

Consultation on proposals to designate four Marine Protected Areas in Scottish waters Consultation analysis report

1. Executive summary

1.1. Background

This report provides a summary of the analysis of responses submitted on the designation of the four possible Marine Protected Areas; North-east Lewis, Sea of the Hebrides, Shiant East Bank and Southern Trench. The consultation opened on the 07 June 2019 and closed on 30 August 2019.

The Scottish Government hosted a stakeholder workshop in March 2019 to discuss the designation of the four sites. A range of organisations and business groups attended the event, and issues relating to the possible Marine Protected Areas were discussed. Additionally, 14 'Public Drop-in Events' took place throughout Scotland at locations close to the proposed sites. These events presented an opportunity for The Scottish Government and NatureScot (previously known as Scottish Natural Heritage) to present to the public and stakeholders on the possible Marine Protected Areas.

Following the collection of consultee responses, a mixed method approach was adopted for the consultation analysis. This ensured a comprehensive review of the qualitative and quantitative data.

Additionally, responses to comments raised through the consultation are given to provide clarification or further information where possible.

1.2. Responses received

In total, 222 respondents provided responses for the consultation. Respondents were identified in different categories to allow for further analysis. The respondent categories are as follows:

- Academic;
- Aquaculture Business/Association;
- Community Group;
- Energy Provider;
- Environmental;
- Fishing Group or Organisation;
- Individual;
- Other Business;
- Other Industry Association;
- Recreation and Tourism Business/Association; and
- Regulator or Local Authority.

A total of 7,832 campaign responses were received via campaigns hosted by Marine Conservation Society, Scottish Wildlife Trust, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

1.3. Summary of responses

The following provides a summary of the key outcomes:

- Between 150 and 160 respondents (66% to 70%) stated that they 'Strongly Supported' the designation for each of the four sites.
- Between 10 and 15 respondents (4% to 7%) stated that they 'Strongly Opposed' the designation for each of the four sites.
- The level of support differed for each site but not considerably.
- 172 respondents (72%) stated that they agreed that the Scientific Evidence presented justifies the case for the designation of each site.
- 77 to 102 respondents (35% to 46%) had further comments on the Conservation and Management Advice, the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal for each site.

Key comments raised in consultation responses included:

- The possible Marine Protected Areas help to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- Marine Protected Areas help to promote tourism.
- More marine areas around Scotland should be given Marine Protected Area status or there should be more stringent Marine Protected Area regulatory controls.
- Marine Protected Areas help to address national, regional and local environmental targets.
- Marine Protected Areas help to protect areas from the negative environmental effects created by fishing.
- The possible Marine Protected Areas may have negative economic impacts in areas where the main source of employment is fishing.
- The possible Marine Protected Areas will fail to discourage the negative environmental impacts created by fishing.
- Fishing has taken place in these areas for a significant period of time and has had few or no negative effects on biodiversity.

As a result of responses to this consultation, the boundary for the Shiant East Bank possible Marine Protected Area has been amended.

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2. Introduction

2.1. Background to the consultation

2.1.1. Roles and responsibilities

Under the [Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) and the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#), Scottish Ministers are able to designate areas as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Scottish Ministers are also obliged to contribute to the UK MPA network. This consultation fulfilled sections 75 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and 119 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Scottish Natural Heritage (hereafter referred to by its operating name “NatureScot”) is the Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) for the Scottish inshore waters (within 12 nautical miles). NatureScot provides advice on options for developing site management with the aim of ensuring that the conservation objectives for the protected features are met.

Marine Scotland is a directorate of the Scottish Government, and considers this advice and leads on the development of specific measures and discussions with stakeholders. Marine Scotland is responsible for making recommendations to Scottish Ministers on these measures.

Final decisions on site designations and management rest with Scottish Ministers.

2.1.2. Background

The Scottish Government's vision is for a marine environment that is clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse; managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people.

The seas around Scotland and the spectacular wildlife they support are one of our best kept secrets, one that only a very few have had the privilege to explore first hand, but upon which we all depend for our quality of life.

Our seas account for 61% of UK waters and remain at the forefront of our food and energy needs, through fishing, aquaculture, oil and gas, and new industries such as renewable energy, as well as recreation activities and eco-tourism.

Scotland's MPA network is being developed to help safeguard our most important natural and cultural heritage features on the principle of sustainable use. By doing so we are protecting the natural goods and services they provide for current and future generations to enjoy.

The MPA network, as shown in Figure 1, consists of sites designated for nature conservation. In addition to MPAs the network includes areas that: provide nature conservation benefits (called Other Area Based Measures), protect the historic environment (Historic MPAs), and areas for demonstrating or researching marine management. The network currently consists of 231 sites which protect 34% of our seas.

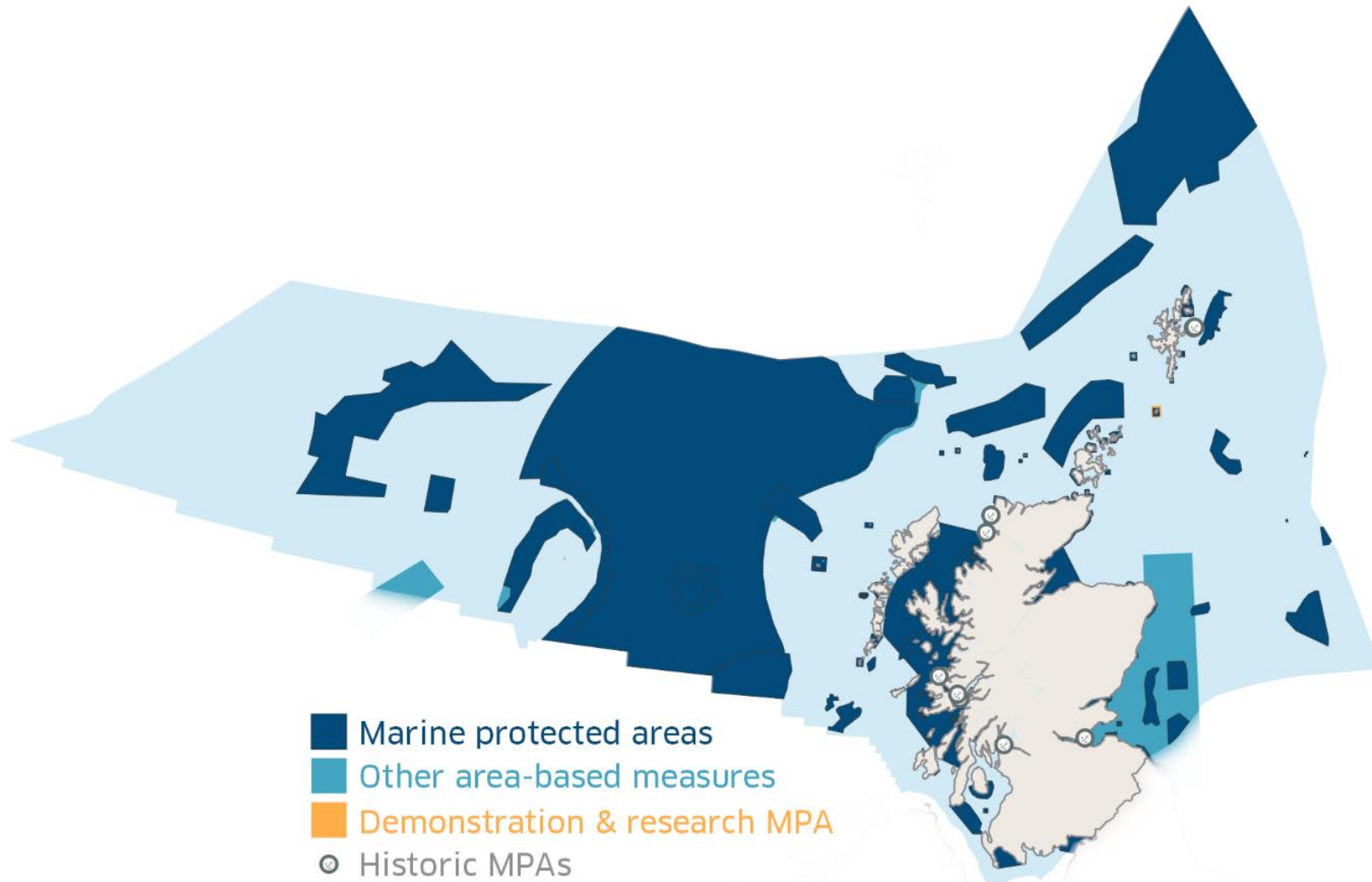


Figure 1 The existing MPA network in Scottish waters. Contains information from the Scottish Government (Marine Scotland), Scottish Natural Heritage, and Historic Environment Scotland licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

Scottish Ministers have national and international commitments to create a network of MPAs which:

- Contributes to conservation or improvement of the marine environment;
- Represents a range of features present in Scottish waters; and
- Reflects that the conservation of a feature may require the designation of more than one MPA.

2.1.3. The proposals

The four possible MPAs (pMPAs) were originally identified in 2012, however, additional assessment work was needed to improve the evidence base. Since 2012, NatureScot has undertaken habitat modelling, basking shark tagging, Risso’s dolphin photo-identification and seabed surveys to inform the new advice.

As a result of this additional work, NatureScot has provided [updated formal advice](#) on the four possible MPAs. NatureScot advised that these sites meet the MPA selection guidelines and that they are necessary to progress towards completion of the Scottish MPA network. The locations of the four sites as consulted on are shown in Figure 2 and Table 1 provides an overview of the four sites and protected features.

Table 1 Details of the four possible MPAs as consulted upon

Site Name	Size (km ²)	Proposed Protected Features	
		Biodiversity	Geodiversity
North-east Lewis	907	Risso’s dolphins, sandeels	Marine geomorphology of the Scottish shelf bed, Quaternary of Scotland
Sea of the Hebrides	10,039	Basking sharks, minke whales, fronts	Marine geomorphology of the Scottish shelf seabed
Shiant East Bank	308	Circalittoral sands and mixed sediment communities, northern sea fan and sponge communities, shelf banks and mounds	Quaternary of Scotland
Southern Trench	2,536	Burrowed mud, minke whales, fronts, shelf deeps	Quaternary of Scotland, submarine mass movement



Figure 2 Map showing four possible MPAs as consulted upon

2.2. Format of the consultation

2.2.1. Pre-consultation workshop

The Scottish Government hosted a pre-consultation workshop on 13 March 2019 in Edinburgh. Thirty-one stakeholders attended the workshop representing 18 organisations from sectors including fisheries, environment, tourism, local authority and other government departments. Attendees were provided with an overview of the proposals and an opportunity to view the draft consultation papers. A full report of the workshop is [available](#).

2.2.2. Consultation questions

The Scottish Government held a [consultation](#) on the proposals from 07 June 2019 to 30 August 2019. Views were invited on five questions in relation to the pMPAs. These questions were:

1. Do you support the designation of these possible Marine Protected Areas?
2. Do you agree that the scientific evidence presented justifies the case for the designation of each site?
3. Do you have any comments on the Conservation and Management Advice for each site?
4. Do you have any comments on the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments for each site?
5. Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal, including the Environmental Report and the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment?

In order to help respondents answer these questions, supporting information was available. For each site, the following documents were available:

- Data confidence assessment of the scientific evidence;
- MPA Selection Guidelines assessment;
- Conservation and management advice (CMA); and
- Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments (BRIAs).

In addition, the following documents provided evidence on the four sites together:

- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA); and
- A Sustainability Appraisal, combining environmental, social and economic effects.

2.2.3. Consultation events

During the consultation, 14 events were held around Scotland to provide information to local communities who may be interested in the proposals. Details of the events are shown in Table 2. NatureScot and Scottish Government staff were available to answer questions and provide information about the proposals.

Table 2 Locations and dates of consultation drop-in events

Location	Date	Venue
Banff, Aberdeenshire	24 June 2019	Fife Lodge Hotel
Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire	25 June 2019	The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses
Peterhead, Aberdeenshire	26 June 2019	Palace Hotel
Elgin, Moray	27 June 2019	Elgin Town Hall
Tobermory, Mull	16 July 2019	Aros Hall
Arinagour, Coll	17 July 2019	An Cridhe
Crossapol, Tiree	18 July 2019	An Talla
Castlebay, Barra	16 July 2019	Lews Castle College
Lochboisdale, South Uist	17 July 2019	Southend Community Hall
Lochmaddy, North Uist	18 July 2019	Lochmaddy Community Hall
Leverburgh, Harris	23 July 2019	Leverburgh Village Hall

Stornoway, Lewis	25 July 2019	Bayhead Bridge Centre
Portree, Skye	30 July 2019	Skye Camanachd Social Club
Mallaig, Highland	31 July 2019	Mallaig and Morar Community Centre

2.3. Respondents to the consultation

In total, 222 official consultation responses were received, either through email or through the Citizen Space consultation portal.

Two responses were received after the consultation closing date on 30 August 2019. These responses were considered valid and have been included in the analysis below.

A breakdown of the respondent categories can be found in section 4.1. and a full list of organisations which responded is in Annex B.

2.4. Format of this consultation report

This consultation report comprises of two parts; a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the consultation responses (section 4), and a discussion of the main themes contained within responses including the Scottish Government response (section 5).

The quantitative analysis work was commissioned by Scottish Government to provide clear information about the themes contained within the responses and the expectations of the Scottish people about these proposals.

The discussion section allows Scottish Government and NatureScot to provide background and additional information on points requiring clarity, explain changes made because of responses, and explain areas which are outwith the scope of this consultation. The discussion section does not include consideration of every comment made however the most relevant themes mentioned by multiple responses are included.

2.4.1. Ensuring data protection compliance

To provide a comprehensive picture of the consultation undertaken, some quotes have been provided from responses received.

To ensure compliance with data protection, respondents were asked by the Scottish Government if their responses could be published online. The appropriate data redaction has been implemented dependent upon the respondents answer to this question.

Where respondents have stated that 'Publish response only (without name)', quotations have been provided with the appropriate data redacted. To provide context to the response, the respondent category that the respondent was identified as is provided.

No quotations have been provided from respondents who provided an answer “Do not publish response”. These responses were still analysed and contributed towards the consultation analysis.

3. Non-standard responses

3.1. Introduction

During the consultation, two campaigns were launched in support of the proposals. One campaign, focusing on the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA and basking shark feature, was created jointly by Marine Conservation Society and Scottish Wildlife Trust. Another campaign focused on the North-east Lewis pMPA and Risso's dolphin and was launched by Whale and Dolphin Conservation.

In both campaigns, supporters signed up to the standard response and had the option to include their own comments. Supporter comments were emailed to the Scottish Government. The three organisations who coordinated the two campaigns submitted consultation responses, which encompassed the themes of the campaigns and were included in the consultation analysis.

3.2. Marine Conservation Society and Scottish Wildlife Trust campaign

This campaign focused on basking sharks and the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA. A total of 3,386 emails were received by Marine Scotland in support of this campaign, including 334 with additional comments. The standard text of this campaign was:

“I strongly support the designation of the four new Marine Protected Areas currently out for consultation by the Scottish Government.

Scotland's seas hold some of the most diverse and productive marine ecosystems in the world, but are under pressure from threats such as climate change, overfishing and unsustainable development. It is therefore essential that we properly protect what remains as well as recovering damaged ecosystems.

We must also ensure that any animals visiting Scotland's waters are safe and protected while they are here. If properly managed, these four new MPAs will do just that. Protecting large mobile species such as basking sharks and minke whales, as well as some of our most precious marine habitats, will be important additions to Scotland's developing MPA network, providing a safe-haven for marine animals and habitats that need it the most.

I strongly support the protection of Scottish seas and believe that the addition of these four proposed MPAs are essential to help our seas recover.”

A full list of additional comments can be found in Annex B.

3.3. Whale and Dolphin Conservation campaign

This campaign focused on Risso's dolphin and the North-east Lewis pMPA. A total of 4,446 emails were received by Marine Scotland in support of this campaign, including 1,796 with additional comments. The standard text of this campaign was:

“I strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation.

Risso's dolphins have an 'unknown' status – we don't understand enough about them to be sure that they are safe. WDC research demonstrates that the dolphins come to Northeast Lewis to feed and to socialise. Also, there are a higher number of mothers with very young calves observed here than anywhere else in the world. The habitat here is very special.

As a result, Northeast Risso's dolphin MPA should be designated with a 'recover' objective, so we can better understand how they are faring in the proposed MPA and in wider Scottish seas and can be certain they get the protection they need.

Please then hold a further consultation to protect these MPAs from the range of pressures that mobile species face, including military activities, boat disturbance and getting entangled in fishing gear.

Please make sure that that the Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy ensures robust management of pressures in wider seas (beyond the MPAs), so all whales and dolphins are protected – as required by law – wherever they are.”

A full list of additional comments can be found in Annex B.

4. Analysis of consultation responses

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. Scope

Arup were appointed by the Scottish Government to provide consultation analysis on the designation of four pMPAs to Scotland's MPA network. The following section comprises the work carried out by Arup under contract.

4.1.2. Aim

The aim of this section is to provide comprehensive analysis and a summary of key findings of the comments received from the 222 respondents who provided responses for the consultation.

4.2. Consultation analysis approach

4.2.1. Wider approach

A mixed method approach was adopted for the consultation analysis, providing a comprehensive review of the qualitative and quantitative data.

For the purposes of this report, the following terms were defined as explained in Table 3. The table explains the difference between the person or persons who provided the response, and the content of the response provided.

Table 3 Response and Respondent definition

Response	The individual comments received from a respondent for the consultation.
Respondent	The business group, individual, organisation or sector that submitted the response for the consultation.

As part of the consultation analysis, Arup categorised the respondents into the relevant business group, individual, organisation or sector that they relate to. The respondent categories are as follows:

- Academic;
- Aquaculture Business/Association;
- Community Group;
- Energy Provider;
- Environmental;
- Fishing Group or Organisation;
- Individual;
- Other Business;
- Other Industry Association;
- Recreation and Tourism Business/Association; and

- Regulator or Local Authority.

In terms of language, 'the pMPAs' were the four sites identified for designation and the focus of this consultation and 'MPAs' are the designated sites that make up the wider Scottish MPA network that it is proposed the pMPAs would form a part of.

There were instances of it being difficult to determine whether respondents were referring to the pMPAs or MPAs more generally. Key issues raised multiple times for the pMPAs and MPAs were coded together (for further information see section 4.2.3) to ensure duplicate results were not produced and to improve the effectiveness of the analysis undertaken.

4.2.2. Quantitative data approach

The quantitative data were identified as the 'tick box' response for each question. This included the responses received via the online consultation and email.

The quantitative data were analysed by reviewing the tick box responses received for each of the five questions. The responses for question one were analysed in greater detail, with analysis by respondent category being undertaken. This helped to identify the differences in the responses received for each respondent category.

4.2.3. Qualitative data approach

For the purpose of this report, qualitative data have been identified as responses received within the 'free text' section for each question. Qualitative responses included the responses received via the online consultation or the emails sent directly to Marine Scotland regarding the five questions.

4.2.3.1. Coding framework

A coding framework was developed and used to analyse the qualitative data received for the consultation, helping to ensure consistency across responses received.

A coding framework is a way of indexing or categorising the text to establish and identify key themes and issues in qualitative comments. This involves reviewing the qualitative comments received, searching and identifying concepts and finding relations between them. The coding framework allows for data to be analysed so you can examine and analyse the comments in a structured way.

Creating the coding framework involved reviewing the questions asked in the consultation, to identify potential key themes and issues that were likely to be raised in the responses. Technical input from specialists within Arup helped to identify the potential key themes and issues. A sample of responses were then used to develop the coding framework, and to gain an understanding of content within responses.

The coding framework was designed to reflect the level of detail that is expected in this report to allow for useful grouping of responses.

The coding framework was a 'live document' which was regularly updated; both in content of existing codes and the addition of new codes, throughout the analysis of

the consultation responses. This helped to ensure the analysis was flexible yet reliable, capturing all issues raised in the consultation.

Responses were individually analysed against the coding framework drawing out the range of positive, neutral and negative comments relating to the various questions set out in the consultation. Responses were not restricted to one code per response. There was no limit on the number of codes that could be assigned per response.

The consultation responses included generic comments or observations that did not directly relate to the questions set out. The coding framework has made provisions for this.

Some of the codes used have overlap both in content and wording. This is due to the nature of the responses received. Responses that share similar overlapping themes but are different in content were coded separately from one another.

Below is a sample of the codes used to undertake the consultation analysis;

- The pMPAs/MPAs help to protect and enhance the biodiversity.
- The pMPAs/MPAs help to promote tourism.
- The pMPAs/MPAs help to address national, regional and local environmental targets.
- Raised concerns on the negative economic impact that the pMPAs/MPAs have on areas where the main source of employment is fishing.
- Recommend or request for the conservation objectives for the designations to be changed to “recover”.

In the sample analysis undertaken for the coding framework development it was found that many respondents provided comment both on the pMPA designations and generally on MPAs.

4.2.3.2. Coding Quality Assurance

To ensure the appropriate quality assurance of the coding analysis occurred, a primary, secondary and final review was completed.

Three different persons were used to undertake each review for the five questions.

The final review was undertaken by a senior Arup consultant.

4.2.3.3. Key and General Comments raised

The key and general comments were identified by reviewing the responses and undertaking the following steps outlined in Table 4 and Table 5.

Table 4 Process for identifying Key Comments

Step One	Step Two
A response was raised on 10 to 29 occasions by respondents.	The occurrence of that response in a question was less than 80% of the total number of times the response was recorded for the whole consultation.

Table 5 Process for identifying General Comments

Step One	Step Two
A response was raised on over 30 occasions by respondents	The occurrence of that response in a question was less than 80% of the total number of times the response was recorded for the whole consultation.

Any responses that were identified in Step One but did not meet the criteria for Step Two are recorded in the sections 4.4.3 to 4.4.7 of this report.

An example of the key and general comment identification is provided in Table 6.

To analyse the key and general comments raised, the 1,110 responses received from the 222 respondents over the five questions were analysed. This was done to ensure accurate analysis of the responses received over the five questions took place.

This differed from the analysis of the individual questions presented in sections 4.4.3 to 4.4.7 of this report, where the analysis focused on respondents rather than the responses.

Table 6 Key and General Comment examples

Response	Question	Total number of times raised	Identification
The pMPAs/MPAs help to protect and enhance the biodiversity	1	88	Key Comment
	2	53	
	3	25	
	4	18	
	5	16	
Fishing has taken place in areas identified for designation for a significant period of time and has had few or no	1	3	General Comment
	2	5	
	3	5	

negative effects on biodiversity.	4	1	
	5	0	
Respondent states that adequate monitoring and surveillance measures should be introduced to detect any illegal activities in the designated sites and appropriate legal action taken upon detection of any infringements.	1	0	Identified as a response to be included in the analysis for Question Three.
	2	1	
	3	14	
	4	0	
	5	0	

4.2.3.4. Assumptions and limitations of the coding framework

Assumptions of the coding framework include:

- Multiple perspectives including voices of the analysts, the respondents and the readers interpreting the coding framework result;
- Coding analysis is context-bound; and
- Categories of interest emerge from the respondents, rather than set by the researcher before conducting the analysis.

Limitations of the coding framework include:

- Using quantitative methods to analyse qualitative responses. Some qualitative researchers (Creswell, 2013) are against the principle of coding in qualitative research, because “counting conveys a quantitative orientation of magnitude and frequency contrary to qualitative research.”
- Coding risks the possibility of overlooking the significant and interesting minority data. Saldaña (2016) warns of the possibility that a unique code or one that appears a limited number of times may be key to the outcome of a report’s findings.

4.2.4. Limitations and quality of responses

When comments were received that made no clear or obvious point relating to the consultation questions best efforts were made to identify the purpose of the response. Where a meaning could not be identified they were counted as ‘No Comment’. These were included in the overall count of ‘No Comment’ consultation responses (see section 4.4. for further information about No Comment responses).

Respondents who did not provide a written response or their response was incomplete for the consultation question were considered and counted as 'No Comment'. This occurred between one and six occasions for each question.

The number of responses in the free text section for each question reduced going from question one to five.

4.3. Consultation responses

In total, 222 respondents provided responses for the consultation; 200 of the respondents provided their responses through the online consultation and 17 of the respondents provided an email response to the consultation for the five questions. Five respondents submitted their responses to the consultation through a combination of the online consultation and an email response.

Responses received by email provided a response to every question similar to the online consultation or provided a general comment on the pMPA designations. Responses that were structured in the same way as the online consultation were broken down and analysed per question in the same way as the online consultation responses received. The email responses that provided a more over-arching comment on the pMPA designations that did not make specific reference to any one question, were included in the analysis of the question they were most relevant too. This helped to ensure a consistent approach was adopted for the consultation analysis.

A breakdown of the number of the responses to the consultation per respondent category is provided in Table 7.

Table 7 Number of respondent by category

Respondent category	Total
Academic	2
Aquaculture Business/Association	3
Community Group	8
Energy Provider	4
Environmental	18
Fishing Group or Organisation	13
Individual	159
Other Business	1
Other Industry Association	5
Recreation and Tourism Business/Association	2
Regulator or Local Authority	7

4.4. Consultation response analysis

4.4.1. Key comments raised

Over the five questions, 1,110 responses were received from the 222 respondents.

Responses that did not provide a comment were still considered in the total number of responses received. Of the 1,110 responses, 577 were coded as 'No Comment'. This included the responses where no further comment was provided and responses identified in section 4.2.4.

A summary of the key comments raised in the free text sections for as part of the consultation is provided below:

- 200 responses gave supportive comments regarding pMPAs/MPAs helping to protect and enhance Scotland's biodiversity.
- 35 responses stated that the pMPA/MPA designation will help to promote tourism in areas that they are located in.
- 30 responses said that more areas around Scotland should be given MPA designation or there should be more stringent MPA regulatory controls.
- 35 responses raised concerns on the negative economic impacts that the pMPA/MPA designations would have on areas where the main source of employment is fishing.
- 28 responses explained that appropriate penalties should be introduced for those that failed to follow the pMPA/MPA regulations.

A summary of the responses raised above is provided in Figure 3.

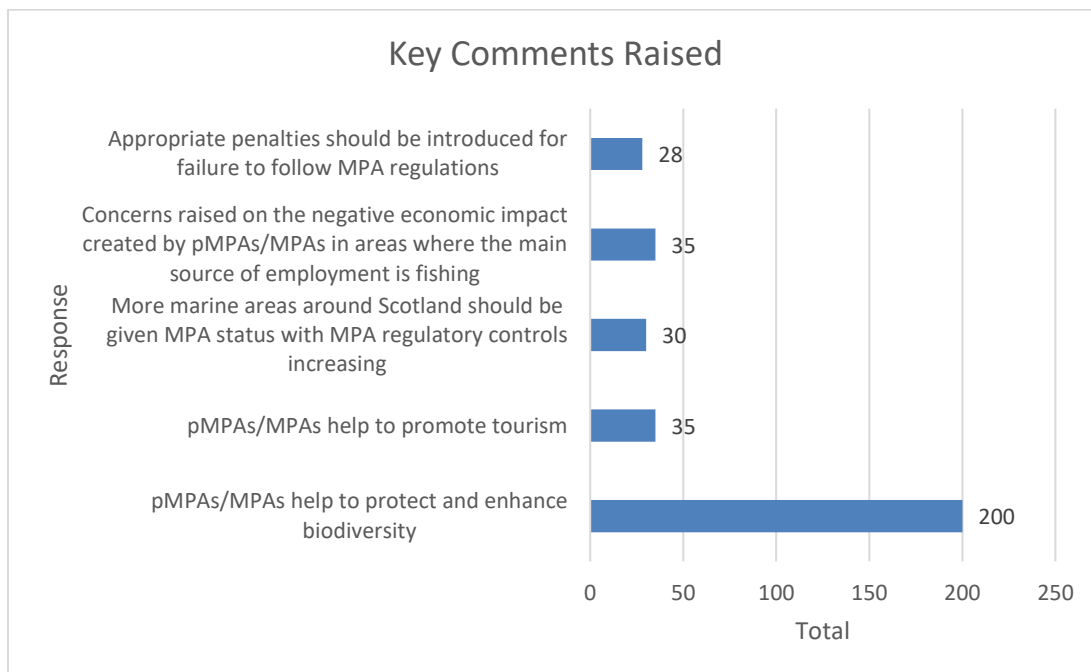


Figure 3 Key Comments raised

4.4.2. General comments raised

The same methodology in analysing the 1,110 responses was adopted to identify the general comments raised across the five questions.

A summary of the general comments raised in the free text section for the five questions question is provided below:

- 20 responses explained that the pMPA/MPA designations will help to address national, regional and local environmental targets.
- 21 responses outlined that the pMPA/MPA designations would help protect areas from the negative environmental impacts created by fishing.
- 14 responses explained that fishing had taken place in the areas identified for the pMPAs for a significant period of time and has had little or no effects on the environment.
- 10 responses said that the pMPAs/MPAs will fail to discourage the negative environmental impacts created by fishing.
- 12 responses explained that extensive monitoring programmes are required to address the lack of data available to assess the conservation status of features.

A summary of the responses raised above is provided in Figure 4.

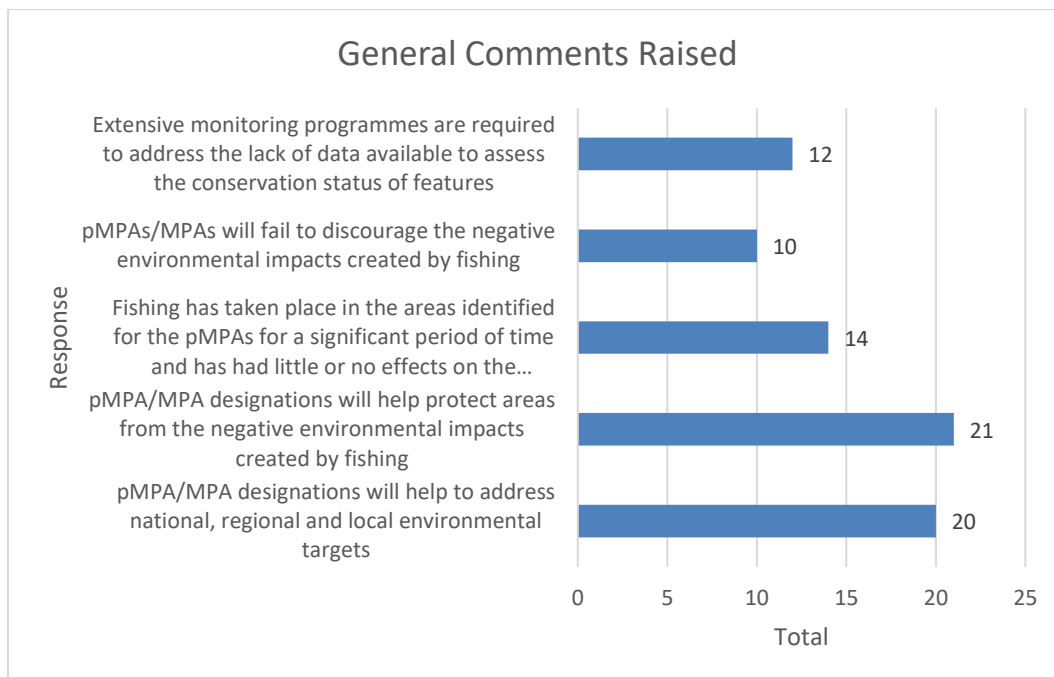


Figure 4 General Comments raised

Responses received made supportive comments on the positive effects that the pMPA designation would have on different animals living in the sites. These comments occurred throughout the responses for the five questions.

A summary of the comments is provided in Figure 5.

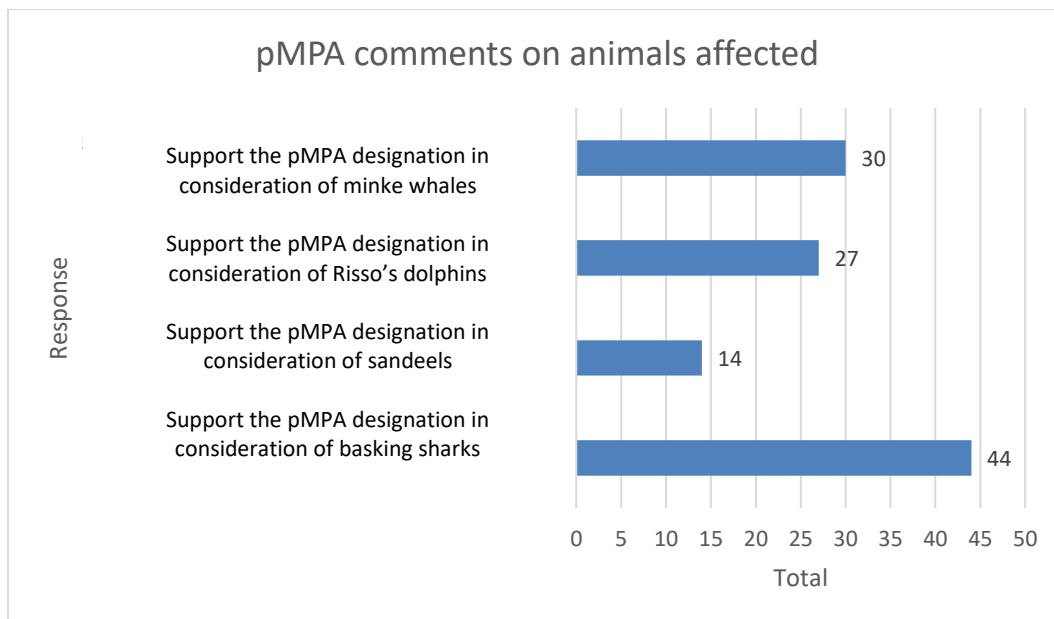


Figure 5 pMPA comments on animals affected

4.4.3. Question One

The comments recorded in this section were the responses received for Question One which asked “Do you support the designation of these possible Marine Protected Areas?”

Links to each of the figures relevant to Question One are contained in Table 8 below.

Table 8 Question One figures

Question One figure references

Figure 6 Question One – support for North-east Lewis

Figure 7 Question One – support for Sea of the Hebrides

Figure 8 Question One – support for Shiant East Bank

Figure 9 Question One – support for Southern Trench

Figure 10 Question One – comparison of support for each site

Figure 11 Question One - respondent category

Figure 12 Question One - academic responses

Figure 13 Question One - aquaculture business/association responses

Figure 14 Question One - community group responses

Figure 15 Question One - energy group responses

Figure 16 Question One - environmental responses

Figure 17 Question One - fishing group or organisation responses

Figure 18 Question One - individual responses

Figure 19 Question One - other business responses

Figure 20 Question One - other industry association responses

Figure 21 Question One - recreation and tourism business/association responses

Figure 22 Question One - regulator or Local Authority responses

Figure 23 Question One - free text comments

Figure 8 to Figure 12 show the responses received for Question One.

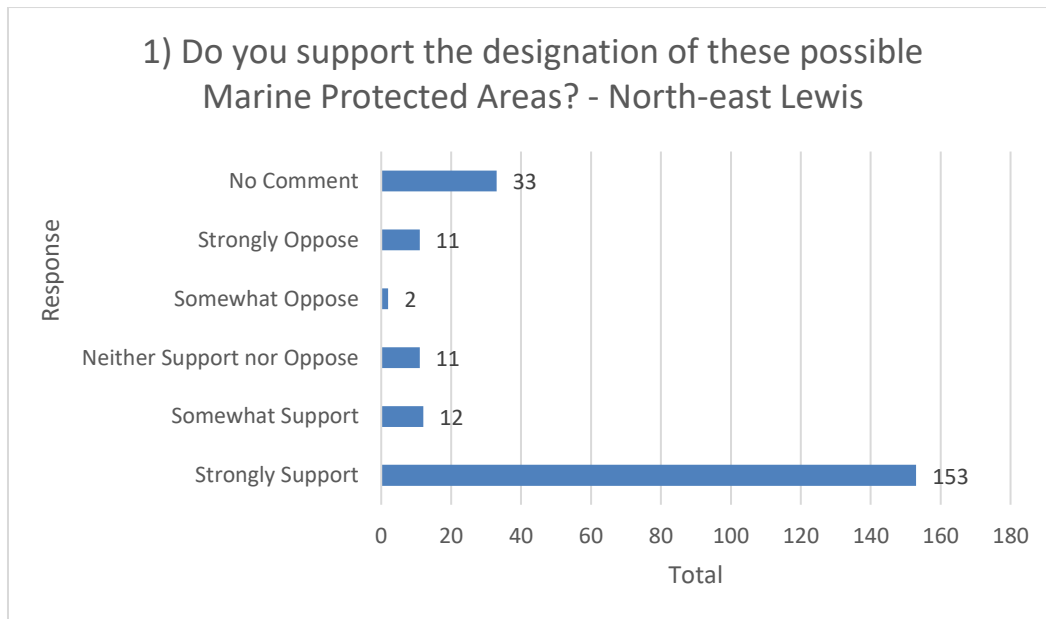


Figure 6 Question One – support for North-east Lewis

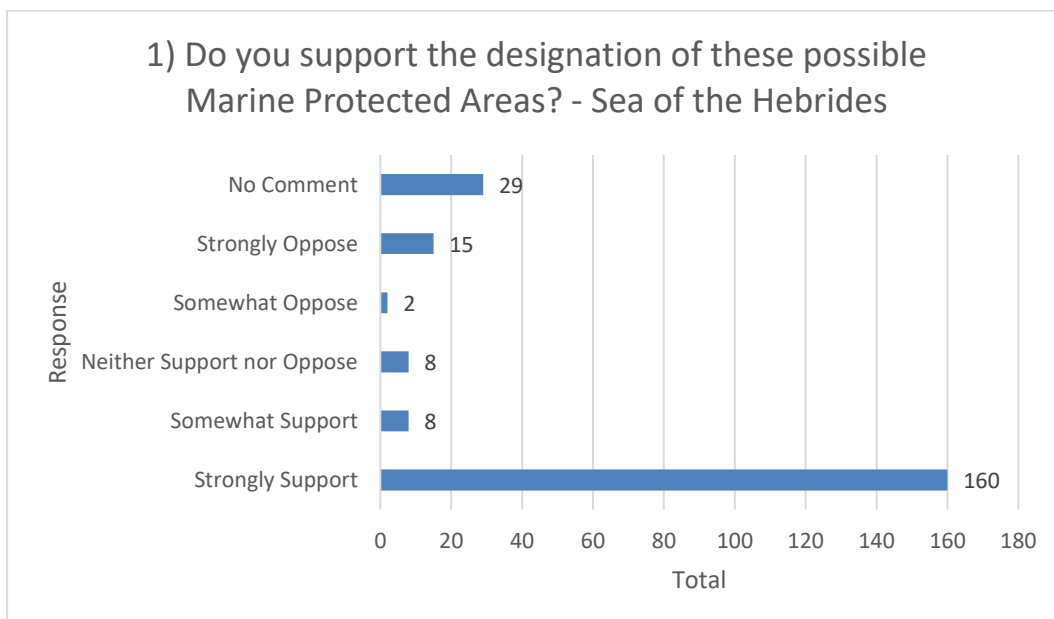


Figure 7 Question One – support for Sea of the Hebrides

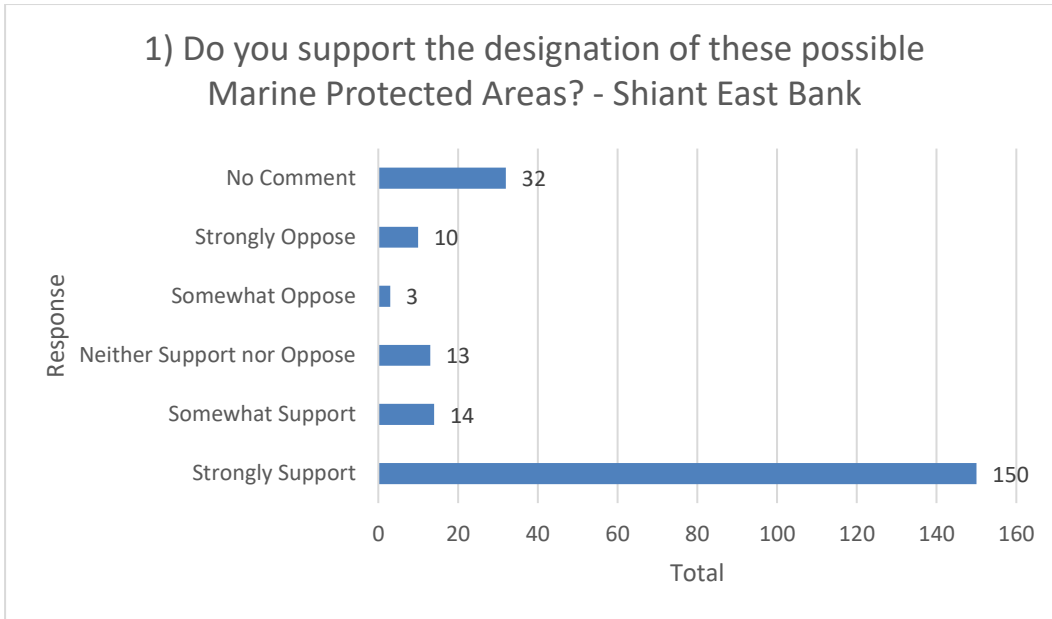


Figure 8 Question One – support for Shiant East Bank

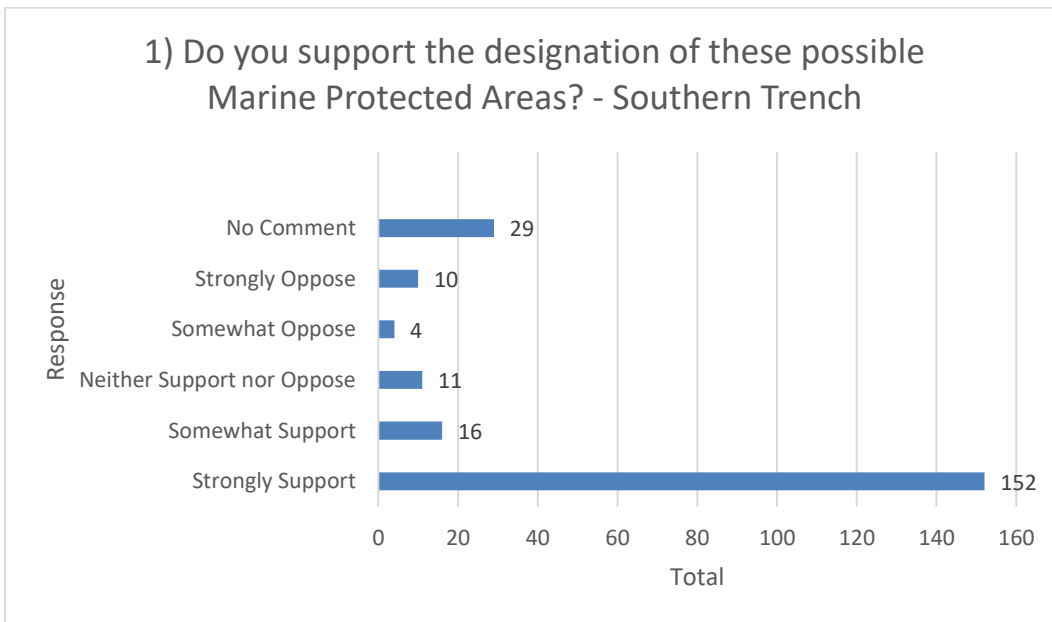


Figure 9 Question One – support for Southern Trench

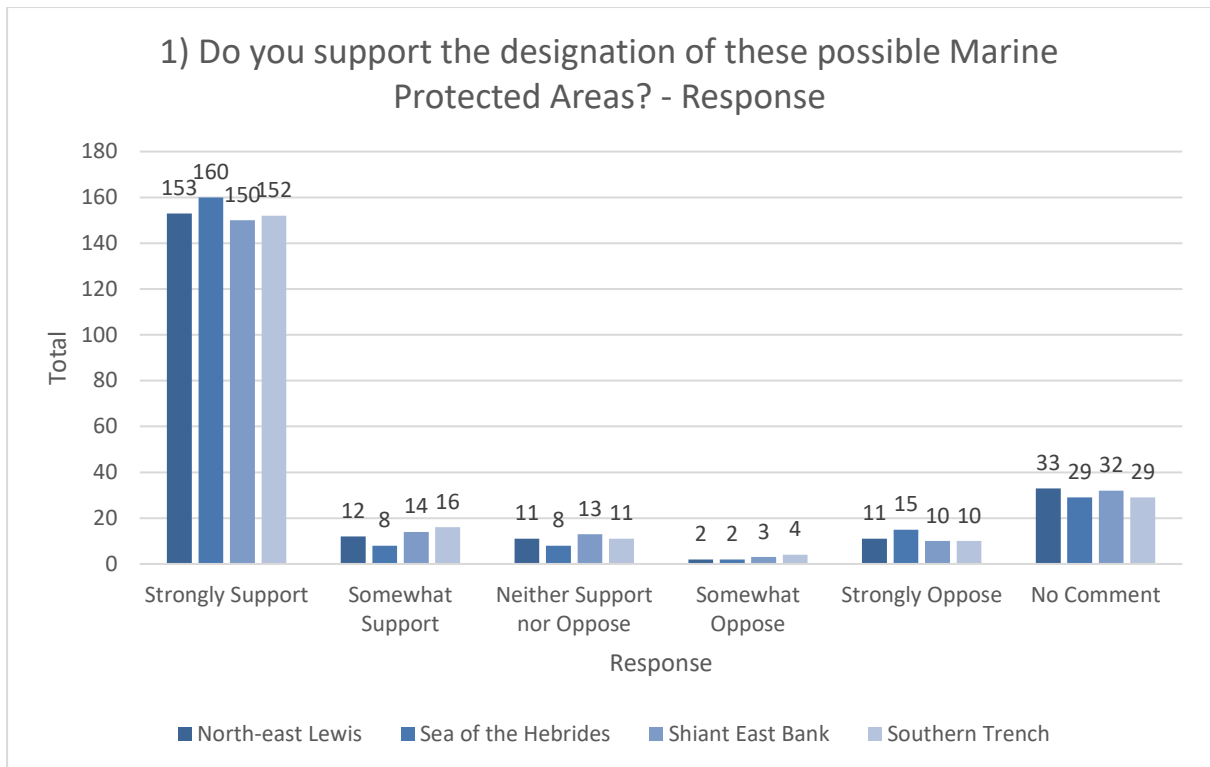


Figure 10 Question One – comparison of support for each site

A summary of the answers received for each category of respondent and details of their response are outlined in Figure 13 to Figure 24.

