing fine scale temporal data on seal numbers and behaviour at haul-out sites in near-real time.	£25,000.00

Grant recipient	Project Details	Grant amount
Berwickshire Marine Reserve	**Horse Mussel Restoration Project** - To: 1) Map the extent of horse mussels within the Berwickshire Marine Reserve 2) Monitor the condition of horse mussel beds 3) Develop a management plan for sustainable marine activity, promoting horse mussel bed recovery 4) Publish scientific literature	£23,284.00
University of St Andrews	**Nature Enhancement at Marine Offshore Energy Sites (NEMOES)** – To investigate the role offshore renewables could play in scaling up restoration and contribute to enhancement in Scottish waters; through assessing the ecological potential of habitat and species recovery within planned and future marine renewable sites.	£50,000.00

Summary by receptor – 2023-24 – SMEEF Private Funding Round 1 – Project Development

Final figures subject to change



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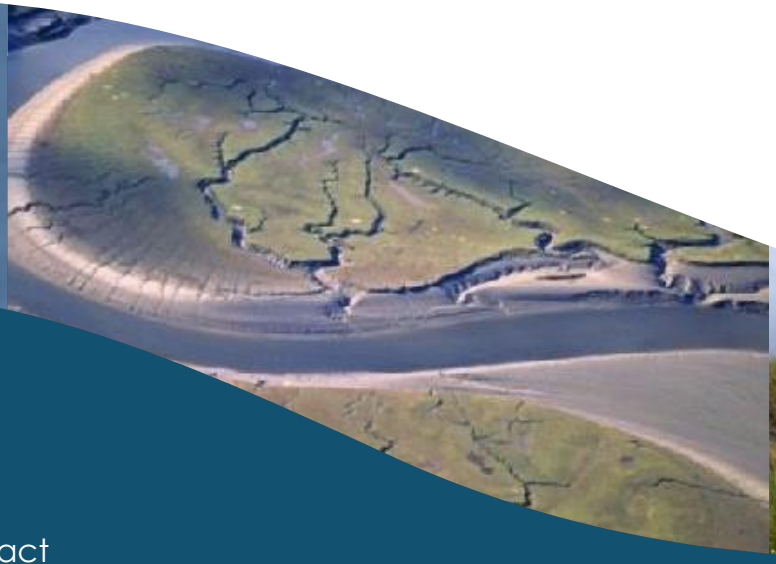

Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund

Contact

manager@smeef.scot

smeef.scot

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