

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### 1. Do you agree with the proposals set out in the draft Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013?

Yes  No

If no, please explain why not and your suggested alternative(s).

Comments

### 2. Do you have any further comments? In particular we are seeking views on

- the drafting of the Order;
- the co-ordinates establishing the marine region boundaries;
- the boundaries outlined at paragraph 8 above;
- the names of the regions suggested; and
- the illustrative map.

Comments

The plans are workable. However, mechanisms will need to be put in place to deal with situations where development in one marine Region will impact on others. This may also apply to co-ordination between Northern Ireland and the three neighbouring Scottish Marine Regions. We note the importance of Local Authorities working together where concerns overlap and for that reason welcome the South East region which consists of nine Local Authorities. Where a boundary occurs within a single Local Authority, such as at the Mull of Kintyre where there is a proposal for a tidal development on the boundary, co-ordination should be straightforward.

It is understandable why the border between Argyll and West Highlands has been drawn along the Local Authority boundary although we suggested a boundary at Ardnamurchan. However, there will need to be a mechanism for co-ordination of planning in the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe as developments on one side are likely to have an impact on the other and activities such as aquaculture, recreational sailing, fishing and transport operate across the boundary.

Work has already started on the Pilot Marine Spatial Plan for the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Strategic Area which extends from Orkney into the proposed North Coast region, and indeed a small part of the Moray region. As in the previous case, there will be a need for a co-ordinating planning mechanism. Moreover, the long panhandle of the North Coast region extending east seems an unnecessary complication. Any tidal development off Duncansby Head will have implications for three Marine Regions, leading to a potential for unnecessary administrative complication.

RYA Scotland feels that it is not for a national body to make recommendations about naming Marine Regions. However, we suggest that Shetland Isles and Orkney Islands should read Shetland and Orkney and note that confusion was caused by one developer who apparently thought that Moray was in Caithness.

**3. Do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions discriminates disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?**

Yes  No

**4. If you answered yes to question 3 in what way do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions is discriminatory?**

Comments

