

MPA 10082

4/11/13

MPA Network Consultation,
Scottish Government,
Marine Planning and Policy Division,
Area 1-A South,
Victoria Quay,
Edinburgh EH66QQ.



31st, Oct, 13.

Dear Sirs,

This is an individual response to the Planning Scotland's Seas MPA Consultation, focusing on the following numbered questions.

Question 1. Do you support the development of an MPA network in Scotland's Seas?

I support wholeheartedly the development of an MPA network in Scotland's Seas. However, while I am aware that the MPAs will do much to help Scotland's seas, and protect the many and varied creatures within them, I feel that the network as planned, does not take into account the feeding areas of our seabirds, and that these should be specifically included in the MPAs.

Q2, Clyde Sea Sill; Q3, East Caithness Cliffs; Q6, Fetlar – Haroldswick; Q13, Monach Isles; Q19, Papa Westray; Q21, Small Isles.

The sites listed above need to be designated to protect the black guillemot. Other seabirds in these sites must also be protected and added to the list of designated features.

Q28 and Q29; Firth of Forth proposed MPA.

I agree that the proposed Firth of Forth Banks Complex must be designated as recommended by the Joint Nature Conservancy Council and Scottish National Heritage, but I also feel it is important that sandeels need to be protected in the Firth of Forth MPA. As well as being an important food source for seabirds, they also have a critical ecological function on which many other marine animals depend. Seabirds, therefore, should be added to the list of designated features, and should be protected in this site.

Q35; Is the proposed network complete?

We are constantly being warned in the media and elsewhere about the decline in numbers of our seabirds. Poor breeding seasons and climate change have decimated their numbers in many parts of our country. The kittiwake, which once was numerous in Orkney, is now facing extinction, its numbers being down by 91%.

Therefore, while I applaud the Scottish Government's excellent intention of introducing Marine Protected Areas which will ensure that our seas, and the creatures which inhabit them will be protected, I feel that unless protection for seabirds is added to the network, it cannot be considered complete.

Yours faithfully,

