

Consultation on the Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA Proposal

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the time to consider this consultation paper. We welcome your views on the proposed designation of one Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area (D&R MPA) to contribute to the MPA network.

This consultation considers the proposal for the Fair Isle third-party Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area (D&R MPA), which was proposed by Fair Isle Marine Environment and Tourism Initiative (FIMETI) during the process of developing Scottish MPA network. Marine Scotland has undertaken a full assessment of the Fair Isle proposal against the [MPA selection Guidelines](#)¹, as well as an investigation into the estimated possible socio-economic impacts of a successful designation.

This consultation is being taken forward in parallel with a public consultation on a proposal for a Historic MPA for the wreck of Iona I, Firth of Clyde, which is being led by Historic Environment Scotland, which can be found here: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/hmpa-consultation

The consultation seeks the following views:

1. Do you support the designation of the Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA?
2. Do you agree that the proposal successfully meets the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act and MPA Selection Guidelines for designation?
3. Do you have a view on the review period that should be applied for consideration of the success of the designation to fulfil its aims and objectives.
 - 12 years / 18 years / Other
 - Please provide reasons for your preference.
4. Do you have any comments on the socioeconomic assessment of the proposal?
5. Do you have any other comments relevant to this proposal?

What documents should I read to answer the questions?

In addition to this formal consultation document, the full version of the [Fair Isle D&R MPA proposal](#)², as well as previous versions of the proposal, as submitted by FIMETI are available to inform your view.

The [full report from ABPmer](#)³, who undertook an independent assessment against the Guidelines and the impact assessment on behalf of Marine Scotland are also available.

How do I respond and get involved in the consultation?

We are inviting views [via Citizen Space](#)⁴.

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/mpaguidelines>

² <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

³ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

⁴ <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-conservation/fair-isle-demonstration-and-research>

Further details on how to respond can be found in Appendix A. The full questions are available in Appendix B of this document. All responses should be sent via Citizen Space; however if it is not possible for this to be used then please see alternatives in Appendix A.

What will happen after the consultation?

Scottish Ministers will take a decision on whether to proceed with the designation of the Fair Isle third-party Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area. This will be based on the selection criteria, the socio-economic assessment and the views gathered from the consultation.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.



OVERVIEW OF FAIR ISLE DEMONSTRATION AND RESEARCH MARINE PROTECTED AREA PROPOSAL

The overall aim of the Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area proposal is to demonstrate, through research and dissemination, the effectiveness of a community-led partnership approach in achieving a programme of sustainable measures. This approach will help ensure that the marine environment is in a condition that benefits all stakeholders as fully as possible.

To achieve this aim FIMETI (2015), in conjunction with stakeholders, has identified two main objectives for the D&R MPA:

- To investigate the factors affecting seabird populations on Fair Isle, particularly climate change impacts and direct human influences, by:
 - Studying seabird productivity and prey availability (which will also help expand knowledge on inshore fish and invertebrate populations).
 - Exploring the potential for voluntary measures through local management measures in partnership with all stakeholders.
- To demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of the marine environment and the additional benefits that MPA designation can bring to the community.

In addition FIMETI suggest that the project has wider 'spin-off' benefits for Scotland more generally, by way of:

- Exploring a model for collaborative management (co-management) of the marine environment and demonstrating how coastal communities can involve themselves in local management;
- Demonstrating that investing funding and resources into co-managed sites is a sound investment for government departments;
- MPAs are widely viewed as being in place for nature conservation but they can also contribute to the improved management of other interests. Pioneering the D&R model could demonstrate to other interest groups a positive process within which gains are to be made from the establishment of MPAs rather than the usual perception of loss;
- The habitats around Fair Isle are representative of a large number of Northern Isles and coastal Scotland areas so biological results here are likely to be more widely applicable; and
- Fair Isle being used as a potential reference site for invasive non-native species monitoring as well as recording species whose distribution may be changing due to climate change.

Management Measures

FIMETI states that the mechanisms by which possible management measures might be implemented will be inclusive and promote input from all stakeholders. The proposed management measures have therefore not yet been determined and will be agreed on a study by study basis using a governance framework.

The FIMETI proposal provides a framework within which management measures can be identified and agreed prior to implementation, as agreed with wider interests.

