



Jim Watson
Marine Scotland
Sea Fisheries
Fisheries Division
Scottish Government
Area 1 B South, Victoria Quay,
EDINBURGH, EH66QQ

21st October 2013

Dear Jim

I am a little concerned over two of the MPA's as proposed by Marine Scotland

1. Clyde Sea Sill – Black Guillemot & sand & coarse sediment?

I am advised that Black Guillemot is not considered vulnerable under range size, population size & trend. Birdlife International classify it as species evaluated at "Least Concern".

I am more concerned over the designation of the Clyde Sea Sill. The proposed area for designation is fairly large and covers a variety of habitat not all conforming to descriptor. Inshore at Sanda Sound and surrounding area is an area of strong tide whereas the southern perimeter at Corsewall is more benign and mud communities are evident – viz there is a Nephrops fishery there which indeed spreads northward on the eastern side of the proposed designation. I feel the designation needs to be more specific and would suggest the Cod Recovery protected area is a good place to start with perhaps some extension around the Sanda feature. Black Guillelots are not noted as birds that have a wide feeding range so the South aspect of the proposed designated area would probably be out of range anyway.

2. South Arran

This is an area of diverse habitat and the designation should be more specific to meet the features for designation which are mainly shallow water inhabitants viz seaweed, maerl & seagrass. There is an extensive mud habitat in the deeper water important Nephrops fishery and that habitat is fairly commonplace and possibly richer in diversity in other areas. I think Archie McFarland of the Clyde Fishermens Association would have considerable interest in that area.

If you could please pass my concerns on to the appropriate parties,

Yours sincerely

