

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

General questions

Question 1: Do you consider that the overall number of seal haul out sites proposed at national/regional/local level represent a reasonable balance between seal conservation and other sustainable activities around the Scottish coastline?

No. All sites on Arran are under pressure from tourists approaching the seals

Question 2: Do you consider that additional sites should be included at national/regional/local level and, if so, why, how many additional sites and which sites?

Yes. If one site is singled out for protection the other sites may be put under increased pressure by visitors. At least 3 additional sites – Corrie- Sannox road, Entrance to Brodick Castle and Newton shore Lochranza are all under pressure. The first two are under most pressure as they are right next to the roadside and are highly visible.

Question 3: Do you consider that fewer sites should be included at national/regional/local level and, if so, why, how many fewer sites and which sites?

No

Question 4: Do you agree that existing Special Areas of Conservation for seals should be added to the list of seal haul out sites being considered for possible designation?

Yes

Question 5: Do you consider that particular national or regional level activities might represent a potential risk of harassment to seals on haul out sites in general?

Yes

Question 6: Do you consider that particular local activities might represent a potential risk of harassment to seals on particular haul out sites included on the list?

Yes

Question 7: Do you have any views on whether the boundaries of particular haul out sites included on the list might be revised ?

Seals don't recognise arbitrary boundaries. All hauled out seals are at risk of disturbance whether inside or outside a boundary

Equality assessment

The Scottish Government must ensure that any policies that it implements do not unduly discriminate against persons defined by age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race and religion and belief. We would welcome your views on whether you believe that any of the propositions set out in this consultation paper will unduly impact on any of these groups mentioned.