

Proposed Special Protection Areas for Scottish marine birds

**Supplementary Consultation
on SEA and site classification**

June 2019



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Proposed Special Protection Areas for Scottish marine birds: Supplementary Consultation on SEA and site classification

Executive Summary

On 14 September 2018 Marine Scotland published an Environmental Report (ER)¹ and associated Network Assessment on proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) for Scottish marine birds. Views were invited on the ER, the approach taken by the Network Assessment and the conclusions which had been reached. In light of the comments received, we are taking this further opportunity to clarify and update our position on a number of points.

This supplementary consultation seeks views on an updated ER. The Reasonable Alternatives considered by the updated ER supersede those assessed under the September 2018 SEA. This is because respondents to the previous consultation asked for more information, greater clarity and suggested additional alternatives. We have also taken the opportunity to update our preferred policy recommendation on classification of the pSPAs in light of Final Advice to Scottish Ministers from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

We are seeking views on the following questions:

1. With respect to the SEA process, do you have any comments on the updated ER?
2. Do you have any comments on the SEA Reasonable Alternatives?
3. With respect to the classification of SPAs, do you agree with the preferred policy recommendation, and if not why not?
4. Do you prefer the option to classify Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA or the alternative option to classify North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA? What are the reasons for your preference?

There is no need to restate views already expressed in relation to previous consultations relating to the pSPAs and the SEA of the proposals, as these have been, and will continue to be, taken into account as we move towards finalising the SEA and the classification of the pSPAs.

How to respond

We are inviting responses to this supplementary consultation by 26th July 2019, please ensure you submit your response by then. Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/sea-and-site-classification/>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open.

¹ <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/sea-for-15-proposed-special-protection-areas/>

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form (as shown in Appendix B) to:

Marine Conservation
Scottish Government
Area 1A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email. Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at marine_conservation@gov.scot

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work. You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Scottish Government is undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the proposal to classify 15 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Scottish marine environment and previously an Environmental Report² was published for consultation in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 ('the 2005 Act).

1.2 In order to address consultee responses, specifically with regard to the previous assessment of Reasonable Alternatives, the Scottish Government is undertaking a supplementary consultation based upon a revised and expanded set of Reasonable Alternatives, and is inviting comments on these alongside an updated Environmental Report³. This is because respondents asked for more information, greater clarity and suggested additional alternatives. We have also taken the opportunity to update our preferred policy recommendation on classification of the pSPAs in light of Final Advice to Scottish Ministers from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

2.0 Background

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and the Birds Directive

2.1 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified under the Birds Directive (EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (2009/147)) to protect rare, vulnerable and regularly occurring migratory wild birds. A key component of the Directive is for member states to establish a national network of SPAs on land and at sea as one of several conservation measures that contribute to the protection of bird species. The pSPAs are based upon advice submitted by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to Scottish Ministers. Classification of the pSPAs would fulfil statutory obligations under the Birds Directive. The SEA Reasonable Alternatives are considered 'reasonable' with reference to the objective of meeting these statutory obligations.

Previous consultation on SPA classification

Previous consultations have explored both the proposal to classify the SPAs and the SEA. These are summarised below in chronological order.

2.2 Public consultations on the marine SPA proposals were undertaken by SNH and JNCC on behalf of Scottish Ministers in 2016/17⁴. Following the consultations SNH and JNCC completed a detailed review of all comments received.

² <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/sea-for-15-proposed-special-protection-areas/>

³ https://consult.gov.scot/++preview++/marine-scotland/sea-and-site-classification/supporting_documents/Updated%20Environmental%20Report%20%20SEA%20of%20a%20proposed%20network%20of%20SPAs%20%20June%202019.pdf

⁴ <https://www.nature.scot/2016-17-marine-bird-proposed-special-protection-areas-consultation-ppspas-consultation-closed>

2.3 To address some of the comments received to the 2016/17 consultations, Marine Scotland commissioned SNH to undertake a Network Assessment⁵ of the 15 pSPAs.

