NESBiP October 2026 Update

Shark & Skate Scotland – Discovering and Protecting Scotland's Elasmobranch's



Flapper Skate © Lauren Smith

Did you know Scotland's seas are home to an incredible variety of sharks, skates and rays?

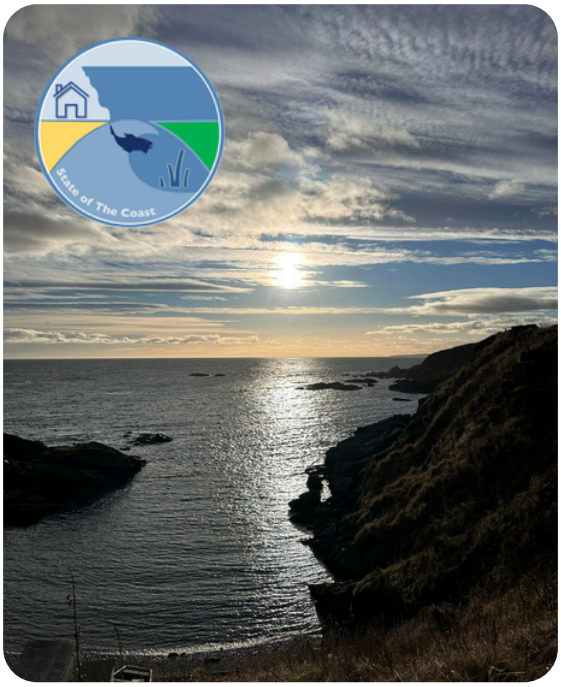
Shark & Skate Scotland is helping to improve our understanding of these fascinating species by encouraging people to record sightings from around the Scottish coast. Whether you've spotted an egg case on the beach or encountered marine wildlife while out on the water, your records can contribute to marine conservation and help build a clearer picture of the species that call our seas home.

Read more on how to get involved

Protecting the North East Scotland Coastline | State of the Coast

How much do you know about the coastline on your doorstep? Developed by East Grampian Coastal Partnership, State of the Coast brings together information, data and insights about the marine and coastal environment of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. From wildlife and habitats to climate change, recreation and coastal management, it's a fantastic resource for anyone interested in understanding and protecting North East Scotland's coastline.

Explore the project and discover how you can help care for our coast.



© Abbie Ferrar

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North East Scotland Swift Group Need Help!



© Richard Scott

1. If you're based in Rhynie or Inverurie, we'd love to hear from you if you'd be interested in having a swift box installed on your home or building. Funding is being sought to provide swift boxes and installation support in 2027, particularly in areas where swift colonies need a helping hand.

2. We're looking for volunteers who are insured to work at height and could offer their time and expertise to help install swift boxes if funding is secured.

📧 To register your interest or offer support, please contact:
huntlyswiftgroup@gmail.com
Thank you for supporting swifts in the North East! 💚🐦

Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund - Vote open!



The JTPBFund public vote is now OPEN!

Calling all residents of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray - this is your chance to decide how £1 million of funding is spent in your area.

Your votes will directly determine which local, projects get funded. By taking part, you're helping shape a greener, more sustainable future across our region. And there are some amazing biodiversity related projects!

Submit your votes by 5 pm on Monday 9th November at **jtpbfund.scot/vote**

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Insects Favourite Foods

To support pollinators, it's essential to focus on more than just adult feeding. An eight-year study identified flowers, like Buddleja, that attract insects but highlighted its status as a non-native invasive species in North East Scotland.

Many insects rely on native plants for laying eggs and feeding their young. By planting native species, you help support the entire life cycle of pollinators, not just the adults.

Read the Buglife report
Read our blog on helping caterpillars and other insect larvae.



© Ian Talboys

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Can productive forests also be good for wildlife?



© NTS

A major new international study, with contributions from researchers at The James Hutton Institute, has found that forestry and biodiversity conservation don't have to compete. Well-managed forests can support timber, wildlife and climate resilience at the same time. For North East Scotland, that means healthier, more resilient woodlands that deliver for nature and people alike.

Learn more about the study here

Bringing Scything Back to North East Scotland

As the 2026 Wildflower and Scything Workshop season comes to an end, we're reflecting on how reviving the traditional practice of meadow mowing can help both people and nature.

