

PENTLAND FIRTH AND ORKNEY WATERS MARINE SPATIAL PLAN: PLANNING ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Consultation Response: Caithness Kayak Club

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Section 4 - Legal and policy context

Question 1: Are there other legislation, policies or plans not identified in Table 4.1 and Annex 3 that should be considered in the development of the Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan?

The rights of navigation need a sharp focus. As in land access with the Land Reform Act, then “responsible access” is a key element

Section 5 - Knowledge and evidence to underpin the plan

Question 2: Is there other information that you think should be used to inform the development of the marine spatial plan for Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters?

Kayaking in these waters is a regular, but not well known, activity. Groups have had traditional access at small beaches and harbours which needs to be maintained.

Groups on the water in Pentland Firth and Orkney waters include local clubs on day trips, organised parties on multi-day expeditions, Glenmore Lodge National Centre groups, and round Britain kayakers.

These activities have been taking place for 40 years, co-existing with other users of the waters.

Section 6 - The purpose, users, status and spatial extent of the pilot plan

Question 3: Considering paragraph 6.5, are there other stakeholder engagement and governance related issues that should be investigated through the pilot marine planning process?

See above.

Question 4: Do you agree with the identified purposes and users of the marine spatial plan set out in Section 6? Are there additional or alternative purposes or users of the plan that should be considered?

Seems a complete list, but getting the correct balance of use will be important.

Question 5: Should the existing Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan boundary be realigned with the boundaries of the proposed Scottish Marine Regions or do you think the existing 'strategic area' boundary is appropriate? (Refer to Figures 5 and 6)

Prefer the holistic approach, as more likely that local authorities will work together.

Question 6: How should the pilot plan and/or marine planning process facilitate and support integration between the terrestrial and marine planning systems? (See paragraphs 6.16 – 6.17).

This will require clear guidance, as planners tend to be overloaded even now.

Question 7: How should the adjoining terrestrial areas be mapped in the pilot marine spatial plan? Do you agree with the proposed key principles set out at paragraph 6.18?

Agree

Section 7 The guiding principles and themes that will inform the development of the marine spatial plan

Question 8: Are the guiding principles and themes identified in Section 7 appropriate? Are there other guiding principles and themes that should inform the development of the pilot marine spatial plan?

Agree

Section 8 Strategic Vision, Aims and Objectives

Question 9: What is your vision for the future of the Pentland Firth and Orkney waters area? What would you like the area to be like in 20 years time?

Having seen only minor changes in the last 40 years, I think we are entering a period of much more rapid change. This could lead to rampant exploitation if not handled effectively. I would hope for a balance of energy production, existing usage and protection of the wildlife and habitats. I would hope that the area could become a model of success for other areas, balancing out the industrial, commercial, environmental and cultural aspects of this unique area where the waters of the Atlantic and the North Sea merge.

Question 10: Are there existing marine activities that you think should be safeguarded now and into the future? For example, commercial fisheries, ferry services and recreational activities.

See the details in question 2 on Kayaking.

The marine wildlife, fish, shellfish, cetaceans and birds all need their place in the plan.

Question 11a: How should the protection and/or enhancement of the natural environment be considered in the marine spatial plan?

The natural environment is a priceless asset which could be destroyed forever, so it must feature prominently in all plans. The strident clamour for “jobs” from many must not obscure the value of the area for fauna and flora. “Soundbites” must not divert attention away from real issues.

Question 11b: Is the protection of the natural environment important? How important is it?

Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Not important at all, 5 = The highest importance)

1 2 3 4 5x

Question 12a: How should the protection and/or enhancement of historic and culture resources (e.g. Scapa Flow wrecks) be considered in the marine spatial plan?

This a very valid aspect and must be kept in view. Applies equally well to features in Caithness. Once damaged or destroyed we cannot restore our heritage.

Question 12b: Is the protection of the historic and culture environment important? How important is it?

Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Not important at all, 5 = The highest importance)

1 2 3 4 5x

Question 13a: How should the promotion and support of economic growth be considered in the marine spatial plan? If any, which economic activities would you like to see grow and develop?

