

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/2013/07/2072/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 I agree that this site and area should be an MPA. Ideally I think we need more areas and would like to see an area all round Arran being an MPA.

Management Options:

Comments I believe that bottom trawling and dredging should not be allowed in the MPA. It is such a small area relatively speaking and the sea is such a complex ecosystem. We need to give the MPAs the best possible chance to regenerate the marine environment. The area needs to have easily identifiable borders so that it is easy to enforce the management of it and everyone is really clear about the boundaries. Doubtless this may require more resources and technical ingenuity but it is essential.

Socioeconomic Assessment:

Comments I absolutely believe that the proposed Arran MPA will benefit the economy of Arran. A diverse marine environment will bring more tourists and give opportunities for existing businesses to expand and employ more people and for new businesses to be set up. I have a holiday cottage which I let to visitors and they come to the island wanting to see marine animals and would love to be able to go in boats to fish like their grandparents did in the past. I would love to buy and eat fish which are sustainably caught in the Clyde.

Any other comments I attended the consultation event on the 29th October which was very informative and clearly much work has been done to get to this stage. I hope the Scottish Government realise that those who support the MPAs are not against fishermen but want to have fishermen in the future who are fishing for fish not just prawns and Scallops We need to try and involve fishermen constructively in discussions but although they may shout the loudest that is not to say they are right or that their voice has any more importance because it affects them in the short term. Legally this is a public asset.

Paragraph 1.1 of Planning Scotland's Seas finishes by saying "Scottish Waters must be protected to ensure that the future marine ecosystem is capable of providing the economic and social benefits that it yields today". However, I would argue that this aim is not enough. The seas are in decline and we should strive not only to stop the decline but improve on the benefits and improve on the health of the sea. Change is not easy if there is a lack of political will, but MPAs which are properly managed to give the marine ecosystem a chance to show it can recover, are a step in the right direction for the long term.