

## 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

In the response to the consultation in 2011 on defining the boundaries of the marine regions, Aberdeenshire Council suggested that a single region covering the Moray Firth and the north east coast would be appropriate as many of the issues affecting the two areas were similar.

However, notwithstanding the above, it was also suggested that if there were to be two marine regions covering the Aberdeenshire area then the boundary should be amended so that Fraserburgh was included with Peterhead and Aberdeen in the north east coast.

Although the boundaries proposed within the current consultation on the draft Order result in Aberdeenshire being split between two regions this reflects the current situation where Aberdeenshire is involved in two coastal partnerships, namely the Moray Firth and East Grampian Coastal Partnerships. On that basis the proposed boundaries are acceptable.

### 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

No comments on the drafting of the Order, or the co-ordinates establishing the marine region boundaries.

#### **Boundaries**

The inclusion of Fraserburgh in the same marine region as Peterhead and Aberdeen accords with comments made on the previous marine regions consultation in 2011.

The proposed boundary point between the Moray and North East regions does not appear to correlate to any defined geographical feature on the ground, such as a headland. However it is acknowledged that there are few distinctive points on this section of the coast which could be used for such a purpose.

### ***Names of Regions***

The proposed marine region currently named as “Moray” should be renamed as “Moray Firth”. This will remove any confusion with the local authority area covered by Moray Council, which is a relatively small part of the proposed region, and better represent the extent of the area from Duncansby Head in the north to Sandhaven in the east.

### ***Illustrative map***

The illustrative map is adequate for providing a general overview and indication of the boundaries for each region.

**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

n/a