2.4 The consultation on the SEA for 15 proposed SPAs⁶ took place in Autumn of 2018 and looked at what environmental impacts the proposals may have on bird species. The SEA also assessed the likely significant environmental impacts the proposals might have on the wider marine environment. Under the consultation the Scottish Government asked if the SEA had properly captured and assessed the likely significant positive and negative effects the proposals might have on the protected features and the wider marine environment.

2.5 The Network Assessment and SEA were consulted on together, with views invited on the approach taken and the conclusions reached on both assessments. Responses to comments received on the SEA are provided in the Scottish Government's website and for the Network Assessment on SNH's websites:

- Comments log - SEA of proposed network of SPAs⁷
- Comments log - Network Assessment for proposed network of SPAs⁸

2.6 SNH and JNCC's findings from the review of their consultation are presented in the 'Consultation Report and recommendations on a network of proposed marine SPAs'⁹ and includes some recommended changes to the pSPAs based on substantive scientific objections raised during the consultation. These changes form part of SNH and JNCC's Final Advice¹⁰ on the proposed network. The findings from the Network Assessment which considered appropriate levels of representation for each species in the Scottish MPA network, are also taken account of in SNH and JNCC's Final Advice.

2.7 The changes recommended in SNH and JNCC's Final Advice to the proposed SPA network are summarised below:

1. Withdrawal of the Pentland Firth pSPA.
2. Removal of common eider, long-tailed duck and red-breasted merganser as qualifying species from the East Mainland Coast, Shetland pSPA and minor change to boundary to reflect distributions of remaining qualifying species.
3. Addition of Slavonian grebe (non-breeding) as a qualifying feature to the Sound of Gigha pSPA.
4. Combining the North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPAs into a single site 'Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA' with the removal of common goldeneye as a qualifying species and boundary change at South Ronaldsay. If this

⁵ <https://www.nature.scot/scottish-proposed-spa-network-assessment-september-2018>

⁶ <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/sea-for-15-proposed-special-protection-areas/>

⁷ https://consult.gov.scot/++preview++/marine-scotland/sea-and-site-classification/supporting_documents/comments%20log%20%20updated%20ER%20for%20SEA%20of%20proposed%20network%20of%20SPAs%20%20June%202019.pdf

⁸ <https://www.nature.scot/scottish-proposed-spa-network-assessment-september-2018>

⁹ <https://www.nature.scot/consultation-report-network-proposed-special-protection-areas>

¹⁰ <https://www.nature.scot/marine-special-protection-areas-final-advice-scottish-government>