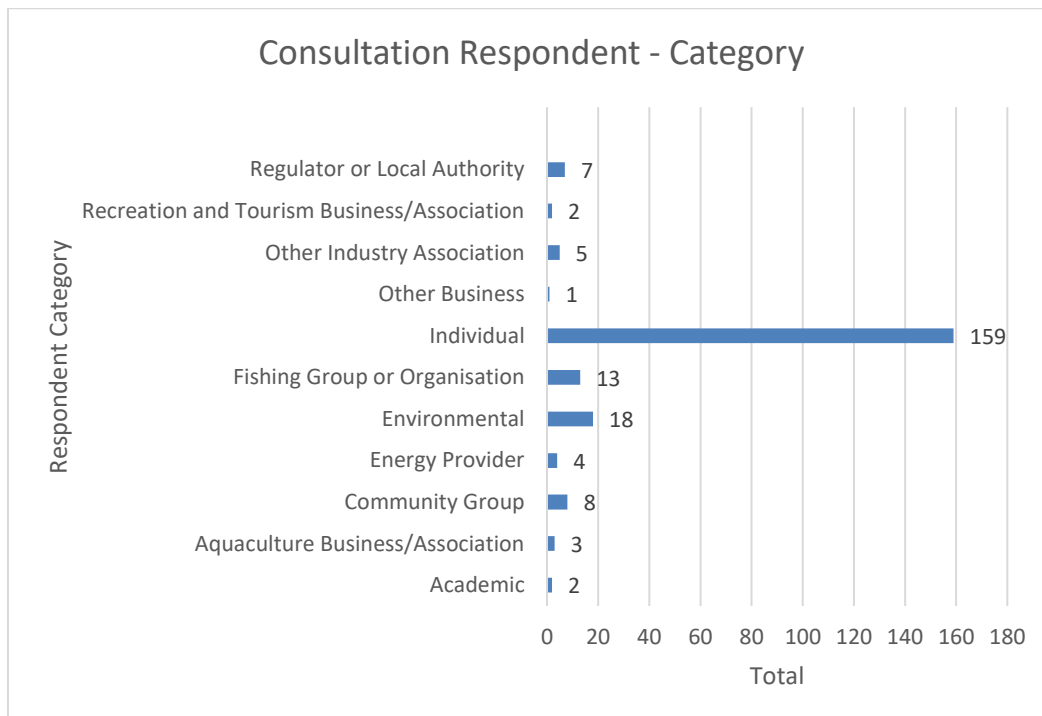


Figure 11 Question One - respondent category

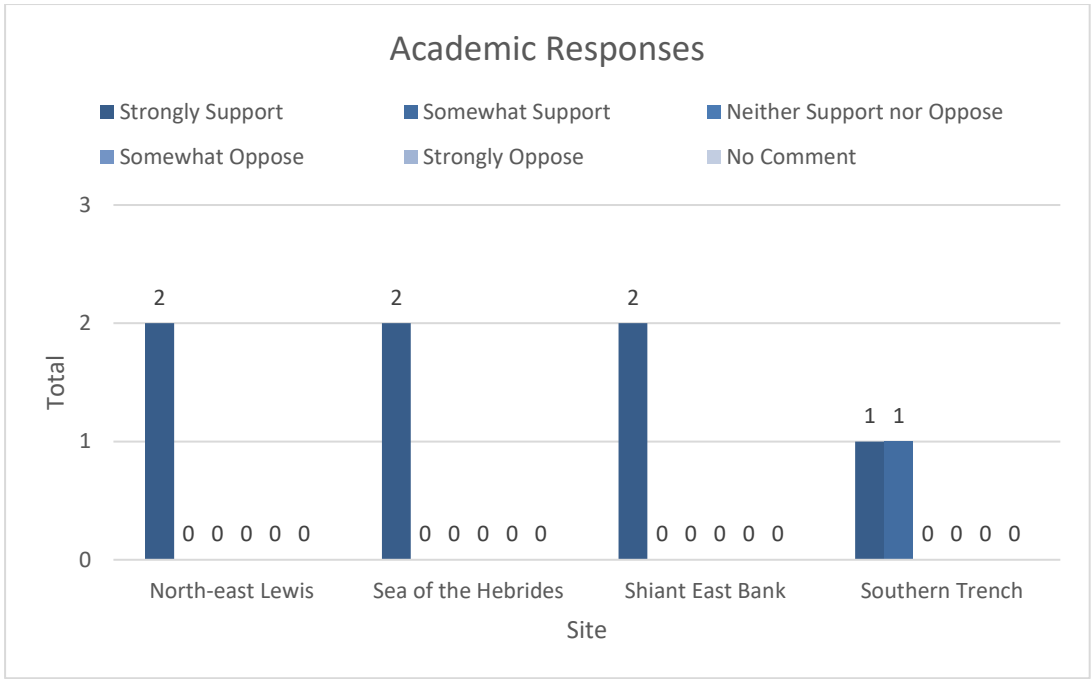


Figure 12 Question One - academic responses

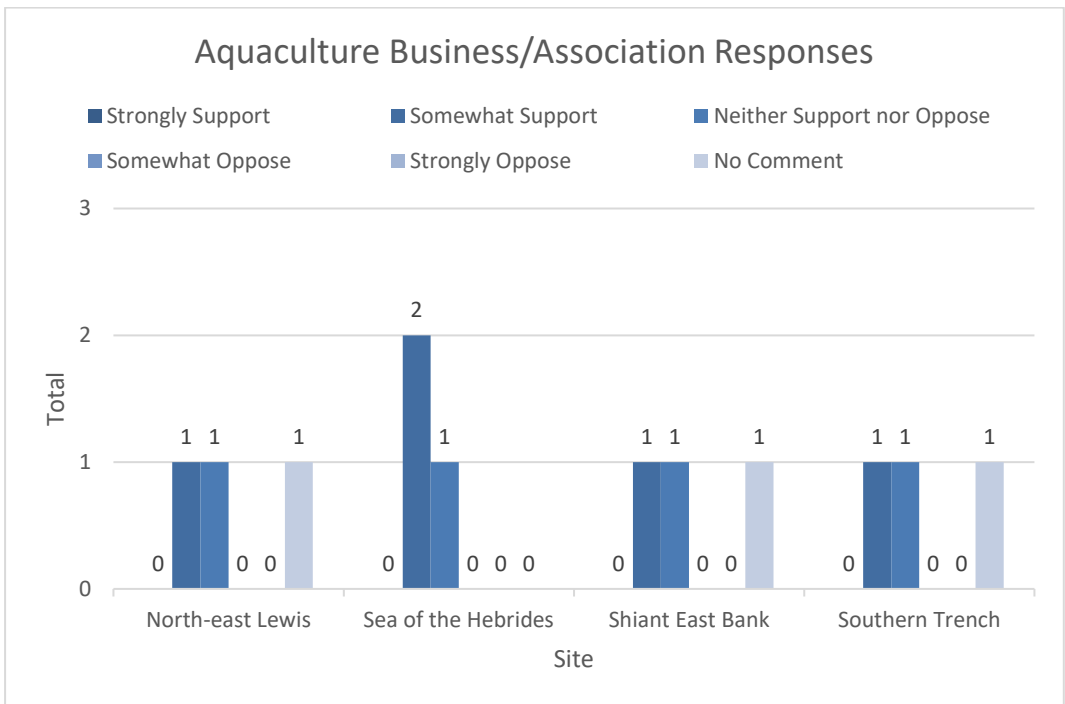


Figure 13 Question One - aquaculture business/association responses

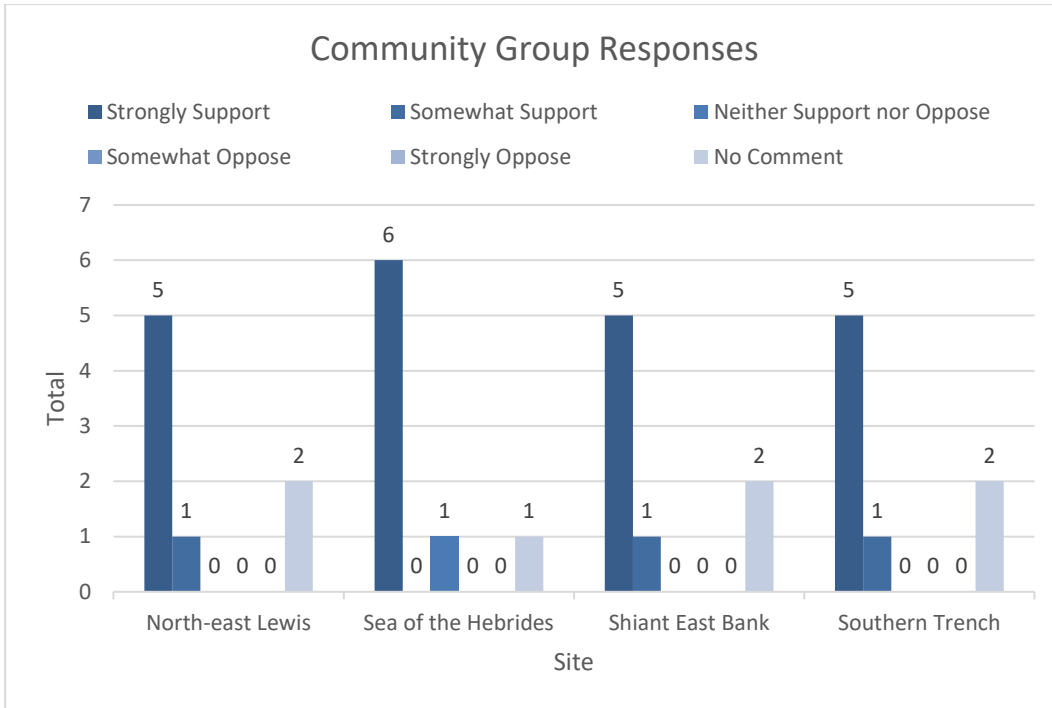


Figure 14 Question One - community group responses

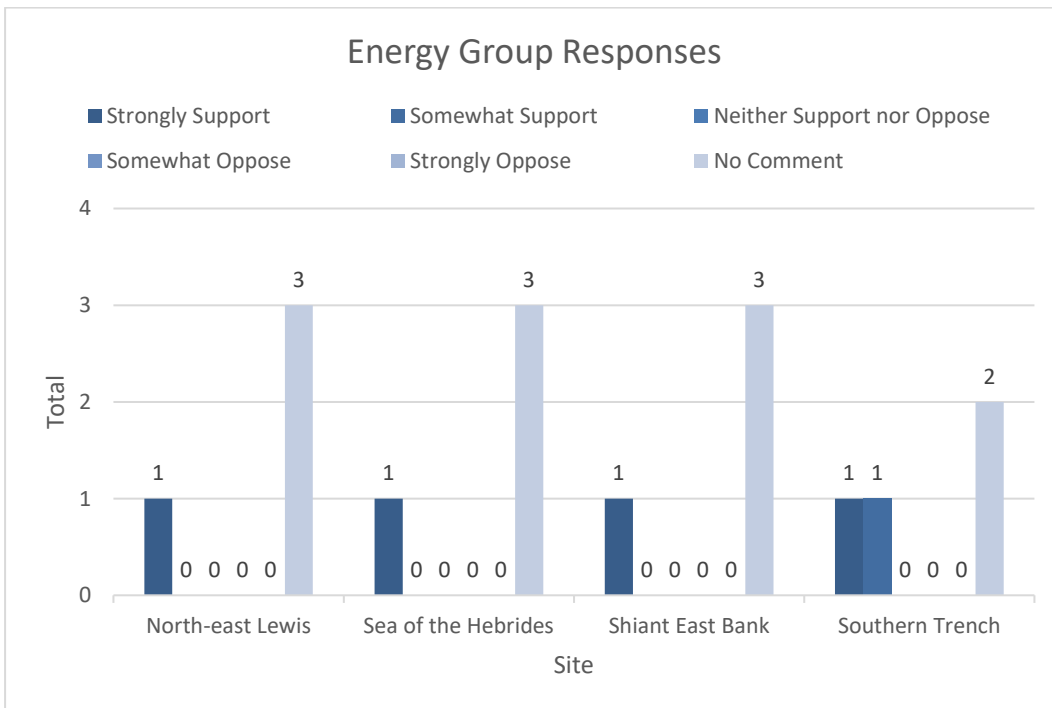


Figure 15 Question One - energy group responses

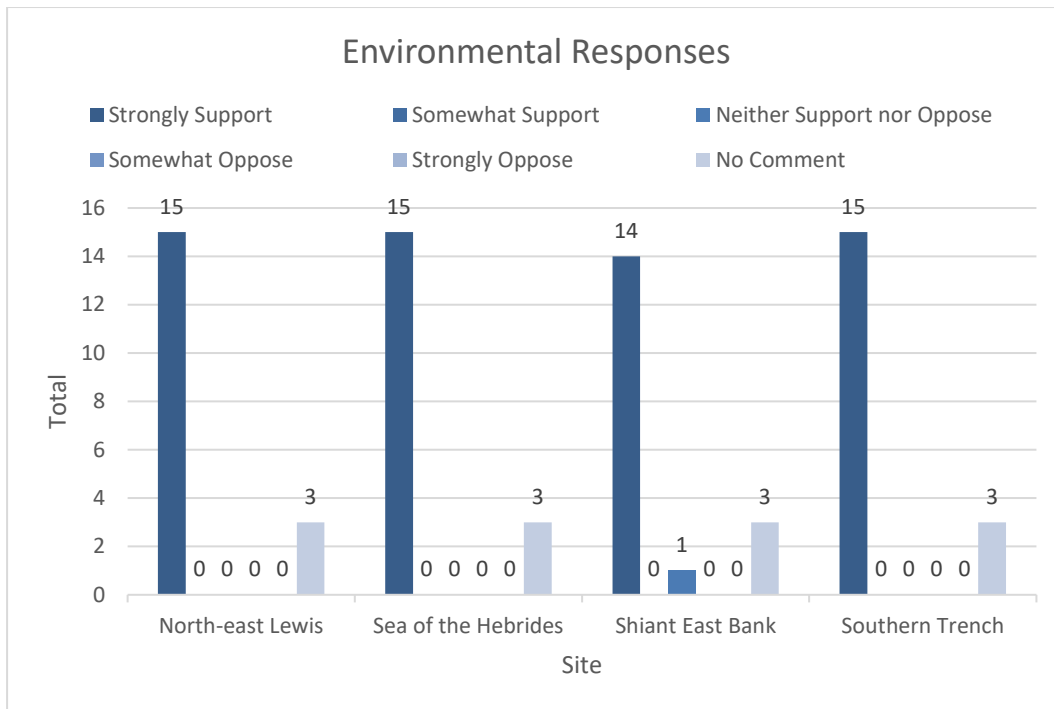


Figure 16 Question One - environmental responses

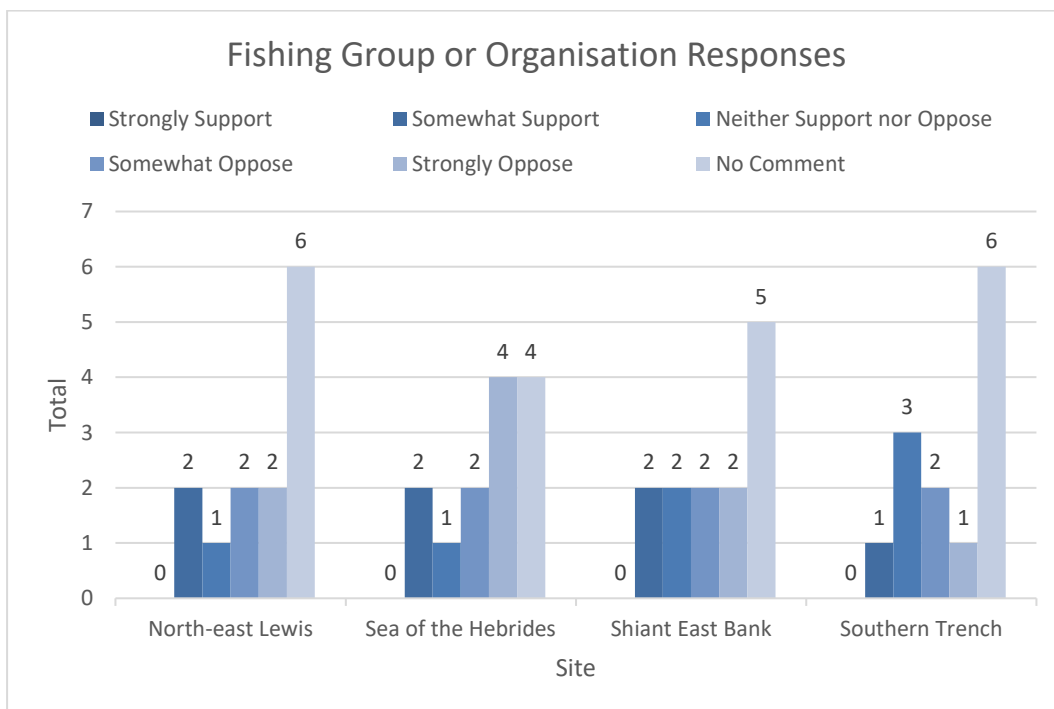


Figure 17 Question One - fishing group or organisation responses

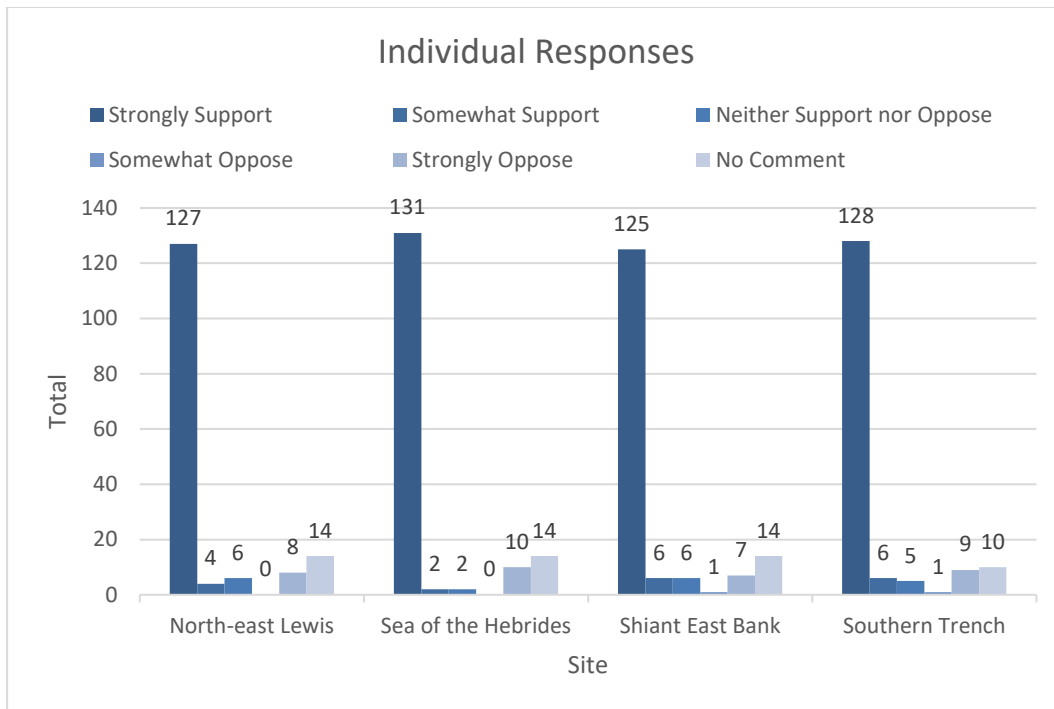


Figure 18 Question One - individual responses

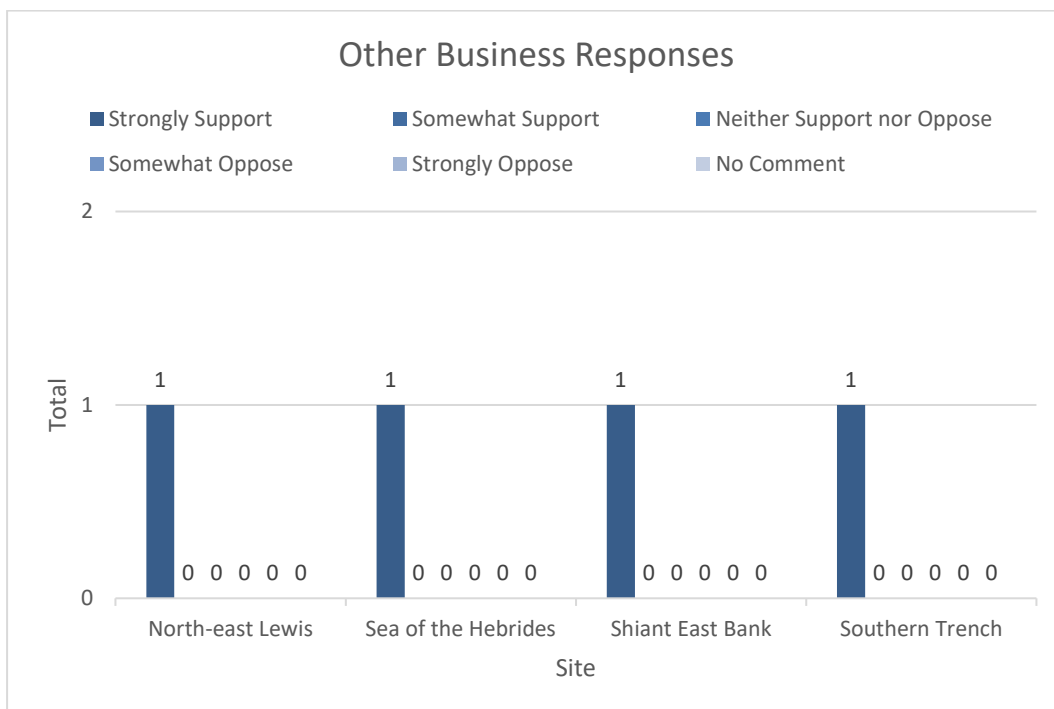


Figure 19 Question One - other business responses

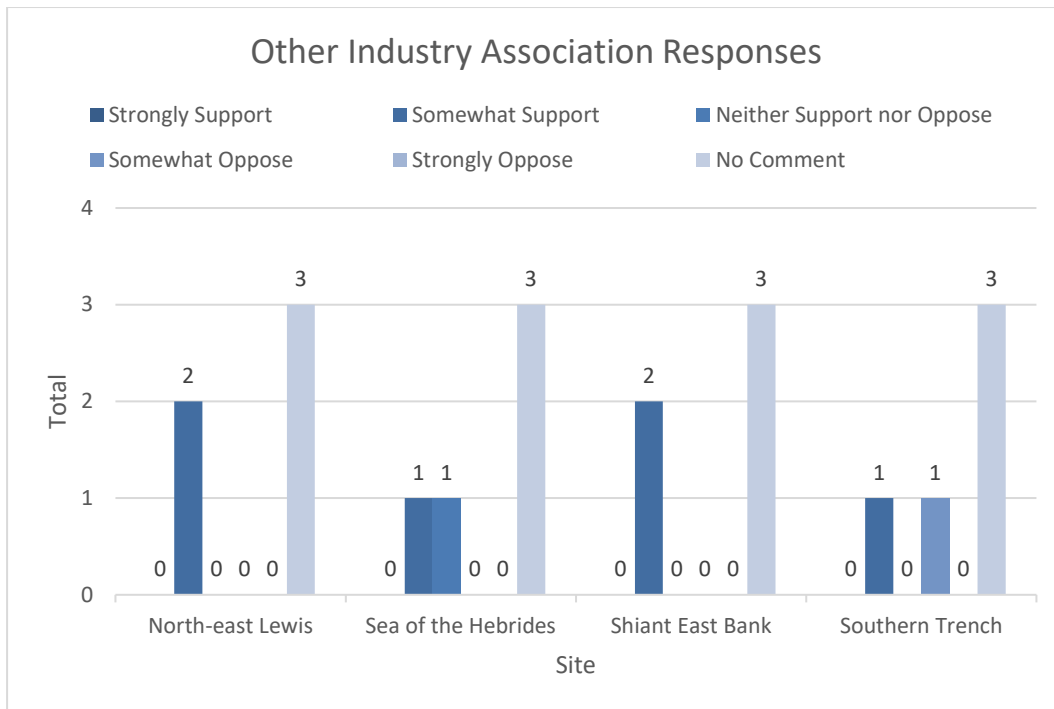


Figure 20 Question One - other industry association responses

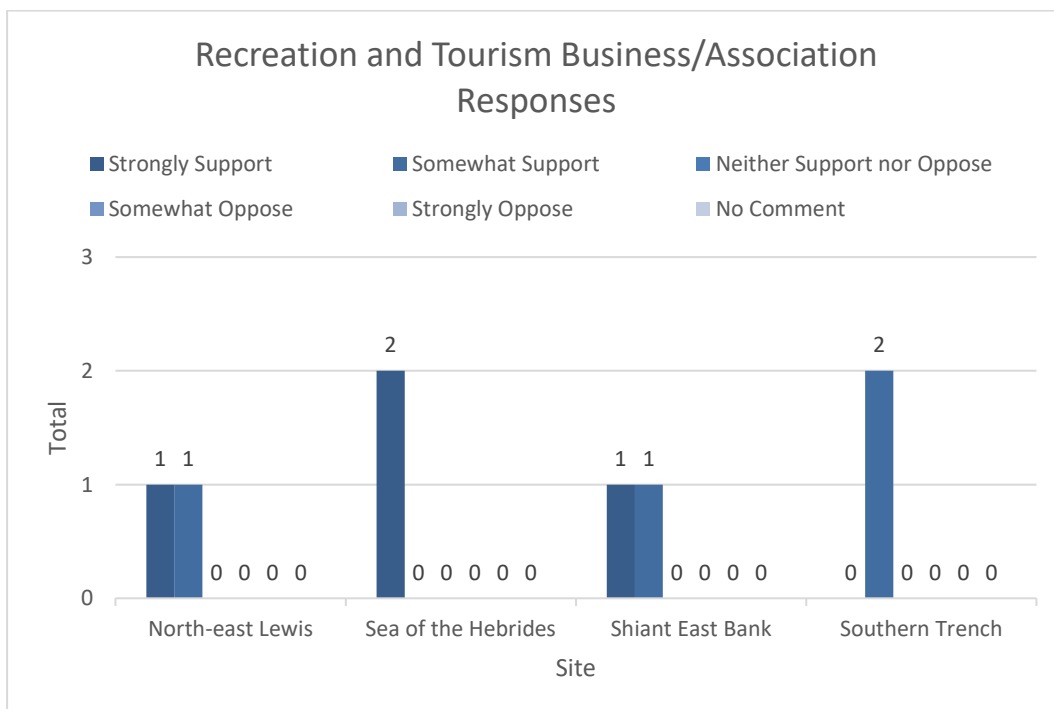


Figure 21 Question One - recreation and tourism business/association responses

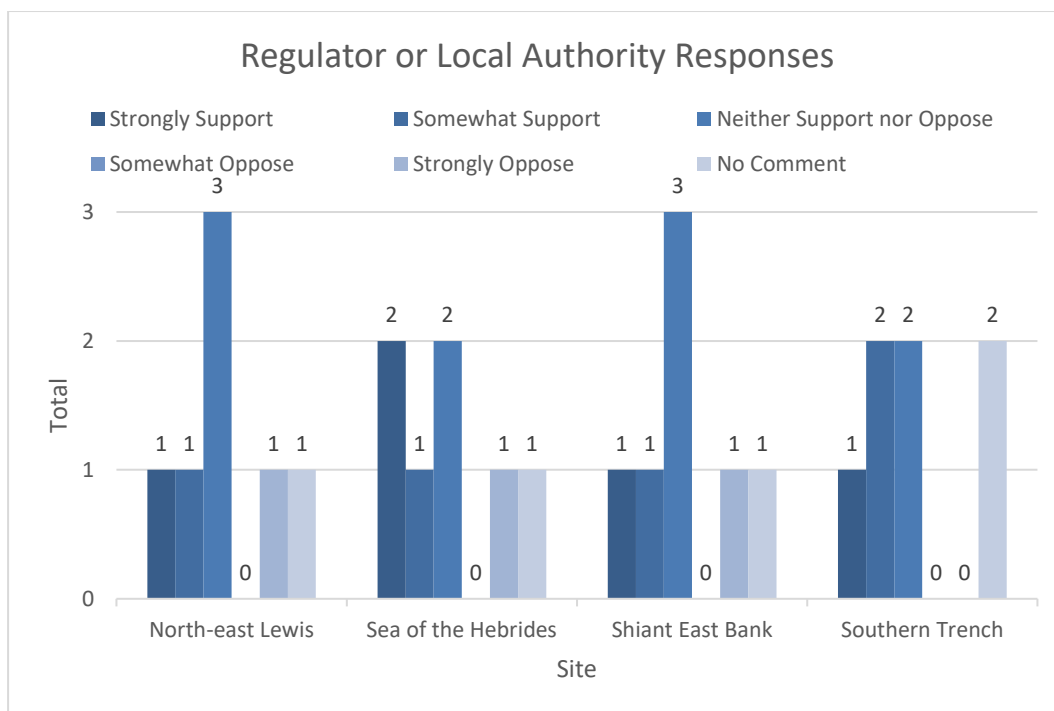


Figure 22 Question One - regulator or Local Authority responses

Of the 222 respondents who answered Question One, 157 provided further comments to support their answer.

Thirteen respondents said that it is important to protect species and seabed habitats that are vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures.

“These sites are essential to fill known gaps in Scotland’s developing MPA network particularly for mobile species and seabed habitats that are vulnerable to anthropogenic pressures.” (Scottish Environment Link)

Twelve respondents provided further comment that the pMPAs/MPAs will help to ensure a good quality of life for current and future generations in Scotland.

Five respondents said that the desire to establish a network of MPAs in Scotland is desirable when it is well balanced and well monitored. All five respondents provided further comment that the interests of stakeholders and interested parties in the coastal and sea areas the designations affect should be meaningfully measured.

Three respondents said that the pMPAs/MPAs should form a part of a range of protective measures and policy that ensure species are protected in the waters they inhabit.

Eleven respondents stated that the pMPA/MPA designations would have a negative effect upon the quality of human life.

Ten respondents raised concerns on the employment of fishers in the future.

“Strongly oppose a number of these designated sites to the severe detriment of employment in our already fragile communities.” (Individual)

Five respondents said that fewer or no more marine areas around Scotland should be given MPA status.

Five respondents provided comment that further consideration is required of the impact that MPA designations create on local businesses.

A summary of the comments raised in the free text section for Question One is provided in Figure 23.

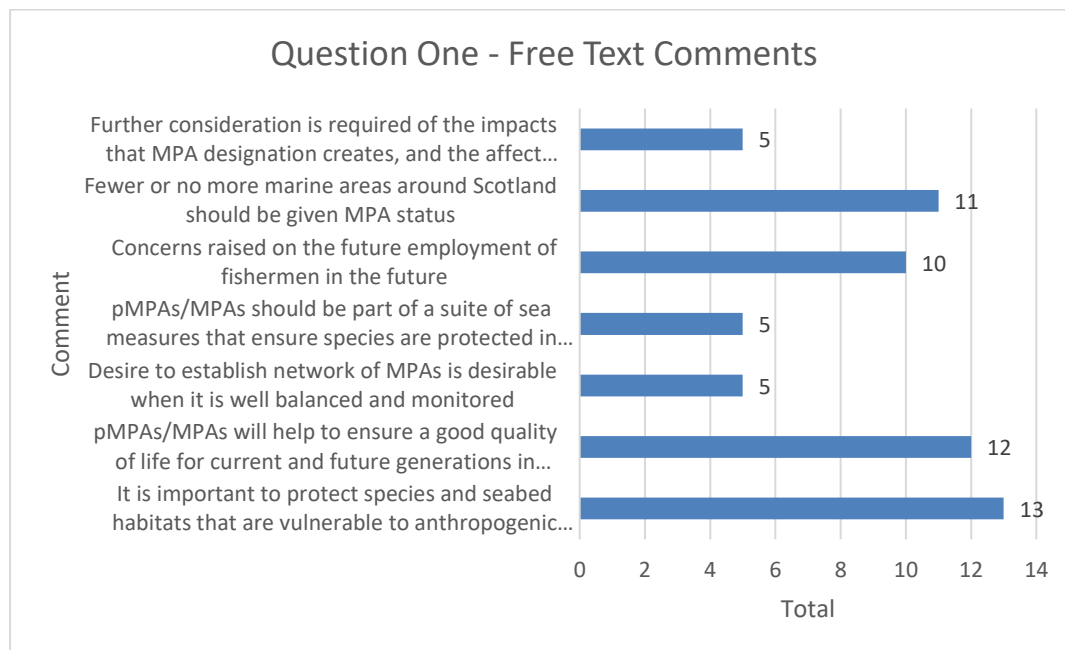


Figure 23 Question One - free text comments

4.4.4. Question Two

The comments recorded in this section were the responses received for Question Two which asked “Do you agree that the scientific evidence presented justifies the case for the designation of each site?”

Links to each of the figures relevant to Question Two are contained in Table 9 below.

Table 9 Question Two Figures

Question Two Figure References

Figure 24 Question Two answers

Figure 25 Scientific evidence comments

Figure 26 Question Two - free text comments

Figure 24 shows the responses received for Question Two.

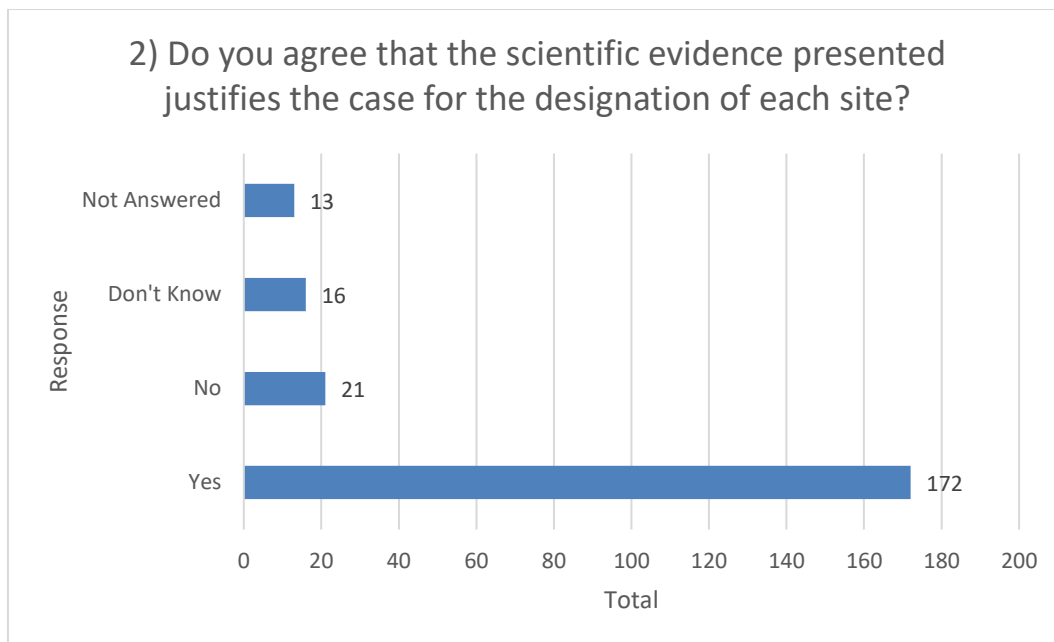


Figure 24 Question Two answers

Of the 222 respondents who answered Question Two, 107 provided further comments to support their answer.

Thirty-four respondents explained that they supported the scientific evidence for all the pMPAs or made a general comment in support of the scientific evidence presented.

The number of respondents who supported the scientific evidence to justify the case for the individual pMPAs was two for North-east Lewis pMPA, five for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA and two for Southern Trench pMPA. No comments were received specifically in support of the scientific evidence to justify the case for the Shiant East Bank pMPA.

Nine respondents raised concerns on the scientific evidence presented for all the pMPAs or raised general concerns on the scientific evidence presented.

Two respondents raised concerns of the scientific evidence to justify the North-east Lewis pMPA and two respondents raised concerns of the scientific evidence to justify the Southern Trench pMPA.

No comments were received specifically raising concerns on the Sea of the Hebrides and the Shiant East Bank pMPA.

A summary of the respondents who supported or raised concerns on the scientific evidence for the pMPAs in Question Two is shown in Figure 25.

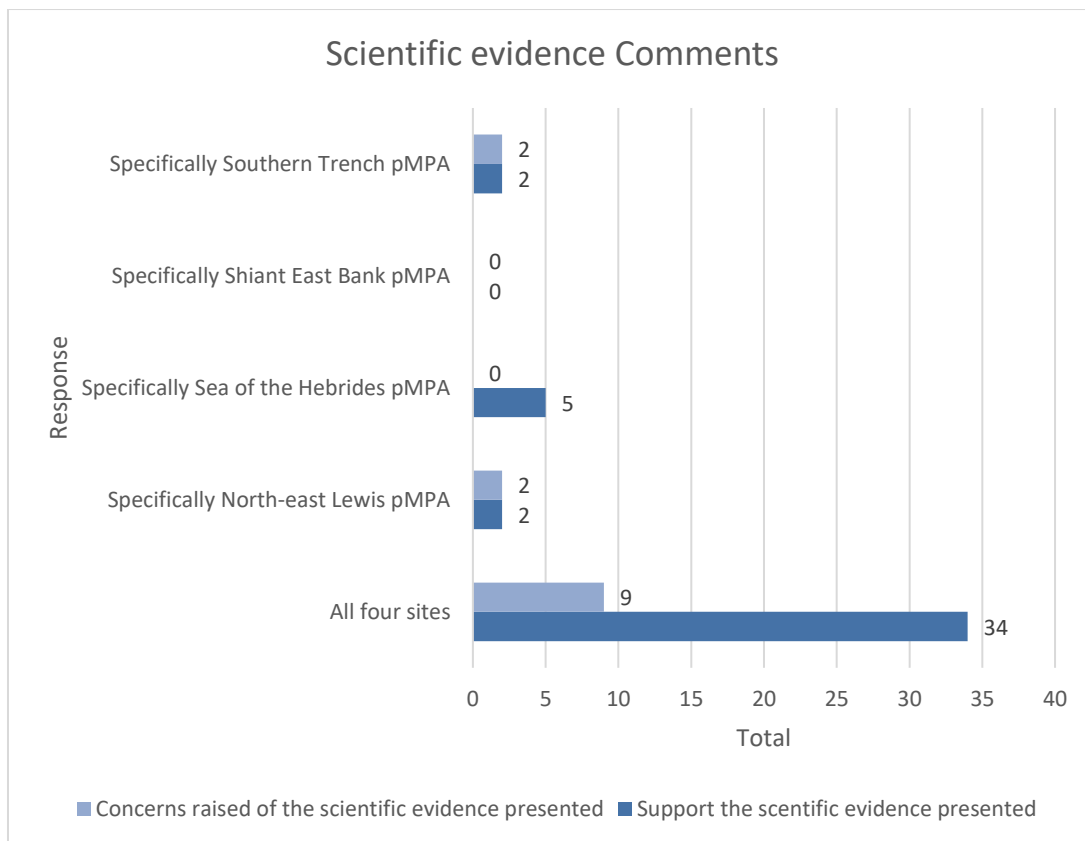


Figure 25 Scientific evidence comments

Two respondents provided comment that pMPAs/MPAs will benefit areas where the main source of economy is fishing.

Two respondents provided additional factual information which supports the pMPA designations.

Seven respondents raised concerns that the proposed sites do not extend sufficiently to cover the habitats and species of importance in their vicinity.

“As a result, several large areas of great (apparent) significance, as identified by the habitat modelling work of Paxton et al. (2014), have not been included into the present pMPA proposals, simply because no data are available to effectively confirm their significance.” (Individual)

Three respondents raised comments saying that clarification was required on the effect the pMPAs would have on existing pipelines and the wider oil and gas industry.

Three respondents said that people and communities affected by the pMPA designations should be consulted with now and in the future.

“[Redacted] has always championed the involvement of communities in MPA management. As a community organisation actively involved in collecting data about the [Redacted] and [Redacted], we are pleased to see in these current proposals the acceptance and use of data from other sources such as that collected by coastal communities and other local stakeholders.” (Community Group)

Two respondents reiterated their support for the protection of features identified through a scientific process and commented that any management measures should be relative and appropriate to the features in question. The two respondents provided further comment recommending that scientists work with local fishers to consider natural environmental change in the context of long-term fisheries data.

Two respondents provided additional scientific information in their response to support the scientific evidence presented for this consultation.

Four respondents provided further comment that extensive monitoring programmes are required to address the lack of data available to assess the conservation status of features.

A summary of the key comments raised in the free text section for Question Two is provided in Figure 26.

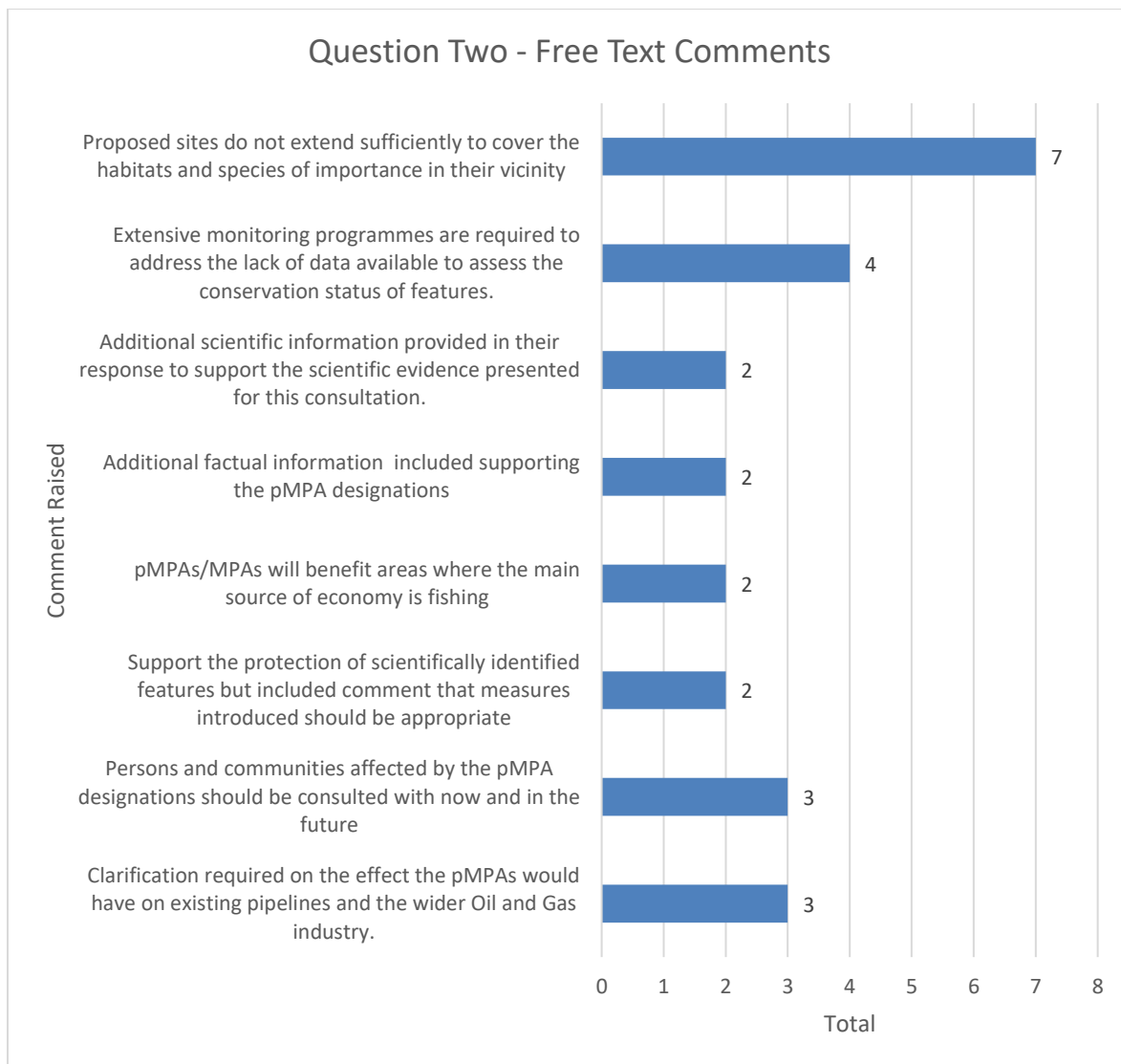


Figure 26 Question Two - free text comments

4.4.5. Question Three

The comments recorded in this section were the responses received for Question Three which asked “Do you have any comments on the Conservation and Management Advice for each site?”

Links to each of the figures relevant to Question Three are contained in Table 10.

Table 10 Question Three Figures

Question Three Figures

Figure 27 Question Three answers

Figure 28 Conservation and management advice comments

Figure 29 Question Three - free text comments

Figure 27 shows the responses received for Question Three.

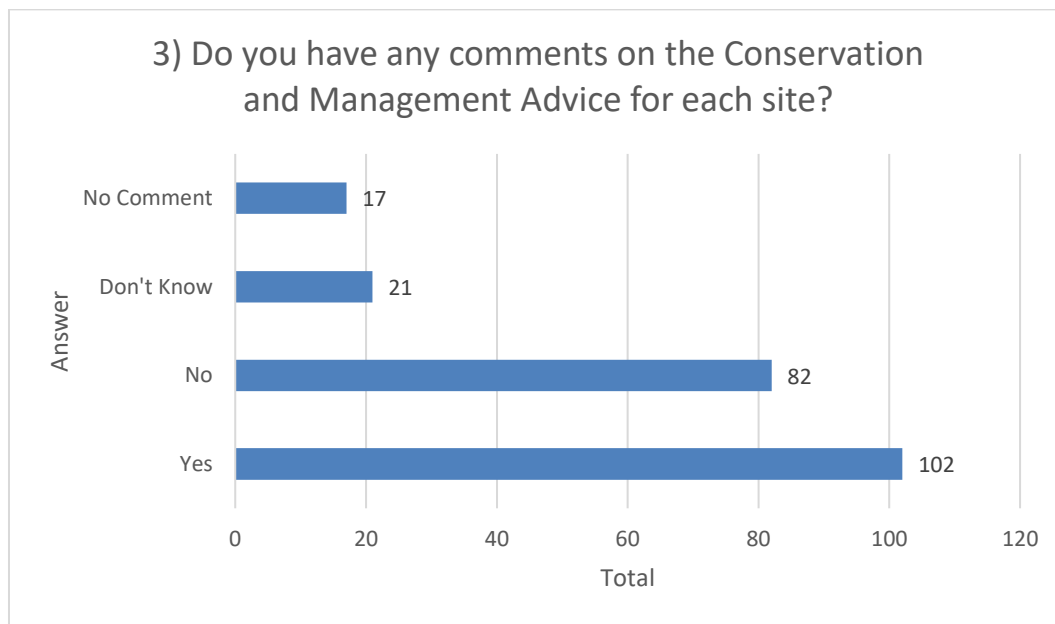


Figure 27 Question Three answers

Of the 222 respondents who answered Question Three, 111 provided further comments to support their answer.

A difference was noted between the respondents that answered “Yes” for Question Three (102) and those that actually did provide further comment (111) for the question.

Twenty respondents explained that they supported the Conservation and Management Advice (CMA) for all the pMPAs.

The number of respondents who supported the CMA for the individual pMPAs was five for North-east Lewis pMPA, seven for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, seven for Shiant East Bank pMPA and seven for Southern Trench pMPA.

Seventeen respondents raised concerns on the CMA for all the pMPAs. The number of respondents who raised specific concerns for the CMA for individual pMPAs was five for North-east Lewis, 12 for Sea of the Hebrides, three for Shiant East Bank pMPA and seven for Southern Trench pMPA . These included comments that the CMA should be stronger or that the Advice and proposals extend too far.

Figure 28 provides a summary of the respondents who supported or raised concerns on the CMA in Question Three.