Read the blog here

Scything is a low-impact, wildlife-friendly way to manage grasslands, helping to restore wildflower meadows, support pollinators, and improve biodiversity. It's also a fantastic way to connect with nature, learn new skills and bring communities together.

If you would like to join the North East Scotland Scything Group, **please get in touch.** 💚



© Abbie Ferrar

Have your say!

Council Climate Plan and Aberdeen Route Map Consultation.

Deadline 18th December.

Aberdeen City Council are inviting the public to provide their views on two proposed plans that set out how we will tackle the climate and nature emergency over the next five years.



© Aberdeenshire Council

Marine Protected Areas consultation

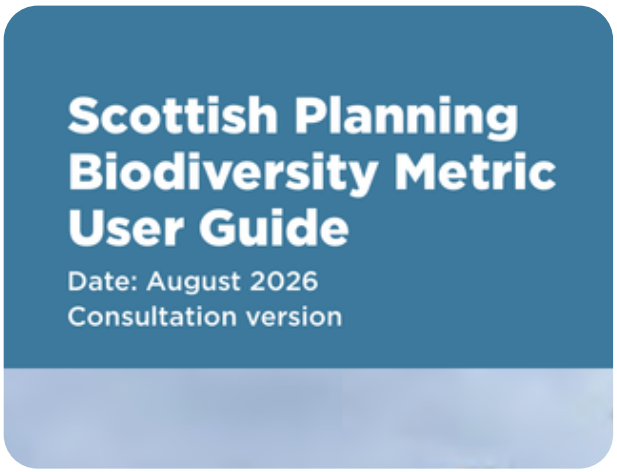
Deadline 18th January 2027

A consultation has been published on proposals for fisheries management measures for inshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Priority Marine Feature (PMF) management areas in Scottish waters.

Scottish Planning Biodiversity Metric Consultation

Deadline 30th November

Have your say on the consultation version of the Scottish Planning Biodiversity Metric (SPBM). It is an opportunity for potential users and any other interested parties to provide feedback, which will allow us to refine the SPBM before the release of Version 1 in spring 2027.





bahadir-yeniceri from Getty Images

Share your knowledge to help declining waders

NatureScot want to understand how land managers support wader conservation and manage predation, to inform future research.
This short survey covers the waders present, predator management practices, the reasons behind them, the approaches used and any challenges or support needed.

Upcoming Events

- Froglife, When Ponds Run Dry. Zoom. Tuesday 3rd November. 19:45 👉 **Request the link here.**
- Great Collaboration Banter sessions. B-Lines Projects. Wednesday 4th November, 12:00. Zoom 👉 **Book here**
- People's Emergency Briefing at Portlethen Library. Thursday 5th November. 16:45 - 19:00. 👉 **Book here**
- Scotland's Nature Summit, Edinburgh. Tuesday 2nd March. 10:00 - 17:00 👉 **Book here**
- CWNE Events still running until 4th October 👉 **Check them out**
- Aberdeenshire Council Countryside Rangers 👉 **Upcoming Events**
- Aberdeen City Council Countryside Rangers 👉 **Upcoming Events**
- NESBReC 👉 **Upcoming Events**

Other Updates

- **Watch** 👉 Tree felling and planting going on at Elgin Oakwood, Moray Council.
- Our Future on the Table 👉 **The future is being decided now**
- Get creative for hedgehog 👉 **Small steps everyone can take together to help save the hedgehog**
- Just Add Water 👉 **Handbook on how to create ponds**
- Learn more about outdoor education 👉 **Check it out**
- NESBiP is now on LinkedIn 👉 **Connect with us**!
- Did you miss our previous newsletter and would like to catch up? Find them on our website 👉 **NESBiP Monthly Newsletter**

Abbie's Favourite Photo of the Month!

This month, it's less about the photo and more about what it stands for.



I took this photo during our Helping Trees Workshop at Haddo Country Park, perfectly capturing the amazing turnout we've had. We've hosted 11 workshops this season with 156 people eager to support biodiversity from gathering wildflower seeds to learning scythe skills.

It's amazing to witness such enthusiasm, and I hope our community keeps growing. Thanks for reminding me we're not alone in this fight for nature. 💚