Governance

FIMETI (2015) has proposed a governance framework which is designed to assure adequate accountability to stakeholders and to encourage performance improvement while meeting obligations and legislative requirements. The governance framework sets out the following:

- The mechanisms by which possible management measures might be implemented;
- The structure of governance which the D & R MPA could assume;
- The composition of the suggested executive level including information on the Steering Committee (membership and terms of reference);
- The composition of the suggested management level; and
- The composition of the suggested implementation level.

The governance structure provides the following levels:

- Executive Level: Steering Committee
- Project Management Level: Project Officer Support Team
- Implementation Level: Project Officer (& any technical inputs)

Monitoring

Riddiford & Riddiford (2011) identifies a range of existing long-term monitoring programmes, particularly relating to seabird numbers and breeding success that would inform the assessment of future changes within the D&R MPA. FIMETI (2015) suggested an Implementation Plan with a four phased approach to the research programme through:

- Developing consensus on study objectives through initiation and gap analysis;
- Demonstration and trialling the identified actions;
- Evaluation of the project deliverables against the objectives; and
- Enhancement and maintenance of the future programme.

Dissemination

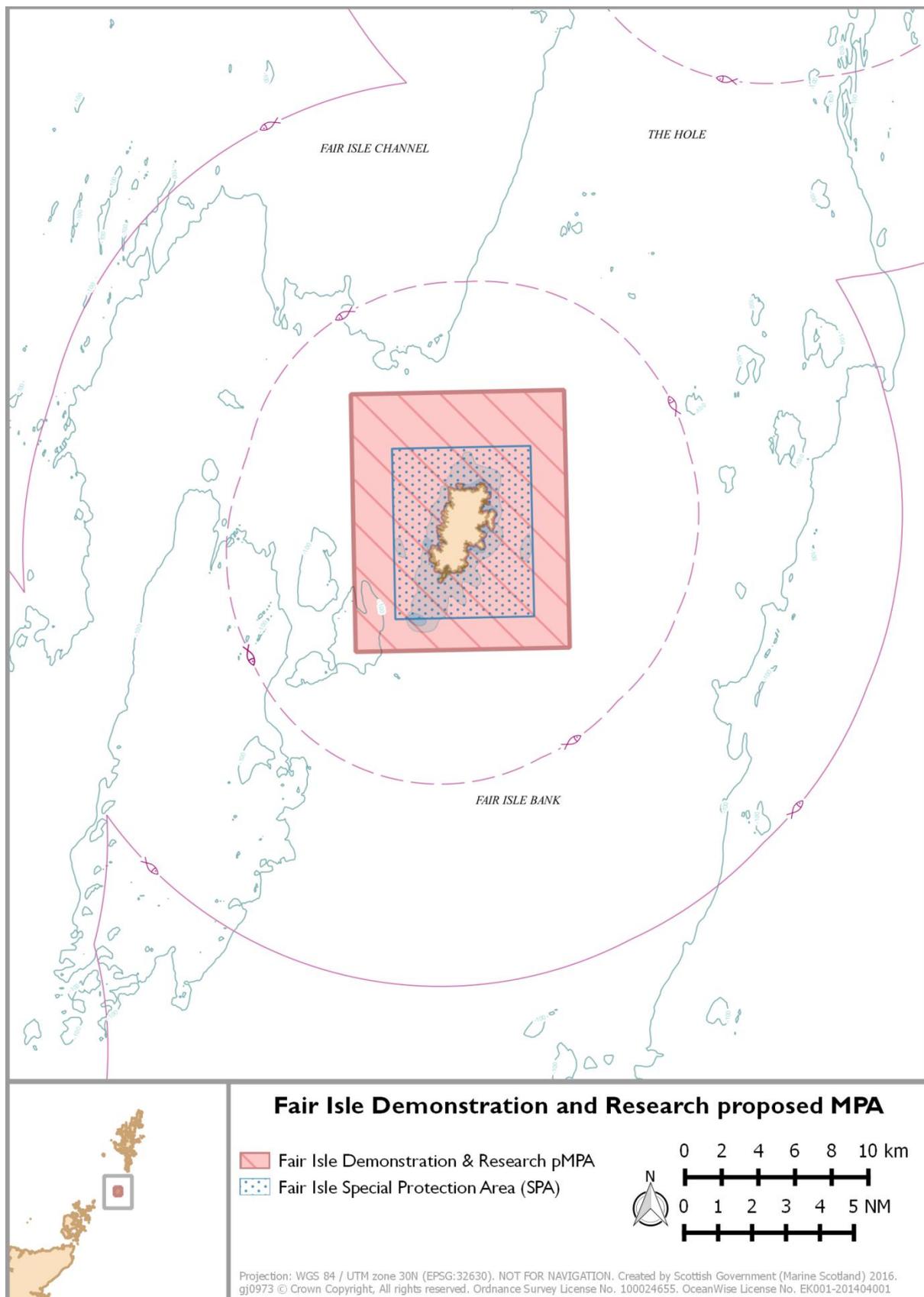
Riddiford & Riddiford (2011) highlight the dissemination of existing data collected around Fair Isle and suggests this would serve as a platform for dissemination of monitoring data and outputs. Also dissemination could be achieved through various technological and traditional media outlets, such as community and educational involvement, public participation and research publications.