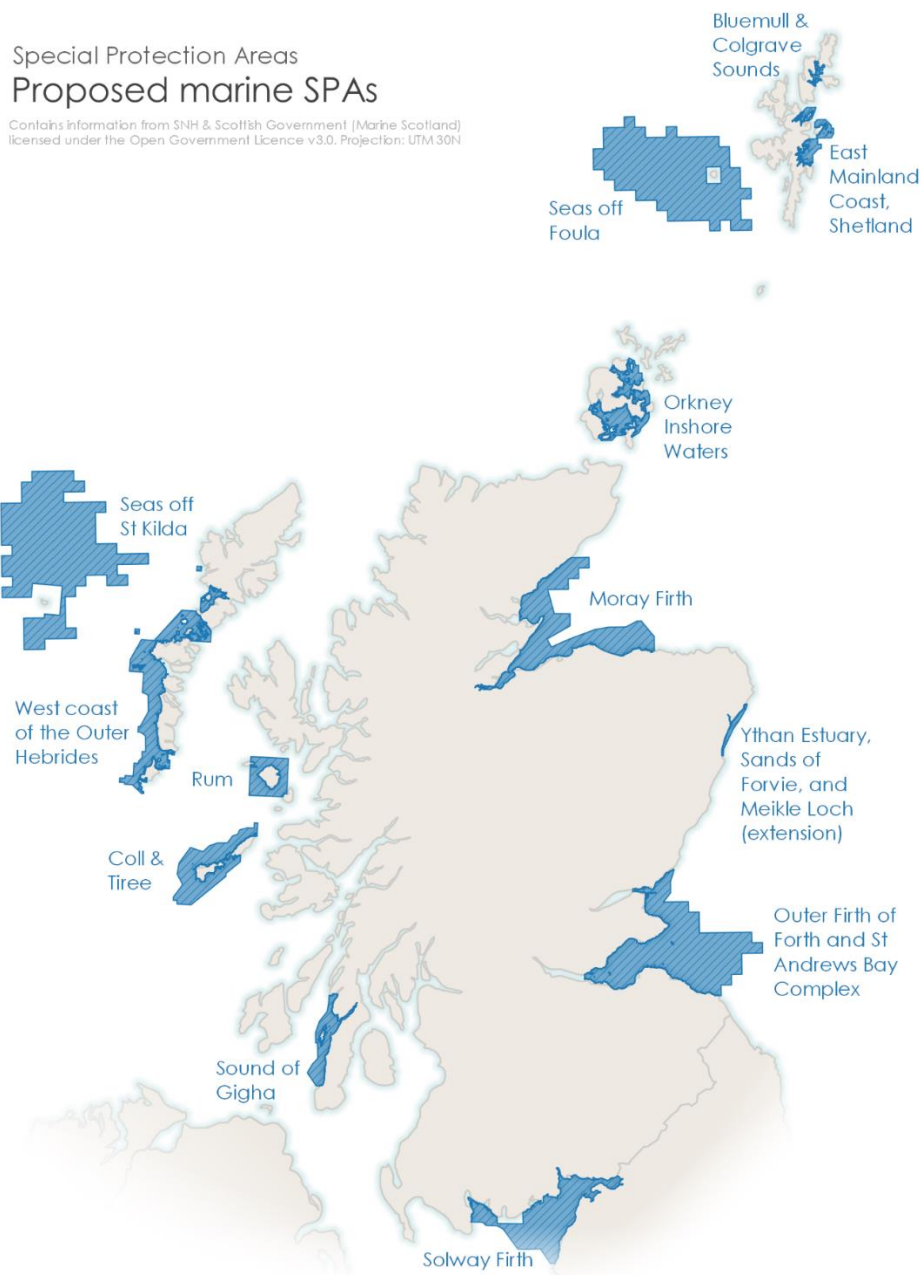
recommendation is taken forward to classification by Scottish Ministers the network of sites would reduce from 14 to 13.

3.0 The Preferred Policy Recommendation

3.1 The preferred policy recommendation follows the Final Advice provided by SNH and JNCC. It is considered to be the most robust approach available for meeting the statutory requirements of the Birds Directive. The SEA describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of the preferred policy recommendation for Scottish Ministers.

3.2 Figure 1 below provides a map of the 13 pSPAs contained in the Final Advice. Appendix A provides detailed information on the pSPAs, including the qualifying species that would be classified under the preferred policy recommendation.

Figure 1: Map of Final Advice provided by SNH and JNCC



4.0 The SEA Reasonable Alternatives

4.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Act (the '2005 Act') requires that the Scottish Government identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of any reasonable alternatives to the preferred policy position, taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. A new set of four SEA Reasonable Alternatives have been derived to address the comments made by respondents to the September 2018 Environmental Report. Compared to the preferred policy recommendation the first two of the SEA Reasonable Alternatives would provide a greater level of provision for the bird species, and the third and fourth would provide a reduced level of provision.

4.2 Appendix A provides detailed information on the pSPAs, including the qualifying species under each of the SEA Reasonable Alternatives.

4.3 SEA Reasonable Alternative 1 – this alternative also classifies all 13 pSPAs that form the Final Advice from SNH and JNCC, but the qualifying interests would be all species that regularly occur in qualifying numbers. This would result in two additional qualifying interests at East Mainland Coast, Shetland pSPA: long-tailed duck and red-breasted merganser, but in all other respects the network of sites would be the same as the preferred policy option based on SNH’s Final Advice. However in addition this Reasonable Alternative would identify conservation measures, including Priority Marine Feature¹¹ (PMF) status for some species to further enhance conservation benefits.

4.4 The Network Assessment identified a number of species where additional conservation measures would be beneficial. No bird species have PMF status at the present time, and its provision would give additional consideration for listed PMF species in the planning and consenting systems. This scenario meets the objective of fulfilling the statutory requirements of the Birds Directive however it includes a higher level of representation of some species in the network than considered necessary as well as PMF status which goes beyond what is statutorily required.

