

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

Consultation Response: Highlands and Islands Enterprise

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?](#)

Reference should be made to the Scottish Government's Offshore Wind and Marine Energy Route Maps, otherwise HIE cannot identify any other legislation, policies or plans not identified in table 4.1 and annex 3.

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?](#)

The paper states further information can be found in Section 15 however there does not seem to be a section 15 attached. It is difficult to give an answer in respect of not knowing what has already been used. HIE have recently commissioned Caelulum to review existing data and reports relating to economic impacts associated with development of the marine renewables sector and have a summary description setting out the importance of the growth of the sector and long term economic opportunities it offers to the UK. HIE are in a position to share this with Marine Scotland should you see fit.

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?](#)

HIE supports the proposal that relevant stakeholders will be taking part. HIE encourages Marine Scotland to contact members of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Leadership Forum, most of the members are included in Annex 3 with the exception of SEGEC.

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?

HIE recognise the importance Marine Scotland have placed on supporting sustainable development of key sectors and the balance aspirations for increased use of marine resources with the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment, ecosystems and natural resources.

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)

HIE strongly support Marine Scotland to extend the existing boundaries to include West Highlands, Moray and Shetland enabling and supporting sustainable economic growth across the Highlands and Islands.

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).

HIE would encourage Marine Scotland to integrate with terrestrial planning to ensure the development of an integrated planning strategy. There will always be onshore elements involved for each development therefore the terrestrial planning regime should support these works to facilitate development which should include ports and harbours.

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?

HIE are in agreement with the proposed key principles but would encourage Marine Scotland to provide clearer guidance around Principle 4

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?

HIE would encourage Marine Scotland to ensure the guiding principles for all themes are adhered to but paying particular attention to 7.1 – Sustainable

Development.

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?

HIE's vision for the future of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters is to continue its leading edge of being at the forefront of wave and tidal energy development. We would like to have fully commercialised sites, home to arrays of wave and tidal devices producing up to 1.6GW of marine energy feeding into the national grid, the area to be a centre of excellence for Research, Development and Deployment; quality ports, harbours and onshore infrastructure and for the economy of the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters to be buoyant, providing high value jobs combined with quality of life in the area. We would also like to see a commercially prosperous supply chain and operations and maintenance industry situated in the HIE region. HIE is currently working with Scottish Enterprise to deliver NRIP 3 which focuses on the infrastructure needs of the marine sector, including within the PFOW area, this will be published in September 2013.

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.

HIE urge MS to safeguard all current existing marine activities both now and in the future.

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

HIE believe a robust marine environment is the foundation for all the socio-economic benefits derived from the sea. It is imperative spatial information regarding existing protected areas and proposed Marine Planning Areas should be included in the plan.

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

5

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?

HIE believe the protection and/or enhancement of historic and culture resources should be included in the plan. It is important that as energy develops the historic and cultural environment around it should be preserved and adhered to as much as possible.

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 4x 5

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 Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters is home to some of the world's best wave and tidal energy resources and is already the location of choice for wave and tidal energy developers from throughout the world. The pivotal role that the area already has in developing the global marine energy industry is instrumental in the drive towards commercialisation of the industry. The area offers a coherent, supportive business environment designed to accelerate the commercialisation of wave and tidal stream technologies. Its focus is on the opportunities offered by commercial leasing round in the PFOW but its reach is throughout the Highlands and Islands and the rest of Scotland, bringing leading academic knowledge and unrivalled industry experience together to accelerate the development of the marine energy sector. The plan must support, promote and sustain economic growth in the PFOW area where we are already seeing the likes of EMEC, Scrabster Harbour, Hatston, Lyness and Wick Harbour being supported however this is just the start of the journey. Securing economic benefits for the population in the PFOW area is of paramount importance.

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 5X

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?

It is rather difficult to comment on this table as the key issues and interactions were taken from a series of consultation workshops with stakeholders to identify the likely interactions between marine sectors and activities. This information has been reviewed by the Working Group in consultation with stakeholders therefore we feel all areas have been addresses.

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?

HIE are unable to comment on this table other than flagging up the fact there are a number of interactions already taking place and being developed and therefore should be taken into consideration and not duplicated within this piece of work.

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?

HIE consider it is important to have an overarching spatial strategy and consider it necessary to highlight the document is intended to be an 'indicative high level strategy as opposed to a master plan for future development'.

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:

Sustainable Development

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

HIE urges Marine Scotland to adopt the preferred option. We would welcome further information around how this policy will be crafted and how it will become a sustainable development policy which fits with Stakeholders policies which are currently in place.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

The alternative approach – do nothing which is not an option, this is a necessary component of the overall policy.

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 2

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Cultural and Historic Environment

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

HIE urge Marine Scotland to develop guidance in relation to what is already out in the marketplace with the inclusion of marine renewables clearly stating what the legal requirements are.

No

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?

No

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:

Marine and Renewable Energy

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

HIE support the preferred option.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

HIE do not suggest an alternative approach.

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 7

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Electricity infrastructure to support marine renewable energy projects

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

HIE support and recognise the importance of the electricity infrastructure to support the growth of the marine energy sector and also the wider economy in the PFOW. Grid infrastructure and connection are fundamentally pivotal to the development and commercialisation of the marine sector in the PFOW area and this plan should be clear at assisting the progress of this.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

HIE do not suggest an alternative approach.

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 8

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Shipping, Navigation and Marine Safety

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

HIE are in agreement with MS on this option and have nothing to add.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

HIE do not suggest an alternative approach.

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 9

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Ports and Harbours

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

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

One of the most important factors in the growth of the marine renewable energy sector is the growth of ports and harbours infrastructure – very little will happen until the infrastructure requirements of the sector are looked at and the findings acted upon. NRIP 1 and 2 have identified what is required around the PFOW area and beyond to sustain and grow the marine renewable energy sector

Proposed Policy Options - Response Box 10

Please indicate which proposed policy you are commenting on:

Development of new telecommunication cables

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

There may be plans to further develop the telecommunication cables in the PFOW and this should be taken into consideration when MS are looking at their already in place exclusion zones around cables already in place. They need to be aware new cables will most probably be required by 2020.

Would you suggest an alternative approach?

No further comment

Should you wish to respond to further proposed policy options please provide your response on an additional 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?](#)

HIE do not have any other sectoral policies which should be added into the marine spatial plan.

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?

No