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MPA 10065



MPA Network Consultation
Scottish Government
Marine Planning and Policy Division

30th September 2013

Dear Sirs

In response to your questions I make the following specific answers, your:

Q1. It astonishes me that extensive areas of Scottish coastal waters have not already been protected. In the medium term it will benefit not only marine life, our seabirds (some of the most important colonies in the world) but also our fishermen (just look at our history of always depleting fish stocks....and it continues!). So, all the proposed MPAs must be protected. In all they add up to such a small area of our Scottish seas.

AS PART OF THIS PROCESS THE PLIGHT OF OUR SEABIRDS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. You claim that they are already being protected which is true to an extent. But how come many colonies of seabirds are significantly decreasing in size? This sad and irresponsible state of affairs has to be addressed or you will see continuing decline – global warming is a partial but not the sole excuse.

Q2. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q3. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q6. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q13. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q19. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q21. All seabirds must be protected in this site by adding them to the list of designated features.

Q28 & Q29. Sandeels have to be protected as they are the most important food source for seabirds in these areas. ALL SEABIRDS MUST BE PROTECTED IN THIS SITE BY ADDING THEM TO THE LIST OF DESIGNATED FEATURES.

Q35 I quote RSPB's statement regarding this questions as it is well put. 'Without protection for seabirds the network cannot be considered complete. The Scottish Government has committed to an international agreement to create an ecologically coherent network which is representative of nationally important species and PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR HIGHLY MOBILE SPECIES, SUCH AS CERTAIN SEABIRDS. MPA'S ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLEMENT SPAs AND OFFER SEABIRDS THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION REQUIRED TO HELP STEM THE DRASTIC AND CONTIUED DECLINES IN THEIR NUMBERS OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

I can't believe that this has happened in the last 20 years – for a nation and government that prides itself on its wisdom, knowledge and forward thinking this sorry state is inexcusable and has to be fixed before some of the wonders of the natural world disappear forever.

Yours sincerely



John Randall