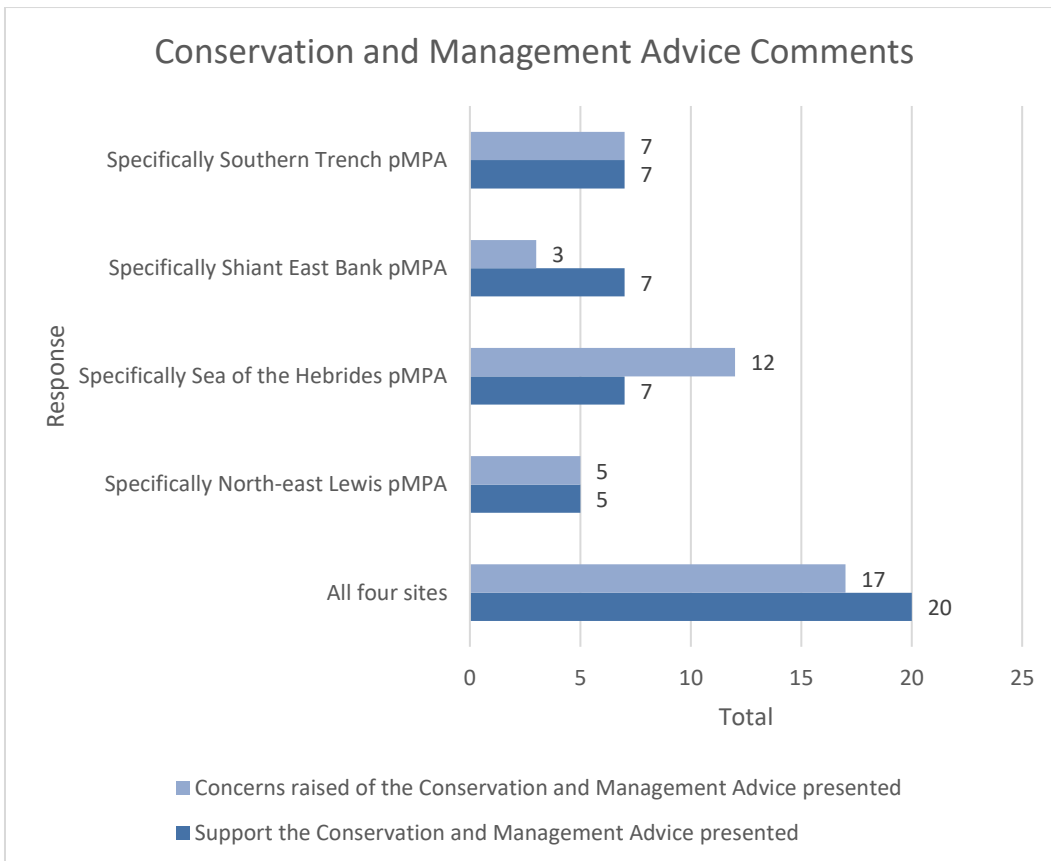


Figure 28 Conservation and management advice comments

Fourteen respondents said that adequate monitoring and surveillance measures should be introduced to detect any illegal activities in designated sites and appropriate legal action taken upon detection of any infringements.

“A critical component of this is enforcement. In relation to all activity types, clear mechanisms for enforcing restrictions and monitoring compliance are required.” (Environmental)

Eight respondents recommended or requested for the conservation objectives to be changed from ‘conserve’ to ‘recover’.

Six respondents said that an adequate level of monitoring is a high priority for the mobile features in the pMPAs. Activities that need to be considered for management measures in consideration of the mobile species includes vessel traffic, underwater noise, wildlife tourism and mobile and static gear fisheries.

Five respondents made comment that the pMPAs should be included into Scotland’s National and Regional Marine Plans.

Three respondents support the inclusion of management advice for wildlife tour operators.

Four respondents requested clarification as to what ‘Best practice’ is in the context of the different assessments.

Four respondents said that measures to avoid entanglement of mobile species in fishing equipment including fish farm nets, ropes and other gear should be implemented.

Three respondents made further comment that the use of bottom-contacting mobile fishing gear in the pMPAs/MPAs should be banned or restricted.

A summary of the respondent’s comments in the free text section for Question Three are summarised in Figure 29.

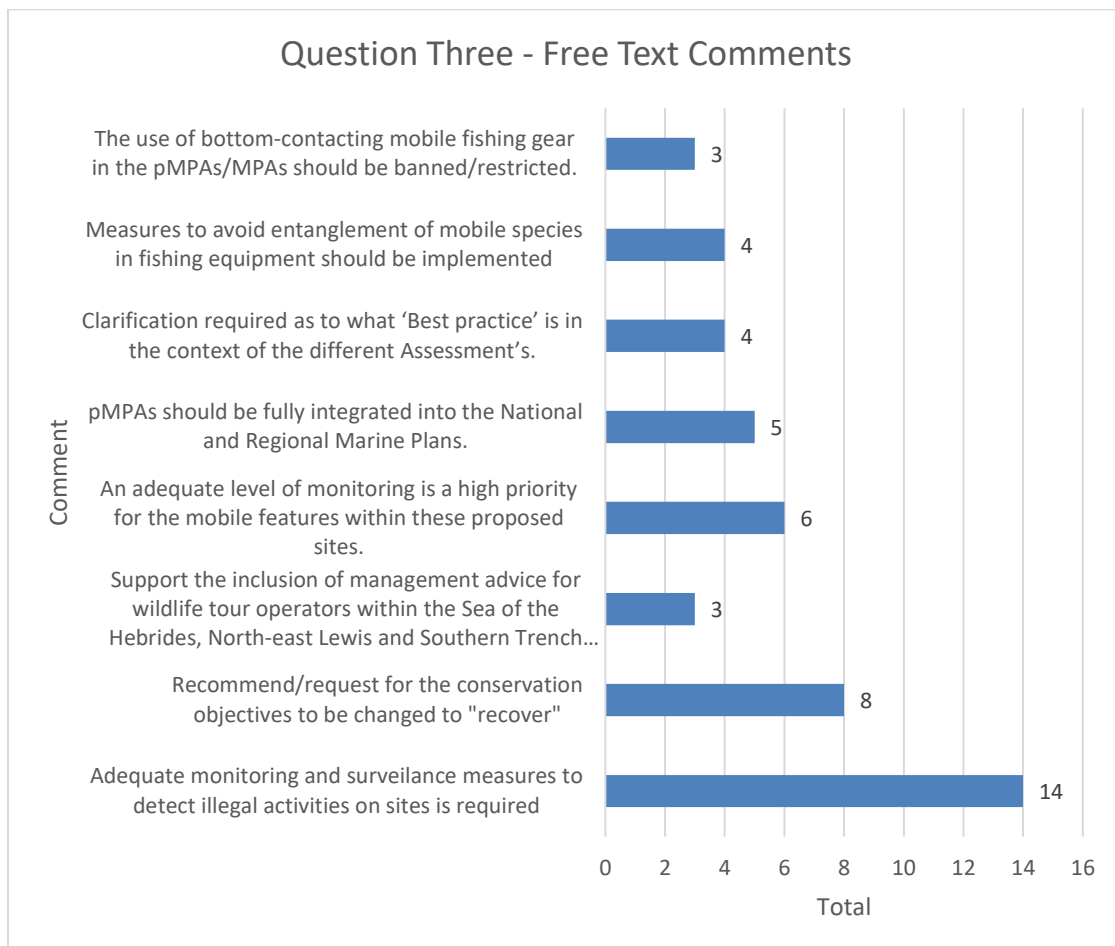


Figure 29 Question Three - free text comments

4.4.6. Question Four

The comments recorded in this section were the responses received for Question Four which asked “Do you have any comments on the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment for each site?”

Links to each of the figures relevant to Question Four are contained in Table 11 below.

Table 11 Question Four Figures

Question Four Figures

Figure 30 Question Four answers

Figure 31 Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment comment

Figure 32 Question Four - free text comments

Figure 30 shows the responses received for Question Four.

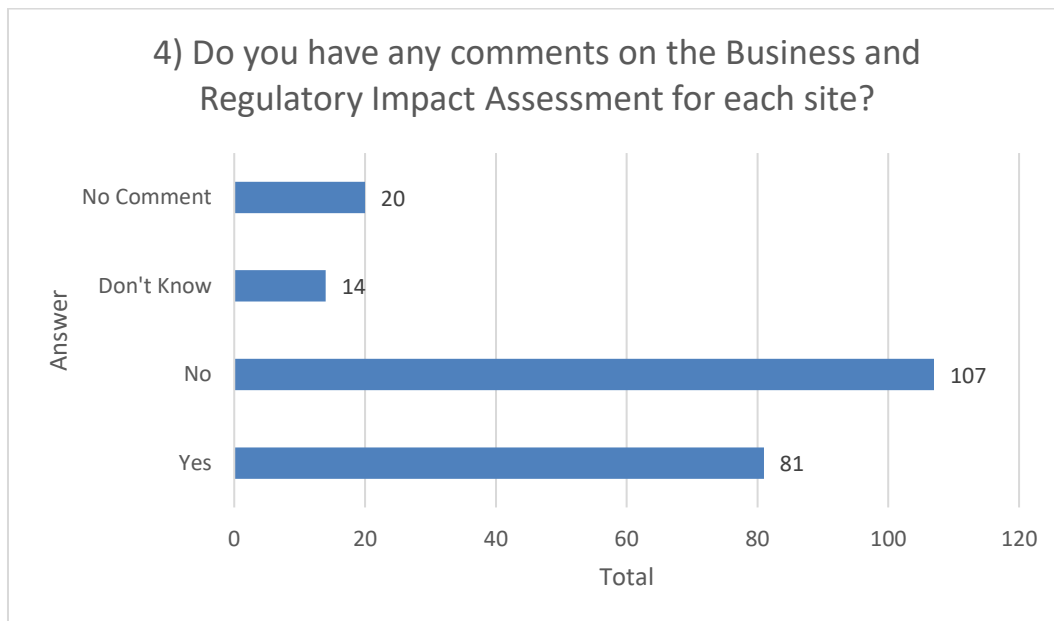


Figure 30 Question Four answers

Of the 222 respondents that provided responses for Question Four, 85 provided further comments in the free text section for question four.

A difference was noted between the respondents that answered “Yes” for Question Four (81) and those that did actually provide further comment for the question (85).

Fourteen respondents explained that they support the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments (BRIAs) for the sites. There was one respondent each in support of the BRIAs for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, Shiant East Bank pMPA and three in support of the BRIAs for Southern Trench pMPA. No comments were raised specifically supporting the BRIA completed for the North-east Lewis pMPA.

Twenty-nine respondents raised concerns on the BRIAs for all the pMPAs. The number of respondents who raised concerns about the BRIAs for individual pMPAs was three for North-east Lewis pMPA, seven for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, two for Shiant East Bank pMPA and three for Southern Trench pMPA.

Figure 31 provides a summary of the respondents who supported or raised concerns on the BRIAs in Question Four.

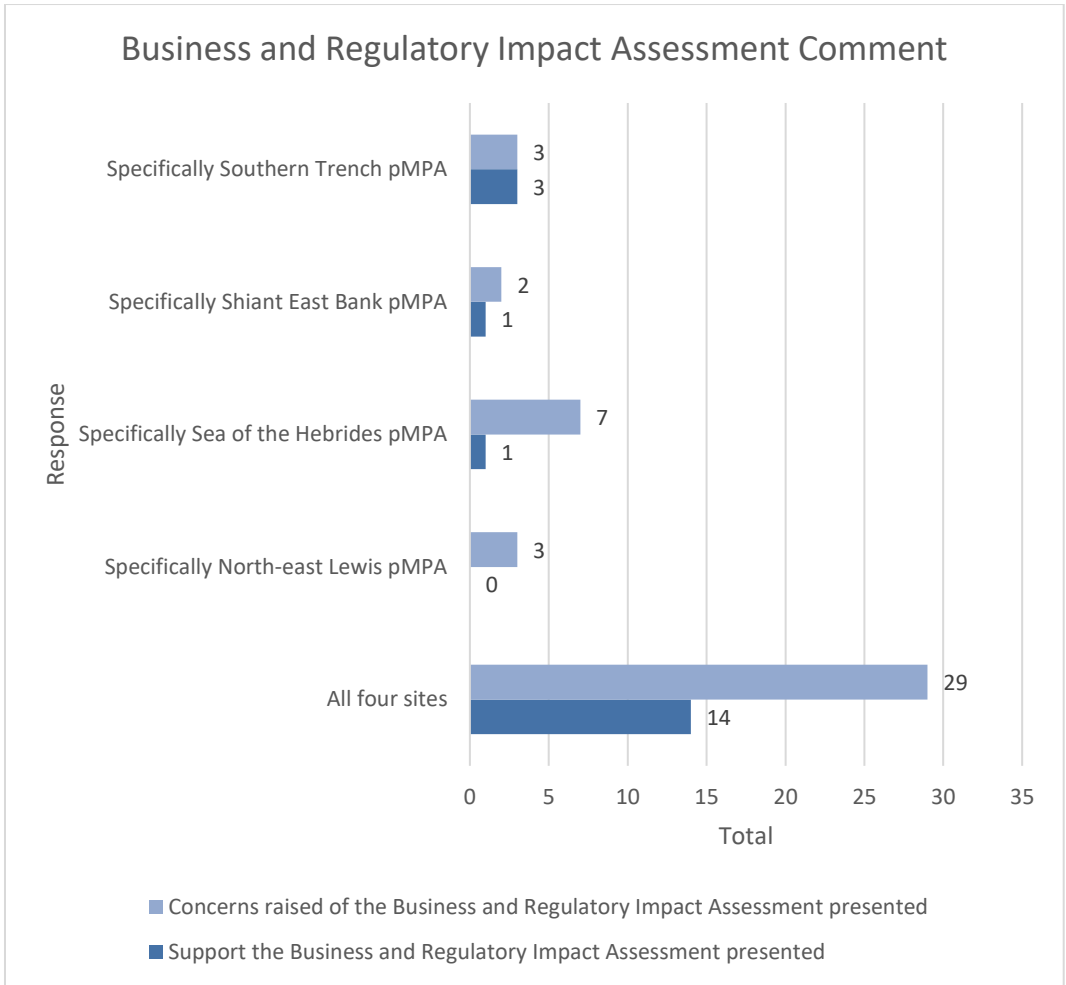


Figure 31 Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment comments

Six respondents made comment that the level and location of reported fishing activity should be confirmed with local fishers through Fisheries Associations.

“The level and location of reported fishing activity should be confirmed with local fishermen through Fisheries Associations.” (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar)

Three respondents provided further comment that scallop dredging should be considered as part of the assessments for the sites.

Two respondents made comment that the cost of displacement of fishing activity is not recognised or is inaccurate.

Many of the comments received from respondents for Question Four were those identified in sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2.

A summary of the respondent’s comments in the free text section for Question Four are summarised in Figure 32.

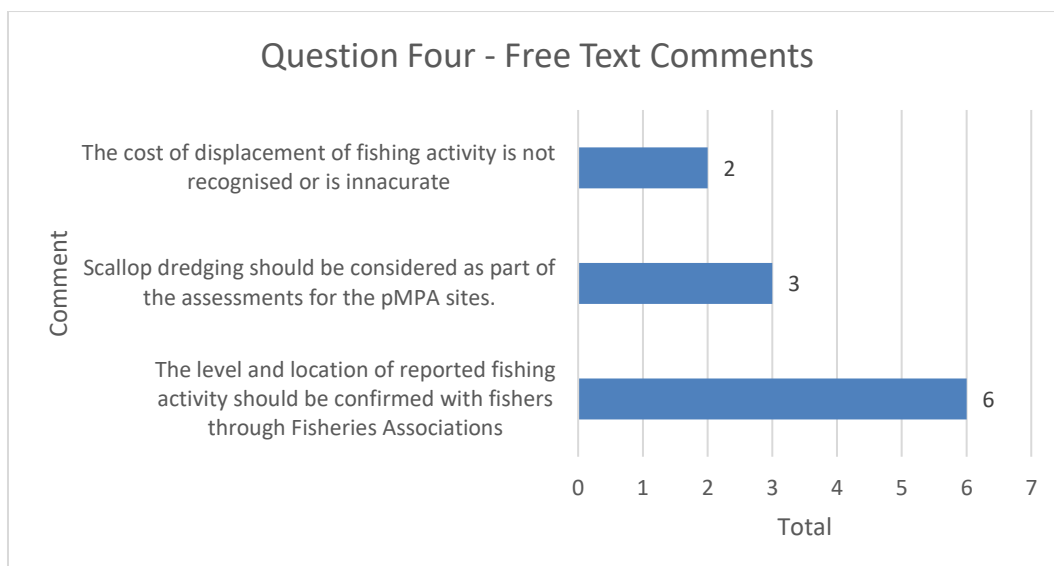


Figure 32 Question Four - free text comments

4.4.7. Question Five

The comments recorded in this section were the responses received for Question Five which asked “Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal, including the Environmental Report and the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment?”

Links to each of the figures relevant to Question Five are contained in Table 12 below.

Table 12 Question Five figures

Question Five Figures

Figure 33 Question Five answers

Figure 34 Sustainability Appraisal comments

Figure 35 Question Five - free text comments

Figure 33 shows a summary of the responses received for Question Five:

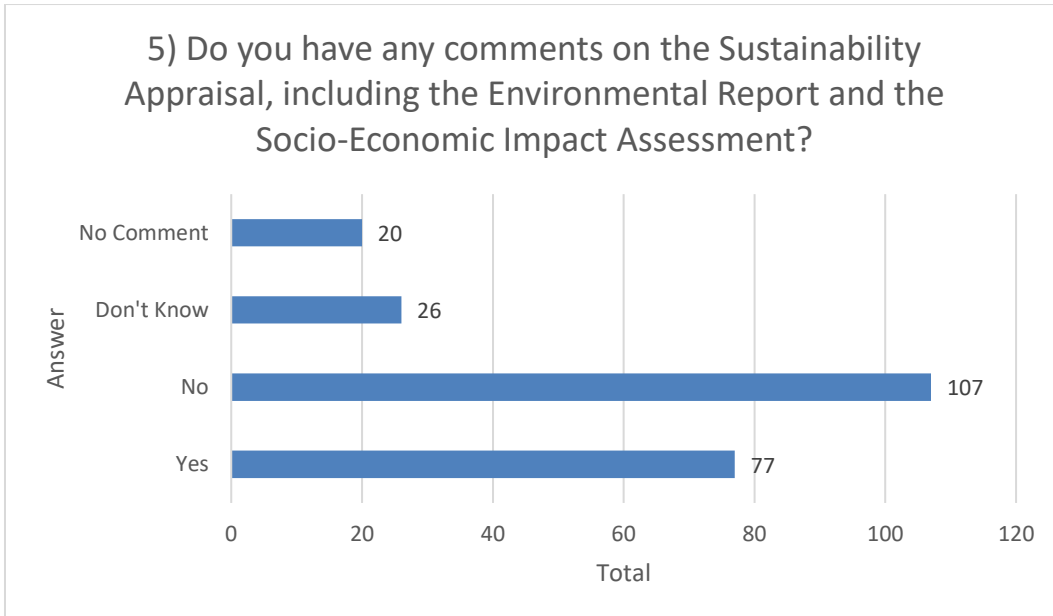


Figure 33 Question Five answers

Of the 222 respondents for Question Five, 79 provided further comments in the free text section for the question.

It is thought that the difference between the respondents that answered “Yes” for Question Four (77) and those that did actually provide further comment for the question (79) is a result of respondents not providing the correct response or not understanding the question asked.

Sixteen respondents explained that they support the Sustainability Appraisal for the pMPAs. The number of respondents who specifically supported the elements of the Sustainability Appraisal on individual pMPAs was one for North-east Lewis pMPA, three for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, one for Shiant East Bank pMPA and one for Southern Trench pMPA.

Twenty-two respondents raised concerns in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal for the pMPAs. The number of comments received relating to specific pMPAs was one for North-east Lewis pMPA, four for Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, one for Shiant East Bank pMPA and one for Southern Trench pMPA.

Figure 34 provides a summary of the respondents who supported or raised concerns of the Sustainability Appraisal in Question Five.

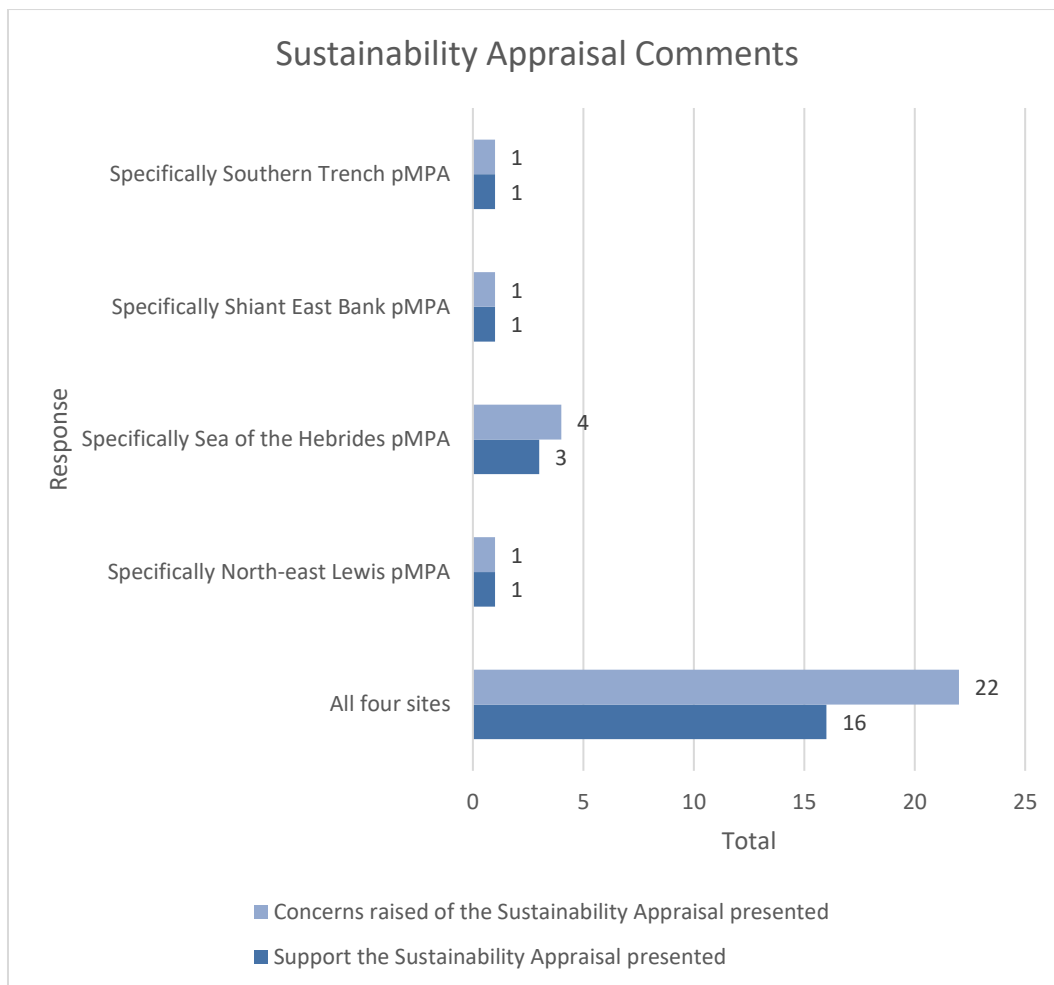


Figure 34 Sustainability Appraisal comments

Two respondents provided further comment asking for further information and requesting to speak to someone directly on the pMPA designations.

Two respondents said that the topic of Population and Human Health has been scoped out the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which may be appropriate at an individual designation level.

Many of the comments received from respondents for Question Five were those identified in sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2.

A summary of the respondent's comments in the free text section for Question Five are summarised in Figure 35.

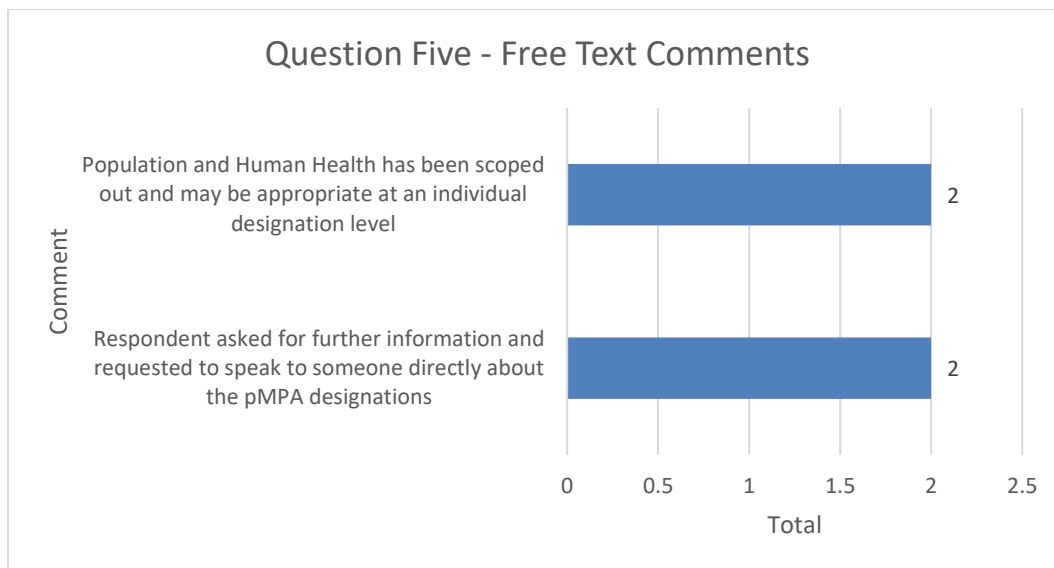


Figure 35 Question Five - free text comments

4.5. Key Findings

222 respondents submitted answers and comments for the five questions asked as part of this consultation. Most of the respondents were identified as Individuals (159), but responses were received across the different categories created to identify respondents.

Responses received for the consultation varied significantly in length, detail and technical content.

The key findings have been split in accordance with respondents who raised comment in support or outlined concerns of the pMPAs or MPAs because responses focused on these two areas.

The five topics raised the most in the free text section for each question providing supporting comments of the pMPAs/MPAs were:

- The pMPAs/MPAs help to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- The pMPAs/MPAs help to promote tourism.
- More marine areas around Scotland should be given MPA status or there should be more stringent MPA regulatory controls.
- The pMPAs/MPAs help to address national, regional and local environmental targets.
- The pMPAs and MPAs help to protect areas from the negative environmental effects created by fishing.

The three topics raised the most in the free text section for each question raising concerns of the pMPAs/MPAs were:

- Concerns raised on the negative economic impact that the pMPAs/MPAs will have on areas where the main source of employment is fishing.

- The pMPAs/MPAs will fail to discourage the negative environmental impacts created by fishing.
- Fishing has taken place in these areas for a significant period of time and has had few or no negative effects on biodiversity

Overall a majority of the respondents supported the pMPAs (74%). Respondents realised the positive effect that such designations will have on biodiversity and the tourism industry of the areas that they are located in.

Respondents did raise concerns or opposed the pMPAs (7%). The greatest level of concern was registered in relation to the negative economic impact the pMPAs would have on areas where the main source of employment is fishing.

5. Comments on Key Themes

In this section, written responses (through email and Citizen Space) have been categorised according to the major themes. This section is intended to provide explanation or background to the Scottish Government's decision making process, NatureScot's advice or the assessments produced as part of the consultation. Numbers of responses under each theme are not quantified as this is covered under section 4 of this report. As with section 4, a single response may include multiple themes. Most comments raised by one or more response have been included, as long as the comment was relevant to the consultation and requires clarification or answer. General comments with no specific theme or query have not been included.

5.1. Science and Data

5.1.1. Respondents emphasised the importance of the precautionary principle when scientific data are lacking for underpinning site designation

We acknowledge the complexity of the marine environment and the need for the precautionary approach to be applied in certain situations. However, NatureScot is confident that there is sufficient evidence underpinning each pMPA as described in the Data Confidence Assessment (DCA) document for each site.

5.1.2. Respondents disputed the presence of minke whale in the Southern Trench pMPA.

As described in Paxton et al. (2014), effort-corrected sightings data indicate that relatively high numbers of minke whale (compared to other parts of Scottish territorial waters that have been surveyed) occur within the pMPA, with higher numbers observed during the summer feeding season. Habitat modelling is an internationally accepted tool used to identify areas of importance for mobile species. The habitat modelling for the site also predicts that the area supports persistently above average densities (number of animals per km²) of the species compared to other areas in Scottish territorial waters. This is summarised in the DCA document for this site.

5.1.3. Respondents highlighted the importance of strict scientific requirements when proposing new MPAs, whereas another commented that sites should not be put forward on scientific criteria alone.

The [Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines](#) sets out the selection process. Before applying the more detailed stages of assessment, the guidelines require that a series of reviews should determine:

- The potential contribution that existing protected areas could make to the protection of MPA search features.
- What other area-based measures could contribute to the network by offering protection to MPA search features.
- Which parts of Scotland's seas could be considered Least Damaged/More Natural, and whether they could potentially contribute to the network.

Each possible location is then assessed against the guidelines for the presence and quality of MPA search features, whether management of those features could be effective, and what contribution the area would make to the wider MPA network. Only locations that pass through all stages of the assessment are considered for inclusion in the Scottish MPA network. The Detailed Assessment Against the Guidelines document provides details of this for each site.

In making the decision to designate a new MPA Scottish Ministers may have regard to any social or economic consequences of designation.

5.1.4. Respondents noted uncertainty about the distribution of burrowed mud within the Southern Trench pMPA and suggested that further data collection should be carried out to inform future management measure decisions.

NatureScot is confident about the understanding of the extent of the burrowed mud feature within the Southern Trench pMPA which has been informed by existing data from grabs, drop-down video, [ICES Functional Units for Nephrops in Scottish waters](#) and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data.

5.1.5. Respondents contested the use of citizen science data with the assertion that the data were not of appropriate quality.

As set out in the DCA documents, a wide variety of data have been used to underpin NatureScot's advice on the four pMPAs. These data have been subject to data collection protocols as well as individual data quality assessment before publication and incorporation into NatureScot's advice. For example, all data feeding into the habitat modelling of mobile species adhered to [Joint Cetacean Protocol](#) data requirements, which included six specific data tests and a process of effort-correction. This allowed survey data from multiple different surveys including citizen science projects, and from different areas, to be compared and combined.

5.1.6. There was support for continued community-led marine monitoring, suggesting that this be used to assist in monitoring the MPA network

The promotion of collaborations with local coastal communities, industry, academia, and other marine stakeholders to deliver better co-ordination of monitoring activities is a key purpose of the MPA Monitoring Strategy, to which NatureScot and Scottish Government are committed.

5.2. Site Selection

5.2.1. Respondents highlighted that mobile species such as whales and dolphins do not stay in specific areas, and another respondent questioned the rationale for mobile species protection in MPAs.

As stated in the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines, sites must be "essential areas for key life cycle stages of important mobile species that persist in time, including habitats known to be important for reproduction and nursery stages" and/or areas where there are "significant aggregations or communities of important marine

species in Scottish waters". The sites have been assessed against these criteria in the supporting documents for the proposals, namely the Detailed Assessment Against the Guidelines documents. The evidence as set out in the DCA documents meets one or both of the criteria stated in the MPA Selection Guidelines. This approach recognises that mobile species may not be in the MPA at all times but it aims to provide protection to areas where there are significant aggregations or where key life-cycle activities are being undertaken. This process also considers areas where large-scale features such as shelf deeps, fronts and shelf banks and mounds have a functional role in supporting mobile species in specific areas, i.e. concentrating their prey species.

5.2.2. Respondents said that the data underpinning the Sea of the Hebrides site was not accurate or verifiable and that both mobile species are much more prevalent in other areas. Respondents highlighted that there are a number of other areas identified as being important for mobile species by the habitat modelling that have not been included within the pMPAs, e.g. immediately west of the Outer Hebrides.

There is a range of accurate and verifiable scientific evidence which shows that the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA has persistently higher than average densities of minke whale and basking shark compared to other parts of Scottish territorial waters, as detailed in the DCA documents for each site e.g.:

- Habitat modelling undertaken to identify areas of importance for mobile species based on effort-corrected survey data shows that the area persistently supports above average densities of both minke and basking sharks in the summer.
- Results from basking shark tagging studies carried out by NatureScot and the University of Exeter provide evidence that basking sharks spend a considerable amount of their time in the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA during the summer and that many sharks return to the same area in consecutive years.

Information on the behaviour of basking shark and minke whale in the area shows that the pMPA is important for feeding for both species and potentially key life cycle stages e.g. breeding, and courtship for basking shark.

The habitat modelling results predicted some areas to persistently support above average densities of animals where there are either no or few survey data. For example certain areas off the west coast of the Outer Hebrides were highlighted in the persistence maps for minke whale, Risso's dolphin and basking shark. It is reasonable to expect that these areas may be important for these species. However, in these areas there is a lack of survey effort and/or effort-corrected sightings and the model evidence alone was insufficient to progress these areas for further consideration as MPAs.

5.2.3. Respondents felt that the sizes of the sites were in excess of that required to protect the features and one suggested the areas should be

of the minimum size required for the features.

The process of developing site boundaries has the primary aim of producing a boundary which reflects the extent and distribution of proposed protected features and is suitable for maintaining the integrity of those features.

The size of the four pMPAs reflects the nature and scale of the proposed protected features. As the sites contain multiple protected features including large-scale features, mobile species and geodiversity interests, each of the pMPAs reflects the distribution of combination of these features. This means that they may be larger than if one feature alone was being considered. The combination of features proposed for protection in the pMPAs have been put forward also because of the functional links between them. This is particularly true for fronts (a large-scale feature in the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA and Southern Trench pMPA), which by their very nature cover a large expanse of water. They are important as they underpin processes such as the enhancement of primary productivity which boosts the food supplies available that subsequently support mobile species including minke whale and basking shark.

The four pMPAs have passed assessment against the MPA Selection Guidelines. Stage 3 of the guidelines gives consideration to the scale of each MPA in relation to its proposed protected features. This assessment has the primary aim of ensuring that the site is of a size which can effectively contribute to maintaining the integrity of each feature. The assessment also considers the need for management and whether the scale is appropriate for doing this effectively. NatureScot's advice is that the size of the sites is appropriate for both these considerations. If the pMPAs were designated, any management required to address interactions between activities and the protected features would be focussed around the distribution and extent of features.

5.2.4. Respondents queried why other species such as maerl, horse mussels, seagrass, common and grey seals and bottlenose and common dolphins, were not included as proposed protected features within the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA.

Habitats such as maerl, seagrass and horse mussels form part the Inner Hebrides Carbonate Production Area geodiversity feature which is proposed for protection within the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA. Therefore these features are offered protection via this geodiversity feature and will have to be taken into account during licensing and consenting processes. Harbour (common) seals, grey seals and bottlenose dolphins are protected in other sites within Scotland's MPA network through the Habitats Directive and these species are considered to have adequate protection, taking into account the other MPAs for these species in the rest of the UK. Examples in Scotland include the Moray Firth SAC, Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mor SAC and Monach Islands SAC (see [MPA Network 2018 Report to Scottish Parliament](#)). Existing protected sites in proximity to the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA

are mapped in the DCA. There are no MPAs for common dolphins because they are not considered suitable for spatial protection.

5.3. Boundaries

5.3.1. Respondents were concerned that the coastal boundaries of the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA excluded sensitive inshore habitats and were unsuitable for the purposes of managing interactions between mobile species and coastal activities e.g. ADDs, coastal development and boat traffic.

The process of developing MPA boundaries has the primary aim of producing a site which reflects the extent and distribution of the proposed protected features and is suitable for maintaining the integrity of these features. Only the proposed protected features of the four pMPAs have been considered in relation to drawing the site boundary and therefore other inshore habitats have not been taken into account.

The boundary of the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA reflects the site's complex coastal topography, overlap with existing protected areas such as Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC and the wide extent and distribution of the site's proposed protected features. In line with the boundary setting principles set out in the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines and those implemented within existing protected areas, a combination of straight lines drawn away from shore and Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) has been used to define the coastal boundary of the pMPA. This approach is particularly apparent at the western side of the pMPA along the east coast of the Outer Hebrides, where straight lines have been drawn away from the MLWS mark to avoid an overly complex boundary across the multitude of skerries, bays and inlets present along the coastline. The co-ordinate points shaping this western boundary have been carefully considered to ensure that the boundary adequately reflects the mobile species modelled persistence and adjusted density data.

These same principles are mirrored on the east side of the pMPA on the south-west and west coasts of Skye and Mull. Although less complex, the coasts of Skye and Mull are characterised by large sea lochs, resulting in the use of MLWS and straight lines cutting across sea lochs to define the pMPA boundary. Whilst jointly implemented to decrease site boundary complexity and avoid infrastructure, straight lines crossing sea loch entrances have been drawn to also reflect basking shark and minke whale adjusted density data and modelled persistence as closely as possible.

The CMA document for the pMPA outlines how activities inside and outside the pMPA should be considered. Further information is also provided in section 5.11.

5.3.2. Respondents suggested that areas to the north and east of Skye e.g. off the Trotternish peninsula, the outer sound of Raasay and the inner sound of Applecross, should be included within the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA. Another respondent was concerned that the Sound of Arisaig was not included within the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA on the basis of sightings of minke whale and the abundance of maerl beds in the area.

The size of the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA reflects the mobile nature of two of the proposed protected features (basking shark and minke whale) and the inclusion of a large-scale feature (fronts) and geodiversity feature (Inner Hebrides Carbonate Production Area). These latter two features are located in the south and south-west of the site and not in the vicinity of the areas suggested by the respondents. Therefore the areas proposed by the respondents would need to meet the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines for minke whale and basking shark, meaning that they would have to be considered “essential areas for key life cycle stages of important mobile species that persist in time, including habitats known to be important for reproduction and nursery stages” or areas where there are “significant aggregations or communities of important marine species in Scottish waters”. NatureScot recognises that there will be sightings of various cetaceans and basking sharks in the areas highlighted by respondents. NatureScot has examined a range of different types of data, including the outputs of habitat modelling, boat-based survey work and expert knowledge of the species ecology but NatureScot considers that none of the suggested areas meet the MPA Selection Guidelines for these two species.

A large portion of the Sound of Arisaig falls within the Sound of Arisaig SAC, which contains the Annex I habitat ‘sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time’. Maerl beds are offered protection as part of this habitat type. NatureScot has previously provided statutory advice as to operations which may cause deterioration of the marine natural habitats or the habitats of species, or disturbance of species as part of the [Regulation 33 advice](#) and this is due to be updated in 2020.

5.3.3. Respondents suggested that the Southern Trench pMPA should be increased in size in order to protect a number of other features (kelp beds, ocean quahog, sandeels, cod, grey seals, *Sabellaria spinulosa* and submerged caves) found just outside of the area during additional survey work.

NatureScot welcomes the opportunity to review additional data collected using scientific methods and acknowledges the effort involved with such marine survey work. Whilst each of the aforementioned species or features can be observed within or nearby the Southern Trench pMPA, NatureScot does not consider it appropriate to add them to the site as proposed protected features and/or extend the boundary. These features are considered to be [adequately protected](#) elsewhere within Scotland’s seas under existing measures, e.g. as [features of other protected areas](#) or as [Priority Marine Features](#) (PMFs), or they were not considered to have enough evidence to be assessed against the MPA Selection Guidelines.

5.3.4. Responses were received which questioned the distribution of the proposed protected features and the boundary of the Shiant East Bank pMPA. This was in relation to overlapping fishing activity.

Following the consultation, plotter data was obtained from fishing vessels operating in the area, and a proposed revised boundary was submitted by the Western Isles Fishermen’s Association (WIFA). NatureScot reviewed this new information and as a

result has provided advice on a revised boundary for the Shiant East Bank pMPA, which is now slightly smaller than before. The rationale is explained below.

NatureScot's understanding of the extent and distribution of the proposed protected features of Shiant East Bank pMPA was based on the best available data at the time of consultation, as detailed in the DCA. These included the results of camera surveys, grab samples and bathymetric multibeam analyses. They also included predictive habitat modelling.

NatureScot's revised advice is based on the following:

- Track data from fishing boats targeting *Nephrops*, provides evidence of burrowed mud substrate and this has been used to revise our understanding of the distribution of circalittoral sands and mixed sediment communities. The revised boundary still includes areas of circalittoral sands and mixed sediment communities that are supported by data from survey work. However, NatureScot removed areas from the site boundary where fishing data strongly indicates that the habitat is burrowed mud e.g. indent in the south of the boundary and the north-west point.
- The distribution of the northern sea fan and sponge communities feature was also re-considered. Areas including rock, supported by ground-truthed data, have been retained within the boundary e.g. south-west corner of the pMPA. The eastern boundary of the pMPA was revised to exclude an area where northern sea fan species were only recorded as rare. In the north-west, the boundary was revised but still includes areas of rock.
- The revised boundary excludes some of the glacial lineation components of the Quaternary of Scotland geodiversity feature, although the complex assemblage and range of geomorphological interests still remains represented.
- The integrity of all the proposed protected features remain intact by the revised boundary.

The consultation boundary and the revised boundary are illustrated alongside supporting data in Figure 36.

Shiant East Bank possible MPA

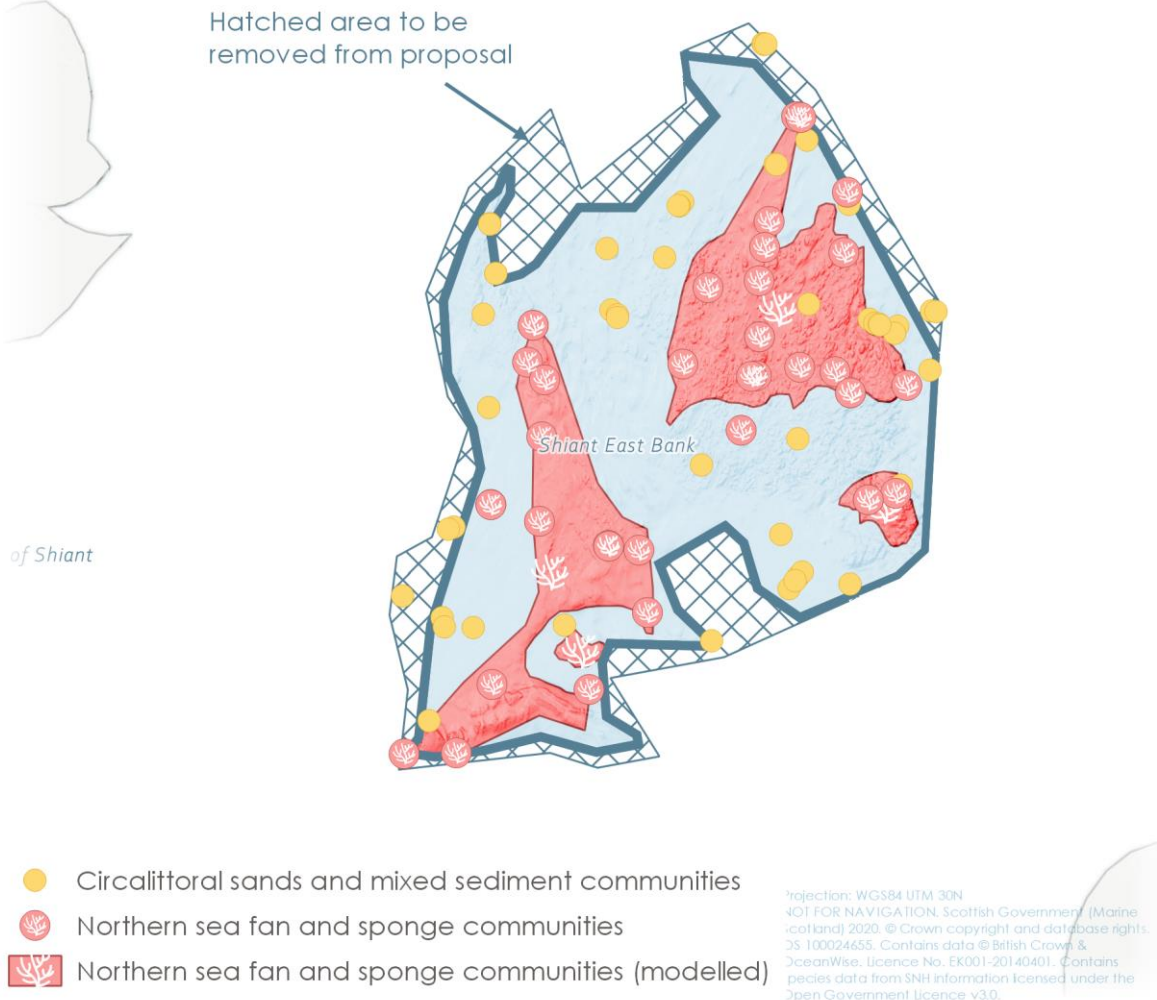


Figure 36 Shiant East Bank pMPA boundaries at consultation and suggested amendment

5.4. Environmental Benefits

5.4.1. Respondents commented on the importance of protecting the species and habitats and that the pMPAs offer an opportunity to do this, highlighting the importance of the areas for basking sharks, Risso’s dolphins, minke whale and sandeels. One also indicated that the proposed protected feature ‘circalittoral sands and mixed sediments’ could be important habitat for spawning and juvenile cod and this benefit should be recognised.

We note the comments on the importance of protecting species and habitats.

There has been research on areas important for cod spawning in other areas of Scotland which indicates that numerous factors e.g. water depth, temperature and hydrography are important (Höffle *et al.*, 2018). NatureScot has not outlined anything

specifically in relation to the importance for spawning cod and juvenile cod for the Shiant East Bank pMPA. This is on the basis that there have only been a few scientific trawls within or close to the pMPA and few spawning cod were captured. Based on this and the fact that cod rarely spawn over soft sediments, NatureScot has no reason to expect the pMPA includes a substantial spawning ground. Additionally most early juvenile habitat is further inshore (Gibb *et al.*, 2007).

5.4.2. Respondents noted that the protection of marine habitats and species can have benefits for the wider ecosystem and for people.

We also recognise the value that marine habitats and species can provide in terms of ecosystem services, particularly regarding functions they provide, e.g. habitat for commercial fish species, and opportunities for wildlife tourism and research. NatureScot has outlined the key benefits and ecosystems services provided by the habitats and species proposed for protection in the CMA documents for the four pMPAs.

5.4.3. Respondents noted that the sites shouldn't just be focussing on the large mobile species and that the pMPAs are important for other reasons too.

We recognise that other habitats and species are present within the boundaries of the pMPAs. The Scottish MPA network encompasses a range of habitats and species that are representative of Scotland's seas and are suitable for spatial protection through a MPA. These pMPAs have been chosen to complement the existing MPAs in the network (see MPA Network 2018 Report to Scottish Parliament).

5.4.4. Respondents noted the value that recreational users, particularly sailors place on experiencing wildlife in its natural environment but many are unaware of the mobile species e.g. minke whales that can be seen on sailing routes through the pMPAs.

We hope that the pMPAs have already helped to promote a wider appreciation of Scottish marine wildlife, particularly iconic species such as the basking shark, minke whale and Risso's dolphin. NatureScot would welcome further discussion on ways to improve awareness with interested parties to raise the profile of the sites (if they are designated).

5.4.5. Respondents were supportive of the need to protect wildlife in the Outer Hebrides, and raised concerns over opposition to environmental designations and possible compromises to accommodate local interests.

Scottish Ministers have international commitments to complete a MPA network and if designated these pMPAs would help to achieve this. Discussion with stakeholders, including public consultation, is part of the process for MPA designation and enables those with an interest to make their views known. In making the decision to designate a new MPA Scottish Ministers may have regard to any social or economic consequences of designation.

In January 2019 an Interreg-funded project called MarPAMM (Marine Protected Area Management Monitoring) started. This project aims to develop regional MPA management plans for the Outer Hebrides and Argyll and other areas in Ireland and Northern Ireland. This project provides an opportunity for people to get involved in shaping the management of MPAs. If designated, management of three of the four pMPAs could be considered through this project.

5.4.6. A couple of respondents raised concerns about whales and dolphins being at risk of being killed for meat within Scottish waters, citing other countries where killing of cetaceans occurs.

Scotland's seas are internationally recognised as being important for whales and dolphins (which are collectively known as cetaceans). Cetaceans are protected under national and international legislation wherever they occur throughout Scottish waters, which makes it an offence to deliberately disturb, capture or kill any cetacean.