4.5 In the previous ER consulted on in Autumn 2018 the High Scenario Reasonable Alternative (which SEA Reasonable Alternative 1 replaces) included another positive conservation measure to develop a Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy. In the intervening period this has become a Programme for Government commitment meaning this measure no longer forms part of the Alternatives assessed in the current ER.

4.6 SEA Reasonable Alternative 2 – This alternative also classifies all 13 pSPAs with all species that regularly occur in qualifying numbers. The qualifying interests of the sites are the same as for Reasonable Alternative 1.

4.7 SEA Reasonable Alternative 2 considers the pSPAs and qualifying species contained in SEA Reasonable Alternative 1 but would not include PMF status for marine bird species. Neither is PMF status considered in the subsequent SEA Reasonable Alternatives. This SEA Reasonable Alternative meets the objective of fulfilling the statutory requirements of the Birds Directive. However, as with SEA Reasonable Alternative 1, it includes a higher level of representation of species in the network than is considered necessary to meet the objective of fulfilling statutory obligations for SPA classification under the Birds Directive.

4.8 SEA Reasonable Alternative 3 - This would provide a reduced provision for the bird species compared to the preferred policy recommendation by removing the qualifying status of breeding red-throated diver from neighbouring marine pSPAs.

4.9 This SEA Reasonable Alternative reduces local geographic replication of breeding red-throated diver in the marine SPAs. Under this Alternative the number

¹¹ <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/PMF>

of marine SPA's with breeding red-throated diver as a qualifying species would be limited to one in Orkney and one in the Shetland. This would result in the Bluemull and Colgrave Sound pSPA not being classified reducing the proposed network to 12 sites. If North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA are taken forward, this scenario would also result in the removal of breeding red-throated diver as a qualifying species from the North Orkney pSPA (see Section 6 below).

4.10 A limitation of SEA Reasonable Alternative 3 is that it does not reflect the highly restricted distribution of breeding red-throated diver in Scotland. Scotland supports all of the GB breeding population of red-throated diver (an Annex 1 species identified as rare and vulnerable in the Birds Directive) with the Northern Isles supporting over 40% of this. A reduction on the basis of local geographic replication would result in the second and fourth largest SPA populations not being included in the UK SPA network. In addition, both pSPAs provide protection to feeding grounds used by red-throated diver from terrestrial SPAs.

4.11 There is the potential that this SEA Reasonable Alternative would result in more needing to be done to adapt the network in the future to meet the favourable conservation status needs of species that are less well represented.

4.12 SEA Reasonable Alternative 4 - would reduce replication in the Scottish network for species already well represented in the existing UK marine SPA network and where the majority of their population is not in Scotland.

4.13 Under this SEA Reasonable Alternative for species where Scotland holds the majority of the population (taken as >50% GB population), the findings on the Network Assessment with respect to the existing level of representation for each species in the Scottish marine SPA network is relevant and appropriate at a UK level and therefore, further reduction in the Scottish network is not considered appropriate. For species where Scotland does not support the majority of the population and where there is already existing UK SPA provision the number of Scottish SPAs for which these species are identified as qualifying species could be reduced. This SEA Reasonable Alternative presents the same limitation as SEA Reasonable Alternative 3 with respect to breeding red-throated diver. In addition, non-breeding red-throated diver would be removed as a qualifying feature from the Moray Firth pSPA and common scoter and black-headed gull from the Solway Firth pSPA.

4.14 In addition to the limitations around breeding red-throated diver, there are a number of factors that affect how replication at the UK scale is accounted for. Key to this is the requirement under the Birds Directive to provide SPAs for the conservation of species in the geographical seas where they occur. This is accounted for in the UK SPA Selection Guidelines under Stage 2.2 which prioritises selection of areas to those for a given species in the UK that '*provide as wide a geographic coverage across the species' range as possible*'. This means we would expect to have the full geographic range of a species (based on its UK distribution) in the UK represented in a UK marine SPA network. This scenario does not '*provide as wide a geographic coverage across the species' range as possible*' and would result in no SPA provision of non-breeding red-throated diver in the northern extent of its GB range

and no SPA provision of common scoter and black-headed gull in the northwest extent of their range.

