

Have your say on the Arran MPA!

South Arran Marine Protected Area Proposal

Please complete this 2 page form and hand it in to the Brodick Tourist Information Office (or post to Marine Scotland at the address below). The questions are based on Marine Scotland's public consultation response form (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/07/2012/downloads). You can also complete the response form online and find out more about the Arran MPA at www.arrancoast.com. The public consultation ends on 13 November 2013.

Do you support the development of an MPA network in Scotland's Seas with 3 MPAs in the Clyde? Yes No

Do you have any comments on the case for *designation, management options and socioeconomic assessment* for the *South Arran* possible Nature Conservation MPA?

Designation:

Comments We agree with the proposed area of the MPA, but we also would like to see a no mobile trawl zone all around the Clyde out to 3 miles.

Management Options:

Comments We agree with the COAST management options that all bottom dredge & Trawls should be excluded from the entire MPA. That well managed Creel, shellfish diving & angling should be allowed. As the village most effected by SNHs recommendations for anchoring & mooring in the area of Seagrass beds we are happy to discuss with SNH & COAST a future strategy to persuade and inform local and visiting yachts to anchor adjacent to the area. We will also look into the possibility of moving the visitor moorings approx 50m further east. Whiting Bay Improvements has no annual income other than that raised at village events, so changes to moorings etc will need grant funding.

Socioeconomic Assessment:

Comments The main economic income to Whiting bay comes from tourism. We believe a well managed MPA will help rejuvenate the health of our seas enabling the re-establishing of many marine related businesses especially the important sea angling businesses that disappeared 15-20 years ago. Local Whiting bay businesses have already benefited from the Lamlash NTZ & proposed MPA with research academics renting local houses, local engineers designing & fabricating research equipment, plus repairs & chartering of local commercial boats.

Any other comments Whiting Bay like many Clyde coastal communities has suffered financially over the past 20 years since the abolition of the 3 mile limit. A Marine Scotland report into the economics of Sea angling in 2009 stated the Clyde was losing out on £8-10million per year from no fish for sea anglers. Our village has been economically disadvantaged by a government policy of favouring commercial prawn trawling & Scallop dredging over all other legitimate stakeholders. The Scottish government has a legal obligation the manage our seas for all Scotland's people. The Arran MPA will make a good start.

Hand in to Brodick Tourist Office or post to: MPA Network Consultation, Scottish Government, Marine Planning and Policy Division, Area 1-A South Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH66QQ.