5.5. Social and Economic Impacts

5.5.1. Many respondents made reference to the potential social and economic impacts from the designations, as set out in the SEIA and the BRIAs. Some respondents were concerned that the potential impacts seemed overly high and were not outweighed by the benefits of designating the sites. In particular, many respondents were concerned about the economic impacts to the fishing industry.

As part of the Sustainability Appraisal, the SEIA considered both cost and social impacts to various industries. The cost impacts in the SEIA represent a worst-case scenario for each of the levels of management possible (lower, intermediate, upper). The need for and scale of any future management measures has not yet been decided and will be subject to future discussions with stakeholders and public consultation. In general, the cost impacts are considered to be low in comparison to the value of industries assessed (assessed as present value (PV) for all industries except fishing where Gross Value Added (GVA) is used to give a more representative value of the industry).

In terms of fishing activity, the estimated costs assume that no displacement would occur, however it is likely that fishers will be able to fish in other areas and therefore cost impacts would be lower. There have been further reductions in these potential impacts since the consultation as the boundary for the Shiant East Bank pMPA has been changed, due a changing understanding of the feature distribution, which has removed a considerable amount of potential impacts to fishing activity for this site.

5.5.2. Some respondents noted that the cost impacts calculated in the SEIA and the BRIA were unrealistic or incorrect, either because of the lack of concrete management measures, or that the assessments or figures used in them were wrong.

The cost impacts in the SEIA and BRIAs are based on the management scenarios. These scenarios are derived from NatureScot's CMA and represent possible future

management measures which could be implemented within the sites. Therefore, the three levels of cost impacts (lower, intermediate and upper) represent possible impacts depending on the level of management required.

The cost impacts estimated in the SEIA are derived from various information sources, depending on the sector. These sources are listed in the relevant section within the SEIA (Appendix A).

5.5.3. Many respondents stated the importance of fishing industry to Scotland and, in particular, rural communities. Others noted that protected areas support wildlife tourism which is an increasingly important industry to coastal communities and their economies. Some commented that new opportunities in tourism should be embraced in place of potential harmful industries, although others noted that fishing and tourism would all benefit from marine protection.

The Scottish Government recognises the value that marine habitats and species can provide in terms of ecosystem services, particularly regarding functions they provide, for example habitat for commercial fish species, and opportunities for wildlife tourism and research. Information about how these services can provide economic benefits to coastal communities can be found in section 7 of the SEIA. National designations such as MPAs are thought to have a positive impact on these services and can therefore positively impact the local economy. They are also expected to have a positive impact on tourism by increasing visitor awareness of the local wildlife.

5.5.4. Some respondents felt that the social and economic benefits hadn't been assessed fully, as the 'ecosystem services' hadn't been quantified in the BRIAs and SEIA.

A full analysis of the costs and benefits to ecosystem services (including non-use values) is provided in section 7 of the SEIA. Estimated impacts to ecosystem services are also provided in Annex A of the relevant BRIA.

5.5.5. Some respondents questioned the use of the word 'sustainability' and queried the Scottish Government's definition.

The Scottish Government sees sustainable development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.5.6. A couple of responses referred to the ongoing monitoring of socio-economic impacts from the MPA network. They noted that the Scottish Government should continue assessing these impacts in order to better understand the economic benefits from MPA designation.

Work is currently ongoing to complete the second review of the socio-economic impacts of MPA management measures that were announced by Scottish Ministers in 2016. The Scottish Government is delivering the review which is being overseen by a steering group that comprises representatives from the fishing industry, environmental NGOs, seafood processing industry and local authorities. The review

is using fishing vessel level data held by the Scottish Government and community-level data, collected from a selection of case study areas using interviews and key informants and stakeholders to assess changes in fishing activities following the introduction of MPA management measures.

5.6. Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

5.6.1. A few respondents noted that a full Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) had not been completed at the time of the consultation. One respondent commended the Scottish Government's commitment to reviewing the ICIA screening following the consultation.

The Scottish Government has considered the need for ICIA under the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. The Scottish Government is of the opinion that there is no significantly different effect on island communities from these proposals, therefore a full assessment was not required. The screening opinion is [published](#) alongside this report.

5.6.2. Some respondents felt that the localised economic impacts on small or island communities would be significant.

The Scottish Government understands concerns about the impacts on island and rural communities from these proposals, which is why we have commissioned a Sustainability Appraisal and undertaken an ICIA screening. We have ensured that the social and economic impacts on people are as low as possible and that island communities would not be disadvantaged from the designation of these MPAs. The ICIA screening opinion is published alongside this report. The Scottish Government found that an ICIA is not required as the impacts to island communities will not be significantly different to other communities.

5.7. Sustainability Appraisal

5.7.1. A couple of respondents noted that the sustainability appraisal did not include the status quo as a reasonable alternative.

The sustainability appraisal considers the option for 'doing nothing' (i.e. maintaining status quo) but concludes that this would not help Scotland meet its international commitments regarding marine protection.

5.8. Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments

5.8.1. One respondent noted an error in the BRIA for Sea of the Hebrides, which stated the Western Isles high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cable ran through the site which is incorrect.

This error was noted and will be corrected in the final BRIA for the site.

5.8.2. One respondent noted that Fraserburgh Harbour is categorised as a minor port in the BRIA, which they felt was incorrect.

Under the Ports and Harbours section of the Southern Trench BRIA, the ports are categorised based on data from the '[Ports, harbours, marinas and boat access locations \(OSCP\)](#)' National Marine Plan Interactive layer. In this data, only harbours

listed in the annual Scottish transport statistics are listed as ports. In the BRIAs, instead of 'ports' and 'harbours', the terminology 'major port' and 'minor port' is used, as per Scottish Government standards. As Fraserburgh is classified as a harbour in this data, it is listed as a minor port in the BRIA.

5.8.3. One respondent noted the lack of cost estimations for military activities in the BRIAs.

The Scottish Government has not considered potential cost impacts to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) due to the lack of available information on the potential activities. The MOD is responsible for regulating its own activities.

5.8.4. One respondent noted that the cost impacts for fishing in North-east Lewis pMPA were not disclosed in the BRIA, which made it difficult to understand the scale of the potential impacts.

The Scottish Government has not provided the values for North-east Lewis pMPA as disclosing the details of fishing activity representing less than five vessels would make individual businesses identifiable, which is contrary to data protection principles.

5.9. Conservation Objectives

5.9.1. Respondents expressed concerns over the conservation objectives being set to 'to conserve' believing a more precautionary approach should be adopted where there are unknowns. Several respondents also noted an apparent decline in the number of whales and basking sharks in the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA over past years.

The 'to conserve' objective has been used for mobile species within the three pMPAs, as this is the broad purpose of designating an MPA as set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. The 'recover' objective is used where there is evidence to suggest a decline or damage to features within the MPA. NatureScot is not aware of any evidence to suggest a decline in basking sharks, Risso's dolphins or minke whales in recent years within the sites. The 'to conserve' objective still allows management measures to be put in place where it is considered there may be a risk to achieving the conservation objectives of the site.

5.10. Favourable condition

5.10.1. Respondents queried the stated feature's 'favourable condition' within the sites (in Table 1 of the Conservation Management Advice documents), believing a more accurate assessment would be an 'unknown' condition.

The assessment of feature condition within Table 1 of our CMA (CMA) is a term used specifically within the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to the conservation objectives for a protected feature within an MPA. The feature condition of all of the mobile species within the four pMPAs has been assessed as favourable based on current knowledge. The current status of these species is unknown across Europe, however there is no evidence of damage or decline to these features in recent years

and therefore a 'conserve' as opposed to a 'recover' conservation objective has been used.

5.11. Management Advice

5.11.1. Respondents challenged that existing fishing activities were having any adverse effect on the marine environment. They highlighted the current presence of the features proposed for protection within the MPAs alongside existing activities and stated that this negates the need for any management. One respondent noted that there was not any need to restrict fishing in the Southern Trench pMPA in relation to minke whale.

The broad understanding of the impact of different fishing gears on marine habitats is increasingly well understood and is underpinned by a substantial and growing scientific evidence base. This evidence base lies behind the [recent UK Marine Strategy Assessment](#) for the UK for benthic habitats. This concludes that Good Environmental Status (GES) has not yet been achieved for rock and biogenic habitats and that the achievement of GES for soft sediment habitats is uncertain. The physical disruption of the seabed from fishing gear, in particular the use of certain types of demersal gear, is one of the key factors preventing achievement of GES. The evidence for the sensitivity of features in MPAs to various activities, including fishing, is set out in [FEAST](#) and the Fisheries Management Guidance documents produced by [NatureScot](#) and JNCC.

Whilst there is a presumption of multiple-use within the sites, a number of activities, including various types of fishing, are known to occur in each of the four pMPAs that are capable of affecting the proposed protected features. NatureScot has recommended that specific fishing activities which have the potential to pose a risk to one or more proposed protected features will require some form of management. In line with this NatureScot has recommended that certain fisheries are reduced/limited to reduce the risk of entanglement of minke whale and that sandeel fisheries continue to be restricted (as is currently the case) to support this important prey species for minke whale.

5.11.2. Respondents suggested the current management advice for fisheries is too rigorous (see above) while others suggested it is not precautionary enough, indicating creel limits and complete bans from towed bottom gear for areas supporting key prey species e.g. sandeels and octopus and habitats due to concerns about seabed damage and entanglement of mobile species. There were also some queries on the way the advice was phrased, and that continued dialogue with fishers was important. Creels left in the water by tourists after their visit were also raised as an issue.

All activities operating within the pMPAs or those with a likelihood of occurring in the future have been considered within the CMA documents. NatureScot's management advice is focussed on activities that cause an effect (a pressure) that the habitats and species are sensitive to. It takes a risk-based approach and focusses on

activities that have the potential to pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the features in the pMPAs. NatureScot has phrased advice in a certain way to be consistent across all the sites, and it takes account of the information collated up to the consultation start date.

NatureScot has provided advice relating to fishing activities. Within some pMPAs a conclusion may be reached that no additional management is required. In others, NatureScot may advise that management is needed to either reduce current effort or to avoid effort increasing again in future, i.e. use of the 'reduce / limit' management option. However, in some cases, particularly where there are sensitive features and the risk is high, our only advice can be to 'remove / avoid' relevant activities. We acknowledge the efforts of the fishing industry to fish in a sustainable manner and the efforts they have made regarding gear selectivity / by-catch reduction.

The term 'considered' is included in NatureScot's fisheries management advice to highlight that a fishery-feature interaction exists but that a specific recommendation or action cannot or need not be made at this point. In relation to comments specifically about octopus and sandeel impacts from scallop dredging; octopus occur on a wide range of habitats with fluctuating abundance, which severely limits the extent to which meaningful management advice can be given. There is no specific fishery for octopus in Scotland, and there is a lack of studies of mortality associated with octopus interacting with towed gears. Octopus is part of Risso's diet although their reliance on this species is unknown. There will be interactions between bottom contact gear and sandeels, however, whilst sandeels will be disturbed to some degree, the mortality is uncertain. With respect to the risk of entanglement arising from creel fisheries, NatureScot has recognised the need to address this risk and action is in hand to develop a fuller understanding of the problem and to develop measures to mitigate the risk. To that end, NatureScot is working with partners (including fishers) through the Scottish Entanglement Alliance.

Future management of fisheries if the pMPAs are designated will be addressed separately as outlined in section 5.12.

5.11.3. Respondents suggested that further data collection should be carried out to inform future management measure decisions and one respondent suggested that technology such as VMS and trawl sensors should be incorporated into future site management.

NatureScot fully supports the work that the Scottish Government is currently undertaking to implement improved vessel monitoring systems, which will help inform future management decisions. The Scottish Government and NatureScot are also committed to continued data collection and monitoring under the MPA Monitoring Strategy. The consideration of management at a site level will utilise all the evidence, information and data available, to allow well-informed discussions about management requirements to be taken in conjunction with stakeholders.

5.11.4. There was a comment that a wider burrowed mud strategy is required to manage this PMF across Scottish waters; due to the

majority of this widespread habitat being outside MPAs or inside MPAs but outside no trawl zones; together with the fact that the habitat is not being considered in the Scottish Government-led work on improving protection to PMFs outside MPAs.

NatureScot believes that safeguarding burrowed mud needs to be integrated with relevant marine management as part of an ecosystem approach. Protection of burrowed mud, as a broadscale predominant feature will be addressed at a Scottish level through the [UK Marine Strategy](#). We also recognise that MPAs are one tool to help deliver conservation for individual habitats and species and should be viewed within the wider three-pillar approach to marine nature conservation (see also 0.). Should the Southern Trench pMPA be designated, the burrowed mud feature is considered to be adequately protected through MPA network.

5.11.5. Greater consideration on the ecological coherence and linkages for marine mammals, their habitats and prey should be discussed further in the context of the MPA network and critical habitats utilised by such mobile species.

The conservation objectives for mobile species take into consideration relevant habitat and prey linkages. The inclusion of large-scale features within sites provides links between different features, and supports the functioning of marine ecosystems e.g. through supporting productivity.

NatureScot's management advice takes a risk-based approach. We acknowledge there are gaps in data and in our understanding of habitat/prey relationships and the effects of pressures from human activities on these.

5.11.6. There were concerns over what the designation may mean for conditions attached to existing marine licences and section 36 energy consents, and if the conditions will still apply post designation. Other concerns included whether the evidence supported the advice on seasonal restrictions, suggesting this may actually prolong feature exposure to noise due to surveys being extended in the winter due to poor weather conditions. Others felt that the seasonal advice should be extended for minke whale.

Marine licences and consents granted under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and associated conditions obtained for developments within the pMPA prior to consultation would still apply post designation. There is no requirement for the competent authority to review marine licences or section 36 consents post-designation. Any alterations or modification to existing developments will need to be assessed to ensure they will not pose a significant risk to achieving the conservation objectives of the MPA. We know that minke whales are seen throughout the year, but that effort-corrected sightings data indicate that there are reports of higher numbers in the summer months as they have been observed actively feeding. The species would be protected in the site on a year-round basis. However, our management advice takes a risk-based approach, giving advice that is proportionate, and focusses on reducing or limiting pressures during times of year when risks are

higher, i.e. when there are more animals in the area and when they are using the area for feeding.

5.11.7. Others felt the consideration of noise is insufficient in the Southern Trench pMPA, considering the wide ranging nature of the mobile species and the distances noise can travel, and that management advice relies on the JNCC Guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to cetaceans from piling, blasting and seismic surveys is disappointing.

The CMA documents are focussed on the pMPA, an area where there are [persistently above average densities](#) of minke whale compared to the rest of Scottish territorial waters. Any activities whether they take place within or outside the pMPA, should be considered if they have the potential to hinder the conservation objectives of the site. The management advice highlights that pre-application discussions for both renewables and oil and gas activities is recommended and will assist in the development of mitigation, ensuring pressures associated from proposals are minimised. The JNCC Guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to cetaceans from piling, blasting and seismic surveys provide clear mitigation for reducing or limiting noise pressures from various activities. However, NatureScot recognises that this mitigation has limitations and may not be fully effective in all situations. NatureScot therefore recommends that individual developments may need further mitigation to address site specific situations.

5.11.8. Respondents queried how individual developments would be assessed in the future and there was one query suggesting some management advice seemed to contradict certain industry specific policies within the National Marine Plan.

Section 83 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2019 places a duty on public authorities to consider activities that are capable of affecting a protected feature (other than insignificantly) in an MPA. The [MPA Management Handbook](#) outlines the assessment process which involves assessing the activity against the conservation objectives for the site. The management advice NatureScot has given helps activities and developments to comply with General Policy 9 of the National Marine Plan (NMP) which requires that development and use of the marine environment must comply with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species. It does this by indicating which types of activities pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives and what is required to minimise this risk. Industry specific planning policies within the NMP list a number of factors that should be considered, however the NMP also makes it clear these should be considered alongside the General Policies and not in isolation.

5.11.9. Respondents felt that local residents should be consulted and involved in management.

Drop-in events were held across the country to provide an opportunity for people to engage with the consultation and to encourage people to respond. If the sites are

designated, and specific management measures are required, then further stakeholder engagement and public consultation will be undertaken.

The [MarPAMM](#) project in the Outer Hebrides is currently trialling the integration of local views and knowledge into MPA management with the aim of co-producing a regional management plan with the local communities. There is also a MarPAMM project in Argyll looking at trialling MPA regional plan development through a steering group of key regulators and activity contacts. As part of this work, relevant sections of the CMA documents will be updated to reflect aspirations for MPAs and any management guidance/documentation produced.

5.11.10. There was a lot of support for the best practice approach to management measures for wildlife tour operators and boat users. Respondents wanted a stronger licensed approach, stating that they thought: sightings of features had reduced in recent years and some operator's behaviour didn't appear to follow best practice currently and that designation may see increased interest in the area increasing the need for stronger management. Many wanted further dialogue in management discussions and some wanted more effort to be applied to raising awareness of any best practice.

NatureScot is not aware of any evidence to suggest sightings of mobile species are declining in the pMPAs. NatureScot's management advice takes a risk-based approach and focusses on activities that may pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives. NatureScot's advice outlines that risks associated with wildlife tour operators and recreational boating are best managed through following existing best practice highlighted in the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code (SMWWC) and the Wildlife Safe ([WiSe](#)) accreditation scheme. Designation of the site will in itself raise awareness of features and sites.

5.11.11. There was also support for discussing boat speed restrictions within the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA, with different ideas offered on when and where this could be appropriately applied. There were different views on the risks associated with boat collision.

Collated basking shark data have [highlighted zones](#) within the pMPA where basking sharks occur more frequently. These zones could be used to inform future management. Voluntary speed restrictions have been discussed with recreational boat users in the past for some of these areas. Should the site be designated, the Scottish Government will lead further discussions on management measures and these will be consulted on separately.

5.11.12. There were also some concerns that activities just outside the pMPA boundaries may still have an impact on features within the pMPA (e.g. Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) from fish farms)

Any activities inside or outside of the pMPA should be considered if they have the potential to hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives. The process which all regulators and public authorities must follow when making licensing and consenting decisions affecting MPAs is set out in the MPA Management Handbook.

NatureScot continues to work closely with the aquaculture industry over ADD use and their potential impacts on wildlife. There are general principles such as providing ADD deployment plans and consideration of cumulative effects, which are requested during the licence process on proposed use of ADDs at fish farms within the existing Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC for harbour porpoise and will also apply within the pMPAs.

5.11.13. There were comments that MOD activities were not adequately addressed in the management advice.

There are agreed protocols set out in the MOD's [Environmental Protection Guidelines \(Maritime\) \(EPG\(M\)\)](#), to address environmental impacts at sea from MOD activities. The guidelines are implemented through the Maritime Environmental and Sustainability Assessment Tool (MESAT). These protocols are referred to within NatureScot's CMA documents. In addition, regular liaison occurs between all SNCBs and the MOD to discuss any additional mitigation that may be required.

5.11.14. There were some concerns over potential impacts on ferry routes from designations. Although it was also suggested that ferry operation within restricted depth areas and overlap with high aggregations of basking sharks should also be part of future discussions on management.

The Scottish Government's policy is for there to be no impact from MPA designation on lifeline ferry services. NatureScot's management advice has echoed this policy and advised that there is no additional management required for existing ferry routes.

5.11.15. There was a comment that the pMPAs should be highly protected and there should be a management approach of non-use, whereas another suggested that conservation should still allow use of areas by people. Other respondents commented that the scientific evidence suggests that a stronger line should be taken with respect to management or that a more precautionary approach should be used.

MPAs are just one element of marine conservation work in Scotland, which takes a three-pillar approach as outlined in 'A Strategy for Marine Nature Conservation in Scotland's Seas'. These three pillars are species conservation, site protection and wider seas policies and measures. As outlined in the MPA Management Handbook the five guiding principles for sustainable development in the Scottish Planning Policy also apply to management of MPAs. The five principles are - living within environmental limits, ensuring a strong, healthy and just society, achieving a sustainable economy, promoting good governance, and using sound science responsibly. From the outset of designating MPAs we have set out to achieve sustainable use, whereby the features of the MPA are adequately protected whilst still permitting activities to continue where possible.

NatureScot has provided management advice on activities using a risk-based approach, which incorporates the precautionary principle by considering the proposed protected features of each of the four pMPAs, their conservation objectives

and the activities that take place within or nearby the pMPAs. The advice relates to activities which are likely to require some form of management to ensure the conservation objectives of the pMPAs are achieved. Using an understanding of the sensitivities of the proposed protected features and the known or likely locations of relevant activities avoids the need for us to wait until there is evidence of damage to protected features before management measures can be put in place. We also accept that at present we may not know all the answers in terms of how best to achieve the conservation objectives across the full range of protected features in the different MPAs. We are working to develop collaborative research projects that will enable decisions to be better informed in the future. Further information on the development of management measures that may happen if the sites are designated is provided in section 5.12.

5.11.16. Cumulative impacts are not adequately addressed in the management advice and there is potential for management to displace pressures elsewhere, increasing cumulative effects there which MPA monitoring would not detect.

NatureScot's CMA documents highlight particular cumulative issues, such as noise, that should be considered for each activity. Should the sites be designated, the activities and developments will be assessed against the conservation objectives and should take into account cumulative effects in line with licensing processes and EIA requirements. The issue of cumulative impacts and how these can be mitigated will also be addressed in the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy (which includes minke whale) which is due to be consulted on in the near future. Further information on monitoring is provided in section 5.13.

5.11.17. Respondents suggested that the links between site management and the UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy are not clear.

We recognise that the pMPAs are one of a number of conservation tools available and they complement species protection and other cetacean designations already in existence. The UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy provides a summary of existing management measures and obligations which help to manage pressures on the nine species of dolphins, porpoises and minke whales. The Strategy seeks a joined-up approach to management, with both site and wider measures working together to conserve dolphin, porpoise and minke whale populations.

5.11.18. Some respondents queried the source of the management scenarios used in the SEIA and SEA and several added that they could not see the link between NatureScot's management advice and the management scenarios.

The management scenarios are derived from NatureScot's CMA documents. The scenarios are meant to be indicative to allow appraisal of the socio-economic and environmental impacts from the designation, relevant to the different levels of management. The lower management scenario represents the 'status quo' or best practice for most activities. The intermediate scenario takes a moderate approach to the advice and proposes limiting those activities which pose risks to the proposed

protected features. The upper scenario represents a more precautionary approach from the intermediate scenario by also limiting activities which NatureScot advises should be considered for management.

5.11.19. Several responses queried the use of ‘best practice’ within the management advice and management scenarios where in some cases it was not clear to what specific guidance this referred.

In all consultation documents, the term 'best practice' in relation to management, is taken to mean approaches or procedures that are developed and accepted by regulators and relevant stakeholders as being an effective way of dealing with an interaction between a habitat or species and the pressures created by an activity. These can either be existing best practice (e.g. SMWWC) or an indication that future conversations around best practice are required.

5.12. Site Management

5.12.1. A number of respondents queried the process of creating future management measures, and advised that certain types of management should / should not be implemented. For example limiting certain activities (e.g. aquaculture, fishing) or waiting until further assessment is made before implementing management.

NatureScot has provided management advice for the sites which focusses on activities that cause an effect (a pressure) that the habitats and species are sensitive to. It takes a risk-based approach and focusses on activities that have the potential to pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the features in the pMPAs.

Where appropriate, regulators will consider this advice when making decisions about consenting certain activities. The Scottish Government will also consider whether further management measures need to be implemented based on this advice in future, e.g. for fisheries management.

5.12.2. Some respondents noted their confusion as to why management measures for the sites were not yet decided and included in the proposals as part of the consultation. Some felt it did not provide enough information about who would be impacted in the future, and others felt the sites would not be complete until measures were in place. Many respondents noted that the pMPAs will only be effective if appropriate management measures are implemented at the sites, while others noted that the management measures should be balanced and not prohibit activities which do not negatively impact the protected features of the site.

The Scottish Government notes concerns about there being no specific management measures included in the proposals for these sites. However, this is in line with the designation of other sites in the MPA network to date.

Regulators of certain activities (i.e. those which require a licence or consent) will need to consider possible impacts on the site from the time they are designated however regulation of fishing activity within MPAs requires management measures

to be implemented separately. The Scottish Government has taken a risk-based phased approach to introducing fisheries management measures in Scottish MPAs with the second phase of measures currently being developed. Measures for these sites will be brought into the process for applying management measures and considered in the next phase. As well as using a risk based approach to consider activities which may have an effect on the protected features, discussions on management will also consider many factors including, but not limited to, socio-economic impacts from management, other designations, and other plans (such as renewables).

5.12.3. A couple of respondents stated that fishing should be limited within the MPAs because it is damaging to the marine environment.

The Scottish Government takes the enforcement of sustainable fisheries management and protection of the marine environment extremely seriously. We are seeking to develop a world class fisheries management system for Scottish waters as part of our Future of Fisheries Management Strategy.

Fishing activity is managed within MPAs to support the achievement of the site's conservation objectives. This includes limiting certain fishing activities where necessary.

5.12.4. Many respondents noted that management measures for fisheries must be enforced, including the use of novel monitoring technology.

Although this is an important comment, it should be noted that, as outlined in section 5.12.2, there will not be any fisheries management measures implemented at these sites until a later date, and these would be subject to their own set of assessments. However, the Scottish Government takes the enforcement of sustainable fisheries management and protection of the marine environment extremely seriously. We recognise the enforcement challenges that exist in covering a significant area of sea and large number of fishing vessels, therefore a risk-based approach is used to prioritise monitoring activities. MPAs are consistently a high priority. The Scottish Government is investing £1.5m in fishing vessel tracking and monitoring. Electronic monitoring for higher risk vessels operating near areas, such as MPAs, came in last year and tracking of vessels under 12 metres will come in from 2020.

5.12.5. A number of responses referred to particular fishing methods or fisheries, and suggested that these be limited or removed in other areas or across all Scottish waters. Specific methods and fisheries mentioned included scallop dredging, creeling and sandeel fishery. Some also advocated for the introduction of a 3-mile limit.

Management of particular fisheries outside of these pMPAs is outwith the scope of this consultation, however the comments made were passed on to the relevant policy team within Marine Scotland for their information.

5.12.6. Respondents also suggested that specific management measures for static gear fishing (in particular creeling) will be required to reduce entanglement of minke whales and basking sharks in static gear,

particularly in Sea of the Hebrides pMPA. In some cases, this was noted as the most important concern of the respondent.

As outlined in section 5.11.2, NatureScot has provided management advice for the sites which focusses on activities that cause an effect (a pressure) that the habitats and species are sensitive to. It takes a risk-based approach and focusses on activities that have the potential to pose a risk to achieving the conservation objectives for the features in the pMPAs. With respect to the risk of entanglement arising from creel fisheries, NatureScot has recognised the need to address this risk and action is in hand to develop a fuller understanding of the problem and to develop measures to mitigate the risk. To that end, NatureScot is working with partners (including fishers) through the [Scottish Entanglement Alliance](#).

5.12.7. A large number of respondents made reference to the use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) in aquaculture and the management scenario for this activity. Most of these comments pointed to the potential risks to cetaceans from the widespread use of ADDs and suggested they should be immediately removed from within the MPAs, and a ban put in place beyond the sites under consultation.

ADDs are one of a number of measures employed by fish farms to reduce the risk of seal predation. In light of concerns regarding the potential for impacts on cetaceans, Scottish Ministers have committed to providing a statutory report to the Parliament by 01 March 2021 on the use and regulation of ADDs in the aquaculture sector and have asked the sector to review their compliance with the relevant Habitat Regulations in their use of ADDs. The Scottish Government is also working closely with NatureScot and other partners to consider all available and emerging evidence on this matter. Newly commissioned research will improve our understanding of the efficacy and use of ADDs across the aquaculture industry and fill important knowledge gaps. Where the statutory report identifies a need to improve current arrangements these will be implemented. This programme of work will ensure that where ADDs are used, they are appropriately regulated whilst minimising any environmental impact. This will ensure that the aquaculture industry can grow in a sustainable manner while ensuring a high level of protection for our iconic marine wildlife and the environment.

5.12.8. Other than the specific answers above, a number of respondents specified support for particular management scenarios or suggested other management for the sites. These included support for the ‘upper’ management scenarios, reduction in aquaculture and general reduction in fishing pressure.

The Scottish Government has noted these suggestions.

5.12.9. Only a few respondents mentioned management within the sites with respect to industries other than fisheries. Two respondents noted that the management scenarios for aquaculture should be considered further prior to implementation. A few others queried how management of non-fisheries activities would be enforced.

Before granting permission for any activity which is capable of affecting a protected feature of the sites, whether the activity is inside or outside the site boundaries, the relevant public authority will be required to ensure that the activity will not hinder the conservation objectives of the site (as set out in the MPA Management Handbook). Public authorities may consult and consider NatureScot's advice when applying conditions to regulated activities.

For activities which are not otherwise subject to consenting or licensing, under section 95 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 it is an offence to carry out activities which cause the conservation objectives of the site to be hindered, such as killing or injuring animals or damaging habitats, which are protected features of the site.

5.12.10. Some respondents noted that military activities were excluded from the management scenarios and economic assessments. Some noted that military activities (the use of sonar in particular) could have a detrimental impact on the proposed protected features.

The MOD uses MESAT to implement its agreed guidelines on environmental impacts at sea. These protocols are referred to within NatureScot's CMA documents. In addition, regular liaison occurs between all SNCBs and the MOD to discuss any additional mitigation that may be required.

5.12.11. Wildlife tourism, specifically boat-based wildlife watching, was mentioned by some respondents who called for a restriction and increased management of this industry. Some respondents added that this is because disturbance from boat-based wildlife watching could impact the proposed protected features.

NatureScot's advice outlines that risks associated with wildlife tour operators and recreational boating are best managed through following existing best practice highlighted in the SMWWC and the WiSe accreditation scheme. Designation of the site will in itself raise awareness of features and sites.

Additional considerations such as increased management of the industry are being considered separately by the Scottish Government in a research project, currently focussing on the Moray Firth SAC.

5.12.12. A number of respondents made comments about marine industries in general, such as increased management or removal of aquaculture, interactions with the Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Sectoral Marine Plan, regulation of kelp harvesting and the issue of marine litter.

Some comments were outside the scope of this consultation, generally because they refer to activities occurring outside of the four pMPAs. These were passed on to the relevant policy areas of the Scottish Government for their information.

The Scottish Government recognises that marine litter is an important national and international problem and have prioritised actions in our Programme for Government to demonstrate our commitment to this issue. In addition, we will continue to build on the progress we have made in delivering the actions committed to in our Marine

Litter Strategy as part of our vision for a circular economy. These current and future measures will help to ensure that the amount of litter entering the marine environment is minimised to bring ecological, economic and social benefits.

5.12.13. Respondents felt that, should the Southern Trench pMPA be designated, future assessments of industry environmental impacts need to be robust and take account of the differences between industries relative to their intensity (e.g. fishing effort compared to renewable energy or oil and gas developments).

The existing licensing and consenting frameworks provide the main mechanism by which most activities can be managed in relation to MPAs. The process which all regulators and public authorities must follow when making licensing and consenting decisions affecting MPAs is set out in the MPA Management Handbook. Any management measures required for fishing activities will be considered separately and be subject to further consultation.

5.13. Monitoring

5.13.1. Respondents expressed concerns over the lack of data to assess the condition of features and suggested that rigorous data collection is required urgently to address this knowledge gap. Respondents also highlighted the importance of resources to enable data collection and monitoring work for MPAs, particularly with respect to mobile species to support their conservation.

NatureScot and the Scottish Government are committed to continued data collection and monitoring under the [MPA Monitoring Strategy](#). This sets out the drivers and direction for monitoring of the MPA network to ensure that appropriate information is collected to underpin assessment and reporting obligations. The results of monitoring will be used to inform future decisions on management of MPAs. The strategy outlines the principles for prioritisation of monitoring efforts, how the data will be collated and data management.

5.13.2. There was support for continued community-led marine monitoring, suggesting that this be used to assist in monitoring the MPA network.

The promotion of collaborations with local coastal communities, industry, academia, and other marine stakeholders to deliver better co-ordination of monitoring activities is a key purpose of the MPA Monitoring Strategy.

5.14. Completion of the MPA network

5.14.1. A large number of respondents commented on the importance of the marine environment and the benefits of designating MPAs to support environmental protection, particularly of the proposed protected features. Some respondents noted that adding these sites to the MPA network would be beneficial to Scotland's marine environment overall.

We believe these proposals will help achieve the Scottish Government's vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse seas; managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people. With regard to the benefits of adding these sites to the Scottish MPA network, which currently consists of 231 sites covering 22% of Scotland's seas and helps us meet our national and international commitments for marine protection.

5.14.2. Some respondents queried the need for additional MPAs. Some responses noted that the marine environment has existed for many years without protection and that marine industries seem not to have negative impacts on wildlife. Others feel that the expected benefits seem exaggerated.

The Scottish Government has an obligation to designate a network of MPAs. We considered that the network was incomplete without sites for mobile species, as it did not represent the range of features present in Scottish waters. These particular sites have been chosen as areas of importance to the species.

The potential environmental benefits are outlined in the SEA. The level of these benefits will depend on how the site is managed in future, however the assessment concludes there will be environmental benefits. Further benefits may come from the ecosystem services which these sites provide and as such will support economic benefits through increased food provision, tourism and coastal defence.

5.14.3. A few respondents asked about whether there would be any scope for additional MPAs in the future and one of these suggested that MPAs should remain open to change.

The Scottish Government considers that these MPAs, along with other protected areas work which is ongoing, will form a coherent MPA network. In future, the network will be adapted to maintain or enhance its coherence should it be considered necessary.

5.14.4. There is very little discussion on MPA network connectivity or ecological coherence with each pMPA made so they are in isolation to the other existing or pMPAs in the Scottish network.

Connectivity is included within three of the principles set out by OSPAR in their [guidance](#) on developing an ecologically coherent network of MPAs. However, whilst recognised as important, at the scale of the North-east Atlantic aspects of MPA network connectivity are poorly understood and Olsen *et al.* (2013) identified connectivity as a research priority for Europe. In their guidance, OSPAR notes that '... a lack of knowledge of connectivity should not prevent the development of the network'.

At the Scottish scale, the importance of connectivity is recognised in the Scottish MPA Selection Guidelines. NatureScot's view is that connectivity is important in determining whether the Scottish MPA network is ecologically coherent, and also in determining the contribution that we make to the OSPAR MPA network.

The MPA Selection Guidelines address elements of connectivity and ecological coherence in relation to the pMPAs and these are provided in the 'Detailed Assessments Against the Guidelines' documents. In the case of these pMPAs the inclusion of large scale features within the sites provides links with the mobile species and the wider marine ecosystem. The conservation objectives detailed in the CMA documents take into consideration habitat and prey linkages, acknowledging that there are data gaps in feature habitat/prey relationships.

5.14.5. Further efforts should be made in future to understand and identify other areas of importance for these species, including the identification of further MPAs to increase the resilience of the ecological coherent network (such as for Risso's dolphin) and consideration of linkages beyond Scottish Waters into adjacent areas.

Based on the evidence currently available NatureScot does not think there are other areas suitable for MPA selection for these species in Scottish Waters.

5.15. General

5.15.1. A few respondents noted that there was a large number of consultation documents and that some of these were quite complex.

We appreciate concerns that the amount of information provided in the consultation is very large and some documents are quite complex. The amount of information reflects the Scottish Government's commitment to carrying out extensive assessment ahead of implementing significant changes such as MPAs. In order to help those wishing to respond to the consultation, we produced a Consultation Paper summarising the assessments and advice, with references to allow the reader to find more detailed information.

5.15.2. One respondent noted that the current legislative landscape for marine protection is quite complex and consideration should be given to consolidation of the various regulations in future. They also noted that it would be helpful to consider appending an indicative map of the protected areas to the MPA designation orders.

There are no current plans to consolidate marine environmental regulations. A map of each protected area is published alongside the designation order.

5.15.3. Several respondents noted that local people should be engaged in conversations about future management measures. A few of these noted that the MarPAMM project would be a useful tool for this purpose.

The MarPAMM project provides a forum to discuss future management measures and ensure close engagement with local communities within the areas covered.

5.15.4. A few respondents felt that the decision to designate these sites was already made and that the consultation was purely a box-ticking exercise.

Consultation is an integral part of the process of developing MPAs as it enables stakeholder views on the matter to be on the public record. All comments made

during the consultation process are duly considered. For instance, please refer to section 5.3.4. which outlines the changes made to the Shiant East Bank pMPA boundary as a result of this consultation.

5.15.5. A few respondents felt that the consultation with local people prior to these proposals had been insufficient. In particular, the local fishing communities should have been consulted on these proposals.

The Scottish Government has been engaging with stakeholders including fishing industry, NGOs, local residents and other sectors since 2014, when these proposals began development. More recently, the Scottish Government has met with a number of major fishing groups and held stakeholder events including a pre-consultation workshop (March 2019) and 14 local drop in events during the consultation period. We believe consultation and engagement are vital elements of developing these proposals and will ensure all comments are taken on board at the appropriate stage.

5.15.6. Respondents queried the process for management decisions and were keen to be involved in further discussions on management of activities, with some suggesting options for consideration.

Any future management measures that are required would be subject to engagement with relevant stakeholders, as well as a public consultation, before any implementation takes place.

6. Conclusions

The Scottish Government has considered all 222 consultation responses received. Support for the four sites was high with approximately two-thirds of respondents 'strongly supporting' designation. Only around 5% of respondents 'strongly opposed' designation. Greatest opposition was noted for the Sea of the Hebrides pMPA although no specific reasons for this have been apparent through analysis of the responses.

Many respondents noted that the designation of these sites will contribute to the Scottish MPA network and to Scotland's reputation as a leader in environmental protection. It was also noted that marine protection helps promote tourism in coastal regions, which in turn supports the local economy.

Some respondents who opposed the sites did so on the basis that the designation of these sites would negatively impact fishing opportunities if fisheries management measures were introduced in future. Some felt that the true scale of such impacts had not been fully accounted for in the consultation documents. These concerns have been discussed in this report, but will also be further addressed when management measures come to be considered, if the sites are designated. Management measures will be considered in discussion with affected stakeholders, and will be subject to further economic and environmental assessment, prior to public consultation.

Others noted that MPAs will either protect these sites from detrimental impacts of fishing or be unable to protect these sites from detrimental impacts of fishing. Marine Scotland's Future of Fisheries Management Strategy, will be able to deal with some of these points. The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring sustainability in its fisheries and also on enforcement of fisheries management.

Overall, there is significant support for the designation of all four sites and therefore NatureScot has recommended to the Scottish Government the designation of the four possible MPAs: North-east Lewis, Sea of the Hebrides, Shiant East Bank and Southern Trench, subject to an amendment to the boundary of the Shiant East Bank pMPA.

7. References

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Annex A: Organisations who submitted responses to consultation

The following organisations submitted a responses to the consultation.

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Applecross Environment
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Basking Shark Scotland
- BEIS - OPRED (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - Offshore Petroleum Regulator for the Environment and Decommissioning)
- Clyde Fishermen's Association
- Coastal Communities Network
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Communities Inshore Fisheries Alliance (CIFA)
- Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)
- EDF Energy
- EDP Renewables
- Energy UK
- Fauna & Flora International
- Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT)
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC)
- IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force (MMPATF)
- Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association
- Mallaig Harbour Authority
- Marine Concern
- Marine Conservation International (Heriot-Watt University)
- Marine Conservation Society
- MFV alliance fishing ltd
- Mind Body Edinburgh
- Mowi Scotland Limited
- Northeast creel & line association
- OCEANA
- Oil & Gas UK (OGUK)
- Open Seas
- Outer Hebrides Regional Inshore Fisheries Group
- Ross, Sutherland, Skye & Lochalsh Fishermen's Association
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland
- St Andrews Inshore Fishermen's Association (SAIFA)
- Saltwater Life
- Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)

- Scottish Environment LINK
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
- Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHET)
- Scottish Salmon Company
- Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)
- Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- ScottishPower Renewables
- Sea Change Wester Ross
- Sea Fans
- Skye Communities for Natural Heritage
- Small Isles Community Council
- Scottish Natural Heritage (now known as NatureScot)
- Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO)
- Sunnyside Ocean Defenders/Sunnyside Primary School
- Surfers Against Sewage
- Tayside and Central Scotland Regional Transport Partnerships
- The art den
- The Law Society of Scotland
- The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland
- Tiree Community Council
- UK Chamber of Shipping
- Wave Action
- West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation
- Western Isles Fishermen's Association (WFA)
- Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and Client Earth

Annex B: Non-standard consultation responses

Table B1: Scottish Wildlife Trust/Marine Conservation Society Campaign - Additional Comments from supporters

Comments
Our marine wildlife face more challenges than ever so we need to act to protect these amazing creatures before its too late. I love basking sharks, so I am very supportive of plans to designate MPAs that will help them and other large marine species.
This is absolutely vital in providing the support our natural world needs and reversing the damage that we have done to our seas and their inhabitants.
Well done, I'm 100% behind this
These waters have long been known to support basking shark migrations and therefore form part of an important stage in their life-cycle. These MPAs are integral to supporting and increasing the population of these animals that were once persecuted so heavily to critical numbers and not that long ago.
This is a splendid initiative to protect these remarkable creatures and enable them and all others to live and flourish in a healthy marine environment. Such a wise project is to be most fully supported and encouraged.
This is the bit I wrote myself, as you know: and this is just to say this feels like the bare minimum. Existing MPAs have nowhere near the protection they need, and we are still treating our seas like both a dump and something which can be endlessly pillaged without even looking at the science.
Fully behind the creation of Scottish Marine NP.
Have seen these enormous sharks in Drumore harbour,it is not as if they do any harm
We are in crisis - of biodiversity & climate emergency. Healthy seas, with healthy occupants, protect our human world. So, it is essential we curtail our greed, enable alternative employment for those who rely on our greed for their livelihoods and provide the infrastructure to do so. Please implement AND POLICE these MPAs
Some of the most memorable experiences of my life have been kayaking with basking sharks off the West Coast of Scotland and I fully support the moves to make these four new zones Marine Protected Areas. I used to run a commercial sea kayaking operation out of Gairloch, Wester Ross and I know how much value visitors placed on these experiences as well. Marine Protected Areas benefit sustainable, local fisheries and are welcomed by local communities.
As a scuba diver over many years I have seen too many marine environments in decline. We simply must act wherever possible to conserve instead of destroy.
It is imperative that wildlife and the environment is protected for future generations. Being a passionate individual for nature and the wildlife that surrounds us, I hope to see this project succeed along with consideration for other UK species, and to set an example for other international countries to take heed of environments that has suffered at the peril of human actions across the decades.
Please use your power and influence for good, our future litres in politicians hands
Protect Scottish marine life, good for the environment and future tourism.
For too long we've left our seas unprotected. It's time to act.
They're there already; let's protect them!Excellent chance to increase tourist revenue too..... a win / win deal.
This is another fantastic opportunity for the Scottish Government to be leading the way in protecting one of our most spectacular visitors - the Basking Shark.

It is important to protect these magnificent creatures.

Do everything you can to preserve the world's 2nd largest fish.

I would hope that in the determination of these designated areas, the need to retain access for commercial fishing activity is fully considered.

what a wonderful way for Scotland to lead the way in the conservation of this species.

Everything needs to be done to protect Scottish seas. Marine protected areas WORK!

THIS GREAT CREATURE HAS TO BE SAVED IN OUR WATERS, SHOW THE COUNTRIES THAT HUNT THESE SHARKS. THAT WE CARE

Protecting our wildlife is so important!

As a scientist, environmentalist and Edinburgh resident, I strongly support legislation to strengthen and expand protections for native Scottish habitats and species.

I know this area and think it would be wonderful to have it protected.

These animals need to have safe area in which to thrive

Are there any plans to extend the area to the Trotternish peninsula, Flodigarry and Staffin area. The Basking Sharks are regular feeders there.

Bask in glory, legislate to safeguard our sharks!

It is time we as a species step up to the plate and start protecting and valuing our fellow creatures. I hope that the right thing is done and these wonderful animals get the protections they deserve.

The seas around Scotland's beautiful west coast are incredibly valuable for this fascinating species. Please act now to protect what we have while there's still time.

I strongly support the protection of the four new areas

We need to preserve our ocean friends

The MPAs are absolutely vital and should be extended

Sharks - yay!

Whilst the species mentioned in the MPA designation are very important, it is the whole ecosystem that needs protection, especially from inappropriate developments, open-net fish farming and destructive fishing techniques, dredging and bottom trawling. While we support small scale creeling, the massive numbers of creels being allowed on one line have become a considerable hazard to cetaceans, witness the increasing numbers of entanglements reported.

They must be preserved. It would be a crime if not.

If there was ever a time to help these mammals it is now. For today for tomorrow for all time.

Absolutely behind this. We must take action.

Not only must we designate more MPAs to protect our marine environment we must also properly resource enforcement of MPAs.

We need more but your commitment to this would be a great start ...

please support the protection of these seas please. Thank You.

This would be a huge step forward for marine conservation

This is a very good idea, and long overdue.

I saw a basking shark off Sleat one summer - it was amazing. Let's do all we can to help them thrive.

In a time of turmoil for our environment and country I believe that this would be a really positive outcome for Britain.

Consider banning destructive fishing methods

Save the world - piece by piece. Please start here.

Would love to visit the site and see the sharks basking. How is that possible ?

Basking Sharks are regularly spotted off N Ireland as well. Please can you try to extend the protection throughout UK waters

Round Arran the best place to see basking sharks is north of Lochranza - where the Scottish Salmon Company is trying to build a mammoth salmon farm. Arran needs protection from the SSC.

I've yet to see one of these magnificent creatures and I live on the north west coast.

We are promoting your awesome campaign on social media: @TheSeaFans. Check out our marine conservation initiative seafans.net We are based in Edinburgh, feel free to get in touch!

The seas around Scotland's beautiful coast are incredibly valuable for this fascinating species. These animals must be protected to safeguard the plethora of benefits they provide to both the ecosystem in which they live, and the local economies of coastal communities residing nearby. Please act now to protect what we are lucky enough to enjoy while there's still time.

We must ensure current and future MPA's are really protected and these are not Just a 'paperwork exercise' with no real enforcement

Please feel the weight of this response. Scottish marine environment should be a beacon of good behaviour and lead the world by example.

A start in the right direction! Nowhere near enough and without 'No-Take-Zones' any protection is limited. Protection without policing is useless. Puny penalties do not deter.

All seas should be protected, but this is critically important to everyone. You have my vote 1000 times over.

Anything we can reasonably do to protect and restore our seas around Scotland must be done. This is a precious and delicate resource which is home to a spectacular mix of marine wildlife. The Basking Shark deserves our utmost efforts. Please help us achieve this

Thank you for taking care of our wildlife for future generations.

Having grown up in the south of England and then spent most of my adult life in Scotland I am very aware of just how special the seas around Scotland are for a whole variety of wildlife. We owe it to our grandchildren to protect these special seas for them (and their grandchildren) to enjoy.

The potential for well managed ecotourism will also affirm the value of designating this area

Having seen these beautiful creatures off the West coast of Scotland I think it is essential that we have Marine Protected Areas. I am deeply concerned about the pollution of our oceans from the chemicals that are currently used in some fish farms to prevent sea-lice, [Redacted text]

Bring back the 3 mile limit..

a small step to right many wrongs...to stand for a greener, kinder, safer future

Lots required

Special protection is needed more than ever for the animals in the seas. So many are killed or maimed by ships; killed for 'traditional medicines' and even in some countries as a continuation of a long standing tradition.

Had the privilege of watching these amazing creatures at close quarters while growing up in South Uist. They truly deserve to be protected from harm and to continue to enjoy the warmer waters off The Hebrides.