We invite views on the proposal, in relation to Question 1 of the consultation.

The full details of the proposal can be found in the submission from FIMETI: [Fair Isle Proposed Demonstration and Research MPA 2015](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA)⁵

⁵ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

FIGURE 1 - Map of Fair Isle Demonstration and Research Proposal



OVERVIEW OF ASSESSMENT AGAINST SELECTION CRITERIA

Marine Scotland has published assessment guidelines for D&R MPA proposals (Marine Scotland, 2011). There are six criteria against which proposals are to be assessed:

- The aims and objectives proposed for the MPA are feasible;
- The proposed MPA is the best means of carrying out the proposed demonstration;
- Research proposed is scientifically sound;
- There is a good level of support from stakeholders;
- The proposed demonstration fits within the wider set of government priorities at the national level; and
- The proposed demonstration has a high value in terms of helping to improve our knowledge and understanding.

The Fair Isle proposal has a number of strengths in that it builds on an established research and demonstration base, and has strong support from the local community and the majority of wider stakeholders. The proposal has provided details on the proposed governance structure, monitoring arrangements and demonstration activities. While the proposal does not include specific management measures, there is a clear basis for identification and agreement on requirements for management measures prior to their implementation.

While the proposal could result in the collection of useful information on the relationship between seabirds, prey and climate change, given the low level of current pressure from commercial fishing it is unclear the extent to which local management measures might provide significant benefit to SPA birds. However, the designation would provide the potential to implement management measures more easily should the need arise. The proposed monitoring programmes and agreement of management measures to be trialled within the D&R MPA by the Steering Committee should ensure that the findings of such work are applicable where possible to other locations in Scotland.

The MPA selection criteria have for the main part been fulfilled. While no specific management measures have been identified, there is a clear process for specifying and agreeing management measures where the need is identified, and a means of involving those most likely to be impacted by them.

The proposal has unanimous support from the island, as well as support from a wide spectrum of stakeholders and community based in Shetland including the members of the Council and Marine Spatial Plan Advisory group and the majority of wider stakeholders, including the Public Petitions Committee and the Council of Europe, as well as eNGOs such as Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and National Trust of Scotland.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE MPA SELECTION GUIDELINES CRITERIA

Criterion 1 - The Aims and Objectives Proposed for the MPA are Feasible

FIMETI's objectives clearly relate to carrying out research and demonstration activities relating to sustainable management of the marine environment. Although the objectives are fairly broad, the proposal provides proposed monitoring arrangements, demonstration activities and a clear basis on which the requirement for management measures will be determined. The proposal provides a clear implementation programme which would ensure the objectives are appropriate, realistic and feasible.

FIMETI has proposed the D&R MPA boundary to be a 5 km Technical Measures Research Area. The D&R MPA would provide an opportunity to implement management measures within the Technical Measures Research Area outside the SPA, and an area that is not already designated as a protected area may prove beneficial for the purposes of expanding the applicability of proposed or future research. The proposed boundary could offer opportunities to carry out spatial measures e.g. voluntary research. While it is important the MPA is of a sufficient area that will be of benefit for research, it must also be noted that there is limited explanation as to what the reasoning is for specifying it should be 5 km and not more or less than that based on the objectives.

