

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the proposals set out in the draft **Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013**?

Yes No

If no, please explain why not and your suggested alternative(s).

As detailed in our response to the '*Scottish Marine Regions, Defining their boundaries*' consultation the Council supports a marine boundary of 12 nautical miles and splitting the West coast into several marine regions, allowing more appropriate scale and locally recognisable regions for community and wider stakeholder engagement in regional marine planning.

The Council supports the proposal for separate Scottish Marine Regions covering the Firth of Clyde and Argyll.

2. Do you have any further comments? In particular we are seeking views on

- the drafting of the Order;
- the co-ordinates establishing the marine region boundaries;
- the boundaries outlined at paragraph 8 above;
- the names of the regions suggested; and
- the illustrative map.

The Council supports following the administrative boundary between Argyll and Bute and Highland Council for the northern boundary of the 'Argyll' Scottish Marine Region which will simplify local authority input to the development of a regional marine plan.

However, it is acknowledged that this proposal does not necessarily lend itself to an ecosystem approach through splitting distinct bodies of water such as the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe, which in addition are full encompassed within Nature Conservation MPA proposals.

The Council recognises that careful cross-boundary working will be required between Highland and Argyll and Bute Council for the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe. The Council has been lead partner in the Sound of Mull SSMEI project which developed a non-statutory marine spatial plan for the Sound of Mull which has been adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance. While this project identified the need for this body of water to be managed a single unit, the Council considers that this plan could still be used as a local level plan sitting below two less detailed statutory marine plans covering each side of the Sound.

The Council supports the Firth of Clyde Forum's view that it would be favourable for the seaward boundary of the 'Clyde' Marine Region to follow the Forum's management area as far as possible and not include Loch Ryan.

The names of the SMRs within the Argyll and Bute administrative area; 'Scottish marine region for Argyll' and the 'Scottish marine region for Clyde' are supported.

3. Do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions discriminates disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?

Yes No

4. If you answered yes to question 3 in what way do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions is discriminatory?

Comments