4.15 There is the potential that this SEA Reasonable Alternative will result in more needing to be done to adapt the network in the future to meet the favourable conservation status needs of species that are less well represented.

5. Other potential alternatives not considered further

5.1 The following scenarios were suggested by some respondents to the September 2018 consultation:

1. no designations; and
2. designating alternative areas to those proposed.

5.2 Marine Scotland does not consider that a scenario of 'no designations' would fulfil statutory obligations under the Birds Directive. Therefore, this is not considered to be a 'reasonable alternative' within the meaning of the 2005 Act.

5.3 Alternative areas have already been considered by SNH and JNCC and rejected as part of the site selection process, as detailed in the 'Overview of the Scottish marine Special Protection Area selection process'¹² document. This document outlines the process of selecting the "most suitable territories" for SPAs, as required by the Birds Directive (see section 2.1) and provides information on why alternative areas were considered not to be the "most suitable territories". For this reason, the alternative areas are not considered to be 'reasonable alternatives' under the 2005 Act.

6.0 The option to classify either 2 SPAs or 1 SPA in Orkney waters

6.1 The 2016/17 public consultation on the 15 pSPAs included two pSPAs located off Orkney mainland: North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA.

6.2 In recognition of the potential complexities of future management of two neighbouring SPAs supporting near identical qualifying species, Marine Scotland requested further advice from SNH and JNCC on the option to take forward a single combined SPA covering both pSPA locations, provided this did not compromise the scientific case or site selection process.

6.3 The re-analysis of the high density areas and population estimates for a combined SPA confirmed the underpinning scientific data would not be compromised and therefore, both approaches are equally scientifically valid.

6.4 Marine Scotland, in agreement with SNH consider there is a case to rationalise the two pSPAs to aid future management.

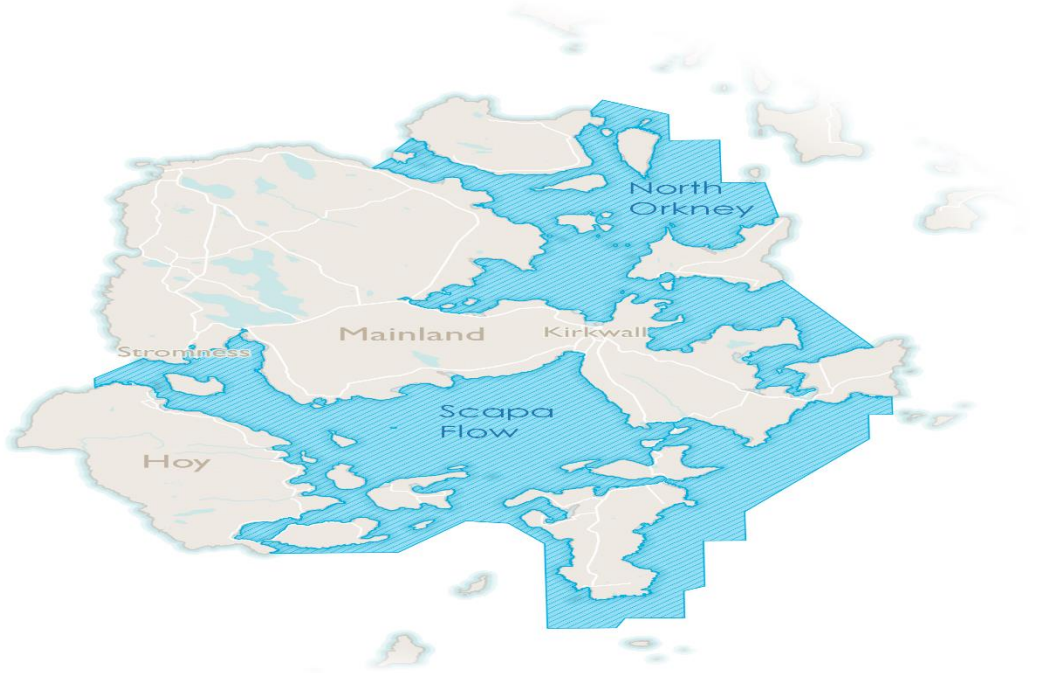
¹² https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-09/Overview%20of%20the%20Scottish%20marine%20Special%20Protection%20Area%20selection%20process_1.pdf

6.5 This presents two options for classification as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 below:

Figure 2: Option 1 to classify Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA.