FIMETI propose a governance structure be established with Steering Committee (Executive Level) formed of all relevant bodies, along with arrangements of supervision of the Project Officer, and these objectives are clear.

It is proposed that if they are required the Steering Committee will agree what the proposed management measures will be through the Implementation plan and prior to any studies be commenced.

Criterion 2 - The Proposed D&R MPA is the Best Means of Carrying out the Proposed Demonstration

The proposal builds upon established research programmes and good research facilities on the isle, and thus already has elements in place that could be developed into a firm research structure. It will be supported, through partnership working, with NAFC/UHI bringing a wealth of expertise on other topics such as fisheries.

A key focus of the proposal is on research and demonstration involving the local community. Such a focus could not be achieved through sectoral measures or designation as a NC MPA. A voluntary approach could be pursued, but with increased risk of failure. Involvement of the local community in the research programme and the community-led approach to management could both be considered as novel elements of the proposal.

There is already a wide range of well-established and long running research on Fair Isle bird populations, which can help in the development of management measures for Special Protection Areas (SPAs) throughout Scotland.

The benefits of the Fair Isle proposal are therefore considered to be:

- Strong research baseline exists for marine birds - this is essential in order to be able to detect impact of management measures; and
- Good research facilities available on island and supported by research facilities on Shetland.

While it is recognised that Fair Isle offers some further benefits as a D&R MPA location, particularly in relation to the monitoring of long-term change in sea bird populations and responses to climate change, it is currently unclear what management measures might be implemented, and thus the extent to which monitoring might demonstrate the benefit of such measures.

With regards to carrying out this research, it is recognised that there are other SPAs with marine extensions where management measures might be implemented for which monitoring could be undertaken. There are also other NC MPAs within which fisheries management measures will and have been implemented for which monitoring programmes could be established. However, it is unlikely that the Demonstration and Research objectives of the proposal would be as well fulfilled at these locations as result of the island's unique location and the high level of participation from residents.

Management measures may constrain fishing opportunities in the future, but these will be well recognised at the start of the study and considered accordingly. FIMETI has clarified that the proposal is not looking to replace current fisheries management. They would like to work within current arrangements such as the Shetland Regulating Order. In addition fisheries management would only occur as a result of a need under a research framework and decided through discussion with stakeholders (which will include local fisheries interests).

No other industries are expected to be affected. It is therefore likely that any economic or social cost impacts arising from management measures will be small and therefore the location would have minimal adverse effect on other marine users in comparison to other areas.

Criterion 3 - Research Proposed is Scientifically Sound

The purpose of the research is adequately defined, sufficiently clear and meets the criterion. The main aims of undertaking seabird monitoring are scientifically sound as the research would be using and improving on existing methods.

There are also a wide range of studies that could be undertaken from Fair Isle, with the assistance of established scientific bodies, such as:

- Continuation of local shellfish monitoring and development of a sustainable-use management programme based on initial findings.
- Continuation of fish stock data recording and initiation of methodology-driven monitoring scheme and wider dissemination of the results.
- Seabird monitoring & research using the protocols and methodology of the national Seabird Monitoring Programme (population counts, provisioning of young, standard watches and sampling for quality and range of fish, feeding rates).

- Ancillary seabird studies to determine routes and feeding locations using data loggers; and investigation of corpses for causes of mortality including starvation and disease.
- Constant-effort meteorological data gathering and automatic transmission of results to the UK's Meteorological Station (including automatic data recorders for a series of sea surface parameters - surface temperature, salinity etc.).
- Seashore monitoring for biodiversity and climate change indicators of the seashore - a community involvement project, especially the children, through the Fair Isle Wildlife Club.
- Registration and maintenance of biodiversity records.
- Extensive recording of fish stomach contents by the community.
- Annual evaluation by the community of inshore fish populations including species composition, size, distribution and temporal and spatial changes in fish stocks - within the limits of the equipment available on the isle.
- Systematic recording of cetacean sightings, including along "transects" by the Good Shepherd crew during frequent ferry trips between Fair Isle and Shetland mainland.