The scale of development is critical. If we go for a “boom town” approach we will lose an awful lot. If we go for a measured approach then the existing infrastructure will readily absorb these new developments and new workers, but the focus should be on training existing young and not so young people in the counties.

Question 13b: Is promoting and supporting economic growth important?

Please indicate on a scale of 1-5 (1 = Not important at all, 5 = The highest importance)

1

2

3

4

5

Section 9 Identifying strategic issues and interactions

Question 14: Having considered Table 9.1, do you have any views on the identified aspirations for growth, strategic issues and opportunities to address the strategic issues in the pilot marine spatial plan?

A lot of thought has gone into this table, with a broad view of the issues. Please continue along these lines.

Question 15: Having considered Table 9.2, do you have any views on the identified potential for interaction between the various sectors, what these interactions might be and how these interactions should be addressed in the pilot marine spatial plan?

I think the interaction between tidal/wave energy developments and recreation should be increased in respect of water users. Local kayak clubs have already been liaising with Meygen over the Inner Sound plans, and such liaison will be necessary in the future right across the area.

Section 10 Spatial strategy and information

Question 16: Do you think it is important to have an overarching spatial strategy? If so, what should the strategy include and why?

I am impressed by the work that has gone into this paper, and look forward to continued liaison.

Section 11 Crosscutting or overarching marine planning policies

This section of the Consultation Questionnaire seeks your views on the proposed policy options set out in Section 11 of the Planning Issues and Options Paper. Please indicate in the proposed policy option response boxes below which proposed policy you are commenting on and provide any comments on the preferred option and/or alternative approach, as appropriate. The proposed policies are:

Proposed Policy 1a: Sustainable Development

Proposed Policy 2a: Integrating marine and coastal development

Proposed Policy 3a: Nature conservation designations

Proposed Policy 3b: Protected species

Proposed Policy 3c: Wider biodiversity and geodiversity interests

Proposed Policy 3d: Non-native species

Proposed Policy 3e: Landscape and seascape

Proposed Policy 4a: Cultural and Historic Environment

Proposed Policy 5a: Water environment

Proposed Policy 6a: Coastal erosion and flooding

Proposed Policy 7a: Waste management and marine litter

Proposed Policy 8a: Safeguarding existing pipelines, electricity and telecommunications cables

Proposed Policy 9a: Hazardous development and Health and Safety Executive consultation zones

Proposed Policy 10a: Defence

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 1

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 2

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 3

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 4

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 5

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Should you wish to respond to further proposed policy options please provide your response on an addition page(s) and submit with your completed Consultation Questionnaire.

Further crosscutting / overarching policy areas

Question 17: Are there other crosscutting / overarching policy areas that should be addressed in the marine spatial plan?

Comments

12 Sectoral policies

This section of the Consultation Questionnaire seeks your views on the proposed policy options set out in Section 12 of the Planning Issues and Options Paper. Please indicate in the proposed policy option response boxes below which proposed policy you are commenting on and provide any comments on the preferred option and/or alternative approach, as appropriate. The proposed policies are:

Proposed Policy 11: Marine renewable energy

Proposed Policy 12: Electricity infrastructure to support marine renewable energy projects

Proposed Policy 13: Shipping, Navigation and Marine Safety

Proposed Policy 14: Ports and harbours

Proposed Policy 15: Oil and Gas

Proposed Policy 16: Marine aggregates and dredging

Proposed Policy 17: Development of coastal protection and flood defence infrastructure

Proposed Policy 18: Development of new telecommunication cables

Proposed Policy 19: Commercial fisheries

Proposed Policy 20: Aquaculture

Proposed Policy 21: Tourism and recreation

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 6

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Tourism and Recreation

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

The importance of the marine areas under discussion here must not be underestimated, both for the quality of life in the area, and for potential tourist industry development.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 7

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 8

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 9

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 10

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Comments

Please provide your comments on the proposed preferred option and/or alternative approach:

Comments

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

Comments

Should you wish to respond to further proposed policy options please provide your response on an addition page(s) and submit with your completed Consultation Questionnaire.

Further sectoral policies

Question 18: Are there other sectoral policies that should be developed in the marine spatial plan?

Comments

Further comments or opinions

Question 19: Do you have any further comments or opinions in relation to the preparation of the Draft Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan?

Comments