CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Please identify the main area of interest you identify with:

Nature Conservation
Fisheries
Industry/Transport
Energy
Aquaculture
Recreation/tourism
Academic/scientific
Local authority
Community group
Public sector/Regulatory body
Local Coastal Partnership

Other (Please state)

Comments

Q1. Does the NMP appropriately guide management of Scotland's marine resources?

A timescale for delivering actions and policies would be appreciated. An outline of implementation would be timely.

Q2. Does the NMP appropriately set out the requirement for integration between marine planning and land use planning systems?

The NMP lacks detail in explaining HOW measures will be taken. The policy directions are all of undisputable value in what they are trying to achieve but rather vague in terms of the steps that will be needed to be taken to secure them.

Q3. Does the NMP appropriately guide development of regional marine planning? What, if any, further guidance is required for regional marine planners in terms of implementation and how to interpret the NMP?
Consultation responses will largely answer this. The NMP should act as an “umbrella” policy guide beneath which layers can be added to encourage integration of thought for regional marine planning.

Q4. The Marine Regional Boundaries Consultation proposed that in addition to regional marine planning, further integrated management of key marine areas would be achieved by designating the Pentland Firth; the Minches and the mouth of the Clyde as Strategic Sea Areas.

Should the NMP set out specific marine planning policies for Strategic Sea Areas?

Clarification of defining Strategic Sea Areas would be useful. Why identify certain sea areas as “strategic” unless it is to give them a distinct planning direction? However, is yet another type of designation needed? Do we need to strengthen what already is, or should be, laid out in the document with additional terminology?

Q5. Are the objectives and policies in the NMP appropriate to ensure they further the achievement of sustainable development, including protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of the health of the sea?

Whilst the objectives and policies are undeniably to promote optimum health of the seas, the plan lacks tangible outputs for respondents to consider, and to tailor their response to in more detail. “Sustainable development” for example should be defined according to key specific objectives, if it cannot yet be quantified or measured at this stage.

Q6. Chapter 3 sets out strategic objectives for the National Marine Plan and Chapters 6 – 16 sets out sector specific marine objectives.

Is this the best approach to setting economic, social and marine ecosystem objectives and objectives relating to the mitigation of and, adaptation to climate change?

Framework is sound, as long as it maintains consistency with other pieces of legislation. A desire to integrate with other policies should not mean an over-generalised policy statement. i.e. should the NMP be as explicit as Land Use Plans, or is it intended to be more descriptive?

Q7. Do you have any other comments on Chapters 1 – 3?

To set out targets, spatially would be a good grounding for regional marine plans to focus priorities and to create actual input. It is not always clear what is proposed as a ‘policy’ and what is ‘ambition’ or ‘aspiration’ – some aspects are just not practically deliverable, for example shore power for vessels – the cost is astronomical for little benefit (if any).
General Planning Policies

Q8. Are the general policies in Chapter 4 appropriate to ensure an approach of sustainable development and use of the marine area? Are there alternative policies that you think should be included? Are the policies on integration with other planning systems appropriate? A draft circular on the integration with terrestrial planning has also been published - would further guidance be useful?

Is there adequate signposting to pre-existing policies? To phrase “take into account” may be perceived as a weak indication and not encourage integration as strongly as it could. At this stage the NMP should be outlining and establishing operational links. Capacity building events and so on.

Q9. Is the marine planning policy for landscape and seascape an appropriate approach?

Appropriate/ helpful?

Q10. Are there alternative general policies that you think should be included in Chapter 4?

A policy for simplifying the regulatory process. Stakeholder engagement policy, encouraging inter-sectoral thought, and promoting a streamlined approach.

Guide to Sector Chapters

Q11. Do you have any comments on Chapter 5?

Are there other sectors which you think should be covered by the National Marine Plan?

Coastal and Maritime Heritage, to further protect and enhance the historical environment.
The regulatory sector.

Sea Fisheries

Q12. Do you have any comments on Sea Fisheries, Chapter 6?

Comments

Q13. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?
Aquaculture

Q14. Does Chapter 7 appropriately set out the relationship between terrestrial and marine planning for Aquaculture? Are there any planning changes which might be included to optimise the future sustainable development of aquaculture?

Q15. Do you have any comments on Aquaculture, Chapter 7?

Q16. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Wild Salmon and Migratory Fish

Q17. Do you have any comments on Wild Salmon and Migratory Fish, Chapter 8?

Q18. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Oil & Gas

Q19. Do you have any comments on Oil and Gas, Chapter 9?

Q20. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?
Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS)

Q21. Do you have any comments on Carbon Capture and Storage, Chapter 10?

Comments

Q22. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Offshore Renewable Energy

Q23. Should the NMP incorporate spatial information for Sectoral Marine Plans?

Comments

Q24. Do you have any comments on Offshore Renewable Energy, Chapter 11?

Comments

Q25. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Recreation and Tourism

Q26. Do you have any comments on Recreation and Tourism, Chapter 12?

Comments

Q27. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Transport (Shipping, Ports, Harbours & Ferries)

Q28. Should the NMP specifically designate national significant ports/harbours as described in Chapter 13: Marine Planning Policy Transport 2?
Q29. Do you have any comments on Transport, Chapter 13?

Comments

Q30. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Telecommunication Cables

Q31. Do you have any comments on telecommunications, Chapter 14?

Comments

Q32. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Defence

Q33. Do you have any comments on Defence, Chapter 15?

Comments

Q34. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?

Comments

Aggregates

Q35. Do you have any comments on Aggregates, Chapter 16?

Comments

Q36. Are there alternative planning policies that you think should be included in this Chapter?
Business and Regulatory

Q37. Please tell us about any potential economic or regulatory impacts, either positive or negative, that you think any or all of the proposals in this consultation may have.

Addition burden in terms of staffing and resources in delivering the consultation.

Equality

Q38. Do you believe that the creation of a Scottish National Marine Plan discriminates disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Q39. If you answered yes to question 23 in what way do you believe that the creation of a Scottish National Marine Plan is discriminatory?

Comments

Sustainability Appraisal

Q40. Do have any views/comments on the Sustainability Appraisal carried out for the NMP?

As a piece of work does it really inform, or generate improvement? Did it make a difference to the plan and can we see evidence of this?