Figure 3 Option 2 to classify North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA.



6.6 The updated Environmental Report considers the Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA to be the preferred policy recommendation. If the option to classify North Orkney

pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA is taken forward then the qualifying status of the following species would be removed from North Orkney pSPA but remain as qualifying species in Scapa Flow pSPA:

- Common eider *mollissima* subspecies (non-breeding)
- Long-tailed duck (non-breeding)
- Red-breasted merganser (non-breeding)
- European Shag (non-breeding)

6.7 Under SEA Reasonable Alternatives 1 and 2 the number of qualifying species associated with either option would be unaffected.

6.8. Under SEA Reasonable Alternatives 3 and 4 breeding red-throated diver would remain a qualifying species of the Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA (option 1), and would also remain a qualifying species at Scapa Flow pSPA but would be removed as a qualifying species at North Orkney pSPA (option 2).

7.0 The consultation questions

7.1 This supplementary consultation seeks views on an updated Environmental Report that is based on a revised and expanded set of Reasonable Alternatives. It seeks views on the following questions:

1. With respect to the SEA process, do you have any comments on the updated ER?
2. Do you have any comments on the SEA Reasonable Alternatives?
3. With respect to the classification of SPAs, do you agree with the preferred policy recommendation, and if not why not?
4. Do you prefer the option to classify Orkney Inshore Waters pSPA or the alternative option to classify North Orkney pSPA and Scapa Flow pSPA? What are the reasons for your preference?

5.2 There is no need to restate views already expressed in relation to previous consultations relating to the pSPAs and the SEA of the proposals, as these have been, and will continue to be, taken into account as we move towards finalising the SEA and the classification of the pSPAs.

Appendix A – Tabulation of Site and Qualifying Species details for the Preferred Policy Recommendation and 4 Reasonable Alternatives

n = number of qualifying species.
 ROM = regularly occurring migratory species
 nb = non-breeding
 b = breeding

Preferred Policy Recommendation

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 1	n = 3	n = 8	n = 4	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Great northern diver (nb)		x		x	x	x	x				x	x		x		
Black-throated diver (nb)					x	x								x		
Red-throated diver (b)	x	x		x	x	x							x	x		
Red-throated diver (nb)							x		x	x						
Slavonian grebe (nb)		x		x	x	x	x		x		x			x		
Greater scaup (nb)							x									
Common eider (nb) (<i>S. m. mollissima</i>)					x	x	x		x		x	x		x		
Common eider (nb) (<i>S. m. faeroeensis</i>)																
Long-tailed duck (nb)					x	x	x		x					x		
Common scoter (nb)							x		x	x						
Velvet scoter (nb)				x		x	x		x							
Common goldeneye (nb)							x		x							
Red-breasted merganser (nb)					x	x	x		x		x			x		
Goosander (nb)										x						
Great crested grebe (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															

Species (season)	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
Annex 1 species ROM species	n = 1	n = 3	n = 8	n = 4	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Common tern (b)									x							
Arctic tern (b)									x							
Sandwich tern (b)								x								
Little tern (b)								x								
Roseate tern (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Little gull (nb)								x								
Balearic shearwater (nb)	Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Cory's shearwater (nb)	Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Sooty shearwater (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
European storm petrel (b)															x	
Leach's storm petrel (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Manx shearwater (b)									x							
Northern fulmar (b)			x												x	
Northern fulmar (nb)			x													
Northern gannet (b)									x						x	
Northern gannet (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Great cormorant (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Great cormorant (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
European shag (b)							x		x							
European shag (nb)					x	x	x		x							
Arctic skua (b)			x													
Great skua (b)			x													
Great skua (nb)			x													
Black-legged kittiwake (b)									x							
Black-legged kittiwake (nb)									x							
Black-headed gull (nb)									x	x						
Common gull									x	x						