Every wild animal needs all the help we can give them whether it is on land or in the sea. We are polluting and destroying the planet with our greedy uncaring lifestyles so we need to take immediate serious action on all fronts. I hope the Scottish government is more responsive and caring than the British government who give the impression that they are quite happy to destroy the planet rather than taking any action which may affect the they live.

I support these proposals wholeheartedly.

I strongly support these proposals and I would urge the Scottish Government to implement them as soon as possible.

'mon the basking sharks!

If we want a future for this earth, this action is a starting point.

In addition, this is an opportunity for the Scottish Government to be a beacon for Wildlife protection and conservation.

we must protect these animals at all cost like all sea creatures it is a very important part of the seas ecosystems and has to be protected at all cost.

I feel strongly that we need to take action to protect wildlife in and around Scotland, in the UK and the world NOW. It is marvellous that we have Basking Sharks in Scotland's waters. This is very precious so it's important to respond by protecting these special creatures. Thank you.

Scotland is the best country in the world, the surrounding seas and coast's are very much part of that. let's cherish and protect them.

In addition, the Government must fund Marine Scotland to adequately protect the seabed against illegal and terribly destructive scallop fishing. Penalties for those caught must be made prohibitive as a warning to others.

Keep these beautiful creatures safe

Fantastic to see something being done about this. Bravo!

Also enlarge the area protected against trawling for scallops in Scottish waters by creating MPA's along parts of the coast it will help increase the biodiversity in the surrounding areas.

I am pleased to see that a full and detailed consultation process is underway for these four areas with a significant amount of information and predictive assessments available. I would hope that while the primary function of these areas would be to protect and enhance the designated areas, habitats and species that rely on them, there will be secondary benefits to the local community and businesses through socio-economic benefits.

Scotland has shown to be a country that cares for the rights of its people, the environment and our fellow creatures. The proposed MPAs can only be an excellent addition to this.

This amazing giant can sometimes be seen from Scottish West coast shores. Please help to keep our marine environment.

This is an important area to protect for the dolphins, sharks, and sea sponges. We need to protect this valuable part of Scotland and her seas.

And that there is proper protection once the MPA is created.

There has been great recovery of marine species in the protection area in Lamlash Bay in Arran.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to support the safe havens - I am the daughter of a Scottish mother and cherish the wildlife of her native land.

Our wildlife is under threat from many sides. Yes these animals are migratory but wouldn't it be wonderful if our waters were their safe haven? A rich natural heritage that we could pass on to future generations in a better state than it was passed on to us?

I would also like to call for mechanisms for enforcing this protection. Sadly, I have been told by marine biology lecturers that often MPAs exist only on paper. Please don't let that be the case here.

The reality is there is not significant marine protected areas in comparison to the Scottish coastline.

We are blessed with a coastline which once gave a living to many creatures and has since been over exploited by man. Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve is a glowing example of how a marine reserve can enhance the surrounding waters from their over spill of species as their numbers expand out from the reserve area, thus supporting many species that are in decline. The number of marine reserves need to be expanded so that these iconic creatures, that we could lose, can be familiar for generations to come.

Scotland's seas are our natural heritage. We must protect them fiercely if they are to thrive alongside future generations of people on land.

I've been on 2 sea life boat trips this week out of Tiree and saw one basking shark - amazing creatures

Save the sharks, save the sea, save the world.

The basking sharks and minke whales which visit Scotland's coasts give the people of Scotland and visitors a unique opportunity to appreciate these magnificent creatures. They can only be a benefit to Scotland and it's economy and deserve our protection.

The sighting of a tagged minke whale showing its extensive journeys, as reported in tonight's news (8th August) makes this proposed increase in Scottish MPAs even more important. We are delighted that Scotland is taking the lead in so many conservation activities.

Please act while we can.

MPA's once designated will require proper legal protection including financial penalties and custodial sentences for persons breaking the law, especially overfishing and pollution.

I want my children to see the wealth of extraordinary marine life living off Scotland's coasts including basking sharks, whales and dolphins - these MPAs will enable this for them and future generations.

Please show the world that Scotland leads the way in marine conservation and cares about the amazing wildlife to be found in the seas around our shores.

Keep up the good work!

This is also an opportunity to look beyond our borders and support the protection of basking shark habitat elsewhere in the world.

Please create the Marine Protection Area.

The sea including our inner coastal waters and beaches are one of Scotlands greatest assets, the need to protect them and the biodiversity they contain is greater than ever. As a member of the Scottish parliament I expect you regardless of party or politics to do all you can to protect this resource and the communities who live and work beside it. Respect nature and it will respect you. It's that simple.

This is a wonderful initiative and I wholeheartedly support it

So long as the needs and thoughts of our fishermen are considered in the long term planning.

I believe that the full protection of large areas of oceans and seas and the animals and habitats within must form a significant part of the Scottish Government's response to the climate and ecological emergency we face,

'Big Mouth No Voice' one of the all time best slogans!

I was lucky enough to encounter a basking shark off Coll about 15 years ago. The experience has stayed with me forever. We have to protect these and all creatures, for themselves and for their role in Earth's ecosystems.

Having declared a climate emergency, it's time for the Scottish government to take decisive action. Protecting our marine biodiversity is a very good place to start.

Let's get ahead and protect what is so precious on the UK

One of the saddest images I have ever seen was that of a Basking Shark washed up on the shore of the beach between Arbroath and Easthaven. To see such a giant and beautiful creature just lying there...dead...it really upset me. Sharks are such an important part of our biodiversity; we rely on them for healthy oceans, and without healthy oceans there is no healthy planet. Without a healthy planet, we die. We must do everything in our power to protect and appreciate all life on this planet.

Would love to help or volunteer to help tag or do research on these magnificent fish.

Every animal deserves a chance. Please help!

We have so far to go to redress the damage we have done to our natural environments- if we can preserve an area of the sea for these amazing creatures, it's an important step in the right direction.

I was lucky enough to spend a week surveying these magnificent animals from a sailing boat and feel they should be given every chance possible to help other people enjoy these amazing animals

Please

Please give serious thought to this because marine life must be saved otherwise there is no future

Shared on all our social media accounts!

Regulators please keep our precious clean seas safe for our wildlife. By encouraging too many tourists you are in danger of spoiling what it is that we have to offer the world. The unique environment needs protection.

We are privileged to have such diverse marine life visit us in Scotland so we need to protect the seas they come to and in turn encourage this to continue and feel safe. We benefit too in so many ways.

Please can more designated Marine Protected Areas be created, to protect more of the seabed and the marine animals that use the seas around Scotland.

As a PhD student who studies sharks, I know all too well the number of threats to which they are exposed. The seas around Scotland are hugely important for a number of different shark species, which are in turn hugely important as apex predators and key indicator species. They are also extremely important havens for whales. Scotland is one of the world's leaders in protecting vulnerable marine species. I would urge you to, please, add to this reputation by designating these four new Marine Protected Areas. Thank you very much for your attention to this hugely important issue.[Redacted text]

It is vitally important that the Scottish Government support these marine protection areas for the future of our environment, our communities and our sea creatures.

NOW!

I hope to work to protect Scottish sealife when I graduate so this is of particular importance to me. Our oceans are vital to our survival and must be restored and protected

We desperately need to protect our oceanic creatures, we need to develop strategies that will enable our Whales, sharks, fish and Dolphins also our seal colonies to live in safety. Please support this vital move.

The world needs to be a better place for everyone

I live here and believe the sharks should be safe and in a protected area. We have so much wonderful natural marine life, as well as all the nature surrounding this area, I think it's time this was recognised and protected

the world is [Redacted text] please someone needs to sort it out

Basking sharks are an iconic species and deserve greater protection from harm while they are in Scotland's seas.

I have seen basking sharks twice off the West coast of Scotland. They are magnificent and humbling to be near. We need marine reserves to give the sea and its life space and time to recover. I only have to look at the tiny fish being caught in the Mediterranean to see the results of over fishing and abuse of reserves by humans. We need to protect our marine environment and allow it to recover.

These sharks must be protected. I remember waiting for the ferry on Canna and one was swimming beneath the jetty its mouth agape. It was huge and the children were fascinated.

We must protect our seas for the future wellbeing of our nation and our children.

The protection of the seas are not only very important to the Scottish public but also to the health and survival of the planet and the people on it. The government has to act now before it's too late.

I welcome these new MPAs. However, I am still concerned that there is no Orkney MPA for Flapper (Common) Skate, an IUCN Critically Endangered species for which Orkney waters appear to be one of only two viable populations, globally. With Orkney waters being a different OSPAR area from the MPA for these skate around the inner Hebrides, then a new designation around Orkney is needed urgently.

We must learn quickly to share our planet and allow all other animals the chance to live and maintain the ecosystems. This is why I support such measures.

These things need to be taken into account when applications for giant Hebridean fish farms are considered

Please set up this protected area for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for consulting Scottish citizens on this most important project. Our duty, and our wish, is to protect, enhance, learn from, and enjoy all our great wildlife, on land and within the sea, which has been given to us as a vital part of our lives. [Redacted text]

Keep our seas healthy and protect this endangered habitat for all wildlife to thrive.

The proposal to put a massive fish farm off Canna runs completely against preserving this wonderful wild resource. It will put huge quantities of contaminated nutrients into a balanced ecosystem. Would Scotland allow an industrial pig farm on Canna or sewage dumping in the Minch. I don't think so. But because the waste

from fish farming is not directly visible, it is allowed. Fish farming technologies exist which can be clean. These should be used.

We must act now to protect the pristine and unique environments of our seas - out of sight is not out of mind

As the Westminster government prepares for Mr Johnson's preferred option of a no-deal Brexit and launches the UK's career as a vassal state of the US, environmental protection is not going to be a priority. I'd like to see the Scottish Government take firm action to make these proposed MPAs a reality which works for all stakeholders in the marine environment.

We have a chance to offer these beautiful creatures a safe haven around our coasts to help insure their survival for future generations. Evidence has shown that protected areas also allow a diversity of life to return to our coastlines.

The survival of humankind depends upon healthy seas with a diversity of life within them. Scotland has responsibly declared a climate change emergency, this is an opportunity to put that commitment into action.

Hopefully, Scotland will lead the way in protecting the seas for the future well being of generations to come.

The environment needs to be protected. We, and future generations depend on it!

So much is needing to be done to bring back stocks of fish and other sea creatures, especially those living on the sea bed which has been utterly devastated by trawling, though there are other areas which have been equally badly destroyed, that there is great need for more areas of complete protection. Without these MPAs sea birds will continue to decline, seaweed which protects both sea creatures and our coasts will be damaged, even more fish will be used as fertiliser, depleting stocks already too low, and tourism to the coasts and islands where people used to come specifically to see the huge breeding colonies of birds - all that will be sorely diminished. With more MPAs, it has already been proved that stocks of all kinds can and do recover, if the MPAs are set up in time.

We are losing so many species through not taking decisive action to protect them. Please don't let this happen to Basking Sharks!

By designating these 4 mobile species MPAs, Scotland will position itself as a world leader in marine conservation. In doing so, Scotland not only protects ocean giants in its own waters, but would set a strong example for other Governments in the UK, wider North East Atlantic region and beyond.

In supporting the protection of these amazing species, I hope their food supply is also protected. Also that any infringement is met with suitable fines or bans of equipment.

Life came from the sea, if we can't learn to manage and protect it then we can't protect ourselves from our own extinction.

Nature matters. It should be enough to justify the provision of four new MPAs that threatened marine biodiversity needs this protection. It is also vital for the health of UK fisheries that some nursery areas in MPAs and elsewhere are left undisturbed to allow for replenishment of exploited fish stocks.

Healthier seas are a moral obligation. However, in economic terms the benefits of protecting these ecosystems will be sustainable fishing and tourism.

These are such magnificent creatures - let's treat them with dignity and respect.

I strongly support efforts to protect all nature, in seas, or on land.

If we do not protect the seas around us on the West Coast of Scotland our children and our children's children will never forgive the fact that we did nothing. I have

seen the damage scallop dredging can do and it's analogous to ploughing up a wildflower meadow on land. We are destroying so many things on the planet we love, it has to stop.

None of us can be certain as to the outcome of the multiple challenges faced by our marine wildlife and ecosystems. Until we do the precautionary principle must be applied. MPAs, robustly managed, are one of the ways we can give our seas a chance to adapt, an opportunity to carry out scientific research and hopefully begin a recovery.

Please show how Scotland can lead ocean and wild life conservation. These new zones will go huge steps to showing that Scotland cares about the environment and that we are dependent on it remaining healthy and protected from threats. To do otherwise is shortsighted folly for the whole planet and humankind as part of that.

For the Scottish Government, choosing not to do is gross negligence.

It's the least you could do.

We must also remember the role that our marine plants have in carbon capture. It is surely impossible to condemn the deforestation of the rainforest if we don't have our own house in order

It is vital to protect our sealife and maintain the beautiful diving areas around Scotland for generations to come.

Now is the time to protect the future of our planet. Scotland is in a unique position as these wondrous fish already use its waters to feed. Creating a marine sanctuary focused on protecting basking sharks will not only benefit the planet but will also be a boost to eco-tourism in communities that are in need of additional resources.

These areas are incredibly special areas for marine conservation that I come to visit whenever I can to see the wildlife. Please help preserve these areas and the fantastic wildlife that use them for the sake of the wildlife and our future generations by designating them as MPAS.

As a scuba diver, I know that the sea around Scotland has some of the best UK diving experiences and its ecosystem needs protection for all generations present and future.

Act now before it is too late

Scotland need to be leading the world in conservation of wild life that visits our shores. Especially if independence is on the cards.

We need to do everything we can to protect our wildlife.

Please consider protecting these Basking Shark and everything ocean related. We are all interlinked. Environment needs protecting for all life.

We need more Marine Protected Areas all over the country and the rest of the world! Fish stocks are collapsing, coral reefs are dying off, rising global temperatures means less oxygen in the seas resulting in less plankton. Less plankton means less fish and less of pretty much everything. Marine Protected Areas can help us reverse this worrying trend and bring back biodiversity. Healthy oceans means a healthier planet. So please, make it happen! It's not just the basking sharks that will benefit from this! We will, too. And so will the planet!

These might be listed as Scottish waters, but the waters are not ours. They are the home to these amazing creatures. They are their homes, we need to protect and act because they can't. We need a future where we made our children proud. Let's do that.

We must do all we can to protect our waters and the lives that live in them in order to safeguard their future and ours. I want my future grandchildren to live in a world where basking sharks still come to Scotland and are protected because of it.

We share this earth with other life and we have respect and help protect our seas in order to maintain our presence here. It would be foolish and short sighted not to.

I am a regular visitor to Scotland and this is important for all sea creatures and to keep its natural beauty. The oceans need more protection everywhere.

In addition an effective means of policing MPA's needs to be in place.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PLAN & EVEN MORE AREAS SHOULD BE ADDED . THE WORLDS WILDLIFE IS IN TROUBLE INCLUDING OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT & STRONG ACTION LIKE THIS FOR AAN IMPROVED HEALTHY OCEAN IS SORELY NEEDED TO PROTECT THESE VULNERABLE CREATURES.THIS WILL GIVE A GREAT BOOST TO SCOTTISH TOURISM THROUGH WILDLIFE TOURS & HOLIDAYS. INDUSTRIES LIKE FISHING MUST ACCOMMODATE & WORK WITH NATURE, NOT AGAINST IT & EVERYONE IS A WINNER

As some who has travelled via CalMac ferry across The Minch and seen Basking Sharks, dolphins and countless seabirds I really appreciate the value of that area in particular and would love to see it protected.

As a regular visitor to Scotland to see its wildlife I think that it is imperative to protect the seas for the animals that use the waters.

I have seen these beautiful creatures on the shores of Sennon Cove, Cornwall-fabulous

Please do as much as possible to protect our wildlife and conserve it for (hopefully) many future generations to enjoy.

My family saw a basking shark once off the Scottish coast and it was a magical experience. My two sons have especially always remembered it.

We have not got "all day".

Animals are cool. Give them room to do thier thing and stuff.

Please save our vital natural resources

I know and understand the reasoning, purpose and advantages of establishing MPAs. If you are not going to look after our planet properly, can you, the Scottish Government, at least, protect our seas a tiny bit!

Is there a better way to protect British waters, post brexit, than designated them as protected areas?

With the renewable energy plans, expansion in fish farming- please, not at any cost. We need to protect to balance our exploitative mindset.

I believe our sea's require more protection and regulation than is currently in place. Their is little to deter fisherman from flouting the regulations in place (recent minimal fines for dredging in mpa's).If we continue to pillage and destroy the sea bed we will do untold damage in the next 20years. Habitats destroyed and species extinct

Salmon fish farms are also destroying the seas...the Scottish government loves them ..it's all about the money..hope you can live with yourselves..catastrophic consequences are just around the corner

I have given up eating sea creatures as a commitment to doing what I can to preserve the ocean and all sea life and to support all those who have the capacity to make the bigger changes possible.

We have to cherish our natural heritage and act before we lose it altogether!

There is no excuse for not supporting the protection of our marine environment.

I am glad to say I have seen some basking sharks in Scottish waters and am excited to hear they may even be breeding grounds. Protecting our oceans and it's diverse wildlife is crucial to our survival in the face of ecocide and climate change.

Mexico has had a protected area for whale sharks for some time, Scotland and the UK should catch up.

We need to show the World what it means to care for our environment. Scotland should be at the forefront.

As an international student in Scotland, and a Scottish landscape and wildlife lover, I think the nation should take a step forward in the preservation of its natural resources to become an example in Europe.

i have a powerful memory of spotting a basking shark off the coast of Ardnamurchan, near Ardtoe, when i was about 6 years old... our role as human beings on this earth is, i believe, to be guardians and protectors of life in all its forms... Please make these Marine Protected Areas come about and may Scotland lead the way in renewing our love for our planet and all its creatures... thank you

As a regular visitor to Scotland, I fully support the establishment the new MPAs - the protection of sea life and wildlife in the country is of utmost importance.

This should have been done a long time ago. An independent Scotland would have the opportunity to do a lot more of this kind of thing.

The Scottish government is losing support where it was once renowned for its forward thinking approach to environmental issues. Please lead the way on this one!

I fully support this proposal to protect these illusive and gentle giants of the seas, with the hope that this will lead to s better understanding of these gentle giants and to further their protection.

Brent Parks Forum part of London and National Green Spaces Network, supported by Parks for London and Go Parks, London National Pak City (Mayoral backed) as well as CPRE and Open Spaces Society members, please designate 4 new Marine Protected Areas, there is clear evidence that this will help.

I have seen the difference that having a Marine Protected Zone can make to marine life on the seabed off Arran. It would be a small, but tremendously significant step for the Scottish Government to put its weight firmly behind protecting the precious remnants of the natural world, especially when the natural world is under such threat..

In a country where we are struggling to meet biodiversity targets and experiencing widespread wildlife declines and extinctions, this kind of action is essential

As a sailor and naturalist who has watched these magnificent creatures - sometimes at very close range - and seen them harassed sometimes by ignorant boaters, I would heartily endorse the setting up of Marine Protected Areas to ensure their survival and - as a bonus - the protection of many other species at risk from destructive ground-trawling and other forms of sea-bed disturbance.

The sees are essential to the health of all of us, and we have a responsibility not to negatively impact and wide life in that eco-system.

Marine protected areas provide a safe harbor for ocean species. These areas help promote reproduction for ocean life so it can be replenished. Thank you.

I do indeed support protected areas. Marine animals are in peril because of the actions of our own species and the invasion of their artist and they are struggling to survive. It is thus up to us to do whatever is possible to produce them.

I am a sea kayaker. 15 years ago I would see two or three basking sharks in the Firth of Clyde and many more near Ardnamurchan every year. Now sightings are very rare indeed.

Scotland's seas are tremendously important and I consider it is vital that we establish MPAs that can provide an effective means of protecting the habitats and species our seas support.

As a regular scuba diver around Scotland and in Scotland's existing and beautiful protected marine areas, I feel very strongly about this issue.

It seems insane to me That we are actually discussing this ,it's frightening that the world like this now.

I would very much hope that the Scottish Government responds positively toward these proposed MPAs. At the moment it is very easy to be overwhelmed by negative environmental news from around the world, and the preferred no-deal Brexit solution favoured by the current Conservative government in Westminster will only relegate such matters ever further down the list of national priorities. I believe that the establishment of these proposed MPAs will have positive impacts for all users of the marine environment, through recovery of commercial fish stocks and increasing numbers of iconic species such as basking sharks and whales aiding both fishing interests and the wildlife tourism sectors. I hope to see the Scottish Government taking positive steps to bring these MPAs into existence.

I wholeheartedly endorse this MPA approach and fervently wish it is put into practice. We are lucky in Scotland to have these wonderful marine habitats, which attract the special marine animals that visit them. We must do all we can to protect these areas for the benefit of these species and the health of our planet.

Vital that we try to extend MPA's as much as possible

It is especially important to reduce anthropogenic noise levels in the waters around the Scottish coast. Shipping, dredging, the construction of offshore wind farms and oil and gas surveys all create high noise levels that have detrimental effects upon fishes.

Additionally, I am a scuba diver who has visited Cornwall regularly to see and dive with basking sharks. Encouraging large populations is good for Scottish tourism broadly, and specifically the diving industry.

Please protect these areas as soon as possible with the new MPAs.

Great idea. Marine protection. Keep some areas free from noise in the ocean and other stressors of wildlife.

I was lucky to have a wonderful encounter with three basking sharks this summer off the small isles. The nearby waters are routinely dredged and destroyed by the wasteful and destructive bottom trawling dredgers based out of Mallaig. Protection of the inshore waters and offshore feeding grounds of our smallest and biggest animals in Scottish waters should be a number one priority to protect the environment and incomes for small non-restrictive fishing practices.

Marine life has just as much right to be around our shores as we have to be on the land

To give protection to sea areas in this way will also have spin off positive benefits to fish stocks and other marine resources, which can be exploited (as long as done sustainably) commercially in the future. This is another situation where Scotland and the UK can demonstrate the best kind of management for a national resource, which we can then spread internationally.

The sees are essential to the health of all of us, and we have a responsibility not to negatively impact and wide life in that eco-system.

I live on the west coast of the Isle of Skye and look forward to MPA status being granted to help safeguard the future of the wonderful marine creatures that rely on our coastal waters.

It is time that we take critical concrete action into climate change and our environment as much as any other governmental matter. GDP means nothing with no biodiversity or oxygen.

we need these places it will also help all the over fished aquatic animals recover

The whole coastal area from land to 6-12 miles out should be protected from trawling and wholesale fishing (as it used to be)

It is essential that we protect as many species that are left on this planet as we can. That is in your power.

Please do SOMETHING to help nature instead of destroying environments. Please support this action as a positive move as there are too many negative things happening in this world.

We need to protect our seas and wild life and need more MPAs asap.

I am in full support.

Scotland's environment is exceptional. Everything matters but large iconic species inspire people to care. I work in tourism and the chance to see large animals is very important to visitors.

These are majestic creatures and pose no threat to swimmers or divers. Humanity has a duty to protect them and their habitat or the world will be a much poorer place if they become extinct.

Please don't ignore this because it is a response written by the Scottish wildlife Trust and Marine conservation Society that I have put my name to. I have a disability that means I am unable to complete the consultation response on the Scottish government website and I would not be able to show my support without the response compiled by these charities that has given me a way to take part.

Scotland is doing some fantastic work to conserve its seas. This designation would be a key next step, would recognize how important Scottish seas are for marine megafauna, and demonstrate to the world how much Scotland values their presence in their waters.

By protecting areas for mobile species this will enrich the whole biodiversity of Scottish seas and aid recovery and enhancement for all

Given what we know about climate change and the acidification of the oceans, any action we can take to protect what remains of the planet's ecosystems seems to me to be essential for the maintenance of all life, including that of humans. These proposed protected areas are a contribution to that effort.

New MPAs will not only be good news for marine animals but also excellent for tourism .

What will you do once they're gone? Protect them while you have the chance.

Having seen basking sharks and minke whales myself, off the west coast of Scotland, I feel even more strongly that they must be protected... along with the ecosystems that they depend on. With your support there is hope for their future! Thank you and kind regards, [Redacted text]

Protecting our seas and marine wildlife is an investment that will pay dividends. We need to do much more to protect these Amazon creatures.

I live within the proposed sea of the Hebrides area and see these cracking beasties every summer (basking sharks & minke whales). Let's protect Scotland's seas for wildlife and future generations.

Please be at the forefront of protecting our planet. We should be ashamed of our treatment of the oceans & it's inhabitants. We need them. This is a step in the right direction, a step towards righting human wrongs. Now is the time for positive action. For the ocean, for nature, for the planet & ultimately for the people.

Let's make Scotland a safe zone for all

The creation of four new Marine Protected Areas sends a message to the general public and industry that the Scottish Government is serious about protecting our seas. In the not too distant future, our children will be more dependent on the marine environment than ever before and it falls to us all to ensure its wellbeing. History will not be kind to us if we fail to take the necessary steps to protect Scotlands marine environment and its inhabitants. It's not just humans that will benefit but all marine species. This is an investment not a luxury.

My support for these designations also emphasises that it is vital that adequate resources are fully provided to manage, monitor and properly police the MPAs

Save these creatures from us.

You are doing a great job for our children and their children too. May Conservation of Natural Resources always win out over greed and stupidity, especially that shown by our so-called 'leaders'

Please protect these wonderful animals. By doing so, the whole ecosystem will benefit, as will your local economy.

I firmly agree with the proposals for wider MPAs as outlined in this e-petition. I was lucky enough to grow up in the Western Isles and have opportunities to visit many of these special places and witness their wildlife first hand. Without broad areas protecting mobile species, our remaining biodiverse areas will inevitably become further fractured and less resilient. While I would very much wish to complete the full consultation, I do not feel equipped to answer with sufficient technical detail (and I have PhD in biology). I hope that some account will be taken of mass responses such as this one, as I believe the designation of meaningful MPAs to be vital to the future of Scotland's environment.

The threats are many but marine protected areas are a proven way of ensuring these amazing creatures and the whole ecosystem are given good protection. The earth doesn't belong to us and we have a responsibility to future generations and other species

Do the right thing.

The waters around Coll and Tiree have been identified as of international importance for breeding of the amazing basking shark. The Scottish Government should demonstrate its responsible attitude to wildlife and habitat conservation by supporting the designation of the proposed four new Marine Protected Areas. It must then continue to enforce policing of these areas and not allow them to be downgraded as has happened to other designated conservation areas after permitting their destruction by development!

It all seems very plausible: there should minimal delay in instituting these proposals.

This is so important. The natural world is being eroded by us and we need to do everything we can. I fear it may already be too late.

Please look after our natural resources

As a nation which has long made its living from the seas around us, we have a duty to care for all the creatures which help to make it the rich environment which has brought us such maritime splendour. These protected areas will help to stop the erosion of sealife in our waters.

As a country with a lot of coastal areas, Scotland is well placed to lead by example when it comes to protecting marine wildlife and their habitats.

How can people not support this terribly important campaign? It speaks of the survival of our dead and sea creatures. Please help everyone!

Who knew of the marine riches of the Scottish coast!! Hopefully our future generations will through your excellent leadership in designating these crucial MPAs.

We must act now, we can not let our beautiful seas around Scotland fall into a state of decline from which they might not recover. We need to act now!

The marine environment is very much undervalued. It is out of sight and out of mind. We do not see the damage that is being done by the fishing industry. We need no take zones to protect the integrity of the sea bed, fish spawning and fish stocks.

support!

Save the sharks

A strong MPA network is so important not just nationally but internationally, not only providing safe havens for a range of seasonally visiting sea creatures, but sustaining local livelihoods from the fishing to the tourist industries and others besides.

The Scottish Government's designation of the four new Marine Protected Areas will show our country's continued commitment to being one of the world leaders in environmental protection and restoration. Thank you.

We belatedly realise how much damage we are causing to large marine animals.

It is vital to protect Scottish seas and for Scotland to lead the way in this.

It is our human duty to do right by these beautiful creatures and so we must do everything in our power to protect them. Hence my vote of support.

Brilliant ??

Please help save these beautiful creatures and the marine environment in Scotland.

This planet is crashing down around us, its time we all did something and supported each other. This should be a non issue, anything we can do to protect wildlife is worth it.

I've spent many years surveying the Sea of the Hebrides by boat, along with my husband (sailor and marine conservationist [Redacted text]), to gather the data to help prove the value of protection of the Sea of the Hebrides. We did this primarily for basking sharks but also minke whales and a myriad of other species abundant in the area. Building on these years of solid transect data gathered by hundreds of volunteers, whether on our boat or other vessels or shore-based, this data is now bolstered by several years of satellite tagging and tracking data, all building the case as to why this globally important area should be prioritised for protection. Without a doubt, this area is now proven to be important for basking sharks, not least because of the enormous numbers of sharks known to congregate there. The unique bathymetry, frontal zones and nutrient-rich waters are precious and productive, and contribute to basking shark presence that is worthy of such protection. Please do not miss this opportunity for protection of this wonderful, valuable seascape. Thank you, [Redacted text]

Please act now and make a difference for wildlife. Thank you.

Doing nothing is not an option. These areas are being completely fished out. Every year we see fewer fish and shell fish on our dives. We must protect our seas for the future generations.

I believe that a system of protected areas will not only help threatened species in specific areas but will also provide useful 'seed' locations for many types of fish that support the fishing Industry. Sustainable exploitation of the marine environment can only happen with a healthy ocean.

The 4 new marine protected areas are vital for offering protection to Scotland's important marine life species.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Scotland to protect one of its largest and most charismatic wild species. This will benefit us all and help to sustain jobs in the tourism industry in Scotland and reinforce the nation's green credentials. History will judge a positive outcome to have been both timely and wise.

We need more MPAs around our shores and way more no take zone too

Please make waters protected and safe for all marine life, and especially miraculous basking sharks. We cannot risk the loss of any species from the interrelated biodiversity off our land

Please give our seas and sea creatures the robust protections they need to thrive and survive into the future. We are a uniquely destructive species - please give the world a great example of marine conservation with Basking Sharks at the centre of a balanced biodiversity in our waters

I'm sick of the agenda being driven by a small collection of rich families with an interest in stripping the sea bare. We need healthy seas, and that means large protected areas not small temporary respites in trawling or dredging.

I recently had the great privilege and pleasure of a sail in the Mission Blue Hope in Argyll. I hope we designate these four new MPAs.

Save and protect our marine environment and wildlife in Scotland. Proper policing required and Protection of our seabeds. Many thanks [Redacted text]

At a time when our oceans and their inhabitants are in trouble, it is fitting that more MPA's are made for their protection.

All of the above

Please protect our environment before it is too late. I want the Scottish government to lead the way in environmental matters.

Fully support the basking sharks. Fully support Scotland & wildlife throughout the world.. Lets show support trying to keep it nature's way. ?? X

Do it.

Please, have a heart for nature...

We also need to restrict climate change, so that conditions in these sea areas don't change beyond the parameters that will support our wildlife.

We need to protect the vulnerable species in our oceans..

Be bold and lead the way in helping our seas recover, the benefits will be a wonderful legacy.

Scotland is a great place for wildlife, and that includes it's seas, but the wildlife needs proper protection to ensure it stays that way.

Too many species are at risk of extinction Everything to protect the seas for all marine life is important.

Get this designated! Very important

Would be good if there was actual and real protection!

This is a crucial time... We cannot afford to neglect the protection of Scottish seas. We must act now or it will be too late.

It's now or never to protect all creatures

I live on the Isle of Barra and regularly see Basking Sharks, Minke Whales and other cetaceans. I fully support and encourage any measures that will protect these fabulous creatures and their habitats.

Dont let human greed destroy pristine marine environments! We have the chance to set the example for other countries

Great to see marine life being protected.

Having enjoyed the incredible experience of watching up to 15 basking sharks swimming off the Isle of Coll one August, I fully support this call for a protected area for these extraordinary gentle giants. We owe it to these creatures (and many others) to do all that we can to protect them and their habitats.

We live on the Isle of Man, so will this area be in Areas of this project?.We hope so. Any thing to help our Sea Animals with their survival, must be worked for. Keep Protecting These Sea Giants, as best we can.Thankyou. [Redacted text]

I live on the Isle of Man and know how precious these creatures are !

I know Scotland can do this!

The time to do it is now, please act. As a kid I used to save environmental news articles, 30+ years later I still see the same warnings in the press now because as a race we have failed to act.

All inland sea lochs should also become safe havens/ nurseries for our sea animals

I live on the Isle of Man. Creating a Protection area would hopefully increase the number of these beautiful gentle giants seen in our waters.

As a UK citizen I really want the seas around us to be productive and filled with life. I welcome the Scottish Government's leadership for Marine Protected Areas.

You'll never forget your first experience of seeing a basking shark! It would be a dreadful shame not to protect them and their feeding areas.

I remember seeing these as a child when sailing off the west of Scotland. It was always magical. Please protect them so that future generations can also experience the magic of these gentle giants.

I have seen and swam with these gentle giants several times, they must have protection

Morally right(or left). Some things just need leaving alone.

Look at how successful the marine protected area around St. Abbs is. This can be the same.

Morally right(or left). Some things just need leaving alone.

Our seas and oceans are suffering from global warming and over fishing. It is essential that these gentle sharks are given a helping hand.

We had the amazing privilege of canoeing alongside these amazing animals in this area this summer and support this wholeheartedly.

This has to be done. The natural world is being destroyed at such an alarming rate someone has to do this ????

My sister is a prominent biological scientist who live in LaJolla California for 40 years. Since they made the marine area off the coast of San Diego a protected marine environment, she said she was amazed how the larger species of birds, mammals and fish have returned in for less time than anyone had suspected. She use to be very pessimistic about our animal kingdom. She's not anymore. I highly

back the above proposals as I know they will make a difference. We need our seas back teeming with wildlife

A good start As I'm sure 50% of Scottish sea area needs total protection including no fishing

I've spotted basking sharks off Mull and what magnificent creatures they are. Please support the MPA network.

It's a great investment to protect our oceans and marine life dependent on them.

We have to start making a stance for our oceans and its inhabi before it's too late

This is so important

I fully support this campaign.

Protection of Scotland's seas is vital for marine life and the livelihoods and enjoyment of Scotland's people and visitors; in addition to the present suggestions there must be a presumption of protection for all coastal areas, with a requirement for full Environmental Impact Assessments for activities having the potential to damage the marine environment.

This planet is not just for humans, we are not the only residents, nor are we the most important. We need the whole planet to function correctly which, means that all species must be considered because that is what makes our planet work! Basking sharks are an important part of the ocean habitat. Too much of it has already been destroyed. The ocean and its inhabitants need protecting and we must do it now before it is too late.

We need to protect all animals...especially ones at Sea with ALL that plastic

It is amazing to think of these marvels as our near neighbours.

Table B2: Whale and Dolphin Conservation Campaign – Additional Supporter Comments

Comment
...
.DO IT! Scotland and thanks from the wonderful sea creatures that just want to live their lives free from cruelty and harassment.
??
??????????????
10 Brockwell Street
2019 ??? Intelligent humans ???Absolute disgrace
A beautiful country embraced by a splendid ocean must strive to nurture its closest friends - cetaceans !
A fantastic motion, proving Scotland is leading in marine conservation and helping the planets wildlife!
a great idea long overdue as our seas get more congested daily with boat and tanker/cargo ship traffic, fishing vessels . Entanglement from fishing gear/ghost nets,boat strikes and the ever increasing plastic nightmare not to mention catastrophic oil spills are only a few of the problems these animals now face. Anything we can do to make it a safer more quiet environment for them is s a step in the right direction to saving our precious oceans and all life. If they benefit so do we.
A healthy sea enables these incredible mammals to thrive, if we can help that by having a protected area then we should do that.
A outstanding cause
A positive initiative. Any project that helps to protect our fragile marine ecosystems and ocean mammals is to be encouraged and commended.
A protected area is a wonderful idea - every sea and ocean on Earth should be protected for whales and dolphins, so please do what's necessary to make it happen in the area where you have power - it's a wonderful chance to do something unequivocally good.
A protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins is a great idea.
A protected marine park is essential for all marine life.
A safe sea for these beautiful animals, please !
A vert good idea. Totally agree with your initiative. Thanks for them.
A wonderful idea to create marine protected areas. Go ahead.
A wonderful idea to create MPAs.
ABOUT TIME ANIMALS WERE LEFT ALONE-THEY KNOW HOW to sort themselves out
Act now to create havens for these magnificent sea creatures
Act to rote the all whales
Act to rote the all whales
ACT!
[Redacted text]
All animals deserve to live free and without fear from Greedy humans.
All animals need protection from us.
all animals should be protected
All dolphins all mammals sea world should be in the wild not caged up

All Dolphins need and deserve all possible protection without any further delay.
Create marine protected areas for them around Scotland.

All marine life is now under threat. Please make sure that these amazing creatures are protected around our Scottish coastlines. Many thanks. [Redacted text]

All ocean dwellers deserve protection

All of our waters should be protected for wildlife as part of our ecosystem - for our sake as well as theirs.

All our ocean dwellers deserve your & our protection, please play your part.
Thank you.

All our sea creatures need protecting from unscrupulous people,

All our wildlife need our protection & we must do whatever it takes to do that & making protected areas is a great start

All sea life deserves to be protected, just as all animals deserve to be protected and safe to live a healthy free life in their own environment. Please allow them that freedom and safety.

all the help you can give our marine life is a brilliant idea. with the unmonitored hunting of marine life they really need an area where they will be safe .

All whales and dolphins need protection and this would be a great help in providing it.

All Whales must be protected

All wildlife around our shores must be protected

All wildlife has a right to live without being hunted. We are supposed to be intelligent human beings, so why do some countries still permit Whale/Dolphin etc hunting? It's barbaric.

All wildlife is under huge stresses due to habitat loss, pollution, garbage in the sea & on the land, sealife if all sizes are killed as they are caught up as bycatch or are killed by discarded fishing tackle and ghost nets. Over fishing & destructive practises by the fishing industry, noise pollution, and horrendous practises by the oil & gas industry are all taking their toll on our marine wildlife. It is urgent that there is large areas allocated for their protection. I fully support this!

All wildlife should be protected in their natural habitat. Please help keep areas protected for minke whales and Risso's dolphins!

Am certain David Attenborough can speak on this better than I can!

Amazing plans please do this.

Animals are not ours to use for entertainment

Any assistance all marine life can get, is a bonus, but should actually be a right. Minke whales need all the protection possible, as I am sure you know. Risso's dolphins also, and to be in a position to help them, is a privilege, and one I would expect Scotland to take up. PLEASE HELP THEM.

Any legislation that helps protect areas of our seas and oceans is most welcome. Whales and dolphins face increasing pressures from human activity and pollution. We should make great efforts to reduce the detrimental impact we have on the marine environment.

Any positive action that seeks to protect whales & dolphins is welcome. Key habitats are disappearing across the globe. It's good to see the Scottish Government considering doing something about that.

Any steps man can take to protect these wondrous creatures must be taken.... please!!

Anything done to protect these wonderful animals is such a good thing ??

Anything that can be done to protect these beautiful animals will be wonderful.

Anything to benefit Scotland's wildlife is worth doing. People who visit Scotland love to see the dolphins and whales. It is worthwhile so just do it. Thank you.

Anything you can do to protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins may help to persuade other governments to follow your example. Thank you for caring.

Apart from being the right thing to do for whales, dolphins and the environment in general there is an incentive for the Scottish Government to do this in that it will boost eco-tourism in and round Scotland. This will help the Scottish economy so it's a win for everyone but especially for endangered marine mammals!

apoyo la creación de áreas protegidas para ballenas y delfines.

As I write this email, the Amazon is literally burning. Everyone must do whatever we can to provide protection for dolphins and whales. Thank you

As a proud Scot who now lives in England, I have campaigned for whales and all marine life since the mid eighties. It will make me even prouder of my country and its government when this protection is in place.

As a regular visitor to Scotland I value the chance to see all types of wildlife in the water, in the air and on the ground. Species must be protected for future generations to marvel at.

As a regular visitor to Scotland, and supporter of wildlife I strongly support this idea - it would also make a great wildlife watching attraction for tourism - and naturally extend the positive image of Scotland in the wider world

As a supporter of WDS I write to ask you to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Scottish waters are an important source of food for these beautiful animals, and it would be great to have areas where they could be free of threats such as fishing nets and noise.

As a well-developed nation with significant international influence, the UK should be setting an example to the rest of the world on how people can live alongside other intelligent species, and minimising the impact of humans on the marine biosphere.

As a wildlife boat operator on the West of Scotland I fully support all efforts to protect our marine life

As above

as above

As above

As above

As above

As above

As above.

As cetacean populations are becoming more under threat, safe seas where these wonderful animals travel and inhabit are becoming increasingly imperative.

AS MANY AREA'S MUST BE DEEMED SAFE & PROTECTED FOR ALL OCEAN MARINE LIFE, PARTICULARLY FOR WHALE & DOLPHINS, THEIR NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DECLINING THANKS TO MANS HUNTING & CARELESSNESS FOR MANY YEARS, WE MUST DO EVERYTHING TO SAFE GUARD THEIR FUTURES!!!! THANK-YOU.

As per above.

As someone who monitors cetaceans as part of the WDC Shorewatch scheme I know how vitally important this area is for Risso's and a number of other cetacean species.

At a time when we are losing wildlife at an alarming rate, a campaign to protect what we have while there is still time, is to be welcomed.

At such a critical time in the climate history of our earth and is more important now than ever before that we protect and insure the safety of as many species as possible! Marine life is such a detrimental part of the ecosystem of our planet. It is critical that we do everything in our power to stop any further damage to our home and to it's inhabitants. You as the government have this power and it's your time to act!

Baby cows are torn from their mothers so they don't drink their mothers milk, so humans can drink it. The male baby cows get killed and sold as veal as they are useless to the dairy industry. Then the milk is sold in the super market and we get told it's made for humans. That is how cows milk is made. Go vegan :)

Be bold - it's needed - just do it!

Be remembered for the good you have done.

Because I care x

Because marine life should have priority over everything else, especially selfish money-hungry humans

Being a scuba dive I have been so lucky to dive with some of these wonderful creatures, please, please protect them.

Bless you for creating these protected areas for whales and dolphins, you dont know how much this means to us as animal lovers and the mammals that we are trying to help you to protect. Look into your heart and know that it is the right thing to do, then you will be able to look at yourselves in the mirror and know that your ethics are sound, rather than wishing you had stood up for something you believe in, but we bullied into not doing it. YOU CAN DO IT! I believe in you... :) xx

Brilliant news, can't happen soon enough. Thank you.

Brilliant that you are creating two areas of protection for he Minke whales and Risso dolphins. I am sure that you will receive lots of public support

Cetaceans are highly intelligent social creatures. They deserve the highest level of protection that we can give them.

Cetaceans such as whales and dolphins should be allowed to live free in the ocean, not confined in concrete bathtubs and forced to perform inane tricks to entertain humans. Please protect the natural habitat of minke whales and Risso's dolphins so these species can live free for generations to come.

Come on Scotland! You're better than that!

Congratulations on your foresight and humanity to be working with WDC to ensure future generations get to see these magnificent creatures.

Congratulations on your plan to make protected areas in key habitats around Scotland. I think it is a brilliant idea and hope other countries will follow suit.

Congratulations! You are leading the way and showing the rest of the world what can be done to play a part in saving whales and dolphins from extinction. Take that step and create safe marine areas around Scotland.

conserency of these dolphins , whales and any other speceiese that need help must come sooner rather than later. We are loosing so many animal speceies eery year it is frightening what the future holds

conservation of our sea life is becoming more and more crucial, please consider seriously the creation of protected areas for Risso dolphins and minke whales for the sake of all future generations and the diversity of the planet

Create a safe and protected area now for these beautiful animals , we have waited long enough! [Redacted text]

Create safe sea areas for endangered species.

CREATE SAFE SEAS FOR ALL MARINE LIFE

Create safe seas for dolphins and whales! Thank you!

create safe seas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins

CREATE SAFE SEAS FOR MINKE WHALES AND RISSO'S Dolphins in Scotland

create safe seas for ths beautiful creatures, once lost we can never get them back.

Create the protected areas-stop faffing about!

Creating a protected area for these beautiful and intelligent creatures can only benefit the dolphins, the environmental ecosystem and Scotland with increased tourism. Why bother with the consultation with so many positives.

Creating marine protected areas for whales and dolphins is the right thing to do!

Creating marine protected ares for species such as Minke whales and Rizzo's Dolphin are absolutely essential to maintaining healthy populations of these beautiful creatures around the Scottish. Please make the development of this habitat a priority for the Scottish Government - thank you!

Creating marine reserves is a long overdue policy and must be implemented all around our coasts, especially in these areas around Scotland where marine wildlife is so in need of protection

Creating safe seas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins, and other marine wildlife, is so important for preserving our native and global wildlife heritage and biodiversity.

Creating safe spaces for whales and dolphin is one of the simplest ways we can protect our oceans and animals. People are creating a massive negative impact on the planet and every step to make a positive change should be put into action immediately. Let's me the country that makes positive change, let's be the country that cares, let's me the country that stands out for the right reasons.

Creating sea sanctuaries where whales and dolphins can be relocated to live more natural lives, if they cannot be returned to the wild

CRUCIAL!!!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to hea of your plans for protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins! Please do go ahead and help save these important species. Thank you very much for giving them hope, unlike many other countries! With best wishes from Berlin, [Redacted text]

Dear Madam/Sir, Preservation and Conservation Wildlife, in this matter: Sea Mammals, are starting to become a daily routine 'obligation'. With all increasing Climate Changes and the Amazon in Fire we just cannot stay behind, and that counts for Scotland, for you Madam and Sir, aswell ! I sincerely hope and wish you'll consider to save Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins around Scotland. They are part of your existence on the Whole, please Respect and keep Save these Beautiful Animals ! Thank you Scotland, Madam and Sir !

Dear Scottish Government, I strongly believe that this is the correct thing to do. On July 1st, a minke whale was killed commercially due to Japan's withdrawal from the IWC therefore it is our role as citizens of our Earth to give them a safe haven. It is just. With protected areas these animals could have the freedom they deserve without being pursued and hunted. [Redacted text], age

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Dear Scottish Government, PLEASE continue with your plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their habitats around Scotland NOW, or as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Dear Scottish Government, Please protect the dolphins and whales in your waters. Don't ruin a habitat who have been there longer than you. Regards, [Redacted text]

Dear Sir/Madam I am delighted to learn of the Scottish government's plan to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in key habitats around Scotland. I am sure the public and WDC will join me in thanking you from the bottom of our hearts with regard to helping these marine mammals and afford them protection for which they so richly deserve. Kindest Regards-[Redacted text].

Dear sir/madam,I strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation.

Dear Sir/Madam,it is very important that the Scottish Government creates more Marine Nature reserves around Scotland, as this is an important stronghold for many species of whales and dolphins. All marine life including whales and dolphins are under massive threat and need our help now. Regards [Redacted text]

Dear Sir/Mdm, we've got to work together to conserve these animals and their natural habitat so that our future generations will be able to follow our example by respecting & conserving the environment & animals around them.

Dear Sirs, ALL OF LIFE IS SACRED, please protect the DOLPHINS, THANKS!!! MAY ALL POSSIBILITIES BE OPEN TO YOU!

Dear Sirs, I believe that much more can be and should be done to protect the seas around Scotland. We are living in a time when mankind is feeling the impact of decades of industrial development. I believe it is now time to change and rethink the way in which we use and protect our seas. Much more can be done to remove the harmful effects and also restore and protect the life in the oceans. Please take positive action and put the environment ahead of economic concerns. Thank you.

