

## **Scotland's National Marine Plan Consultation**

### **Response from the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN)**

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#### **Introduction**

MEDIN is a cooperative UK wide organisation established under the auspices of the Marine Science Coordination Committee to improve access to, and management of, marine data. It is funded by a range of sponsors, including Marine Scotland. More details on MEDIN can be found at [www.oceannet.org](http://www.oceannet.org)

#### **Consultation Response**

MEDIN's response is specifically about data and data management. We would like to emphasise the underlying importance of good data to planning. It is clearly important that all planning decisions are made on the best available evidence, itself compiled from authoritative data sources which will stand up to scrutiny.

We would therefore encourage all bodies that contribute to the development and implementation of Scotland's Marine Plan to employ best data management practices, which includes the application of agreed standards and making arrangements for the archival of data in recognised Data Archiving Centres. The former ensures that the data can be easily re-used, the latter that the data will be accessible and available.

We are pleased to note that the Scottish Government is a sponsor of MEDIN, and that it plays an active role in encouraging the relevant Scottish agencies to play an active role in MEDIN.