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 1	n = 3	n = 8	n = 4	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
(nb)																
Mediterranean gull (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Iceland gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Herring gull (b)									x							
Herring gull (nb)									x	x						
Great black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Glaucous gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Common guillemot (b)			x						x						x	
Common guillemot (nb)			x						x							
Razorbill (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Razorbill (nb)									x							
Atlantic puffin (b)			x						x						x	
Atlantic puffin (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Little auk (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															

Species (season)	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species for which additional conservation measures could be considered (including PMF status)
Annex 1 species ROM species	n = 1	n = 5	n = 8	n = 8	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 34
Roseate tern (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
Little gull (nb)									x							x
Balearic shearwater (nb)	Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Cory's shearwater (nb)	Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Sooty shearwater (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
European storm petrel (b)															x	x
Leach's storm petrel (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
Manx shearwater (b)									x							x
Northern fulmar (b)			x												x	x
Northern fulmar (nb)			x													x
Northern gannet (b)									x						x	x
Northern gannet (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
Great cormorant (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
Great cormorant (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															x
European shag (b)							x		x							x
European shag (nb)				x	x	x	x		x							x
Arctic skua (b)			x													x
Great skua (b)			x													x
Great skua (nb)			x													x
Black-legged kittiwake (b)									x							x
Black-legged kittiwake (nb)									x							x
Black-headed gull (nb)									x	x						
Common gull (nb)									x	x						
Mediterranean gull (nb)	Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Iceland gull (nb)	Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Lesser black-	No proposed SPAs identified															

Species (season)	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species for which additional conservation measures could be considered (including PMF status)
Annex 1 species ROM species	n = 1	n = 5	n = 8	n = 8	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 34
<i>backed gull (b)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
<i>Lesser black-backed gull (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Herring gull (b)									x							x
Herring gull (nb)									x	x						
<i>Great black-backed gull (b)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
<i>Great black-backed gull (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Glaucous gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Common guillemot (b)			x						x						x	x
Common guillemot (nb)			x						x							x
<i>Razorbill (b)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Razorbill (nb)									x							x
Atlantic puffin (b)			x						x						x	x
<i>Atlantic puffin (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
<i>Little auk (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															

Species (season)	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
Annex 1 species ROM species	n = 1	n = 5	n = 8	n = 8	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Balearic shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Cory's shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Sooty shearwater (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European storm petrel (b)															x	
Leach's storm petrel (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Manx shearwater (b)									x							
Northern fulmar (b)			x												x	
Northern fulmar (nb)			x													
Northern gannet (b)									x						x	
Northern gannet (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European shag (b)							x		x							
European shag (nb)				x	x	x	x		x							
Arctic skua (b)			x													
Great skua (b)			x													
Great skua (nb)			x													
Black-legged kittiwake (b)									x							
Black-legged kittiwake (nb)									x							
Black-headed gull (nb)									x	x						
Common gull (nb)									x	x						
Mediterranean gull (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Iceland gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Herring gull (b)									x							

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 1	n = 5	n = 8	n = 8	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Herring gull (nb)									x	x						
Great black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Glaucous gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Common guillemot (b)			x						x						x	
Common guillemot (nb)			x						x							
Razorbill (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Razorbill (nb)									x							
Atlantic puffin (b)			x						x						x	
Atlantic puffin (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Little auk (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															

Species (season)	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
Annex 1 species ROM species	n = 0	n = 3	n = 8	n = 3	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Balearic shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Cory's shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Sooty shearwater (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European storm petrel (b)															x	
Leach's storm petrel (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Manx shearwater (b)									x							
Northern fulmar (b)			x												x	
Northern fulmar (nb)			x													
Northern gannet (b)									x						x	
Northern gannet (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European shag (b)							x		x							
European shag (nb)					x	x	x		x							
Arctic skua (b)			x													
Great skua (b)			x													
Great skua (nb)			x													
Black-legged kittiwake (b)									x							
Black-legged kittiwake (nb)									x							
Black-headed gull (nb)									x	x						
Common gull (nb)									x	x						
Mediterranean gull (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Iceland gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Herring gull (b)									x							