Dear Sirs, please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. This is a great Action for Environment and endangered species. Thank you!

delighted to read that you are considering protected areas to help look after these magnificent species. I hope that you will bring the plans to fruition. I would like to think that I might be able to visit at some point in the future

Die Menschen kennen jetzt Delphine und Wale und wissen, dass sie geschützt werden müssen und nicht ausgebeutet. Also-Schluss mit Gefangenschaft !!!

Translation (German): People now know dolphins and whales and know that they must be protected and not exploited. So-end with captivity !!!

Difendiamo il mare!tutto!!!

Translation (Italian): Let's defend the sea! Everything !!!

Do it - Save the whales and dolphins

Do it for Scotland. save the areas to help protect minke whales and risso dolphins. Do it for the Scottish people, the animals and future.

Do it! We need more Marine Protected Areas all over the country and the rest of the world! Fish stocks are collapsing, coral reefs are dying off, rising global temperatures means less oxygen in the seas resulting in less plankton. Less plankton means less fish and less of pretty much everything. Marine Protected Areas can help us reverse this worrying trend and bring back biodiversity. Healthy oceans means a healthier planet. So please, make it happen! It's not just the

Risso's dolphins and minke whales that will benefit from this! We will, too. And so will the planet!

Do it.

Do not let these animals get hurt

Do something for the natural world Scotland!

Do something useful and humane

Do the right thing look after the Whales please .

do the right thing and stand out from the crowd

do what is right

Do your absolute best and then add 20%! Thank you

Dolphins and Porpoises and all marine life should be able to live out their lives in freedom

Dolphins and Whales are iconic mammals which deserve all the help and protection we can give to ensure their survival and enjoyment of a free and natural life. Well done to the Scottish Government for holding this consultation which will surely convince them of the necessity for these protected areas.

Dolphins and whales do no harm to humans. We should return that sentiment to them.

dolphins and whales need a safe place to live ! help them !

Dolphins and whales need to be protected world wide and the UNITED KINGDOM should be at the forefront and setting an example to other nations that it is no longer acceptable in this 22nd century to slaughter or harm in any way these very special and intelligent beings

End this vicious cruelty now.

message to the Scottish government

essential !

Essential creation, the sooner the better, these animals need and deserve all the protection they can be given.

Every and any action helping to protect the lives of whales and dolphins needs be supported. I welcome the idea and hope it comes off. Well done for thinking about it in the first place.

Every animal has a role to play, let them play their's.

Every dolphin & porpoise deserve to be able to live free & if us humans can help protect their home then that is simply what we must do.

Every fauna & flora needs somewhere to live.

Every living creature has a right to live the kind of life to which it is suited. Trapped animals suffer stress and frustration similar to the suffering of humans who suffer wrongful imprisonment.

every living thing deserves safe places to stay, please make this happen for the whales and dolphins off Scottish shores.

Everything must be done to preserve these dear harmless cetaceans in Scottish Waters whilst we keep tackling Japan's Minke Whales' protection....

Excellent idea - good on you Scotland

Far too much killing, Not enough care. Abuse and destruction.

First and most important the oceans belong to sea creatures its their home they was born there it dose not belong to humans who try to dominate the planet the skies the land and oceans we all was born on this beautiful planet and should be greatful and not abuse exploit the planet for greed money selfishness and profit

Follow WDC.

Following years of "WDC" campaigning, and, field, research, the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales, and, Risso's dolphins, in their key habitats around Scotland! Following years of WDC campaigning and field research, the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland!

Following years of WDC campaigning and field research, the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. But first, they want to know what you think. So they are holding a public consultation. The plan is to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live. I fully support this

For Gods sake Care

For Gods sake Care

For the sake of mankind please help save the whales and dolphins of the world.

For the sake of our future generations we need to keep these beautiful creatures with us send a message to the world.

Full marks if you take the lead on Protected Marine Areas. And please protect your lochs from fish farming pollution. This also damages the marine infrastructure.

Give the whales and dolphins a protected area, we will all benefit

Give these wonderful animals the freedom and protection they deserve.

Give these wonderful animals the freedom and protection they deserve.

Go ahead and designate these safe spaces for Minkes and Rissos. Too few places on earth are safe from man and his abuse of its resources and fellow inhabitants.

Good for you for wanting to do the right thing.

Good Idea ! Help tourist trade too with Whale & Dolphin watching trips !

Good idea, do it.

Great idea needs to be put into practice as soon as possible

Great idea to protect these two. Could encourage more tourism.

Great idea, I hope this goes ahead and other governments follow suit. I would be more than willing to donate my time and money to support any initiative such as this.

Great idea, protected areas are vital for these whales and Dolphins.

Great initiative. Hope to hear good news on this in the coming weeks. Thanks...

Great news for these animals as I feel we are all responsible for looking after all nature for the future

Great news that Scotland is doing this for these animals its time we all realised we must look after all these beautiful and different creatures before its too late

Great News to protect these creatures! Now Scotland needs to get tough with the shooting scum that are wiping out all other kinds of innocent creatures!

Great vision .

Grrrrr ??????????????

Have a heart.

Having healthy seas help us all to prosper. Please do all you can to make the sea safe for minke whales & Russo's dolphins.

Having seen numerous whales in their natural habitat I fully support the creation of a protected areas for these cetaceans.

Having swam with wild dolphins in NZ, an unforgettable experience, I truly believe mankind should do everything within its power to protect these highly intelligent mammals.

Hello. I just want to email my support for this wonderful idea to offer protection to whales and dolphins around the coast of Scotland. It is a fantastic initiative This plan is to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live is one I really think you should be praised for. I really hope it all comes to fruition.

Help and make a safe environment for the Minke whales and Risso's Dolphins.

HELP ME CREATE SAFE SEAS FOR MINKE WHALES AND RISSO'S DOLPHINS

Help our Dolphins etc

Help protect the Minki whales and Risso's dolphins!!

Help protect the Wales and dolphins . Help with tourism.

Help save our precious whales and dolphins in British Oceans.

Help save these important members of our ecosystem

Help the dolphins and he whales

Help them show the world the way

Help these amazing animals before it's too late!!!

Help us create safe seas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Help us create safe seas for whales and dolphins.

Het is wreed!!!!

Translation (Dutch): It is cruel !!!!!

Hi, I think it is an excellent idea. Good for you !!! I hope everyone agrees & marine protected areas can proceed.

How can we not give these wonderful animals a proper and safe place to live?

How wonderful that more marine protected areas are planned. Minke whales and Risso's dolphins need these key habitats and so do the tourists and well-wishers for thriving Scottish seas.

How wonderful to provide protected marine areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland. We must do everything to save these sea creatures. Please, Scottish govenement, to ahead with it!

Human over-population is our greatest immediate threat but we have to keep our own life-support systems healthy while we work on having smaller families and avoid unwanted and unplanned pregnancies.

Humanity is managing to destroy so much of the planet and its resources, please protect these areas for posterity in an attempt to conserve/preserve some its oldest inhabitants. We will only get one chance to attempt to readdress the balance.

Humans are doing so well in destroying everything we have no right to. Scotland needs to stand up and stand out, protect what you can, do something good.....

I 100% support the Scottish Government's plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Thank you.

I a must delighted that you are planning marine protected areas. They are sorely needed and I fully support your plans. Thank you for doing this.

I agree

I also support there being a protected area for cetaceans on the East Coast including the Firth's of Forth and Tay from Arbroath to Berwick upon Tweed. This area is now becoming increasingly important for harbour porpoise, bottlemose dolphins, minke whales and humpback whales.

I am a regular visitor of the Western Isles since 20 years. Our whole family would like to see those protection zones to get safe environments for whales and dolphins. Do what you can do.

I am absolutely in favor of creating protected areas for both minke whales and Risso's dolphins. It is vital in order to protect Scotland's native marine life. Many thanks.

I am all for this. I also suggest that there be NO missile testing in our waters that endanger our marine life as well as it ruining our islands.

I am delighted that you are going to create safe sea zones for whales and dolphins. I think this is an absolutely necessary step and thank you.

I am delighted to hear of the plan to have two marine protected areas for whales and fully support this action on the part of the Scottish Government.

I am delighted to hear that the Scottish Government have plans to create protected areas for the minke whale and Risso's dolphins. The years of research carried out by WDC have finally paid off and our future generations will benefit from being able to see these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat.. Without these marine protected areas there is a real danger that the species may not survive.

I am FED UP of animals being exploited! This is their home!

I am for the protected areas for whales and dolphins and I hope this will go ahead. Lets set a good example.

I am fully in favour of the plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I am fully supportive of the proposal to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins off the coast of Scotland. I am proud that the Scottish Government is thinking of doing so, and urge them to go ahead with the plans as soon as possible.

I am fully supportive of your plan and urge you to implement your plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and an area where Risso's dolphins live.

I am impressed that this protection is on the cards. Now I would like to see it happen.

I am in complete agreement with the plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live in their key habitats around Scotland.

I am in favour of protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I am keen to be involved.

I am proud to live in a nation that cares about the environment. I think it is an excellent plan to protect the minke whale and Risso's dolphin habitat. These amazing creatures deserve our protection for generations to come. Please put this plan into action.

I am so excited about your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These creatures need all the protection they can get and these protected areas will be of the utmost importance. Please go for it!

I am so glad this is very good at last the government is doing something good. We need to save these lovely minke whales, dolphins just wish other governments would do the same =japan and iceland

I am so glad you are making protected waters for our whales and dolphins. Thank you.

I am so pleased to hear of the Scottish Government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales in their important habitats around Scotland. I had

the good fortune to see minke whales when visiting the Isle of Arran and it was a wonderful, uplifting sight. I am writing from Pembrokeshire where we also try to look after our marine wildlife, including Risso's dolphins. It is great to know that in all parts of the UK there are people who want to take care of these wonderful creatures.

I am so pleased to learn that the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. I hope that these protected areas will be the first of many.

I am so pleased you are going to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These wonderful mammals need all the help and protection we can give them!

I am strongly in favour of creating marine protected areas for whales and dolphins in Scotland and throughout the world. The impact of overfishing and trawling activities is having devastating consequences for the ecosystems in our seas and oceans, impacting not just marine life but damaging fishing stocks for future human consumption as well. I feel action needs to be taken before we do irreversible damage to the marine ecosystems around the world.

I am very happy to hear that you are doing something to help the Dolphins and Whales around the Scottish coast.

I am very pleased to hear that you are planning to create protected areas for the benefit of minke whales and Risso's dolphins. The drive to create these areas has been a long haul and I hope that this can be brought to fruition as soon as possible.

I am very strongly in favour of creating marine protected areas for minke whales and risso's dolphins

I am very worried about the populations of Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins. These are species which live in Scotland's seas and need the protection of the Scottish Government. The Minke whales are the species hunted by the Russian whaling fleet and are in need of sanctuary and Risso's dolphins are not even common enough to be sure how their populations are changing. Both species need the protection of the Marine Protected Area and should be the focus of conservation in their habitats. Please make every effort to defend these species from hunting and habitat degradation.

I am writing to ask for protection for whales, dolphins and marine animals around Scotland. It is vitally important that protected areas are implemented to ensure the continued survival of marine species. Scotland's government is considering implementing protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Protecting their key habitats around Scotland is essential in development plans to create their marine protected areas. Globally animal and marine protection is being implemented to provide sanctuary for animals in their native habitats. These actions provide a responsible duty of care.

I am writing to ask you to please finally create the protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. This is a very important step in saving these precious animals. Please do the right thing. Thank you [Redacted text]

I am writing to show my support for the Scottish government plan to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I am writing to support your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around your wonderful country of Scotland. Thank you so much for helping these beautiful intelligent beings

I applaud the plans to create marine protected areas in Scottish waters. The creation of these will help protect many of our sea creatures and would show an excellent side of the Scottish government.

I ask that you go ahead with your plans.

I beg the Scottish government to be a leader in the rights and protection of whales and dolphins. Please move forward and create protected marine areas in their key habitats.

I believe everyone concerned about the impact the human race is having on the oceans will support the creation of protected marine areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I believe that areas of protection for endangered sea-life are vital in order that these magnificent creatures have places of safety where they can live and hopefully breed.

I believe that it is very important to have safe areas for the whales and dolphins and it's up to us as a country to move this forward and protect these mammals

I believe that setting up protected areas for these whales and dolphins would be a good idea. It will also help fish life hopefully too which will benefit the future of fishing. Good luck with the project. Please, I do hope it works.

I believe the establishment of marine protected areas is vital in the face of the detrimental effect Homo sapiens are having.

I believe the establishment of marine protected areas is vital in the face of the detrimental effect Homo sapiens are having.

I believe the protected area should be as large as possible.

I believe the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland are desperately needed.

I believe this idea to save the Minks and dolphins is a great idea. The more we save and prevent slaughter: The higher chance we have to protect every one of the marine species/breeds. The more we do for these beautiful creatures the more people will understand

I believe we need to take action to protect Whales and Dolphins in Scotland and around the world.

I believe wholeheartedly in your plans to create protection for the whales and dolphins that grace your shores and add to the tourist and environmental integrity of your wonderful coastline. I do hope that all your plans come to fruition and that the key habitats for these incredible creatures is a top priority.

I call on the Scottish Parliament to hold further consultations in to the Risso's Dolphin, so that it is given the protection it will require when it is in the Northeast Lewis area to feed with their calves.

I cannot be any more enthusiastic about the Scottish proposal to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. I urge you to go ahead with this progressive and important decision.

I cannot stress enough how important this is. These animals desperately need our protection.

I cannot stress enough the importance of creating marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Please please do this now!

I commend you for planning to create a protected marina area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I did not think I would have to appeal to the government of Scotland of all places to know the responsibility you have to protect marine animals. Whales and dolphins are being slaughtered, maimed, starved by plastic, abused by so-called educational money making ventures. Come on!!!! Put your money where your mouth is. Protect, defend, save. Show the world how to do things right.

I don't know what I can say that has not already been said. Please do what is necessary to protect these creatures and their habitats. Thank you.

I don't live in Scotland, but I want to applaud your decision to create a protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins! Animals in the world today need all the help they can get. Thank you!

I endorse this message totally

I favor the plan to make protected areas for Minke whales and Risso dolphins. I believe this would be a boost for tourism as well.

I fully agree with the above letter, we need you to help make this work, thank you.[Redacted text]

I fully approve of the proposal to create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland - these mammals face unprecedented threats from human activity and need every help we can give them to survive.

I fully support and indeed applaud the Scottish government's plans to create marine protected areas for the benefit of Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in key habitats around the Scottish coast.

I fully support Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I fully support the creation of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. It's so important that we do all we can to protect them and encourage them to flourish.

I fully support the creation of protected areas for Minke whales and Risso dolphins.

I fully support the formation of the four Marine Protected Areas and the campaigns organised by WDC. It is heartening to find a government prepared to push forward proactive plans of this nature.

I fully support the long campaigned for plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I fully support the plan to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I fully support the provision of marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I fully support the safe area of all dolphins and whales in the UK ??? we need to stop fishing in the areas that cause a lot of deaths for dolphins

I fully support the Scottish Government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales & Risso's dolphins and urge them to commit to this proposal.

I FULLY SUPPORT the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I fully support the Scottish Government's plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. This is an excellent initiative which I hope will be implemented as soon as possible.

I fully support the widest conservancy area possible for Minke and Risso dolphins...

I fully support this initiative to create marine protected areas.

I fully support WDC in their quest to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland

I fully support your government's plan to create marine protection areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Everything possible should be done to protect these magnificent creatures. These protected zones will also benefit other creatures inhabiting these waters

I fully support your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland, this is great news for conservation .

I fully support your plans to create marine protected areas. They are essential to protect dwindling whale & dolphin habitats and should cover the widest area possible.

I had to go abroad to see my first Minke Whale and Risso's Dolphin - please don't make this normal - if we can't create safe areas for these animals what chance do we have?

I have been adopting a Dolphin ?? for the last 2 year in The Firth, they all need help, security and safety, we expect it for ourselves, so should all!!!!

I have been coming to Scotland from the south coast of England for 3 months every year for 20 years. Please let me continue to support your economy with my visiting tourist income by giving me opportunities to see your wildlife. Thank you.
[Redacted text]

I have been lucky enough to grow up seeing sharks, whales and dolphins in the wild. This action is vital to try to ensure that my children get to see them too.

I have been lucky enough to see minke whales and dolphins in the wild in Canada and other species of whale in New Zealand. I would love to think that I could come to Scotland which is much nearer to home to visit a minke and Risso dolphin sanctuary. As a country we need this - it will give a strong message about our values and it will draw more tourists to these wonderful places in Scotland.

I have followed this campaign and I hail from Scotland where I grew up seeing cetaceans. Please consider this thoroughly and grant the safe areas for Minke Whales, Rissos dolphins and the rest.

I have previously been involved with cetacean monitoring in the Irish Sea. I follow with interest cetacean populations around the UK and am particularly impressed by the special habitats around Scotland. In particular populations of Risso's dolphins, Minke whales and Orca highlighted by the work of [Redacted text] and [Redacted text]. Every effort should be made to assist with the maintenance of marine environments that are facing ever increasing pressures on all fronts.

I have visited Scotland several times specifically to see Whales and Dolphins. It is one of the advantages that Scotland has over England.

I have visited this area many times purely to watch the free swimming whales and dolphins. You must do everything to keep these beautiful creatures survive and not allow industrial development to be established. Please think about future generation and what will be left for them to enjoy!!

I heartily endorse the Scottish government's plan to create marine protection for the minke whale and Risso dolphins by protecting their habitat.

I highly support your move to create a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. In a world where all species are under threat from man's encroachment and abuse of their territory, this move, would ensure some level of protection.

I holiday in this area and care about it, particularly for its wildlife which is so special. Please take action to protect it with the proposed Marine Protected Areas

I hope that the campaigners' effort is not wasted and you act as we all know what is needed. We trust and relying on your right decision.

I hope you can offer protection to whales and dolphins and all marine mammals

I hope you do this it would be fantastic for whales and dolphins

I just feel like the state should do more to protect the water of its sovereignty and its fish and other creatures

I just wanted to say I think the idea of creating marine protected areas for Minke Whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland is a superb idea. I was thrilled when I heard of this proposal through the WDC newsletter and wish you every success in bringing this proposal into reality.

I just wanted to show my support for your plans to create marine protected areas around Scotland for minke whales and Risso's dolphins, and congratulate you for promoting such an environmentally important action.

I look forward to these sites being designated and well managed for some of Scotland's most charismatic natural heritage. Great to see this happening, it is a vital and progressive step to help address the huge challenges facing our environment today.

I love holidaying in Scotland because of the wonderful marine and bird life. However, on my recent trip to Mull I was shocked to learn that the hugely important area around the inner Hebrides was not protected. Scotland is rich in marine life but they are facing unprecedented threats, plastic pollution, industrial fishing, ghost nets, dredging to name but a few. Our health depends on healthy oceans we need this to sustain life. It is vital to give protection to Minke whale and Risso habitats these beautiful creatures need our protection, they face so many threats as mentioned above.

I love Scotland and have had many fantastic times visiting your beautiful country, please make even more special by protecting your marine habitats and all the species that inhabit your waters. If not for me then for your children.

I love this idea to build a marine protected area for whales and dolphins and for future imprisoned SeaWorld Orcas when they release them - show by example to the world that can be done and is possible and will be the future for all marine animals who have the need to safety and protection and freedom!

I love Scotland, and one of the attractions is seeing whales and dolphins. Please give them protection, and the other creatures that share the sea with them.

I must express my keen interest in the plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and dolphins. I commend the Scottish government for addressing this matter and sincerely hope you will go ahead and make this happen!!

I once had a holiday on the Isle of Muck and saw a whale up close, one of the best memories of my 75 years.. Everyone should be able to have this experience. I really support you

I see Scotland as a nature haven compared to the rest of the UK and I hope protection of the amazing animals that inhabit Scotland and its waters are given

adequate protection to enable residents and visitors to enjoy them for years to come.

I so admire the progressive stance of the Scottish government on many issues. Please add to this by creating marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. They will be a tourist attraction as well as a contribution to preserving ecosystems and our environment.

I strongly believe that the Scottish government should create a protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I strongly endorse this proposal.

I strongly support all efforts to provide a safe area for all species of whale and dolphin currently under threat. I hope the Scottish Government take an important lead in tis enterprise

I strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation as described in the open letter. There should be many more so that as much marine life can be protected. Too much damage is being done by the various industries who use the sea for their business, without having to pay any form of compensation to help save our seas.

I strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation.

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I strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation. Risso's dolphins have an 'unknown' status – we don't understand enough about them to be sure that they are safe. WDC research demonstrates that the dolphins come to Northeast Lewis to feed and to socialise. Also, there are a higher number of mothers with very young calves observed here than anywhere else in the world. The habitat here is very special.

I strongly support the above proposal

I strongly support the creation of a network of Marine Protected Areas, especially with regards to mobile species such as Risso's dolphins, minke whales and basking sharks. Not only are they important in their own right but essential to the growing wildlife tourism that so many of us here in Scotland make their living from.

I strongly support the creation of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I strongly support the designation of these 4 proposed ncMPAs and that the Northeast Risso's dolphin MPA is designated with a 'recover' objective. I also support a subsequent consultation to create MPA management plans that ensure the protection and recovery for the habitats and species in the consultation. I also support the implementation of an effective Dolphin and Porpoise Strategy that manages pressures to ensure all dolphins & whales are protected throughout Scotland's seas.

I strongly support the designation of these four MPA, but would like to see implementation of protective measures to extend over the entire habitat, with special considerations to on and off shore needs of all cetaceans. Protective measures to be implemented as joint working with interested stakeholders (leisure industry, fishing etc) to enable a sustainable future.

I strongly support the establishment of protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. As we are facing an extinction crisis I cannot overstate the importance of these measures.

I strongly support the establishment of a marine protected area for dolphins and all whales, but especially Minke whales

I strongly support the move to create 4 marine protected areas. They must have good protection. Simply because a damaging industry exists does not mean it should continue to do so. Fishing and fish farming can not be allowed now we have the evidence of the harm they are causing.

I strongly support the proposal to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland. It is vitally important to preserve these vulnerable species, which have a major role in marine ecosystems.

I strongly support the proposed protected area for these Cetaceans which will have a beneficial effect on other species too.

I strongly support WDC campaign to create a safer seas for the whales as they play a major role for our ecosystems.

I strongly urge the Scottish government to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I strongly urge the Scottish Government to help set up safe areas for whales and dolphins. Thank you.

I strongly urge you to carry out your plan for protected areas for whales and dolphins it shows you do have compassion for these creatures.

I strongly urge you to consider the issues above, for Scotland 's Risso dolphins.

I strongly urge you to designate the four MPAs

I support all and any protection we can give these magnificent creatures.

I support conservation!

I support long overdue plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland

I support long overdue plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland

I support making a conservation area for whales and dolphins

I support the above message.

I support the creation of an MPA to protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland

I support the creation of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland.

I support the creation of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around the Scottish coast. I also ask that you ensure that pressure is maintained to uphold the protection of all whales, dolphins and porpoises, wherever they are. Thank you.

I support the creation of marine protection areas in Scotland for minke whales and Risso's dolphins

I support the efforts that need to be taken to help protect the whales and dolphins

I support the establishment of a marine protected area off NE Lewis (and where appropriate, in other areas of sea around Scotland).

I support the introduction of marine conservation areas in Scottish waters.

I support the plan for protecting minke whales and Risso dolphins

I support the plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live as per the WDC recommendations

I support the plan to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I support the plans to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I support the proposal to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around the coast of Scotland. Marine life needs such areas to recover from the effects of over-fishing and other intrusive human activities.

I support the protection of whales and dolphins.

I support the setting up of conservation areas for whales and dolphins off the Scottish coast. Greatly welcome.

I support this proposal.

I support this proposal.

I support WDC's longstanding campaign to protect key Scottish habitats for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Eight years to set up three obviously beneficial reserves? Please confirm urgently, and proceed to implement.

I support you in your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I support your decision to protect habitat for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.
Thank you

I support!!!

I think a marine protected area is a great idea. We all now know the damage we have done to the oceans and the creatures living in it. We must make amends.

I think all animals and creatures should be able to live freely and not be under threat from humans.

I think anything to do with saving our whales and dolphins must be a good idea.

I think creating a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins is a splendid idea and so needed. Protection is needed now more than ever so please, please create this marine area

I think creating some marine protected areas is a great idea, as it would give dolphins and whales some spaces where they are legally protected from persecution by humans. It would also help increase their numbers and allow them to thrive.

I think it is a great idea. Its about time this was done, should have been recommended and followed up on sometime ago. Please insist that the Scottish Government push this through.

I think it is essential to protect our native wildlife and providing them with protected areas will be a big step towards doing this.

I think it is good news if the Scottish Government create safe havens for minke whales and Risso's dolphins, hope it happens soon.

I think it is great news that the whales and dolphins will have protected areas. It is important our marine life is looked after and protected before it is too late.

I think it is hugely important to designate these areas to protect Risso's Dolphins and Minke Whales. It will be a real feather in your bonnet if the Scottish government can create these marine protection zones. Help protect these magnificent mammals! PLEASE

I think it is very important to look after our water and animals.

I think it would be amazing if you could create sanctuaries for minkes and Risso's dolphins. It might even encourage Westminster to do the same - though not holding my breath!!

I think it would be an excellent idea!.

I think it would be wonderful if the Scottish government create the protected areas for the whales and dolphins. They need all the help they can get.

I think it's a wonderful idea to to create safe seas for minke whales and risso's dolphins, these beautiful creatures need all the help they so deserve.

I think that your idea to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins is brilliant and will help protect these beautiful animals.

I think the plan to protect two areas of Minke Whale habitat and one area where Risso's Dolphins live is a huge step forwards in protecting these great creatures which are hugely valuable to the planet!

I think this is a fantastic idea and will boost tourism in Scotland but also show other countries that Scotland can lead the way in making dolphins and whales a tourist attraction without the need to remove them from their home. This would also help in making some other countries in particular Japan see that there is no need for the cruel dolphin drives to make money.

I think this is a step forward. We need areas everywhere that protect all species.

I think you should creat and protect the areas for all whales including minke whales and all dolphins including the Risso,s . I think it goes with out saying we need to protect all marine Marine life for future generations.

I thought that minke whales & Risso's dolphins didn't come to British coast but I'm mistaken, we should conserve them if they came here.

I trust you will respond to this campaign positively.

I understand from WDC that the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland, and will be holding a public consultation. Please take futher action to protect the two areas that minke whales inhabit and the one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I urge the Scottish government to please move forward with these proposals of marine sanctuaries for Whales dlpphins and other marine wildlife these strategies for wildlife conservation are more important than ever .

I urge you to go ahead with plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. With the worst rate of extinction caused by humans in centuries, we need to act now to save as many species as possible. This move would go a long way to protecting these beautiful and precious species.

I urge you to implement the two proposed protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Please do not hesitate any longer !

I urge you to protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins by creating protected areas for them. They are beautiful threatened animals and deserve proper protection to ensure their survival

I urge you to take onboard what is being said in this petition !!

I very much hope that the Scottish government will create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. These mammals need protection and it is very good that the Scottish government is planning to take such positive action.

I very much support plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland.

I very strongly support the creation of marine-protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Habitat for wildlife across the world is being lost or damaged at a very alarming rate and action needs to be taken before it's too late.

I visit the Whale and Dolphin Centre at Spey Bay, Moray, as often as I can. It is a great privilege to be able to watch these magnificent animals at sea and to learn more about them at the centre. Scotland is one of the best places in the world to see these beautiful creatures and they are in need of help and protection more than ever now. They are living in a world which holds more threats for them than ever before: pollution, habitat loss, disturbance, ghost gear, hunting, plastic poisoning. The list of the dangers they face grows longer every year. Please do all that is in your power to help the whales and dolphins that rely upon the safety of Scottish waters. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Sincerely, [Redacted text]

I want the Scottish government to know that I whole heartedly support your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. I truly hope that your plans are successfully implemented for the sake of these wonderful creatures. Thank you.

I want the strongest possible legal protection for marine wildlife around the coast of Scotland, please lead the way on trying to save the planet from our own destruction

I want to banned it

I want to see all the wildlife live s safe free life.

I welcome and strongly support the plan by the Scottish Government to create two marine-protected areas for minke whales and one Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. The fine marine creatures must be helped by protecting the waters in which they swim and live.

I wholeheartedly agree with what the Scottish Government want to do to get these Whales and Dolphins the full protection that they need and deserve.

I wholeheartedly believe in creating marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

I wholeheartedly support creating protected areas where minke whales and Risso's dolphins live.

I wholeheartedly support plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Please do this as a matter of urgency.

I wholeheartedly support the Scottish Government's plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. The UK has so few marine protected areas and this plan is therefore a vital step. It is even more important to show an example now when other countries continue to conduct commercial whaling. Thank you.

I wholly support the Scottish government's plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These creatures are part of the marine ecosystem and at a time when conservation and environmental issues are more important than ever, I urge you to push these plans through.

I will give my voice to those who are not heard over and over again - until the killing and torturing is finally over. I'll write you again and again until the killing and torturing finally stops!

I will support this because these animals are so beautiful and awe-inspiring. I want my grandchildren to be able to see them and not in a book

I wish to express my whole hearted support for the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I would like all whales and dolphins to be protected...

I would like to add my voice to calls for protected marine areas to protect our wonderful ocean wildlife. It's so important to have safe sanctuaries for whales and dolphins which then also protect a whole raft of other marine animals and maintain a flourishing ecosystem.

I would like to ask that the Scottish Government create a safe environment for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins by supporting the Marine Protected Areas which are under consultation.

I would like to support Scotland's decision to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

I would love to see a protected area in Scotland, I would welcome all initiatives that educate people to protect such beautiful and important fellow mammals. Please do this for dolphins, whales and Scotland.

I would very much like to see a safe place for whales and dolphins please do go ahead with your plans. Thank you.

I'm proud that the Scottish government wants to do the right thing by our whales and dolphins

I've seen 2 Minke whales during my holiday to Mull this week. It was such a privilege and so many people had come to see them. Protecting them and all wildlife is good for everyone.

If we do not do something soon these whales and dolphins will disappear and then it will be too late. please do something soon for these beautiful mammal 's of the sea.

I'm delighted that Scotland is considering marine protected areas.

I'm glad that the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

I'm grateful that you are considering to create a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. There are so many female whales without calf everywhere in the world this year, that everything to protect whales and dolphins is so incredibly important. thank you.

I'm in sympathy with most of what you do regarding animals, including badgers and I'm in favour of this proposal to save whales and dolphins by creating safe areas for them. I hope your plan is accepted.

Important! Please protect these animals!!

In 2019 we all need to protect all our wild life on this planet. We mustn't become complacent and it is all too easy to neglect these beautiful, intelligent mammals. We humans must do everything in our power to protect them and to give them a safe environment from human predators who only wish to kill them for their own profit, or unnecessary medicines or to capture them for entertainment. A law must be passed to protect all whales and dolphins now. We don't want to see more extinctions. Thank you

In a world slowly killing thousands of indigenous creatures everyday, be the ones who say no and create a safe environment with marine protected areas around your beautiful shores.

In a world where we are destroying more than we are saving we need to do everything we can to make a difference. These amazing creatures need protecting so if it is within your ability to help them then please do.

In all areas for conservation the Scottish government can show it is well ahead of the Westminster parliament. A great start would be the marine protected areas for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins. Everyone loves seeing whales and it would be great to think that we are giving them a helping hand.

In an already precarious world we need to preserve and save the whole of our natural world species. You would go a very long way to helping this, while cleaning up our oceans too and Scotland could "lead the way" in conservation.

In Fife we had a humpback whale visible this year from our coastline. It was so exciting to see, please protect our seas.

In today's world nature is constantly under extreme pressure and needs our help. Please help to create a safe environment for sea life around Scotland. Please help us create safe seas for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins.

In a world where wildlife is being threatened this is very important

It is a great idea to make these protected areas and I hope you will make it soon

It is a wonderful thing to make a protected marine area for minke whales and Risso dolphins.

It is about time we cared for other species that share our planet and oceans. Before these wonderful marine mammals become extinct. We desperately need to have these Marine Protected Areas.

It is absolutely imperative these animals are conserved. Safe havens would protect these species at little or no cost to industry and enterprise.

It is an admirable and essential thing to create these safe havens for minke whales and other marine animals. When humans kill and injure so many, it is the least we can do! It is morally and environmentally right! Thank you.

It is crucial that we help restore and protect the environment from human destruction. Protecting areas for whales, dolphins and other species should be a top priority. Protecting the environment and biodiversity go hand in hand and are essential to life on Earth. Preventing climate change and biodiversity loss should be the number one issue for everyone. The UK government should be doing everything it can to safeguard life on Earth. To properly protect the Minke whales and Risso dolphins that need to include habitat restoration (e.g. remove plastic/pollutants, instead of a plastic bag tax just ban plastic bags - no half measures!) and help combat linked human induced impacts such as climate change, for example, by stopping all fossil fuel subsidies (and totally banning fracking) and instead fully support green energy/companies. Thank you for reading I hope the government actually takes affirmative action to protect the planet and life on it in its entirety with immediate and robust long term action - not just lip service and its usual half measures, especially since environmental damage is the greatest threat to the UK and life on Earth.

It is crucially important to create no-take refugia to enable our seas to recover from damaging trawling and overfishing.

It is essential & awesome that you want to help protect Risso dolphins & Minke Whales. Please keep up the good work! Thank you. [Redacted text]

It is essential for this to go ahead asap!

It is essential that more protective areas for our sea life are created. Please lead the way.

It is essential that whales and dolphins are protected and their habitats. We need them to survive

It is essential to have protected areas around Scotland for minke whales and Risso's dolphins

It is essential to save our whale and dolphins, and protecting marine areas to conserve our marine environment.

It is imperative that a marine area is protected around Scotland for minke whales and Risso's dolphins

It is important that marine protection areas are created for the dolphins and whales, as they are magnificent creatures who deserve our protection.

It is important to have protected areas for whales and dolphins to be safe in, where not even the Japanese can kill them. More protected areas and laws are needed for these clever creatures.

It is incredibly important that all whales and dolphins around the world are protected. These are intelligent mammals that deserve all the help we can give them. It is a measure of our own intelligence to do this. I am very pleased to hear of the plans of the Scottish government to provide protected areas. This should bring other positives to Scotland and not just from the publicity.

It is necessary please

It is of utmost importance to create protection for our friends, the whales and the dolphins. And spread education about these wonderful creatures who have so much to offer.

It is our job to come together as a nation to help protect these intelligent, beautiful and majestic creatures.

It is so desperately important to protect vulnerable sea life from irresponsible human behaviour.

It is so important that we act now to keep as many species safe, for the sake of conserving these animals now and for the future to come.

It is so important that we protect these beautiful creatures now and forever. We have seen the deeply tragic consequences of human input with oceans being polluted by PCBs and plastics. The former being responsible (based on good evidence) for the 'West Coast Community' of Orca, suffering a reduction in numbers. Therefore we must act today

It is so important to create these protected areas now before it's too late. Please commit to doing this now.

It is so important to protect the habitats of whales and dolphins because if we don't they will be lost forever to future generations - that is your children and grandchildren.

It is so important we have marine protected areas for our beloved whales and dolphins. These creatures are precious and desperately need protection. I dearly hope the Scottish Government will take this important step.

It is so important to provide a safe, protected haven for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins as so few countries care about these mammals. Scotland needs to set an example to the rest of the world.

It is the duty of humans to protect the animals we are pushing out of the world because of our own greed. Creating protected areas for whales and dolphins is the first step towards undoing some of the harm we have inflicted on animals worldwide.

It is the responsibility of every individual to help protect every living creature on the planet, and to help them survive!!!!!!!

It is the responsibility of every individual to help protect every living creature on the planet, and to help them survive!!!!!!!

It is the right and most respectful action to take so that these precious lives can be protected . Human beings can act with care and compassion so let the right thing happen !

It is time to stop putting human greed ahead of animal welfare.

It is unbelievable that anyone would not want to protect whales and dolphins in the wild. Oil exploration has made the oceans noisier making their lives even more difficult. They are beautiful and amazing creatures and people love them and are excited about them.

It is up to all of us to help and promote all wildlife. Marine protected areas are essential.

It is very important for the Scottish Government to provide safe havens for these very special creatures.

It is very important that these animals have a safe place to live.

It is very important that we protect our wildlife so please do create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

It is vital that all support possible be given . Please help

It is vital that marine protection areas are created to help minke whales and Risso's dolphins in the key habitats around Scotland.

It is vital that these amazing mammals are protected. We live in a world that seems to care little for the importance of healthy seas. We cannot afford to stand by and do nothing.

It is vital that we do everything possible to protect all marine life, they have so many risks to injury and death to navigate at this time, including bycatch, ghost netting, pollution, ship strike. We need to protect them at all costs or the seas and oceans will continue to suffer.

It is vital that we protect our whales and dolphins. There is so much more we need to do to better understand them and preserve their environment.

It is vital to protect areas , Scotland seems to be taking more of a lead in this, England pathetic. Thank you, please protect the seas.

It is vital to the ecology of our planet and to symbiotic relationship humans share with these amazing mammals that conservation areas for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins are created, maintained, and secured.

It is wonderful if the announced protected areas were created. Thanks to the Scottish Government - you have understood what you have to do to protect animals for the future. Please do it!

It is your duty to care for and protect these magnificent creatures

It is so vital the habitat of the Minke whale and Risso's dolphins is protected. All marine life is under threat so it is so important to create safe areas.

It should be a priority to protect our seas for threatened cetaceans as well as to allow the recovery of fish stocks as a whole.

It would be a wonderful thing for these creatures to have a safe haven in a time when so much is endangered.

It would be absolutely brilliant if the Scottish Government declares a protected area for Minke whales and dolphins.

It would be fantastic to provide this protected area... we have to do all we can to preserve our wonderful natural world and the creatures who rely on it, as we rely on them

It's absolutely necessary to create these marine protected areas as Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins because these waters are extremely important for them. Besides, they are the most hunted Marine species by countries like Japan.

It's almost too late to take emergency action to turn the destruction of the planet around. Please act now with this and all other related issues.

It's down to us humans & our greed & selfishness that finds these beautiful creatures at risk. It's down to us that our air, seas & oceans are full of pollution. It's down to us to stop all this now. It's down to us to save the planet from us!

It's our duty to protect these marine animals!

It's time to safeguard as much wildlife as possible. Let this be the next step.

It's a great idea get too it!

It's a wonderful idea to protect minke whale habitat and the seas where Risso's dolphins live. They need our protection and we must act responsibly toward them.

It's a wonderful plan, I do hope it goes ahead.

It's crucial that Scotland create these protection areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Biodiversity is under enormous threat all over the world, and as well as doing something practical to help whales and dolphins, it sends out an important message and example to other marine nations.

It's fantastic news that the Government is planning to provide protected areas for whales and dolphins, they need all the help they can get, thank you.

It's fantastic that Scotland is planning a protected marine environment. Asking for public comment is an added bonus and so much the right thing to do. I look forward to seeing Scotland getting it done.

It's hugely important that this area is protected for Risso's dolphins as it has been shown to be critical for their survival with them using it year round to both feed and raise their young. Measures need to be taken to protect and conserve this little-known species and the creation of an MPA is the first step in many.

It's Important to Invoke Protection of all Marine Mammals so as to protect them from the risks of becoming Endangered or Worse Extinct due to Human Activities, to many species are already on the Endangered Species and at high risk of becoming our next Human caused Extinct Species

It's never too late, we have to get to grips with the impact we're having on marine life, and protect all species that live in the world's oceans. By creating safe havens, it's a step in the right direction.

It's our solemn duty to protect these magnificent creatures.

It's really important to protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins in areas around Scotland where they are found.

It's sad that these animals need protection, but as they do we must, so please provide a safe haven for them

It's Scotland's duty to save whales and dolphins and other sea mammals around Scotland's coast. You know it makes sense.

It's so important to preserve these species in their natural habitats, we can't afford to lose them, there are already too many animals in this world about to disappear

It's the right thing to do.

It's time to create safer seas for ALL ocean living creatures as once they're extinct, that's it, they're gone forever. Time to act NOW before it's too late.

it's time to create the protected marine areas without delay

It's time we protected all the animal species we have driven to extinction or endangered. It's wonderful to see animals in their own habitat. What is there to lack at if we kill them?

I've been lucky enough to spot Minke whales and Bottlenose dolphins in Scotland. You are so lucky to have these magnificent creatures living in your water, that's unique and you have to protect them. Please act!!

I've had a close-up encounter with a humpback whale which arose a passion in me for all such creatures.

Je soutiens les zones protégées

Just do the right thing

Just do it!

Just do the right thing.

Keep listening to the people, trust us that we have good morales and that this is just an action that you have the power to put into place.

Keep the Minke and Rissos safe. Well Done

keep the pressure up please

Keep up the good work

Keep up this good initiative.

Keep up your wonderful work

Keeping dolphins in captivity is wrong and cruel

Large protected areas for Minke Whales and Risso's dolphins will also help to conserve and regenerate fish stocks to help maintain and prolong the Scottish fishing industry

Le projet de création de zones de protection maritime pour les cétacés est une chose excellente et tout à fait nécessaire. Je vous félicite pour ce projet et vous encourage à le mener à bien complètement et rapidement.

Lead the way and others will follow??????

Lead the way and others will follow??????

Lead the way and others will follow??????

leave the whales and dolphins alone let them swim in there sea its not yours humans have taken to much of the world away from the animals

Leave these beautiful animals alone

Leave wild animals in the wild & protect these species

Let them be safe to swim free ??

Let us make the seas safe for Risso's dolphins and Minke whales!

Let's be a world leader in the fight to keep these wonderful mammals safe !!!

Let's hope we can turn the tide on waste in the seas around our shores

Let's do something great.

Let's help these fabulous animals

Let's hope the message really gets across.

Let's hope the Whales and Dolphins enjoy visiting Scotland as much as my wife and myself do. Let,s make sure they have a safe journey through our waters.

Let's lead the way and take responsibility

Let's make the seas a safer placer for whales and dolphins

Let's make UK waters a sealife haven.

Let's save these beautiful animals!

Looking after wildlife looks after humanity too.

love and compassion.

love and compassion.

Make our seas a safe haven for whales and dolphins!

Make our seas safe and healthy for all marine life.

make safe seas and protect these species

Make seas safer for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins

Make the sea safe for wildlife!

Make the seas safe for ALL the animals who need it for survival. It is their home!

make tthe seas safe for marine life

Makes sense to save our wildlife as much as we can before its too late.

Mankind treats the oceans as a giant sewer, rubbish tip and pillages and harms every species that call it home.

Many congratulations on considering plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. It is about time we all took better care of our planetary home and any protection is welcome.

Many of us now look to Scotland for leadership in a survivable world. That requires the preservation of nature!!

Marine conservation are essential to protecting our endangered marine mammals.

Marine protected areas - what's not to like?! It's a big yes from me to support protected habitats.

Marine protected areas are vital for all life on the planet, not just whales and dolphins. The health of the world depends on healthy seas, and healthy seas need whales and dolphins to keep the balance and keep things running smoothly. If the balance is upset then we all suffer the consequences. Our own health and wellbeing depends on the welfare of whales and dolphins in the wild. Please protect these areas for minkes and Risso's. I have been lucky enough to see both species and its something I will never forget. They are awe-inspiring animals and its so wonderful to see them swimming safe and free in their home.

Marine Protected Areas are vital. Please don't hesitate to create them. Thank you.

Marine sanctuary is brilliant and will protect these venerable animals well done and Thank you.

Marine wildlife has enough to contend with in life, it doesn't need any more pressure from humans

Message to the Scottish government

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Minke whales and Risso's dolphins need protecting and to have a safe area. They already suffer from when we explore and drill for oil and gas, fish, test our military sonar equipment, install and maintain renewable energy equipment or are out simply enjoying ourselves on boats and jet skis.

Minke whales and Risso's dolphins are increasingly rare. A marine protected area in a key habitat can only be good.

Minke Whales and Rissos dolphins deserve protection.

Minke Whales and Rissos dolphins deserve protection.

Minke Whales and Rissos dolphins deserve protection.

Minke whales and Risso's dolphins need marine protected areas. I wholeheartedly support such a plan.

Minke whales and Risso's dolphins need protection. Please create protected areas for them.

More and more these wonderful cetaceans are under threat. Please support the provision of a safe area for them to live without the threat of being slaughtered.

More needs to be done for our oceans, so I completely support the action and protection you are looking to take to protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins and urge you to see it through. Thank you

More protection is required for all the marine life in our seas, but in particular the whales and dolphins which live in and/or migrate through our waters.

More reason to come up to beautiful Scotland. Please do this

Mpas work when given proper support and enforcement. We can no longer continue to ravage our oceans, everything is connected and we depend on healthy seas to survive.

My wife and I love Scotland and take several holidays every year, often on Mull but many other parts as well from the Borders and D&G to Murray and Skye, and we are thrilled to hear of your plans for whale protection. Go for it!

Nature is in crisis. Please do all you can to protect the whales and dolphins in Scottish waters.

No barbarism, please. Thanks....

No más maltrato animal. Pónganse en el lugar de esos animalitos.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that we provide protection for all our beleaguered wildlife. Dolphins are highly intelligent, social animals, that have as much right to the oceans resources as we do - more really, as they have no choice but to live there and eat fish. Please ceate protected marine areas to help these wonderful, enigmatic beings survive, in a world where all of us are increasingly at risk. Thank you.

oh please protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins. you are so lucky to be given the opportunity to make a wonderful difference. thank you

Oh such good news that the Scottish government is creating a safe haven for Minke wales and Risso's dolphins.i have never visited these waters and it is unlikely that i ever will but it is good to know that Scotland has a heart

Once extinct they can never be replaced, please give this very serious thought before denying them life. Thank you!

Once they've disappeared they're gone for good. We have to protect them as much as we can, or the seas and oceans will become empty.

Our marine animals and environment DESPERATELY need protected areas which can thrive and exist in peace, undisturbed by fishermen, trawlers, or any other disruptive force. It is brilliant that Scotland is leading the way with this idea, it sets a wonderful example to other countries - it is more important now than ever before. Please follow through and commit to this fantastic idea!

Our marine life needs to be protected as the natural world and our oceans in particular come under ever greater threat. It is an excellent initiative of the Scottish Government to create protected areas for these precious species.

Our planet is precious and irreplaceable. So are all the sentient beings who live on it. Please do all you can to protect whales and dolphins who are already struggling due to the pollution and District l've actions of humans.

Our precious marine life need safe seas. Please help.

Our seas are crucial and deserve protection.

Our seas are the only place that whales and many other creatures can live - the seas are less vital to humans and our needs should therefore be secondary.

Our seas need to improve dramatically in quality is so many different ways. Pleas take this important step along the way Thank you

Our wildlife needs all the help and protection it can get....please. The dolphins and whales are also a major tourist attraction, bringing you money.

People have done so much damage to this planet. It is now time to accept that we need to protect instead of destroy. Please put these sanctuaries in place to protect our marine life.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These species desperately need protection, and are part of a fragile ecosystem that will not survive without help.

please create safe marine protected areas for cetaceans in scotland

Please ensure that marine protected areas are provided to ensure the creatures have areas of safety

Please please please make Scotland's seas safer and please protect and keep safe Minke Whales and Rissos Dolphins. We need to be their protectors before we lose them forever.

Please protect the dolphins and whales that swim in waters around Scotland

Please protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

Please !

Please act now and provide the protection that these animals deserve. Thank you.

Please act now to ensure that these beautiful creatures are saved from further persecution as currently seen in Iceland and Japan.

Please act now. The natural world is fast disappearing under the abuse humanity hurls at it. This is a great opportunity for the Scottish Government to put the planet and future generations before profit and the short term.

please act now. This is vital to ensure species diversity in our waters.