The MPA would provide a platform from which to undertake as many of these studies as are possible to be done with available resources.

Given that the research will be carefully chosen and monitored throughout its lifetime, there will be opportunities to modify or cease the study annually if the objectives are not being met. These decisions will be made by the Steering Committee.

Continued long-term monitoring of seabirds will contribute to understanding of changes in seabird populations. The understanding of the causes of change could be enhanced by additional local monitoring of seabird diets and foraging patterns together with information on prey distribution/abundance.

The long history of scientific research and demonstration activities on Fair Isle provide a good foundation for a D&R MPA. The proposal has provided information on the proposed monitoring programmes and has detailed that the management measures will be determined through consensus by the Steering Committee.

Criterion 4 -There is a Good Level of Support from Stakeholders

There is clear and unanimous support from the Fair Isle community and designation could increase researcher visits and special interest parties, leading to an economic benefit. In addition the community will benefit from the continuation of long term monitoring programmes e.g. that of seabirds, shellfish, meteorology, seashore biodiversity, cetacean sightings. Other benefits will depend on nature of management measures which have not yet been determined.

The main sector likely to be affected by management measures is commercial fisheries. While this sector is not opposed to the proposal in principle, they initially had clear concerns about the lack of clarity around management measures and the extent to which the proposal meets the guidelines. These concerns have reduced with the proposal to form a Steering Committee on which fishing interests will have representation and as a result of clarification of the decision making process. The proposed objectives will also assist the fishing industry to extend its knowledge base.

Further work is required particularly to clarify possible management measures and governance arrangements so that commercial fisheries stakeholders can have greater confidence in the proposal. As previously noted, it is likely that any economic or social cost impacts arising from management measures will be small and therefore the location would have minimal adverse effect on other marine users in comparison to other areas.

There is also support from the wider Shetland community, including the Council, and the majority of wider stakeholders, including the Public Petitions Committee and the Council of Europe, as well as eNGOs such as RSPB and NTS.

Criterion 5 - The Proposed Demonstration is Feasible and Fits Within the Wider Set of Government Priorities at the National Level

The designation could provide additional protection to SPA birds and the wider marine environment, which supports the policies in the [National Marine Plan](#)⁶ (NMP) of sustainable development and use of the marine environment. In addition it can demonstrate multiple economic benefits at a community and national level, including economic growth, skills development, employment, maintaining or increasing population levels and opportunities for investment and trade. This also contributes to where particular consideration should be given to opportunities that aim to provide benefit to communities, including local job creation and local training (NMP General Policies 1, 2 & 3). As the aim is also to study climate change this also contributes to NMP General Policy 5 where decision makers must act in the way best calculated to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change. The National Marine Plan sets out additional policy that use of the marine environment must protect and, where appropriate, enhance the health of the marine area. This follows duties in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 on Ministers to improve the health of the seas where appropriate through their decision making, and finding new or better means of marine management supports this aim. The Fair Isle D&R proposal would contribute to all these principles.

The proposal would also contribute to many of the High Level Marine Objectives⁷ (HLMO) including particularly: sustainable use of marine resources (HLMO2), involvement of island community (HLMO9), living within environmental limits (HLMOs 11-13), involving stakeholders in decision-making (HLMO14), using sound science (HLMOs 19-20). Designation as a D&R MPA could also meet the Council of Europe Diploma requirement to designate Fair Isle as an MPA for continuation of their accredited status.

In addition, the Scottish Government has a vision for a future Islands Bill, seeking to improve equality and empowerment for island communities, and better equip them to inform the important decisions that directly impact their way of life. This proposal offers an example of this type of working in empowering the community of Fair Isle in the decisions that matter to them.

⁶ <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/03/6517>

⁷ The Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government, Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government agreed a suite of High Level Marine Objectives around the sustainable development framework. These policy objectives articulate the outcomes we are all seeking for the UK marine area as a whole as we strive to achieve the UK vision for the marine environment of "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas". These objectives will be used to underpin the development of the joint Marine Policy Statement (MPS).

Criterion 6 - The Proposed Demonstration has a High Value in Terms of Helping to Improve our Knowledge and Understanding

Long-term monitoring could improve knowledge of the relationship between seabirds, prey and climate change.