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 0	n = 3	n = 8	n = 3	n = 8	n = 9	n = 12	n = 2	n = 25	n = 6	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Herring gull (nb)									x	x						
Great black-backed gull (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Great black-backed gull (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Glaucous gull (nb)	Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate															
Common guillemot (b)			x						x						x	
Common guillemot (nb)			x						x							
Razorbill (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Razorbill (nb)									x							
Atlantic puffin (b)			x						x						x	
Atlantic puffin (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Little auk (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															

Reasonable Alternative 4

Red highlights (e.g. **n = 3**) indicate pSPAs where the number of qualifying species represented in the network by the Reasonable Alternative is different to the Preferred Policy Recommendation.

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 0	n = 3	n = 8	n = 3	n = 8	n = 9	n = 11	n = 2	n = 25	n = 4	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Great northern diver (nb)		x		x	x	x	x				x	x		x		
Black-throated diver (nb)					x	x								x		
Red-throated diver (b)		x			x	x							x	x		
Red-throated diver (nb)							x		x	x						
Slavonian grebe (nb)		x		x	x	x	x		x		x			x		
Greater scaup (nb)							x									
Common eider (nb) (<i>S. m. mollissima</i>)					x	x	x		x		x	x		x		
Common eider (nb) (<i>S. m. faeroeensis</i>)																
Long-tailed duck (nb)					x	x	x		x					x		
Common scoter (nb)							x		x	x						
Velvet scoter (nb)				x		x	x		x							
Common goldeneye (nb)							x		x							
Red-breasted merganser (nb)					x	x	x		x		x			x		
Goosander (nb)										x						
Great crested grebe (nb)	No proposed SPAs identified															
Common tern (b)									x							
Arctic tern (b)									x							
Sandwich tern (b)								x								
Little tern (b)								x								
Roseate tern (b)	No proposed SPAs identified															

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 0	n = 3	n = 8	n = 3	n = 8	n = 9	n = 11	n = 2	n = 25	n = 4	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Little gull (nb)								x								
Balearic shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Cory's shearwater (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Sooty shearwater (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European storm petrel (b)															x	
Leach's storm petrel (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Manx shearwater (b)									x							
Northern fulmar (b)			x												x	
Northern fulmar (nb)			x													
Northern gannet (b)									x						x	
Northern gannet (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Great cormorant (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
European shag (b)							x		x							
European shag (nb)					x	x	x		x							
Arctic skua (b)			x													
Great skua (b)			x													
Great skua (nb)			x													
Black-legged kittiwake (b)									x							
Black-legged kittiwake (nb)									x							
Black-headed gull (nb)									x	x						
Common gull (nb)									x	x						
Mediterranean gull (nb)	<i>Distribution largely does not extend to Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Iceland gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (b)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Lesser black-backed gull (nb)	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															

Species (season) Annex 1 species ROM species	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	East Mainland Coast, Shetland	Seas off Foula	North Orkney	Scapa Flow	Orkney Inshore Waters	Moray Firth	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	Outer Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex	Solway Firth	Sound of Gigha	Coll and Tiree	Rum	West Coast Outer Hebrides	Seas off St Kilda	Species considered for additional conservation measures (including PMF status)
	n = 0	n = 3	n = 8	n = 3	n = 8	n = 9	n = 11	n = 2	n = 25	n = 4	n = 4	n = 2	n = 1	n = 7	n = 3	n = 0
Herring gull (b)									x							
Herring gull (nb)									x	x						
<i>Great black-backed gull (b)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
<i>Great black-backed gull (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Glaucous gull (nb)	<i>Occurring irregularly in small numbers in Scottish waters therefore conservation measures not considered appropriate</i>															
Common guillemot (b)			x						x						x	
Common guillemot (nb)			x						x							
<i>Razorbill (b)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
Razorbill (nb)									x							
Atlantic puffin (b)			x						x						x	
<i>Atlantic puffin (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															
<i>Little auk (nb)</i>	<i>No proposed SPAs identified</i>															

Appendix B

Respondents Information Form

SEA of Proposed Special Protection Areas for Scottish marine birds: Supplementary Consultation

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (without name)
- Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
- No



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