Please act to create marine protected areas in key habitats for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. We consider ourselves fortunate to have seen minke whales passing our home on the Isle of Jura where they are an asset to both the marine ecosystem and to tourism

Please act to preserve the unique nursing grounds for these dolphins

Please add my name to those responding in favour of setting up marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland

Please allow the marine protected areas in Scotland. The dolphins and their calves need to be safe so they can thrive and live happy lives. Beautiful creatures. <3

Please allow the Risso's dolphin and minke whale peace and sanctuary in the key habitats around Scotland. Whales and dolphins are essential to the health of the oceans and are now so few, compared to their populations in the days before whaling. They are sociable and extremely intelligent creatures. We can't know how they view the world, but to see one of these beautiful creatures in the wild is, for all of us, a delight and so uplifting.

Please allow them to live in peace and be safe

Please allow these marine protection areas to be established so that my first Grandchild due in November may one day have the chance to see a Risso Dolphin.

please assign safe protected areas

Please assist with protecting two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

Please be a country that is willing to create a safe and long-term habitat for both marine life and where possible land animals as well, so that we can protect these animals well into the future. We owe that to future generations.

Please be responsible to the only planet that we can live on.

Please bring this forward-thinking measure into place

Please can you note that I fully support setting up protection areas for whales and dolphins

please carry on with this important project

Please carry on with your plans to create marine protected areas for Minke Whales and Risso Dolphins Thank you

Please carry out your plan to protect the two areas of minke whale habitat and the one area where Risso's dolphins live

Please carry out your plans for dolphins and minke whales. These beautiful animals must be protected.

Please carry through with the creation of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins both of which are so in need of the sanctuaries these will provide.

Please commit to making the seas habitable for ocean life before everything is destroyed and nothing is left for future generations

Please conserve our precious sea life

Please consider a protected habitat for minke whales & Risso's dolphins.

Please consider advancing this positive action for protecting marine life, so that other nations can follow suit to saving our oceans, and so future generations will still be able to see cetaceans, like the Risso's dolphins, thriving in the wild.

please consider in bring this into fruition. we need to protect and safeguard the future for these wonderful creatures so our children's children will be able to see these in many years to come.

Please consider our petition.

Please consider this. It's important.

Please continue to create Marine Wildlife Sanctuaries

Please continue to create protected space for minke whales, Risso's dolphins and other sea life around Scotland.

Please continue to show your support for the environment - so many other countries are not

Please continue with these important plans for marine protected areas.

Please continue with your plans to create marine protected areas for whales and dolphins

Please create a marine protected area for whales and dolphins.

Please create as many protected areas as you can and protect as many Risso's dolphins and minke whales as you can and keep the biodiversity on going. What a feather in your cap as Scotland puts pressure on other countries to do the same !!!

Please create a marine protected area before it's too late. You will be respected and admired if you do.

Please create a marine protected area for Minke Whales & Risso's dolphins.

Please create a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Thank you.

Please create a marine protected area for whales and dolphins around Scotland. it will send a message to others that the Scottish Government is serious about wild life protection.

Please create a Marine protected Area für Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins around Scotland.

Please create a marine sanctuary for whales and dolphins in the seas off the coast of Scotland! This will be a great advancement for dolphins and whales, and indeed, all marine species. I am fully supportive of this proposal.

Please create a protected area for all whales and dolphins around Scotland. It would obviously be good for the whales and dolphins and also good for Scotland as it will increase tourists in the area.

please create a protected area for minke whales and dolphins . Scotland already has a good environmental reputation --- please build on it .

Please create a protected area for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These beautiful creatures need and deserve a safe environment

please create a protected area for the whales and dolphins

Please create a protected area. Our world is dying and we all need to react now. Wonderful to hear there is hope with Scotland creating a protected area

Please create a protected for minke whales and risso dolphins

Please create a protected habitat. Whilst this is primarily for the benefit of the whales and dolphins this could potentially be an asset to the Scottish tourist industry.

Please create a protective area for minke whales and Risso dolphins in their key habitat. Many thanks

Please create a safe area for dolphins and whales to protect them before it's too late.

Please create a safe area for whales and dolphins to be safe and thrive

Please create a safe haven to protect Minke whales and other cetaceans and marine life. Once they're gone, we can never get them back.

PLEASE CREATE A SAFE SEA FOR WILDLIFE

Please create a sanctuary to protect whales in Scotland

Please create areas around Scotland to protect dolphins and whales

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland. Thankyou

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland.

Please create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins around the coasts of Scotland. Thank you.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Thank you.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. They must be protected! This planet is their home as well as ours. [Redacted text]

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats,

Please create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in there key habitats around Scotland.

Please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. This would be wonderful and is needed so very much for the future of these precious creatures. Our wildlife is disappearing before our very eyes and we cannot let this continue!

Please create marine protected areas for the minke whales and risso's dolphins. They need your protection.

Please create marine protected areas to help stop the further fall in numbers of highly endangered marine mammals such as minke whales and Risso's dolphins who live in the sea around Scotland. These animals are at risk from so many man-made dangers including entanglement in fishing equipment that protected areas are vital as habitats safe from human interference.

Please create Marine Protected Areas. They will not only help Minke whales and Risso's dolphins but ALL of the marine creatures. This will help the fishing industry in the long run, as protected areas have been shown to act as a repository for the rest of the seas.

Please create protected area for whales and dolphins

Please create protected areas for dolphins and whales

Please create protected areas for Minke Whales & Risso's Dolphins that have been fought for since 2011

Please create protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These beautiful marine mammals need protection and safety, thank you.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. It's high time we humans started taking care of the creatures and world around us, before it's all ruined by our selfishness.

Please create protected areas for these beautiful and very special whales and dolphins

Please create protected areas for these beautiful creatures

Please create protected areas for whales and dolphins: not only does this help the species themselves but also helps to protect Scotland's natural heritage both for Scottish people and it's tourists, which are vital to the leisure and tourism industry. In turn this will give Scotland an eco-tourism image that will attract more visitors.

PLEASE create protected areas in the seas around Scotland for minke whales and Risso's dolphins! These animals are precious.

Please create protected marine areas for minke whales & Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please create protected marine areas for whales, dolphins, and other marine life. Thank you.

Please create protection for minke whales & Risso's dolphins around Scotland. It's wonderful that you may be doing this essential work

Please create safe areas for marine creatures which are constantly under attack from numerous man-made hazards

Please create safe areas for minke whales and other mammals

Please create safe area's for these beautiful animals live and breed.

Please create safe areas for whales and dolphins

Please create safe places for magnificent marine mammals

Please create safe seas asap, protect the ecosystem and the environment. Thank you and kind regards, [Redacted text]

Please create safe seas for all its inhabitants. The oceans are dying at the hands of humans and we need to reverse this trend before it is too late

Please create safe seas for Minke whales and Rissas dolphins! Thank you

Please CREATE SAFE SEAS FOR MINKE WHALES AND RISSO'S DOLPHINS

Please create safe seas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins thank you

PLEASE CREATE SAFE SEAS FOR MINKE WHALES AND RISSO'S DOLPHINS.

Please create safe seas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins. It's the right thing to do.

Please create safe seas for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins. We have a responsibility to create safe habitats for these extremely intelligent creatures and to ensure a safe future for them.

Please create safe seas for minke whales and risso's dolphins. and all sealife for that matter! We're not doing enough to protect our sea wildlife

Please create safe seas for our whales and dolphins xx

Please create safe seas for the Minke whales, Risso dolphins and other species.
Thank you

Please create safe seas for whales and dolphins

Please create safe waters for whales and dolphins.

Please create the marine conservation areas as soon as possible. Protecting the environment needs to become a priority for everyone.

Please create the marine protected area

Please create the marine protected areas for the Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins that you are considering doing.

Please create the marine protected areas for these beautiful whales and dolphins to keep them safe. Thank you for caring.

Please create the marine protected areas for Whales & Dolphins

Please create the marine protected areas for whales and dolphins that you are proposing - we need to take care of these sentient and intelligent animals and this proposal would be such a great help

Please create the new marine protection areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. These key habitats in the waters around Scotland are vital to the well being of these cetaceans. With the Scottish government's help and support their lives will be much safer, please go ahead with these plans.

Please create the planned marine protected areas!

Please create the protected area

please create the protected area. it is NEEDED

Please create the protected areas asap whales & dolphins are dying at an alarming rate, we need to do all we can.

Please create the protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Scotland is so lucky to have these important areas, so please show the world what should be done! Thank you.

Please create the protected areas for the minke whales and risso's dolphins!

Please create the protected areas for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins...We're losing so much wildlife daily...It would be nice to try to stop it

Please create the protected areas for whales and dolphins. They keep our seas healthy.

Please create the protected areas that WDC has campaigned for to protect the Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Thank you.

Please create the protected areas we have been fighting for since 2011 These precious animals need our protection and care. Thank you.

Please create the protected areas.

please create the protected marine areas for minke whales and risso's recommended by WDC

please create the protected marine areas for minke whales and risso's recommended by WDC

Please create the safety area for whales

Please create the sanctuary.

Please create these important protected areas.

Please create these marine habitats, these wonderful creatures truly deserve our help.

Please create these marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. The cetaceans of the world need all the help they can get. Thank you.

Please create these much needed protected areas. Future generations will thank you.

Please create these proposed protected areas, and set an example for other governments.

Please create these protected areas

Please create these protected areas as soon as possible.

Please create these protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. They are much loved and our work and cooperation will be immensely thought of.

Please create these protected areas for the whales and dolphins around Scotland

Please create these protected areas for whales

Please create this and protect this vulnerable creatures

Please create this safe space for marine life (minke whales and Risso's dolphins). Our wildlife is disappearing so fast, our oceans are deteriorating in the presence of plastic pollution. They need all the help we can give them.

Please designate extensive marine protected areas to protect whales and dolphins. Thank you.

Please designate Marine Protected Areas as above.

Please designate the MPAs

Please do all in your power to offer and create a safe haven for all the magnificent creatures of the sea, thank you

Please do all that is possible to protect our depleting wildlife

Please do all that you can to create marine mammal sanctuaries around the Scottish Coast. The threats our dolphins (and other marine wildlife) are facing are huge, and mainly man made. If we don't protect them now, we will fail in our intergenerational responsibilities - these animals will become extinct. Please look carefully at the areas you're proposing. Are they really big enough? What about the corridors these dolphins are using to reach other areas, can we protect them too?

Please do all that you can to protect these wonderful creatures. Thank you.

Please do all you can in your power to protect these amazing creatures. Their life is meant to be free and natural but sadly due to human kind they now have so many more obstacles and barriers to face all of which are negative. Be it plastic, pollution in the waters, fishing nets or annual hunts in such places as Japan for a "life" of captivity or just to fill tummies and more so pockets... All for human greed! Please be the ones to make a positive difference to their lives and all marine life you can. Thankyou.

Please do all you can in your power to protect these amazing creatures. Their life is meant to be free and natural but sadly due to human kind they now have so many more obstacles and barriers to face all of which are negative. Be it plastic, pollution in the waters, fishing nets or annual hunts in such places as Japan for a "life" of captivity or just to fill tummies and more so pockets... All for human greed! Please be the ones to make a positive difference to their lives and all marine life you can. Thankyou.

Please do all you can to create safe areas for whales and dolphins.

Please do all you can to help these amazing creatures at this crucial time of climate crisis.

Please do all you can to help these amazing creatures.

Please do all you can to maintain wildlife in their environment we share with them, humans don't own it. From the human perspective, many get so much from

observing wildlife which contributes to their and their children's mental well being. Economically it must make sense... tourism, managed in an environmental way. Thank you.

Please do all you can to protect our precious whales and dolphins

Please do all you can to protect our whales and dolphins

Please do all you can to protect the cetaceans we are lucky enough to have in the oceans around our coastline.

Please do all you can to protect the minke whales and Risso's dolphins ?? ?????? around Scotland ??????????????

???. Create protected areas ASAP. ??????????

Please do all you can to protect the whales and dolphins around our coasts, setting up areas of sanctuary is just the start. We need to offer safe seas for all marine life.

Please do all you can to protect these wonderful animals

Please do all you can to protect whales and dolphins around the shores of Scotland. Thank you!

Please do all you can to protect whales and dolphins.

Please do all you can to protect whales and dolphins. Thank you.

Please do all you can to provide protected areas

PLEASE do all you can to save these animals and the oceans they live in please do as much as you can to protect these amazing creatures in British waters. even more important now that we have seen a return to commercial whaling by the barbarians of Japan.

Please do continue the work to protect these creatures.

Please do create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. That would be marvellous.

Please do create marine protected areas in Scotland's waters. They are so necessary to protect our precious marine life.

Please do create the proposed marine protected areas., for the sake of the animals and for the good name of Scotland as an environmentally conscious country.

Please do everything possible to conserve whales and dolphins near Scotland.

Please do everything possible to protect these creatures

Please do everything possible to protect whales and dolphins and reduce pollution in the seas

Please do everything to ensure these creatures are as protected as they can be.

Please do everything to protect whales and dolphins

please do everything you can to protect dolphins and whales, these beautiful creatures deserve to be admired by future generations to come

Please do everything you can to protect our whales and dolphins for the next generation.

Please do everything you can to protect the dolphins. They need your help.

[Redacted text]

Please do everything you can to protect these wonderful animals!

Please do EVERYTHING you CAN to protect these wonderful creatures - in every way possible. They are amazing and deserve protection

Please do go ahead with anything that will protect these amazing creatures who are being slaughtered for money.

Please do go forward with this proposition to give these beautiful creatures the sanctuary they deserve x

Please do make safe areas

Please do not destroy our wildlife.

Please do protect vital habitat for minke whales and Risso's dolphins by creating the proposed marine protected areas for these species. This will benefit these species and others such as basking sharks, support tourism in the area, and be a crucial step towards the network of Marine Protected Areas that will lead to richer life and better fishing in the UK's seas.

Please do so. Be an example for the world. Create safe seas.

Please do something good for the environment and our sea inhabitants in an age where they're under perpetual attack and exhausted from our insatiable greed and so called needs to consume every inch of this planet.

Please do the right thing ! All nature requires protecting including those resident in our seas. Our country is worthless in every aspect without it's wildlife & all it's natural beauty.

Please do the right thing and create protected areas for Minke whales & Risso's dolphins. It's not humans who risk extinction.

Please do the right thing and protect these areas.

Please do the right thing and protect whales and dolphins.

Please do the right thing by minke whales and risso dolphins, protect them in their main habitats around Scotland.

Please do the right thing for our wildlife! It brings so much tourism to Scotland, and above all makes it the incredible country that it is!

Please do the utmost to protect cetaceans.

Please do this and offer some hope

Please do this now as a country with a strong heritage of preserving nature.

Please do this now before its too late.

Please do this!

Please do this. It is so important - there is nothing left anymore, including hope.

You could make an amazing difference by creating these protected areas.

PLEASE do it. We are NOT the only species allowed a space on this planet. Thank you.

Please do this. It is the right thing to do.

Please do what you can to help protect these wonderful and important creatures.

Please do what you can to support the Whale & Dolphin Conservation people to protect all whales, porpoises etc and give them safe seas to roam in.

Please do whatever you can to help safeguard these fantastic animals.

Please do whatever you can to protect cetaceans and other marine species.

Please do whatever you can to protect whales

Please do your utmost to protect the environment, both the seas and the land, for its own sake and that of the plants and animals that inhabit these environment, and for our own sake. We are in serious danger of destroying this planet, our home and theirs.

Please don't all you can to protect these beautiful creatures before it is too late.

Please don't let dolphins and whales die due to inaction. The world is watching.

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Please don't let dolphins and whales die due to inaction. The world is watching.

Please don't lose the opportunity to create a safe habitat for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please don't say you are discussing this, please do it.

Please don't hurt our beautiful sealife it's there home they don't deserve this they are so beautiful let them be in peace and most of all let them be free

Please don't just consult about protecting the whales and dolphins - do it!

please dont turn your back on these magnificent animals.

Please dot he right thing and create a marine protected area for minke and Risoo's dolphins. Protected areas around the world are working to increase diversity and protect endangered species.

Please end this curelty. These animals should be able to live worry free we should be helping them not against them beeof our selfish away we will once lose them and olny then people will realise how cure and selfish we really are. Lets not let it come to this and be the better person.

Please ensure that all whales. and dolphins who live in Scottish waters are protected from harm. These beautiful creatures are a delight that we should all treasure. Please approve the proposal to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins, and set an example to the rest of the world to make us all proud of Scotland and its values

Please ensure that Cetaceans get the protections they need and deserve.

Please ensure that MPAs are created asap for these two species (Risso's and minke). It's been rather too long in coming.

Please ensure that the Risso dolphins and Minke whales receive the protection they are due legally, as per the research carried out by WDC, within the four prposed MPAs and further afield. Thank you.

Please ensure that these animals are protected properly in Scottish seas

Please ensure that whales and dolphins are given complete protection around the Scottish coast.

Please ensure that whales and dolphins are safe in the waters of Scotland

Please ensure the seas are safe for all marine life in Scottish waters.

Please ensure these robust protections are put firmly into place and closely monitored. Thank you. [Redacted text]

Please ensure this protection is put in place.

Please establish Marine Protection areas before it's too late -

Please establish safe seas around Scotland.

Please exercise your mandate as government to protect what is Not ours to destroy

Please finally create the protected areas we've been fighting for since 2011 for whales and dolphins Thank you

Please find a safe place for all whales and dolphins

Please follow through on these very compassionate plans to protect and preserve our sentient friends, the whales and dolphins native to Isle of Lewis!

Please for the present and future of the planet protect everything and everywhere you can! The environment must be priority in everything you do. We need a beautiful healthy planet Thank you

Please get this done sooner rather than later

Please give safe seas to Minke Whales and Risso's ?? Dolphins.. These innocent creatures deserve this.

Please give these mammals the protecton they need, now!

Please go ahead and create a protected area to give these beautiful creatures the habitat they deserve

Please go ahead and create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. It would be so important for their future, and survival.

Please go ahead and create protected zones for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Designated marine habitat areas are vital for these creatures.

Please go ahead and create the marine protected areas around Scotland.

Please go ahead and create these marine protected areas in Scotland. The UK as a whole urgently needs these protections to avoid the loss of our marine wildlife and the degradation of our coastal seas

Please go ahead and create these protected marine areas for whales and dolphins. We need to hold on to the species we still have.

Please go ahead and establish protected areas for whales and dolphins, it's absolutely the right thing to do. Thank you!

Please go ahead and protect as many whales and dolphins as you can.

Please go ahead and protect whales and dolphins in British waters

Please go ahead to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins; these creatures are very worthy of your protection. Thank you.

Please go ahead with creating marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland

please go ahead with marine protected areas to protect minke whales and dolphins

Please go ahead with plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Wildlife need all the help they can get with current attacks on marine habitat.

Please go ahead with this wonderful plan that will protect these wonderful creatures for us and future generations to get to see.

Please go ahead with your idea to protect Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphin by ensuring that there are safe areas for them. They deserve the best treatment .

Please go ahead with your plans for marine protected areas; the marine life around Scotland is a joy and should continue to be a joy for generations to come.

Please go ahead with your plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. These beautiful creatures are an integral part of marine life. They cannot speak up for themselves, and they deserve to be valued and protected by the actions of the Scottish Government. Thank you so much for holding the consultation and hopefully creating the protected areas for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please go ahead with your plans to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their habitats around Scotland. This might help to counteract the dreadful poaching of whales by Japan.

Please go forward with the plans to make safe areas for whales and dolphins in Scotland

Please grant protection to whales who are being wiped out thanks to our human greed .They need marine protected areas

Please hear our plea for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. It is imperative that we safeguard areas of water for these vulnerable cetaceans..

Please help

Please help and please put a stop to this as I care about animals and I love them

Please help and prevent extinction We are all animals and we need to protect our environment

Please help and support these wonderful mammals.

Please help create a safe haven for our whales and dolphins.

Please help create a safe haven, Scotland should be respected for its forward thinking not continually linked with poor wildlife choices.

Please help create a safe place for whales and dolphins

Please help create safe protected seas for whales and Dolphins around scottish waters. Thankyou

Please help insure the safe future and present for this magnificent animals. We have no right to destroy habitats .

Please help keep Scotland's marine enviroments as special and important as they are already known to be. MCAs will be key to achieving this.

Please help keep these magical creatures safe.

Please help make a difference.

Please help make the seas safer for whales as they have no voice to ask this themselves. Thank you

Please help make the seas safer for whales as they have no voice to ask this themselves. Thank you

Please help make the seas safer for whales as they have no voice to ask this themselves. Thank you

Please help make this world a safer place for these precious dolphins and whales.

PLEASE HELP OUR FINNED FRIENDS.... THANKS FOR DOING SO !!!!

Please help protect all marine life with this sanctuary. I have so much love and respect for Scotland. It's People, the Land, the Government and of course it's Wildlife. Yours faithfully [Redacted text]

Please help protect dolphins and porpoises wherever they are, forever.

Please help protect marine environments

Please help protect marine environments

Please help protect marine life!

Please help protect marine wildlife

Please help protect Minke Wales and Risso's Dolphin. Protected area will make all the difference.

Please help protect ocean species under threat!

Please help protect these beautiful mammals, they are both intelligent and gentle. They have a right to live in peace.

PLease help protect these gentle and threatened species now

Please help protect these wonderful sea creatures.

Please help protect those who cannot protect themselves

Please help save our marine life

Please help save our Whales!

Please help save somewhere for these beautiful animals to live in peace.

Please help save the dolphins and porpoises. You a do it.

Please help save the dolphins and porpoises. You a do it.

Please help save the minke and risso's dolphins by giving them a secure and safe habitat to live in. Strong laws that protect them from all activities around them. We are guardians of this planet and all sea life, so look after them

Please help save the whales and dolphins

Please help save these lovely creatures

Please help save these precious animals. They are so beautiful & so intelligent, & so exploited. Help them to live long, happy lives in the wild where they belong. Thank you.

Please help saving these amazing creatures

Please help support our oceans and its inhabitants. These animals deserve a chance at survival.

Please help the whales and dolphins that come into your waters. I am sure you do not need telling how important these creatures are to the world. Scotland is very important in ensuring that they are kept safe while in your care. These four conservation areas will help this

Please help the whales and dolphins to swim safely.

Please help the whales and dolphins. At a time when Japan has begun hunting whales again and other whales and dolphins are being caught up in plastic and fishing nets, this is a unique opportunity for Scotland to help marine animals. It will probably help to bring more tourists as well.

Please help them, protecting areas where they can live. Thank you

Please help these protected animals

Please help these Dolphins and Whales from dying help them to swim free from fishing nets and people in their own habitat Thanks

Please help these amazing animals to stay here and to stay healthy in their natural environment

Please help these beautiful animals

Please help these dolphins matter and as humans who have caused more suffering to other living creatures we need to do this to help them. Hopefully other countries will follow your lead

Please help these poor animals

Please help to create protect areas and help to sustain marine biodiversity

Please help to end this. It is not necessary in this day and age.

Please help to make safe seas for these beautiful creatures

Please help to make the seas safe for minke whales; risso's Dolphins & all wildlife.

Please help to make the seas safe for minke whales; risso's Dolphins & all wildlife.

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Please help to make the seas safe for minke whales; risso's Dolphins & all wildlife.

Please help to make the seas safe for minke whales; risso's Dolphins & all wildlife.

Please help to preserve these wonderful creatures

Please help to protect the areas that the Minke Whales and the Risso's Dolphins inhabit around Scotland. These areas are vital to the lives of these marine creatures. Thank you.

Please help to protect the Risso's dolphins and minke whales habitats in Scotland. Thank you.

Please help to protect the whales and dolphins

Please help to protect these beautiful creatures and save them from vanishing like so many other species, please...and thank you.

Please help to protect these precious creatures. Too many of them have been captured and slaughtered in the past. Please keep them free and living as they should in their own habitat.

Please help to protect whales & dolphins to have a safe environment with these four conservation areas. Thank you.

Please help to protect whales and dolphins with protected habitats around the coasts of Scotland. These marine creatures and all other wildlife -so at risk of extinction - must be conserved at all costs.

Please help to save the whales and dolphins that may enter the UK waters. These beautiful sentient creatures are suffering terribly at the hands of humans and it's appalling. Humans are decimating the seas as well as the land and all the creatures need our protection. As humans we can kill or we we can save. As such a powerful species it's time that we actually made the right decisions for the right reasons and not just for either political or monetary gain. Animals as well as all living creatures have a part to play as part of our eco system and humans with their selfish, cruel behaviour are changing the balance which will ultimately lead to a catastrophic end for us all. They need our help and you are in a position to take up the challenge. I hope you do the right thing and make the right choices and actually choose to help and protect them.

Please help to save these beautiful whales and dolphins.

Please help to save these whales and dolphins before they also become extinct. They deserve our protection. Thank you

Please help to stop destroying our wildlife

Please help us create safe seas for minke whales and Russo's dolphins. Just like us, they are sentient beings, living things that feel pain just like us. These wonderful creatures deserve to be safe and happy as they have every right to. We have no right to endanger them.

Please help WDC to create Marine Protected Areas for Minke Whales & Risso's Dolphins in the seas around Scotland. The Marine Protected Centres would enhance areas Environment. Through Conservation & encourage Tourism in these areas.

Please help whales and dolphins.

Please help!

PLEASE implement these protected areas and give these beautiful creatures the protection they need, not only for their sake, but so future generations can also benefit from their presence in their lives. Thankyou

Please keep all these creatures safe.

Please keep our marine life safe and protected.

Please keep safe minki whakes and russos dolphins. You are so lucky to have them there and to be able to see them.

Please keep the seas around Scotland safe for Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins.

Please keep the seas safe for Mink whales and Risso's dolphins.. Infact can we keep the seas safe for all cetaceans? Thanks.

Please keep the seas safe for Minke Whales & Risso's Dolphins

Please keep the whales and dolphins safe. it is so important

Please keep these beautiful animals safe

please keep these waters safe and stop the destruction of our beautiful and incredible sea life

PLEASE KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

Please know and act accordingly , " what we do to one we do to ourselves " ...for we are all living beings wishing to help our planet and live in PEACE

Please lead the way and make our waters safe for sea life.

Please lead the way in conservation!

Please leave Dolphins and Whales alone. They belong to the sea.

Please leave whales dolphins alone prevent harm killing of them

Please legislate to protect 100 percent of dolphin populations living and visiting Scottish waters.

Please listen to our message, these animals are so special we cannot be responsible for killing them.

Please listen to the voice of many. We need to look after our wild life as part of our climate and planet save plan. Thank You

Please listen to what WDC have to say. Their conservation work is incredible and they know when things are bad. We need to protect these beautiful creatures, if not for them and so that future generations can see their magnificence, then for us, and the planet, as they help keep our oceans and seas healthy.

Please look after these wonderful creatures. Thank you

Please look to preserve and protect these blessed creatures for always to enjoy.

Please maintain safe sea for whale and dolphin. You know to makes sense as will generations to come

Please make a safe haven for these beautiful and precious creatures.

Please make a safe place and protect these beautiful cetaceans.

Please make areas protected to support our marine populations of whales & dolphins

Please make marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland

Please make our Dolphins, Whales and all marine life safe and protected - please !!

Please make our seas safer for Minke Whales and Risso's dolphins

Please make safe havens for cetaceans

Please make safe marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please make safe places for dolphins and whales, we need it now more than ever

PLEASE make safe sea areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland This is vial to help create protected and safe ares for these beautiful and intelligent mammals.

please make Scotland's seas safe for the creatures that truly belong there, the wild ones. thank you

Please make Scottish seas a safe place for dolphins and whales to gather

Please make Scottish seas safer for all sea creatures!!

Please make Scottish seas safer for all sea creatures!!

Please make Scottish seas safer for all sea creatures!!

Please make sure our oceans and all wildlife are protected, by passing appropriate laws and using law enforcement measures where necessary.

Please make sure that that the Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation Strategy ensures robust management of pressures in wider seas (beyond the MPAs), so all whales and dolphins are protected – as required by law – wherever they are.

Please make sure that the habitats of minke whale and Risso's dolphins are protected.

PLEASE make sure that the mammals have the same freedom. So as many people as possible can see them whilst Whale whatching.

please make sure the proposals for marine protected areas for minke whales and risso's dolphins come to fruition. We need to protect these beautiful & intelligent creatures now!

Please make sure you do create the marine protected area. Every creature desperately needs our help at the moment with what's happening to the planet. Mainly caused by humans.

please make the Scottish seas safe for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins

Please make the seas around Scotland safer for whales and dolphins.

Please make the seas safe for cetaceans and all other wildlife! The proposed marine protected areas are an excellent way of getting things back to how the oceans were many hundreds of years ago, and I cannot pray too often that they become a reality. Thank you!

Please make the seas safe for dolphins and whales

Please make the seas safe for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins by creating a marine protected area for them. It is everyone's duty to do their utmost to protect all our sea life.

Please make the seas safe for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. We have to protect them. thank you

Please make the whale and dolphin safe areas. You will be setting such a good example to other nations .

Please make these areas safe spaces for these creatures. They need a haven.

Please make these waters a safe place for our whales and UK marine life

Please make this area a safe environment for marine creatures after all there are so few of them, and man is so destructive.

Please make this happen !!

Please make this happen! Cetaceans should be protected! Make a change for the better. It is so important in this day and age, when our world's biodiversity is threatened by the actions of mankind.

Please make this happen!! These Wales deserve and need protection.

Please makes these protected areas a reality.

Please pass the plans to create protected marine habitats for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scottish waters.

Please pass this as soon as possible.

Please please create this safe environment for these and other creatures it's greatly needed ??????????????

Please please do go ahead with your plans of creating a protected area for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins! Its high time that we humans should start thinking about and caring for our fellow animals and a government taking the initiative to do so will inspire other countries and citizens of the world to start caring. I sincerely hope that the government does implement this wonderful thought and idea.

Please please do what's right to protect our whales and dolphins

Please please keep all whales and dolphins safe by giving them the protection they need to be able to feed, breed and live happily in the seas around Scotland.

Please please listen to WDC. All cetaceans are apart of the whole. We are all responsible for our planets health, these creatures are a huge part of that. Thank you

Please please make the Scottish waters protected for these beautiful species so there is a future for them. Thank you

Please Please Please create marine protected areas for Minke Whales and Rio's dolphins in their key habitats round Scotland. Show the world your country cares about its creatures

Please please please ensure these whales and dolphins are safe

Please preserve the whale and dolphin populations around your shores.

Please press forward with creating protected marine areas around Scotland.

Please proceed with creating a protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. This is so worthwhile and would be such a credit to you. In a world where so many don't seem to care about wildlife this could show the way and others might follow.

Please proceed with the setting up of marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland. Scotland has always been forward thinking and ahead of our time, please put this legislation in place.

Please proceed with your plan is to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live. This is of great importance and it is fantastic that you are so close to this now.

Please protect all marine life around the whole of the British Isles. Great to hear Scotland is proposing to protect whales and dolphins hope this is just a start and all marine life will soon be protected.

Please protect sea and protect sea life. Create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins!

Please protect these precious animals

Please protect all animals before it's too late ??

Please protect all dolphins and whales around your waters, they are the most intelligent and beautiful creatures.

Please protect all living creatures

Please protect all marine wildlife

Please protect all our sea mammals, for now and for future generations.

please protect all Sea life, thank you

Please protect all the whales and dolphins that swim in your area.

Please protect all whales and dolphins from the harm caused by greedy mankind. We need to protect all wild life becoming extinct due to man. Let your children and children's children benefit from having the all the diverse life on earth that we have today.

Please protect all whales and dolphins in Scottish waters. They need your help.

Please protect all whales and dolphins.

Please protect and conserve the habitats of minke whales and Risso's dolphins for all and future generations.

Please protect and keep the beautiful Scottish Dolphins safe.

Please protect and promote cetaceans and all wildlife in Scottish waters and in Scotland, and be a symbol for all kind people who care about more than their own needs. Please don't surrender to the greed that often leads decisions in our society. Please do the best for us all by standing up for what is right.

Please protect areas for marine mammals and creatures they depend on, so that they can thrive. This is more important now, in this time of Climate Crisis, than ever before. We as humans need as much biodiversity to survive and thrive as possible, because as a complex system, ultimately, our own survival depends on it. Also, these creatures have suffered enough from human encroachment onto their habitats, so protecting their areas is our duty.

Please protect areas for the Whales and Dolphin

Please protect areas of minke whale habitat and areas where Risso's dolphins live.

Please protect as many areas as you can! Minke whales and Risso's dolphins need to find peace in protected areas in order to survive! Thank you!

Please protect endangered whales and dolphins

Please protect endangered whales and dolphins. The whole of the UK needs marine conservation areas; Scotland can lead the way.

Please protect extensive areas for sea life including minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please protect marine life

Please protect marine life.

Please protect marine mammals!

Please protect marine wildlife and especially whales and dolphins in any way you can!

Please protect minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please protect minke whales and risso's dolphins with key habitats, we honour you as you honour them.

Please protect minke whales and Russo's dolphins as we live in a land of no respect to sea life ie the Japanese , nordics and Faroe Islands doing disgustingly horrific dolphin slaughters like Taji and then the routine killing of whales for no valid reason and it would be lovely to see a country caring for these magnificent creatures giving them the respect they deserve

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Please protect our beautiful seas full of wildlife

Please protect our beautiful marine wildlife that we are so lucky to have.

Please protect our beautiful wild life,thanks

Please protect our dolphins and sea life for future generations to enjoy. We are so lucky to share our world with them.

Please protect our dolphins around Scotland

Please protect our marine creatures as they are in severe decline , thankyou .

Please protect our marine life. We have only one planet, and it should be for all its creatures.

Please protect our marine wildlife.

Please protect our ocean life. Establish marine protected areas! Thank you.

Please protect our ocean wildlife. We all have a duty to make our beautiful earth a safe home for all life. Please don't lose the beautiful creatures.

Please protect our precious marine life.

Please protect our precious oceans for these amazing creatures.

Please protect our precious sealife.

Please protect our sea life

Please protect our sea life!

Please protect our seas and the creatures living in it. How sad it would be to pass an inheritance to our children of a sea with no life and full of plastic with all the associated losses that would come with that.

Please protect our seas for all the creatures that live there. A protected area is a step in the right direction.

Please protect our whales and dolphins.

Please protect our wildlife

Please protect our wildlife for future generations.

Please protect our wildlife once lost there is no going back

Please protect our wildlife; marine and terrestrial as they are irreplaceable and the health of the ecosystem depends on them and consequently so do we and our secure future on this planet.

Please protect Risso's Dolphins and minke whales!

Please protect such beautiful animals

Please protect the areas in Scotland where the dolphins and whales live.

Please protect the cetaceans

Please protect the Dolphins and make it safe for them to live, we all need to share this beautiful planet of ours.

Please protect the dolphins and other marine animals. Help save our seas and ensure a future benefit for our children and grandchildren.

Please protect the dolphins and whales in our waters. Let's show the work this small nation understands the need to conserve these species

Please protect the habitat of minke whale and Risso's dolphin.

Please protect the habitat of these intelligent mammals

Please protect the habitats of minke whale & Risso's dolphins

Please protect the key habitats of minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland. I was lucky enough to do whale watching off the coasts of Scotland and I would be very sad if future generations would be denied this wonderful experience. I can also see that habitats all over the world are getting smaller each time, so it is crucial to preserve those that are left. Thank you for your effort.

Please protect the marine areas for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins

Please protect the marine wildlife. Protect and respect all animals.

Please protect the minke whale & Risso's dolphin habitat!

Please protect the Minke whale and Risso Dolphin habitats. WE are at risk of losing species on the planet and it does not bode well.

Please protect the minke whales and Risso dolphins by creating a marine protected area for their habitats around Scotland. These animals are beautiful and, like many sea creatures, they deserve our protection. Thank you, [Redacted text]

Please protect the Minke whales and Risso dolphins.

Please protect the ocean sea creatures ??????????

Please protect the oceans for dolphins and minke whales around Scotland. We need to live alongside marine life and protect their habitat - the oceans don't belong to us!

Please protect the three areas for the whales and dolphins

Please protect the two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

Please protect the waters round Scotland so important for Risso's dolphins but also for all nature ..we are animals

Please Protect the Whales & Dolphins They Need Friends Not Enemies.

Please protect the whales & dolphins.

Please protect the whales and dolphins

Please protect the whales and dolphins around Scotland

Please protect the whales and dolphins in our oceans.

Please protect the Whales and Dolphins NOW, Before its to late!!!!!!

Please protect the whales and dolphons

Please protect the whales and the dolphins off Scotland

Please protect the wild life in our oceans

Please protect them

Please protect these 3 areas for our Minke whales and Risso's dolphins - Thank you

Please protect these amazing creatures. Show the world how it should be for them....no hunting or exploitation.

Please protect these animals they are so important

Please protect these animals, so they can live safely in the sea

Please protect these areas and the amazing animals that live there. So many species are under so much pressure now, they need our help before it is too late.

Please protect these areas for all these beautiful mammals, they deserve to live in their own habitat, without being disturbed.

Please protect these areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please protect these areas for our minke whales and dolphins please help keep these marine animals around Scotland

Please protect these areas. I want my great grandchildren to be able to see these wonderful animals.

Please protect these beautiful and precious creatures. They are important to the health of the seas. Plus many people love to see them in their proper surroundings.

Please protect these beautiful animals

Please protect these beautiful animals for us and future generations. They need our help to live and thrive. We must not lose anymore of these beautiful , peaceful, intelligent animals. Thank you.

Please protect these beautiful creatures

Please protect these creatures by establishing this protected area.

Please protect these dolphins and whales.

Please protect these dolphins and whales. Set an example to the rest of the world that we do care about other living creatures and want them to thrive and survive not become extinct.

Please protect these dolphins. Your country could make their survival possible .

Please protect these gracious dolphins and other mammals making sure they're safe please dont let any harm come to them

Please protect these intelligent animals. They give joy to all who meet them & Scotland will be a much poorer Country if we do not give them clean and safe seas

Please protect these magnificent animals

Please protect these magnificent mammals. We can't let them disappear

Please protect these majestic creatures, they are the angles of the sea and carriers of the light between species.

Please protect these precious creatures for future generations. You are their caretakers and will be remembered for what actions you take .

Please protect these sentient creatures.

Please protect these special beings from all harm by making their habitats protected sanctuaries.

Please protect these very special animals

Please protect these whales and dolphins and object strongly when Japan kill them just because they can. Our seas are full of plastic and over fishing throughout the world has created an increase in jellyfish. We need more preservation of the creatures in our seas and it would be good if your government would help with this much needed protection of these animals. Thank you in advance of making the correct decision.

Please Protect these whales and dolphins that cannot speak for themselves

Please protect these whales, they are mammals like us and their numbers are diminishing. Please take positive action before it's too late.

Please protect these wonderful creatures

Please protect these wonderful creatures so futures generations can continue to have them to enjoy

Please protect these. Everything has a place. You are destroying ecosystems.

Please protect this protected area for these precious and increasingly vulnerable species. It is good to hear about a government far sighted and intelligent enough to do this. Thank you, greatly appreciated.

Please protect this vital area .

please protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live.

Please protect whales and dolphins

Please protect whales and dolphins

Please protect whales and dolphins according to the WDC proposals.

Please protect whales and dolphins around our coasts

Please protect whales and dolphins around Scotland. They need our help.

Please protect whales and dolphins by creating protected areas.

Please protect whales and dolphins by creating protected marine areas around Scotland to help protect them and all other sea life for future generations.

Please protect whales and dolphins for the sake of us all.

Please protect whales and dolphins in Scottish waters.

Please protect whales and dolphins.

Please protect whales and dolphins. They are precious.

Please protection areas for Minke whales habitat and an areas for Risso dolphins many thanks

Please provide a protected area for the Whales and Dolphins to ensure their future.

Please provide a protected area for these beautiful creatures. They enrich all of our lives. The creatures who live in the seas have suffered many problems caused by humans, please help redress the damage & leave a better legacy for our children. Thank you

Please provide a safe haven for dolphins and minke whales.

Please provide a save habitat for these creatures,

Please provide and enforce a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso dolphins in their key habitat around Scotland. Thank you

Please provide protected areas for the whales and dolphins around Scotland it would be amazing and may encourage other countries to do the same

Please provide protected areas for the whales and dolphins. We must take steps to look after the wildlife on this planet. I hope you succeed in this project.

Please provide protected areas for these animals that have a right to protection rather than being threatened and endangered.

Please provide protected areas for whales and dolphins. They are a vital part of our ecosystem but are under threat. It is important they are protected.

PLEASE PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR THESE DOLPHINS AND WHALES

Please provide safe areas for these intelligent and sentient creatures to lie in peace and security. We, as a species, have done immense damage to the earth and its creatures and it is time to right the wrongs of the past.

Please provide safe areas for these wonderful creatures. Thank you.

Please provide safe havens for Minke whales & Risso dolphins.

Please provide save spaces for the whales and dolphins.

please provide the promised protected areas for whales and dolphins. This is very important.

Please put protection in for these magnificent, intelligent creatures. It's the least they deserve.

Please save all marine life

Please save and protect cetaceans and fishes, sharks. Sanctuary is important.

please save our Wales and dolphins and keep them safe .

Please save our whales and dolphins for us and future generations

Please save our whales and dolphins in Scotland

Please save our wildlife

Please save the Delphina and the other animal in the ocean!

Please save the dolphins

please save the whales they need a safe place in the wide open seas ect

Please save the whales!!!

Please save these special areas for the whales and dolphins, it is so important.

Please save these whales and dolphins, we will be sorry when they are gone. People will come from around the world to see them in Scotland!

Please save whales and dolphins by giving the go ahead to a protected area

Please set a benchmark for other countries to follow and set up marine protected areas for cetaceans in Scottish waters.

Please set aside marine areas to protect whales and dolphins

Please set up marine protected areas

Please set up marine protected areas to save Scotland's dolphins and whales. I don't want these amazing creatures to die out.

Please set up the protected marine areas to protect our Minke Whales and Risso's dolphins plus so much else beside. Protected sea floor supports so much regeneration of sea life.

Please stand up and protect the Risso's dolphins in Scottish waters. Be the leaders.

Please stop now

Please stop this and give a safe place for dolphins and whales.

Please stop this unnecessary massacre.

Please stop! It's cruel!!!

Please support marine havens and no fishing zones in the sensitive area crucial to the sustainability of Scotland's amazing marine life

Please support our wildlife!

Please support the proposed Marine Protection Areas under consultation.

Please support the protected areas.

Please support the protection of whales and dolphins

Please support this action and be a leading example of a Government that is in touch with the importance of preserving the unique coastal environment that supports these rare and amazing animals.

Please support! Following years of WDC campaigning and field research, the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please take a leadership position and show the world what a progressive nation Scotland is!

Please take a moment to save our seas and all the beautiful creatures that live there????????? Thankyou

Please take a stand now to preserve marine life for this and future generations

Please take action

Please take action and create a safe environment for the whales and dolphins.

Please take action now.

Please take action on this

Please take action to protect whales and dolphins in Scotland's waters. Future generations will be thankful!

Please take Action.

please take all actions possible to protect marine mammals and their environment.

Please take all necessary steps to prevent whale hunting Please take all necessary steps to save the minke whales

Please take every action to create a safe environment for whales and dolphins around the most beautiful coastline in the world.

please take note of the petition to create the protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. We have been waiting since 2011!!

Please take note of the WDC efforts to help save these wonderful creatures. Help set an example and start the ball rolling. Hopefully the knock on effect will benefit other life including humans.

Please take the leap and be a world influencer in marine conservation.

Please take the necessary steps to safeguard these incredible mammals.

Please take this momentous step to save our world's stunning sea creatures by creating more Marine Protection Zones.

Please take this protection step--it is good for all.

Please the seas safe and create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Also make the seas healthy.

Please the whales and all underwater life..they deserve to live in clean water and set them free in a healthy environment

Please then hold a further consultation to protect these MPAs from the range of pressures that mobile species face, including military activities, boat disturbance and getting entangled in fishing gear.

Please they all need our help

Please think carefully before doing anything to restrict the lives of these wonderful creatures

Please think carefully before doing anything to restrict the lives of these wonderful creatures

Please translate intentions into actions and make sanctuaries for Minke Whales Risso's dolphins a reality

Please uphold the strategies to protect these amazing creatures.

Please use the power you possess to protect and preserve the lives of these beautiful mammals before it's too late - please!

Please use your power wisely and do something good and reasonable, you have the chance to help marine life. Make more than just a paper park. Talk to stakeholders. Let's do it!

Please we need this protection now for these beautiful creatures .

Please would you proceed and establish the proposed protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. Marine mammals face so many threats - climate change, pollution, prey shifts, overfishing, marine traffic, to name a few - they need all the help they can get. These protected areas would help these species to survive.

Please you have a haven for a number of threatened species in and around your country. Don't let that it be trashed for short term profit

PLEASE!!!

Please, any help to protect our dolphins would be so much appreciated, we need to start fully helping all endangered species.

Please, create these proposed protective areas for whales and dolphins!

Please, do anything in your power to create a safe heaven for whales and dolphins, so our children and children's children will be able to enjoy these magnificent a creatures! For the love of all our planet!

Please, help these animals. We all must coexist. Set an example for the world. Once it's too late, it's just that.

Please, help to protect whales and dolphins !

Please, I urge you to protect the habitat of the minke whale and Risso's dolphins. Please create marine protected areas around Scotland to help them survive.

Please, please create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland. Japan has started commercial

whaling again and hunt dolphins, as does Denmark, this is now more vital than ever!

Please, please create protected marine areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins.

Please, please create the proposed conservation areas. You have the power to do so and we share our seas with these wonderful creatures. You will earn much respect if you protect the key habitats.

Please, please do create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Please, please do the right thing !

Please, please ensure the protection of minke whales by allowing a marine protected area. Not too difficult to do? Thanking you in anticipation.

Please, please give these magnificent animals somewhere to be safe, to breed in peace and to live without human disturbance. We must learn to share the world with all the creatures that live alongside us on this extraordinary planet.

Please, please grant the marine protected areas for whales and dolphins as recommended by WDC. This should help protect Risso's dolphins and minke whales.

Please, please have protected areas for these magnificent creatures.

Please, please help protect our whales and dolphins!

Please, please look after our whales and dolphins for my grandchildren to enjoy them as much as I have.

Please, please on behalf of Risso's dolphins and Minke whales, afford them the protection that they so richly deserve before it is too late. We have the moral duty to preserve and safeguard these wonderful creatures - thank you!

Please, please protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live. This has been a long campaign starting in 2011 and I urge you to finally create these protected areas.

Please, please, go ahead with plans for marine protected areas

Please, please, please support the campaign to create a marine protected area for whales and dolphins around Scotland. It is so important that we provide areas of safe haven for marine wildlife already endangered by plastic pollution and hunting.

please, please, please all you can to help these most intelligent of mammals, whales and dolphins, and create a marine protected area for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. They both already are suffering from exploitation and need refuges. Thanks so much for your time.

Please, protect all kinds of whales. They are huge biological richness. These superb animals need to be respected, need to be safeguarded and eventually loved by people. Do not exploit them! Thank you!

Please, protect the whales!

Please, protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live. Areas are necessary to save sea mammals's live and the world needs all animals.

Please, save all the dolphins and whales. Thank you!

Please, take action to protect animals and our natural wonders for the future!

Please.

Please...if we don't help these creatures now it will be too late

Pleased to hear the Scottish government plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Plz protect these beautiful creatures

Plzz u have to care man is destroying the earth ndear all that's on it heartbreaking

Pour que vivent en paix tous nos animaux marins !

