

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.

We have no particular problem as BPA with the marine region boundaries as set out in the document, but this does not stand in the way of individual members having their own views on the effect of and practical application of those boundaries. The structure contained in this document is the one we supported in the 2011 consultation.

We would however like to reiterate some of the points we made in our original response. Our understanding is that there is no legal requirement to have marine regions and so as they gather momentum, we believe that the basic principles of demonstrating value should be kept well to the fore. In particular, we look to these regions and the marine plans for them as a way of introducing efficiencies into the planning system, allowing for greater certainty and using plans as a framework within which development proposals can be placed.

Equally, some further idea of the costs of setting up the regions and more detail about the precise role of each region, particularly in relation to licensing, would be appreciated. We are to some extent working in the dark at the moment and the consultations concentrate on structures rather than role and purpose.

The original consultation also referred to Strategic Sea Areas and we did raise the issue at the time of what the impact of these areas would be and their effect on commercial activity; we stressed that these areas should not be used as a reason for over zealous deployment of the precautionary principle. It is not clear from the current consultation where Strategic Sea Areas might be and any clarification on this would be very helpful.

Overall, we look forward to working with the Scottish Government and Marine Scotland in ensuring that the regions are a success and add value.

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