The proposed management measures have not yet been defined, however the planned approach and establishment of a Steering Committee will ensure consensus of the objectives of the study prior to commencement. Points of review and assessment will ensure that the aims are met and provide the opportunity for the research to be altered to be meaningful and applicable elsewhere.

Lessons learnt may be applicable to other situations particularly seabird SPA management and sustainable management of island and peripheral coastal communities

We invite views on the assessment against the MPA Selection Guidelines and the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the designation of Demonstration and Research MPAs. This is in relation to Question 2 of the formal consultation.

The full details of the assessment against the criteria can be found in the ABPmer report: [Assessment of the Fair Isle Third Party Demonstration and Research MPA Proposal - Criteria and Socio-economic Final Report](#)⁸

The full details of the proposal can be found in the submission from FIMETI: [Fair Isle Proposed Demonstration and Research MPA 2015](#)⁹

Review period

The suggested phasing of the MPA is as follows:

- Phase One - Initiation and Gap Analysis: Years 1 - 3.
- Phase Two - Demonstration and Trialling of Relevant Identified Actions: Years 4 - 10.
- Phase Three - Evaluation: End of Year 10.
- Phase Four - Enhancement: Year 11 Onwards.

An accurate assessment is unlikely to be possible to be undertaken until the 2030 review of the MPA network. Therefore it is suggested that the Review period for the proposal be on a 12 or 18 year basis, which also better reflects the slow rates of change in seabird populations and climate change figures.

We also invite views on what the most relevant review period for the designation should be. This relates to Question 3 of the formal consultation.

⁸ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

⁹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

OVERVIEW OF SOCIOECONOMICS COSTS AND BENEFITS

Notwithstanding uncertainties about the precise management measures, the proposal is only considered likely to give rise to minor costs for affected groups given the low level of use of the waters immediately surrounding Fair Isle. By the same token only small increases to the level of ecosystem service provision or use are expected.

The commercial fisheries sector may potentially experience cost impacts depending on the nature of possible future management measures. As the management measures are not known, it is not possible to quantify any potential economic impacts or consequential social impacts, although such impacts are expected to be minor as the current level of fishing activity is low, and virtually non-existent in the SPA area.

Table 1 - Total volume and value of landings, and active vessels, in the proposed D&R MPA, over-15m vessels (annual average, 2009-13; 2013 prices)

Total value (£)	261,823.34
Total shellfish value	886.38
Total demersal value	34,374.85
Total pelagic value	226,562.10
Total weight (t)	650.813
Total no. vessels fishing	31
No. of vessels fishing 3 or more years	1

Table 1 shows the total volume and value of over-15m vessels landings over 5 years in the boundary. There are no figures available for under-15m vessels, but it is expected this is between £4,000-40,000 over the 5 years. **It does not represent the estimated impact of the MPA, as management measures have yet to be decided in discussion with the fishing industry, therefore this table provides an indication of the current value only.** Nonetheless it is expected that any measures are likely to have a minimal impact on the fishing industry, and would likely only apply to sandeel fishing. This would only apply to UK based vessels as non-UK vessels are prohibited from fishing within the 6nm limit into which this proposal falls

No management measures are proposed for ports and harbours, commercial shipping, recreational boating, water sports or tourism and therefore no additional costs will be experienced by these sectors.

Costs to government

It is not envisaged that there will any substantial costs to the public sector as a result of the proposed designation and management for the MPA. Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Shetland Islands Council are expected to participate in the Steering Committee but participation is considered to be part of normal duties. The proposed site monitoring will, for the most part, be a continuation of current activities and the dissemination will be mainly through existing channels. Where additional monitoring is carried out this is likely to be on a voluntary basis by local stakeholders.

Benefits

A range of benefits will potentially derive from the designation including:

- Increased recreation/tourism;

- Research and education; and
- Non-use value of natural environment.

While figures that relate only to Fair Isle are not available, it is clear recreation and tourism, that comes in a large part from seabird and wildlife related activities and services, is essential to the sustainability of the community on Fair Isle.