Preserving marine life in our seas around Scotland is ultra important as there is too much plastic pollution in the seas that safe areas need to be established!! This is VITAL for the preservation of all marine life!!

Protect specific areas for these wonderful creatures

Protect the wales

Protect all life

Protect all sealife !!

Protect all whales and dolphins

Protect all whales and their habitat

protect areas for whales to be safe

Protect dolphins and whales

Protect our marine life = protect our planet. We need to restore the beauty and blissful harmony of our planet. Please, please do what is right, fair and just - ensure safe seas for these magnificent creatures and end this evil.

Protect our sea life

Protect our sea life.

Protect our seas and oceans around our coastline let them flourish and sustain for the future of all sea life.

Protect our seas and wildlife!

Protect our whales and dolphins!

Protect our whales and dolphins.

PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE!

Protect the dolphins and whales from the vile human predators

Protect the environment and protect the whales and dolphins

protect the marine life .. do not kill the mamals and the fish

protect the oceans

Protect the remaining Risso Dolphins and Minke Whale habitat.

Protect the two areas where minke whales and Risso's dolphins live. Too many whales and dolphins are killed and they deserve to have an area where they can exist in safety.

Protect the whales!

Protect the whales!

protect them stop experience

Protect these beautiful creatures.

Protect these beautiful mammals.

Protect these dolphins and minke whales before it is too late.

PROTECT THESE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS!!!

Protect UK whales at all costs! Be an example for the rest of the world.

Protect whales and dolphins

Protect Whales and Dolphinsee.

Protect what we havr

Protect what you are blessed with

Protect wildlife

Protect wildlife.

Protect your dolphins

Protect, protect, protect. Lead and the others will follow. THANK YOU

Protected areas are the only way forward. Please make this happen!!!!!!

Protected areas could be invaluable in protecting cetaceans in Scottish waters which in itself is so important but the tourism economic value associated within increasing interest in wildlife watching has to be worth creating marine protected areas.

protected areas for all dolphins and whales are a must!

protected areas we've been fighting for since 2011

Protecting the habitats of our cetaceans is not only good for the environment. As long as the cetaceans are undisturbed by observers, whale & dolphin watching is a great activity for environmentally engaged tourists

Protecting the key habitats of both minke whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland by creating several Marine Protected Areas is an excellent endeavour! I am very supportive of this action. The sooner, the better!

Protecting the oceans protects us all. Large mammals play the same role in the sea as they do on land - fertilising the water so krill and sea plants can grow. The sea plants absorb CO2 and help encourage new habitats. We must protect whales and dolphins. Please create these marine protected areas.

Protecting these animals is a wonderful thing as we must look after all nature if we want to ensure its survival for future generations

Protecting these animals, and part of Scotland's heritage, is vital to not only preserving habitats where these dolphins can thrive but showing that we can mitigate our impact on the oceans.

Protection of Whales and Dolphins is important to maintain the overall biodiversity of our oceans and marine reservations have a great effect in increasing numbers of fish.

Protects seas and wild

Provide protected areas for Minke Whales, and Risso's Dolphins around Scotland.

Providing a sanctuary for for these marine mammals will help these creatures ,and offset in some way the image and harm done by driven grouse shooting. Scotland has a diverse range of wildlife; much of contributing to it's tourism industry.

Respect all life as you respect your own

Respeito pelos animais

Risso's dolphins and whales should be protected. Their protection is paramount to all living on this planet.

STOP !!

Safe seas for all marine creatures

safe seas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins

Safe seas for the dolphins

SAFE SEAS PLEASE!!!

Sanctuary for all cetaceans in Scottish and international waters on planet earth ??

Save all dolphins and whales.

Save all our wonderful whales and dolphins! We will miss them once they are gone.

save dolphins and whales and ALL animals

Save dolphins ?? please!

Save marine mammals by making the sea safer

Save our ocean

Save our seas protect the creatures who live in the seas.

Save our seas!

Save our whales and dolphins

Save our wildlife and natural environment!

Save the animals!

Save the beautiful dolphins in protected areas

save the dolphins

Save the dolphins and whales as they are beautiful and creative.

Save the dolphins PLEASE.

Save the dolphins whales ??

Save the sealife

Save the Wales and dolphins before it's too late

Save the whales

save the whales

Save the whales and dolphins ??????

Save the whales and dolphins!!!

Save the whales and dolphins, please!

Save the whales and dolphins.

Save the whales before it's too late!

Save the whales!

Save them dolphins y'all

Save them protect them from greedy business people

Save them! Extinction is forever!

Save them, once they're gone they're gone!

Save whales and dolphins!

Save whales!

say yes to this protection scheme. We must all survive.

Scotland admirably leads the way, in the UK, for all things good. Let this be another good 'thing'.

Scotland can really help lead the way globally on this key environmental front.

Scotland could lead the way for the whole of the UK with projects of this kind. It is vitally important that protected areas are provided & protected for minke whales & Risso's dolphins and also all other marine creatures.

Scotland has a great tradition of compassion towards cetaceans. Please continue this and take measures to do everything possible to protect dolphins and whales in Scottish waters. Thank you.

Scotland has much wildlife to be proud of. You are in a unique position to help preserve much of it. It needs preserving. It's all part of our eco-system. Please do all you can.

Scotland is a key habitat for both Minke Whales and Risso Dolphins. A protected area would allow them sanctuary from areas that are less safe for them to inhabit.

Scotland is such a beautiful place to visit and the marine life should be protected.

Scotland is such a magical place, its coastline and seas are second to none. The wildlife, especially larger mammals are being encroached upon in every way. I know that the Scottish government is investing in the seas diversity and I want you to continue to make certain areas sanctuaries for these amazing creatures. I

applaud you for what you are trying to do and encourage you to do so much more to keep our seas full of life. Thank you.

Scotland leads the UK, Europe and indeed the world, in championing some of the most important issues of our time. That makes me proud to be Scottish. This is another of these critical issues to protect the natural world. Please create safe seas for these endangered creatures.

Scotland's maritime heritage should naturally lead to the protection and conservation of whales. I am certain that as a right-thinking nation, you will take your responsibility seriously.

Scottish ORCA are being poison by PCBs & plastic, Don't let it happen to the Risso dolphin too. Help then be safe.

Scottish waters are important for Risso's dolphins and minke whales, amongst other cetaceans. Please ensure that they get the maximum protection by creating suitable Marine Protected Areas for them.

Set an example to the world and create Marine protected Areas where the experts at WDC are saying they are needed.

Show Scotland can lead the world in conservation.

Show the world how it should be done, let's protect those beautiful animals before we kill everything!

Since 2011 we have been actively asking for designated safe havens for whales and dolphins please please do so now before it s too late. thank you

Since Japan has decided to resume commercial whaling, these mammals need all the protection they can get. These mammals are endangered species.

SO GLAD YOU ARE DOING THIS PROJECT, THANKS

So good to hear the Scottish government is planning on creating MPAs where minke whales and Risso dophins live. I love this part of the world and would love to see the Scottish government being really proactive in protecting the seas around Scotland for the wildlife in them.

So much is lost and so much under threat, please give this measure all the support you can.

So pleased to hear you are campaigning to protect these dolphins.

Soutien total! oui aux airs marines protégées. Lutter aussi contre toutes les nuisances à proximité.

Stop abusing Dolphins!!!

Stop abusing whales

Stop animal cruelty right now ?????????

Stop animal slavery.

STOP CRUELTY

STOP DESTROYING GOD'S CREATURES, THEY BELONG TO, THEMSELVES NOT MONEY GRABBING SUB HUMANS. LEAVE THEM ALONE

STOP IT NOW!!!

Stop now !

Stop persecuting these wonder creatures

Stop the cruelty

Stop the fishing industry from killing our sea creatures with unsustainable fishing practices and throwing fishing gear overboard.

Stop the Insanity. Protect Nature now!

Stop this

Stop this barbaric cruelty.

strongly support designation of the four nature conservation Marine Protected Areas under consultation.

Such a brilliant idea to help preserve these important species!

Such a wonderful idea to have protected areas of safety. If only all the seas were safe!

Support designation of the four MPAs to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Surely there can be no question that the Scottish government should create protected areas for minke whales and dolphins. Marine life faces many dangers these days - mostly due to mankind's intervention. It is our moral duty to mitigate that meddling in these creatures environment.

SVP, créez des aires protégées pour les rorquals et les dauphins de Risso!!!

Thank you ??

Thank you for all your progressive efforts.

Thank you for caring for these beautiful creatures x

Thank you for creating a safe haven for threatened minke whales - numbers have declined markedly over the last century (probably 70% plus) and their food supplies threatened by global warming and overfishing

Thank you for creating this protected marine environment.

Thank you for fighting for our seas and the creatures x

Thank you for listening to my plea.

Thank you for planning to create marine protected areas for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins. You are fortunate to have these creatures living in your waters. Please do all you can to make the protected areas a reality, and to enforce their boundaries to the greatest of your abilities. Scotland is well-known for its rich marine life. Active conservation is the task we have before us.

Thank you for protecting whales and dolphins.

Thank you for setting up this consultation and working towards a safer environment for these beautiful creatures. So much is going against nature in this world at the moment. It is uplifting to see us trying to create a safe haven for creatures who cause no harm.

Thank you for taking action to create marine protection areas. I fully support this action it is a vital step for the local environment and also as we ask other countries to preserve their environments, we show that it is our duty too.

Thank you for this chance to help save these whales and dolphins. It is such a great move.

Thank you for your actions

Thank you for your care of marine life.

Thank you for your consultation opportunity. Please take this opportunity to set up marine conservation areas that will help to protect our whale and dolphin species.

Thank You Scotland for Protecting the Beautiful Whales and Dolphins! <3 <3

Thank you Scottish Government for listening and being prepared to act in a positive way. Helping the environment and creatures that surround our glorious United Kingdom is so appreciated...

Thank you so much for helping the whales and dolphins around Scotland, i wish all governments were the same xxx

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING

Thank you so very much for deciding to protect vital water to the Minke whale and Risso's dolphins. I do wish more governments would make enlightened legislations to protect the many wonderful species who co-habit this planet with us.

Thank you very much for planning to create protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland. Both species need support in order to thrive, so designating their natural habitats as protected areas is important.

Thank you.

Thanks so much for considering safe marine areas for minke whales and risso's dolphins. It would be a wonderful idea if these plans could be implemented.

Thanks to all the work of WDC and colleagues, we wish to encourage you to protect whales and dolphins in their special habitats around Scotland. Regards and best wishes.

Thankyou for planning protected areas for Minkie whales and Rossi dolphins. I am sure this will be of benefit to the whole eco system

That's great! The plan to create marine protected areas around Scotland is very welcome and not before time. We really do hold the future of the planet in our hands and every step towards protecting any aspect of it really does matter.

The animals in our ocean, s and seas need help and support , to thrive and breed without fear of humans killing or polluting thier environment. We can learn so much by careing for the creatures we share our oceans with. Please help and support the Petition.

The creation of marine protected areas around Scotland will show the World how forward thinking the Scottish government is & how they value their wildlife.

The creation of safe area for whales and dolphin is much needed - a wonderful idea. May it soon be progressed.

The creatures deserve and need the protection offered by safe seas.

The current plan to create protected areas for the whale and dolphins is highly desirable and will hopefully demonstrate their effectiveness. This could then mean more areas are created.

The death or suffering of just one of these creatures is a tragedy and crime. Please do everything you can to protect them.

The development of these protected areas would be so helpful to local market e life which face ever increasing threats to their habitats. Well done Scotland

The dolphins and whales need to be protected lets make the seas save for them

The effects of global warming is having an impact on everything. A lot of people appear to be of the belief they can do nothing and it doesnt affect them. Daily I am reminded how much it has crept in, affecting everyone and feel that every little effort counts to slow this effect and protect what we have left. How many things are now endangered ? I do worry about what there will be left for my children when adults. Please take this seriously. I cannot see how protecting a little area can outweigh any detriment there may be, to a bigger overall detriment in the not so distant future.

The establishment of new MPAs is something the government should actively support. Scotland has a unique opportunity to lead the UK as a whole in looking after wild & sealife.

The greatest people in the world are the ones who live in harmony with animals. They all have a special something. It takes a wise man or woman to educate people on the subject..... Please be the first.

The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
Mahatma Gandhi. This also applies to animals that visit its shores..

The least we humans can do is give all whales and dolphins the protection they deserve.

The longer we avoid taking action, the more likely we will be unable to undo the damage we are causing.

The Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins need all the help they can get, please create these areas of protection before it is too late.

The Minke Whales and Risso's Dolphins urgently deserve a controlled and protected habitat and I fully endorse and sincerely hope that the Scottish Government will enact and implement the plan for a protected area.

The more any of us can do to protect species the better. As a government you can do more than most. So please do it.

The need to create marine protected areas for Risso dolphins and Minke Whales

The ocean wildlife cannot wait any longer for protected areas and more practical support, our world is dying, please help save these beautiful creatures.

The plan to create marine protected areas is wonderful and shows that Scotland cares about the marine environment and is responding to global concerns about their well-being and protection. This would also encourage me to visit the area as someone who is passionate about species protection.

The plan to create these protected areas is fabulous news & shows the Scottish government setting a bright example in protecting endangered species that if lost would signify another nail in the coffin of the world as we know it

The protection of our oceans and specifically the creatures who live there need our help more than ever. Scotland should show the rest of the world that we take our ocean and country's conservation seriously

The Scottish government need to create these protected areas as soon as possible. The Dolphins need our help more than ever. The waters around Scotland are beautiful, as a sailor it is wonderful to see dolphins when we sail the west coast. A great experience for all. Creating these areas will be both a benefit to the Dolphins and Scotland. I do hope this happens.

The Scottish government proposal to create marine protected areas for Minke whales and Risso's dolphins gets my wholehearted support. Protected areas would be of significant benefit to these stressed and threatened species. The Scottish government would earn considerable respect if these proposals are put into practice.

The Scottish governments plans to create marine protected areas for minke whales and dolphins, is a wonderful idea. It is so important to protect these beautiful creatures in their key habitats.

The sea is not unlimited although it seems so. Don't add to the rubbish that kills sea creatures.

The seas must be kept safe for these beautiful animals, if you don't, then they will be lost for ever, you Must show other country's and take a stand to sort this out, hopefully the other country's will follow

The seas must be safe , it is their world too.

The seas need protection now more than ever if we are to stop climate change and the enormous decline in nature.

The seas need to be a safe haven for whales and dolphins.

The seas should be safe for whales and dolphins . I strongly support the designation of the conservation of the four protected marine areas under consultation. please make sure that the dolphin and porpois s conservation

strategy ensures robust management of wider seas. We are in 2019, we should care for all living beings especially dolphins porpoises and all marine life.

THE SOONER THIS HAPPENS THE BETTER

The waters around the Isle of Lewis are extremely important to Risso's dolphins

The waters around the Isle of Lewis are extremely important to Risso's dolphins, please act to protect them in Scottish waters

The waters around the Isle of Lewis are extremely important to the well-being of Risso's dolphins. Please protect these areas.

The waters around the Isle of Lewis are so important to Rissos dolphins. Its where they live. Please, please create a protected area here so that they can procreate many more generations of dolphins for the future. It is up to you to do the right thing. This is the right thing.!

The waters around the Isle of Lewis are so important to Rissos dolphins. Its where they live. Please, please create a protected area here so that they can procreate many more generations of dolphins for the future. It is up to you to do the right thing. This is the right thing.!

The web of life is delicately balanced and it is vitally important that minke whale and Risso's dolphin have their habitat protected for the overall health of our oceans and for the future of mankind.

The whole world population awaits your decision.

The Wildlife of the World is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust and must account for it to those who come after.

The wildlife of these issues is a precious resource and, although it shouldn't be important, a significant contributor to the economy. Please help us preserve our natural wonders by making provision for their protection.

The world is in desperate need of conservation initiatives like the proposed one to create two marine protected areas around Scotland. The plan is to protect two areas of minke whale habitat and one area of Risso dolphin habitat. Obviously these areas will provide a safe haven for many other marine animals and plants and help the sea recover from the devastation wrought by Man. Please, please, please give these initiatives the immediate go-ahead!

The world needs as many protected areas for wildlife, including marine life, as we can possibly provide. The destruction has led us to the brink of disaster, we need to act NOW.

The world needs more protective areas !

The world will be less likely to send tourists to a country that harms animals.

There is more ocean than land. The World's waters are full of plastic. Climate change is adversely affecting marine life. Agricultural pollution is poisoning seas and rivers. Marine life is being adversely affected by eg salmon farms. It is absolutely essential that we do everything possible to preserve our oceans and the creatures that live in them. If ?Scotland is serious about marine protected areas there should be no question about protecting the creatures that move around in our waters, since all is part of the ecosystem which we are destroying, bit by bit. Protect whales and dolphins, and do something positive to improve our world and keep it ticking as it should.

There should not even need to be a consultation. This needs doing NOW!!!!

These amazing creatures deserve their home to be kept pristine!

These animals are very special, please do all you can to help them thrive

These animals deserve to be protected The world is turning into a cruel world for these beautiful and peaceful animals so it is up to us to make a difference and show the rest of the world that it can be better with these animals and to teach future generations on how to protect the world.

These animals need to be protected NOW - thank you for doing your part.

These animals should be able to live in freedom according to nature. Humans should protect not destroy other species.

These animals should be protected 100%

These animals urgently need all the protection we can give them.

These are innocent and defenseless marine animals and their lives matter. They cannot speak for themselves. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to do all that we can to protect them. Please do the right, the good and the decent thing create these protected areas.

These are wild marine creatures where they should belong, not for human entertainment

These beautiful animals belong in the oceans where they can swim free and live the way they were meant to live. We do not have the right to capture and force them to live in cramped aquariums just so uninformed and uneducated people can gawk at them. The human race is supposed to be the most intelligent life form on this planet, but for every day we allow our wildlife and our pets to be murdered, exploited and abused is another day that the human race proves that it is the least intelligent life form living here. It is time we started to respect all life, not just human life!!!!

These beautiful animals need are help to survive and should be cherished .

These beautiful animals need YOUR protection. If not for yourself, for your children and their children.

These beautiful creatures need to kept safe and protected

These creators are a part of the world and no one has the right to destroy them or displace them.

These creators are a part of the world and no one has the right to destroy them or displace them.

These creatures are the hearts of the ocean so let us protect them.

These creatures need our help

These creatures need our help and it is us in the UK to give dolphins and minke whales the greatest help as the ambassadors for the rest of the world! x

These Dolphin and whales need help, so a protected area would be a step forward in helping to save them

These magnificent creatures must be protected at all costs!

These majestic animals are under attack from so many countries. Please protect them around your country.

These protect areas are essential to ensure the maintenance of the Minke and Risso numbers.

These protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland must be put in place immediately to save theses wonderful cetaceans to live free and safe. Thank you

These threatened creatures need all the help they can get!

These threatened creatures need all the help they can get!

These waters should be a safe place for the Minke Whales and the Risso's Dolphin's and any other wild creature who calls these waters home

These wonderful creatures must be protected for the future if we don't our grandchildren won't know what they are!

These wonderful creatures need all the help and protection that can be offered. It would be great if the Scottish government created protected areas to help them thrive.

they are wonderful to see if you get the chance but they do need protection if their numbers are to be kept at a reasonable level.

They deserve to be saved. No question about it.

They must be protected simple really

They need our protection and the only way for them to survive is through governments!

They need protecting, such beautiful creature

They need protection so please do it...

They were put in the ocean for a reason. That is where they should be. Not used for our amusement.

This is the best news I have heard fir whales and dolphins indeed any sea creatures thank you for beung the first to do this let's hope you are not the last.

This is the best news I have heard fir whales and dolphins indeed any sea creatures thank you for beung the first to do this let's hope you are not the last.

This action is long overdue.

This has my full support i am Scottish

This is a fabulous idea. I love seeing people and countries step up to help our earth and the beautiful creatures that share it with us!!

This is a fantastic idea. We need to protect our marine areas and habitats. Scotland is such a beautiful place, which is due to its natural beauty. We have an amazing coastline and need to protect these areas for the whales and dolphins to live safely.

This is a fantastic idea. We need to protect so much of our wildlife from humans now. I wish you much luck with this project.

This is a good idea. Please follow through

This is a good start, but it needs to be progressed quickly and expanded as soon and as far as possible.

This is a good thing for the whales and dolphins, we are protecting these mammals.

This is a great and environmental action from the Scottis Government. The Minke. whales and Rissos Dolphins will be protected for ever. This will bring in much revenue to Scotland from all around the world people will be eager to see them. Hotels, restaurants, etc will all benefit.

This is a great idea

This is a great opportunity to ensure these creatures are protected. Hoping that Scotland will help lead the way in cetacean protection.

This is a great plan to protect these beautifull animals .

This is a great progressive idea.

This is a no brainer, of course it must be supported.

This is a relatively small cost improvement and progressive move. Please go ahead with it

This is a vitally important step in protecting marine species. This should just be the start, and it's way overdue already, so please secure these areas.

This is a wonderful opportunity to protect and create scientific understanding of these wonderful creatures and the huge risks they are facing. Please do not let us lose this chance

This is excellent news that you are going to be creating more MPAs. The more we care for our planet the more we can do to preserve it for future generations. I want to be able to raise my children in a world where all Whales and Dolphins are safe and free.

This is fantastic and a great reason to visit Scotland! Let's advertise this and get people to come and learn about these conservation efforts.

This is good news.

This is important.

This is just what we need. A caring, compassionate government trying to make a difference.

This is most definitely the right thing to do! The Scottish govt are to be applauded for this initiative.

This is so cruel. We have evolved to a level as we know the animals are very intuitive

This is so important - we don't have much more time to protect our marine life. We have to act now with love and commitment.

This is so important! We will be visiting Scotland in a few weeks.

This is so important, you need to approve it now.

This is something that makes me feel we are at last trying to ensure the survival of species and may we all continue to help many others before we lose them for good

This is such a brilliant idea.

This is such a brilliant idea.

This is such a brilliant idea.

This is such a positive move from the Scottish Gov't; please do not hesitate! What an amazing way to lead the world...

This is urgent. These creatures face innumerable human-inflicted problems and protected areas round our coastline would undoubtedly help their survival.

This is vitally important

This isn't right and must be sorted-out

This protected area will boost Scotland's image worldwide. Another benefit would be a visitor centre for discrete viewing of the whales and dolphins. Thank you for planning this noble idea.

This protected area would be wonderful

This species WILL face extinction if we do not help it.

This would be a wonderful step in the right direction to help protect the whales and dolphins as there is so much destruction of them

This would set a fantastic precedent for other countries to follow suit, more people would agree than be against.

[Redacted text]

Those who care know it makes sense. We must protect the whales and dolphins. Once lost, that's it and all down to us!

Time to protect and insure SAFE SEAS FOR MINKE WHALES AND RISSO'S DOLPHINS

Time to start getting things put right for this planet and its wildlife

to all MSP's please support this consultation, so that our children and grandchildren will be able to see these fantastic sea life around our shores.

To me all Wales dolphin sharks should be saved important for our to our oceans and our children's children

To me being Scottish (I am) comes with a sense of wildlife & knowing sealife lime whales, dolphins, porpoise & seals use the waters around our islands rings me great pride and with that I always believed it was because our shores are special & that they had strong protection, please keep the visitors & native sealife safe and give specific breed protection. I hope what I believe in is true & that Scotland protects to the highest degree, & works with people like WDC to keep the magestic sealife safe coming into & leaving Scottish waters.

To protect the rights of animals is essential. Our Earth is not only home to the human species, but to a various range of animals, that only deserve to live alongside us in peace. All animals have as much right to live here as us. We must know this, and preserve all life on this beautiful planet, for all life is precious.

To Sir/Madam, I am concerned about animal welfare. And a UK citizen. Please protect the two areas of minke whale habitat and one area where Risso's dolphins live. Thank you for the time and help. Yours Sincerely, [Redacted text]

To whom it may concern. As humans we seem to believe that we own everything on our earth, but we don't. But as the so called dominant species (which we are not) it is up to us to protect what fragile eco system we have not yet destroyed . This includes all other living species wether they be in the sea or on land. As such it is very important to have protected seas so that sea creatures can thrive without fear of being killed.

To Whom It May Concern. Thank you to the Scottish Government for planning to create marine protected areas for, but not only, whales and dolphins. I hope that when the Public Consultation takes place that these plans will be agreed upon as I believe it is of both National and Global importance that these protected areas exist in order for the conservation of not only the wildlife but the seas themselves.

Too many whales are being harmed in their natural environment, please help keep them safer.

Treat all mammals with respect

Two areas is a brilliant start, more must follow

Unique sea life is precious. Please help save them for future generations.

us humans have a duty to love and protect these lovely creatures of the lord.

Use your power to help Scottish dolphins

Very heartening to see positivity for whales and dolphins. They need all the help they can get.

Very pleased the Scottish government has proposed making protected areas for whales off the coast of Scotland, its the only way forward, anything else is a backward step including doing nothing. Well done

Very pleased to hear there may be protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins around Scotland.This would be a wonderful achievement.

wake up

Wales are protected around the RSA coast line and they come every summer to calf, its a wonderfuk experience to see them so close to the cliffs, people come from far and wide to see them, would love to see that replicated in scotland, yes please.

WDC aims and objectives

We agree with this proposal and give it our full support. [Redacted text]

We all have a duty to protect the wildlife around our country and seas they are facing an uphill battle and as we are allegedly the superior species we need to do all within our power and remit to create safe seas for whales and dolphins and all sea life

We all must be concerned with our marine wild life, when they are gone there is no going to a shop to buy some more,

We are an island nation. Our seas are one of our most precious assets. Act on our behalf to protect our valuable marine mammals for the future people of the UK. Act now!

We are behind in our treatment of the seas - time to catch up with protected areas for sea animals

We are burning the planet into an early grave so the least we can do is protect habitats needed by sentient beings. A safe haven is necessary so please get this set up ASAP!

We are so blessed to be able to enjoy the Wales and dolphins. Please do 'everything' you can to help them right now and ensure their protection for always. Thank you. [Redacted text]

We are so fortunate to have amazing marine wildlife around our coasts. But climate change, badly managed fishing practices, plastics and other pollutants are driving species towards endangered status. It is not too late to ensure we retain a healthy population of these wonderful mammals by creating and enforcing marine protected areas. I therefore urge the Scottish Government to put into place such sanctuaries as soon as practical.

We are so lucky to have these animals in our waters, please protect them.

We are the Custodians of the OCEANS SO WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF THE PRECIOUS ANIMALS LIVING IN THE OCEANS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE IN GENESIS.

We are the only beings on this planet that can adapt quickly, by the use of equipment and machines and we have interfered with nature and caused more problems in this world. So anything we can do to put things right is a small step to making this world a better place for our children to live in

We as humans made the seas unsafe and unclean not the sea life that lives in it. It is therefore it is our responsibility to clean up our oceans to restore their environment

We badly need protected areas since cetaceans are hunted for captivity or food. Please I beg you to go for it and set a good examples for other countries. Cetaceans are apex predators we need their presence for a healthy marine ecosystem . If the ocean dies we die with it

we can save them

we can save them

we can save them

We desperately need to give these magnificent mammals protection. I would love for Scotland to be able to say that we did.

We desperately need to preserve our iconic marine megafauna, not only for the animals themselves, but for future generations to enjoy. The proposed MPA is a good step in the right direction. Next, no-catch zones and areas without aquaculture must be established, if we are to see truly impactful protection!

We desperately need to take conservation of the seas seriously.

We do not have long, take action now before it's too late

We don't yet fully understand the pressures facing marine life. However, we do know that these ecosystems are fragile and under increasing stress from human activities. If we want future generations also to benefit from our seas' rich diversity we need to protect them. Using new legislation, the Scottish Government now has the chance to make sure this can happen.

We don't have anywhere near enough protected areas.

We have a duty to protect our sea life and for the future generations please consider very carefully because if we don't the eco system will collapse

We have an opportunity to protect our waters and aquatic life. We can't go on abusing the earth as we do. Please protect our wildlife

We HAVE to protect these waters so that Minkes and Risso's Dolphins can thrive

We have to save our blue planet! Whales and dolphins are beautiful and intelligent creatures we have to help them.

We have to start conserving areas for declining species before there is nothing left to save. We may already be too late...

We holiday in Scotland every year for the wildlife- especially what watching.

Please keep up the programme of protection for them!

We holiday regularly in Scotland and protecting the wildlife on land and sea should be paramount for the benefit of Scotland and its visitors.

We live in a world now that is taking for granted all that we love and treasure in the environment and in our oceans and seas. It is crucial that the Scottish Government, as a progressive, enlightened government protects the whales and dolphins living around Scotland. Please lead the way for other governments to learn from and follow.

We love visiting Scotland, especially seeing the amazing cetaceans around the Scottish coast. Please create protected areas for these wonderful, sentient creatures, as research suggests that human marine activity can contribute to their decline, and the world would be a poorer place without them. Thank you.

WE MANKIND DO NOT OWN EITHER THE PLANET WHICH WE LIVE ON NOR THE PLANET THEY LIVE IN THE SEA'S. WE HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE SURE THESE CREATURES DO NOT BECOME EXTINCT THROUGH OUR GREED OF WHAT WE THINK WE ARE ENTITLED TO. WE CAN SPEAK THEY CANT WE ARE THEIR VOICES. LETS NOT BE THE GENERATION THAT WIPED THESE CREATURES LIKE MANY OTHERS TOO OFF THEIR PLANET THE OCEANS ,THEIR WORLD.

We must act now to protect our beautiful wildlife, otherwise it will truly be the end of these magnificent beings.

We must do all we can to protect whales, dolphins etc. It's not just go us but for future generations. We don't want to go down in history as the generation that did nothing to protect them

We must do all we can to save these beautiful animals!

We must do the right thing - not leave it to others.

We must preserve the freedom and beauty of these wonderful creatures.

We must preserve what remains of our natural heritage! Protections zones are vital and urgent. Please do it.

We must protect all sea life

We must protect these amazing, sensitive creatures

We must protect what is left for future generations.

We MUST start caring for this planet and ALL life on it. Stop to take a breath, look and appreciate the wonderment of it. Then do all we can to protect the amazing gift with which Creation blessed us.

We must take care of our whales, dolphins and all wildlife, marine, aquatic life, it is our duty..

We need as many protected areas as possible to protect vulnerable marine species - I applaud moves to protect two areas of habitat vital to minke whales and Risso's dolphins and give my whole-hearted support.

We need marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

We need more no take zones. Keep our seas clean for all of us

We need more safe seas for these beautiful creatures

We need protected areas for these beautiful creatures that we so enjoy coming to watch

We need protected areas for these species and all the species that live in these areas.

We need protected areas for these species and all the species that live in these areas.

We need protected areas where these magnificent creatures can be safe, to ensure their continued survival. It may also generate tourism in the local areas

We need protection and safety for these animals

We need safe havens for these beautiful creatures

We need safer seas for our whales and dolphins. Too many animals are becoming extinct or subjected to animal cruelty or abuse. The government can intervene and have protection for all animals especially whales & dolphins. Use your leadership and save our animals and our planet.

We need the whales and all species to have a protected area. It's so important to us as a species that they continue to survive and give us a chance too.

We need these animals kept safe to keep the food chain healthy & our seas safe

We need to be leading the world in showing the steps we need to take to protect our marine life. It's such a selling point to tourists to be a hotspot for dolphins, porpoises and whales. Protecting their habitat is so vital!

We need to be protecting these animals, not exploiting them. They rely on us to be smarter. If it's not ok for your dog or cat, it's not ok for any animal.

We need to do all we can to protect our earth and its wildlife.

We need to do everything possible to protect our seas & the magnificent animals that live in them. If we don't we are also killing ourselves

We need to do this and more for the future generations

We need to help the fish population and have safe heavens for them

We need to help these creatures there are so many animals being wiped out by the ignorance of people. If we don't act now to save them they will be gone forever, would you want that on your conscience that you didn't help.

We need to look after our planet and all the animals in it.

We need to make every where safe for whales and dolphins or we will lose them forever. X

We need to protect these lovely creatures, so many are being destroyed, they need a safe place to live and breed.

We need to protect all animals and our oceans or we won't exist anymore

We need to protect all marine life and animals asap.

We need to protect all whales and dolphins.

We need to protect all wildlife. Without the eco-balance that nature intended for the survival of all of earth's inhabitants we will all ultimately suffer extinction. We cannot sustain ourselves if we continue to on our current destructive path.

We need to protect Minke Whales and Risso's dolphins in Scotland

We need to protect our waters and the animals that live within them as they are all part of the ecosystem and help our planet and us to survive.

We need to protect the vulnerable in today's world more than ever. Providing these species with a safe haven is a step towards this and is the least we can do we need to protect the whales and dolphins.

We need to protect these animals

We need to protect these beautiful creatures, we are losing far too many species across the globe due to greed and false beliefs.

We need to protect these magnificent creatures that live around the coast of Scotland. We are losing far too many animals and marine creatures due to pollution, over fishing etc and need to think of the future before they are lost for ever.

We need to protect these whales and dolphins that we're so lucky to have around our coastline.

We need to protect whales and dolphins

We need to put the pressure on the government and these large corporate companies to help save these amazing animals

We need to save and treasure these awesome beings before it's too late. They are sentient beings that feel loss, pain, just like humans.

We need to save the Risso dolphins !!!!!!!

We need to save these elegant creatures for future generations or they will only see them in books and films. I think the film Star Trek voyage home says it all.

We need you to act now to preserve the Risso's dolphins and Minke whales who swim in the sea of Scotland we need to make seas safer for them and this starts with you!

We need your help to survive!

We owe this to conserving these beautiful creatures

We really have to protect these beautiful creatures. Scotland has shown that it is progressive in animal welfare so please create marine protected areas for the minke whales and Risso's dolphins in their key habitat around Scotland. Thank you [Redacted text]

We really need to protect these creatures, and we can't keep putting it off. Please do this - so important.

We should be proud of our marine wildlife, but we need the legislation to protect it. We are depending on you to give us this

We should do everything we can to protect all wildlife on land in the sea and on the air. Please help now.

We should protect all our marine life and the plan to protect areas where minke whale & Risso's dolphins live is applaudable

We should try to help all marine mammals

We support this campaign.

We the citizens of Australia need to make sure these creatures of the sea are protected by giving them a safe haven to breed .

We trust Scotland to do the right thing.

We urgently need these protected areas - our oceans are suffering from pollution, over fishing and the catastrophic effects of plastic, nets, lines atc. Time we di the right thing.

We visited Scotland to enjoy the wildlife

We want a safe sea for Minke whales and Rissos dolphin!

We want safe seas for our whales and dolphins!

We want to be seen as a caring nation, this would be a good start x

We want to see these creatures live in their natural habitat and to be with us for as long as mankind.

We would be so grateful if you create protected areas.

We're humans. It's our responsibility to nurture nature. Guaranteeing our grandchildren still have wildlife to balance our world ecosystems

Well done Scottish Government for planning to create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphin in their key habitats around Scotland. Thank you!

Well done, you are almost there!

Whalers are in danger because of the actions of humans. We have invaded their habitat with ships fishing gear, and other incursions To keep them safe a sanctuary is needed. It is because of us they are in peril thus it is up to us to keep them as safe as possible.

Whales & dolphins are wonderful creatures the fact the visit Scotland is a privilege for your country the least we can do is protect them, you have this chance please take it

Whales & dolphins from an essential part of the ecosystem, please implement the protection area in Scotland

Whales & Dolphins need all the protection can get. Please do it.

Whales and dolphins are so important as indicators of the health of our seas and they are also key attractions for wildlife tourism - everyone feels warmer when they have spotted a whale or dolphin - protecting their habitat is vital.

Whales and dolphins are a joy to preserve!

Whales and Dolphins are becoming endangered, they need a marine protected area. Thank you for planning to create one

Whales and dolphins are incredible, intelligent animals but they do need any help that we can give them. Marine protected areas are important for these animals, please do all that you can, as a government, to insure their continued survival in your waters.

Whales and dolphins are the most magnificent creatures, they deserve to be protected they encourage tourism in this country we need to ensure that both they and the waters they inhabit are protected

Whales and dolphins are under threat all over the world. Any protection Scotland can give them can only be a good thing, please carry out the plans for protected areas, it is very urgent.

whales and dolphins are very precious animals, please give them the protection they so badly need.

Whales and dolphins breed in the wild. We cannot entice them to breed, but we can create areas where they can breed without interference from stressors. Please protect these areas.

Whales and dolphins bring tourists to Scotland. Protect them and you protect a vital part of the Northern Scottish economy.

Whales and dolphins face so much destruction - being hunted and killed, poisoned by plastic, their habitat - the sea - warming. Please give them protected marine areas!

whales and dolphins need areas of protection. Don't let Scotland be a country which lets them down.

Whales and dolphins need protecting.

Whales are intelligent, highly social animals and threatened in many ways by mankind. They are hunted, suffer from boat strikes and the terrible noise we make in their environment. They need our protection in every way, please create these marine protected areas.

Whales are the lifeblood of the oceans around the world. The seas do not belong to us and the creatures that inhabit these waters deserve peace and protection.

Whales count!

Whales like all creatures are under threat and in decline. Governments need to do all they can to protect them. The Scottish government also needs to rise to the challenge of protecting its wildlife

Whales must be protected against slaughter and any sort of cruelty. We are the guardians of all loving creatures and respect is obligatory

Whales RULE!

Whales, dolphins, all animals deserve to be protected!

What a wonderful idea and pray it goes ahead. These fabulous creatures deserve to have all the protection they can possibly be offered.

What God is to man, man is to animals. Therefore we need to honour and respect all life. And especially to Love our planet. It gives so much to humanity with no expectations. Unconditional Love.

Where I live people travel to the area just to catch a glimpse of the wild dolphins. Protect these beautiful creatures and provide viewing platforms in keeping with surroundings and you will do wonders for tourism/local economy

While we have a long way to go on the path to healing our relationship with other species, news that the government plans to create marine protected areas is encouraging. I look forward to news that these areas are at last a reality.

Who will protect them if you fail to take action? It's not too late to achieve this, come on Scotland!

Why???

Wicked i will not travel with [Redacted text] because of this Grow up and start caring for more than just your pockets.

Wildlife is paramount to our tourist industry and we need protected areas to enhance them.

With all the countries that use these beautiful whales and dolphins for meat or entertainment, please Scotland be the one that stands out for protecting them around Scotland. We are watching and I hope other countries will take action and change. thank you

With animal extinctions taking place daily in some area of the world, I would fully support this plan for creating protected marine habitats.

With so much of the planet's wildlife, whether aquatic or land-based, under threat, it is imperative that protective actions are swiftly taken. Your plan to create marine sanctuary areas is most welcome. Thank you.

With the Japanese government resuming commercial whaling and the Faroe Islands continuing their regular whale slaughter, there has never been a more

important time to protect these animals' habitats. There are so many risks facing them every day of every year. It would be wonderful if Scotland could take the lead and create protected areas where they could exist in peace - as they deserve.

With whaling starting again, the two areas in Scotland giving a safe haven to minke whales and one to Risso's dolphins is a step in the right direction for the protection of these magnificent creatures.

Without healthy, safe seas for its wildlife then the ecosystem for everything suffers and will die.

Without those wonderful creatures swimming in the waters around Scotland, the sea will be a very poor place. And knowing what will lie ahead if nothing is done to protect those those Risso's dolphins and minke whales there is no excuse to protect that area.

Witnessing the amazing sea life from Coll on a week trip with [Redacted text]- including basking sharks galore, porpoises, pods of dolphins common & rissos), minke whales, seals, fish shoals, sand eels, sunfish & loggerhead turtle, sea birds, puffins by the hundreds on Lunga, kelp forest & red anemones everywhere in Fingal's Cave on Staffa I implore you to do everything in your power to protect and create a protected and safe environment in these magnificent waters.

Wonderful idea. Well done Scotland.

Wonderful news to create protected marine areas for minke whales and Risso's dolphins. So many people and palces could follow your example and make this a truly better world. Wish you all the very best.

Wonderful that you're helping the whales and dolphins in this way. Keep up the good work!

Yay! Go for it. You are right to protect whales and dolphins!

yes do please create these protected areas

Yes of course for a marine protection for whales and dolphins ????

Yes please to conservation areas for these whales and dolphins! Our wildlife needs all the help it can get in this day and age.

Yes please! Create marine protected areas for minke whales and Risso's Dolphins in their key habitats around Scotland.

Yes please! Protected areas are a brilliant idea!

Yes please. Such innovative and forward thinking to protect vulnerable species. Well done for Scotland

Yes, please do this, I want whales and dolphins to be protected!!

Yes, please help the whales and dolphins

Yes, please take action to protect these whales and dolphins.

Yes, this plan is a great idea and it's a must to protect these animals!

You are doing a wonderful job wanting to protect our beautiful marine life. We must take care of our precious animals. They make this world a better place to live. Best Wishes.

You are right to create a protected area to help conserve the Minke whales and Risso dolphins. Too much wildlife is being lost at the moment so anything that will protect it is good. Well done.

You have a heaven sent opportunity to save these whales and dolphins Make the most of it

YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT

You have the power to get this in place

You have to do the right thing!

You know what to do. So, do it!

You need to act fast to save these beautiful animals. Show you are better than those who who destroy instead of protect.

You should not have to be asked to protect whales and dolphins

You the Scottish government will make more money by making a protective area for whales and dolphins from tourists.

You will be remembered for your compassion.

Your idea to protect these animals is heart warming and totally wondergul.thank you from Denmark

Your plan is great, please implement asap, Thank you, [Redacted text]

Annex C: Satisfaction with consultation

How satisfied were you with this consultation?

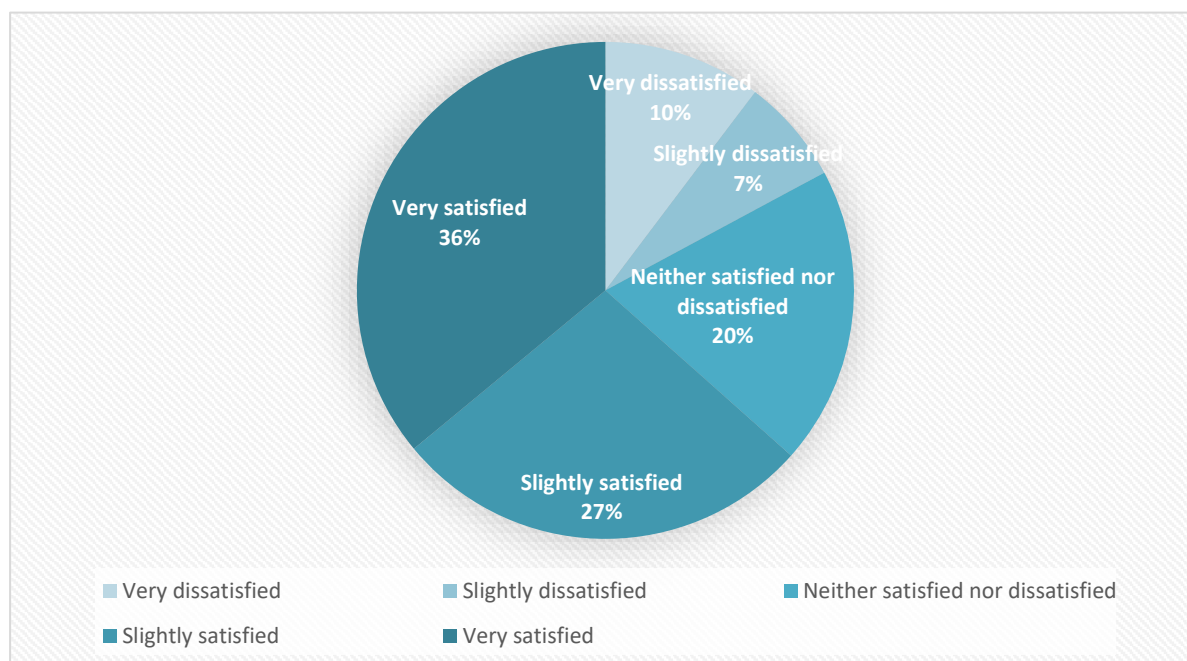


Figure 37 Satisfaction with the consultation

How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?

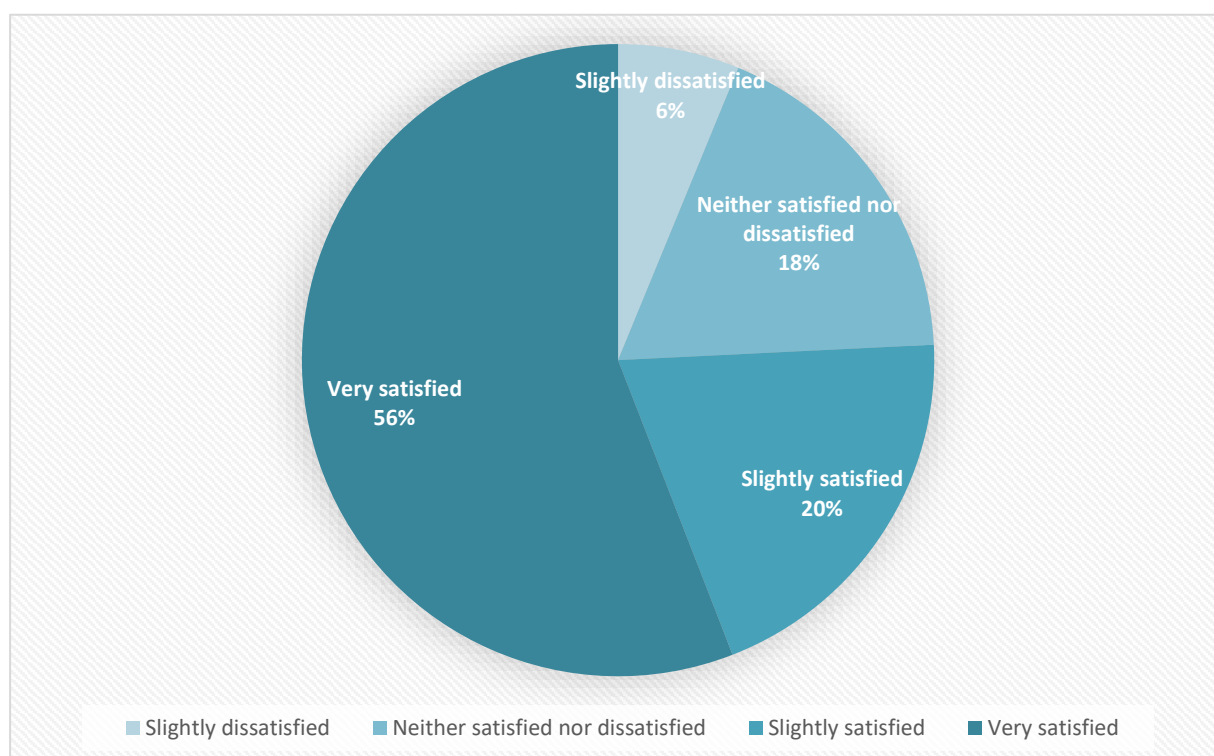


Figure 38 Satisfaction with Citizen Space

Annex D: Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADD	Acoustic Deterrent Device
BRIA	Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
CMA	Conservation and Management Advice
DCA	Data Confidence Assessment
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EPG(M)	Environmental Protection Guidelines (Maritime)
EPS	European Protected Species
GES	Good Environmental Status
HVDC	High-voltage direct current
ICIA	Island Communities Impact Assessment
MarPAMM	Marine Protected Areas Management and Monitoring
MESAT	Maritime Environmental and Sustainability Assessment Tool
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMP	National Marine Plan
OSCP	Oil Spill Contingency Response
pMPA	Possible Marine Protected Area
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SMWWC	Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code
SNCB	Statutory Nature Conservation Body
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System



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