

A partnership project

The Scottish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Project is a joint initiative. The project is led by Marine Scotland in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC), Historic Scotland, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Marine Scotland Science (MSS). Its aim is to provide advice to Scottish Ministers on the selection of Nature Conservation MPAs and the development and management of an MPA network in Scotland's seas.

Working with People

Scotland's network of MPAs is being developed in collaboration with a wide range of people who share an interest in or who make a living from the sea. This is the first time in Scotland that these groups have been asked for their feedback so early in the process of selecting marine protected areas.



Case studies

- Works in progress
- Illustrates the three step process in action
- Uses the management toolbox
- Some cover only part of the wider area or only some sub-ecosystems
- Discussions today on structure and level of detail provided (not on management details)
- Will be reviewed and used to support more detailed discussion with stakeholders

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Engaging Stakeholders

Project partners hosted a series of five MPA workshops during 2011-2012. These workshops focused on engaging national and international level organisations with an interest in the marine environment. Workshop attendees included representatives from local authorities, community councils, universities, recreational and conservation organisations, and a range of industries including renewable energy, fishing and tourism.

In addition to the MPA workshops, the key mechanism for maintaining awareness of project progress include regular updates to the Marine Strategy Forum and quarterly liaison meetings with marine users and interest groups at a more regional and local level. While nature and timing of the engagement and those involved changes as the project progresses, working with people continues to be a core aspect of the Scottish MPA Project as we move forward.

Moving forward

Marine users will continue to be involved in the MPA process through discussion on management of individual MPAs. As the process advances, engagement will increasingly involve local communities and other people with a direct interest in individual Possible MPAs.

Effective, appropriate management will be needed to ensure that MPA objectives are met. Management of activities in MPAs will be determined on a site-by-site basis and there will be opportunities for individuals to get involved in developing site specific management plans.

For more information on the MPA consultation, please see the Marine Scotland website

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-consultation

Information on possible MPAs in territorial waters is available at www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation

Information on possible MPAs in offshore waters is available at

www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation

Third-party proposals

The MPA designation process in Scotland enables third parties to put forward proposals for MPAs for consideration as part of the network. Third parties may be a coastal community, an industry sector, a group of recreational users, or others with an interest in a particular area.

Proposals may be submitted for a number of reasons; to recognise the biodiversity importance of an area or to underpin the sustainable use of resources.

More than 25 third-party proposals for Nature Conservation MPAs were considered and assessed for their contribution to the overall network, alongside the proposals developed by SNH and JNCC. A number of third-party proposals progressed through the assessment process and were included in the recommended network of Nature Conservation MPAs submitted to Scottish Ministers in December 2012. Further third-party applications will not now be considered until the first 6-yearly review of the network in 2018.



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