Shetland attracted 64,655 overnight/day visitors in 2012/2013, with 41% being holiday visitors, 41% business visitors and 18% were visiting friends and families. The total spend was £16 million, where holiday makers spent 42% of the total, business visitors 46% with those visiting friends and families spending 12%. The numbers of visitors excluded cruise ship passengers, with cruise visits showing a steady increase from 1988 with 20 arrivals to Lerwick rising to 52 in 2012. There had been a slight decline to 39 visits in 2013 (Shetland Island Council, 2013).

Tourism has been identified as having the greatest potential for growth within the service sector upon which Shetland is increasingly reliant (Shetland Island Council & NAFC, 2013), and increasingly Fair Isle is becoming a significant tourism destination. The Isle is served by a ferry service run by Shetland Islands Council, and a regular plane service. The number of bed nights occupied annually by visitors to Fair Isle Bird Observatory (FIBO) alone has steadily increased year on year and now exceeds 3,000. In addition there is a growing of interest in specialist holidays such as photography courses being run at the FIBO.

The Isle is served by a ferry service run by Shetland Islands Council, and a regular plane service. The number of bed nights occupied annually by visitors to Fair Isle Bird Observatory (FIBO) alone has steadily increased year on year and now exceeds 3,000. In addition there is a growing of interest in specialist holidays such as photography courses being run at the FIBO.

A number of crofts on the island also provide accommodation and the community gains important income (by taxi driving, sale of knitwear, craft and food, etc.) from stay-over visitors together with those from cruise ships and yachts that visit the island every summer. During the summer months Fair Isle is said to be the second busiest port in Shetland in terms of passenger boat movements. Diving is also a main recreational attraction for both staying visitors and day boats, which come from Shetland and Orkney.

As noted Fair Isle attracts and offers a number of tourism opportunities, however it has not been not possible to obtain the cost benefits of these activities.

We invite views on the socioeconomic impact assessment undertaken by ABPmer on the possible estimated costs and benefits of the proposal. This is in relation to Question 4 of the formal consultation.

The full details of the socioeconomic assessment can be found in the ABPmer report: [Assessment of the Fair Isle Third Party Demonstration and Research MPA Proposal - Criteria and Socio-economic Final Report](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA)¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/DandRMPAs/FairIsleDRMPA>

Appendix A - How to respond to the consultation

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by **26 May 2016**.

Please respond to this consultation online via Citizen Space at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-conservation/fair-isle-demonstration-and-research>.

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the close date.

If you are unable to respond online, please respond together with the Respondent Information Form (see “Handling your Response” below) to:

Marine_Conservation@gov.scot

Or by post to:

D&R MPA Consultation
Scottish Government
1A-South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you respond using Citizen Space, you will be automatically directed to the Respondent Information Form at the start of the questionnaire. This will let us know what we need to know on how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** attached to the end of this document as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. 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.

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, they will be published <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk> If you use Citizen Space 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.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the [Marine Conservation mailbox](#) or phone on 0131 244 5301.

Scottish Government consultation process

Typically Scottish Government consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the issue, and they are also placed on the Scottish Government web site enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses.

Consultation is an essential part the policy making process. It gives us the opportunity to get your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. 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.

Consultations may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups, or other online methods such as Dialogue (<http://ideas.scotland.gov.uk>).

After a consultation is closed we publish all responses where we have been given permission to do so.

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.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr Please tick as appropriate

Surname

Forename

2. Postal Address

Postcode	Phone	Email

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual / **Group/Organisation**
 Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick **ONE** of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) 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?

Please tick as appropriate Yes

Appendix B – CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

To provide your response please visit:

[Citizen Space¹¹](#)

1. Do you support the designation of the Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA? Please explain.

Yes No

2. Do you agree that the proposal successfully meets the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act and MPA Selection Guidelines for designation? Please explain.

Yes No

3. Do you have a view on the review period that should be applied for consideration of the success of the designation to fulfil its aims and objectives. Please provide reasons for your preference.

12 years 18 years Other

4. Do you have any comments on the socioeconomic assessment of the proposal? Please explain.

Yes No

5. Do you have any other comments relevant to this proposal? Please explain.

Yes No

Thank You.

¹¹ <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-conservation/fair-isle-demonstration-and-research>



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