SCOTLAND’S MARINE ATLAS
Information for the National Marine Plan

Background
Marine Scotland’s vision is for ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people’.

Scotland’s Marine Atlas – Information for the National Marine Plan maps an assessment of the condition of Scotland’s seas, based on scientific evidence from data and analysis and supported by expert judgement. The Atlas also summarises the main pressures and impacts from human activity, as required by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in preparing the national marine plan.

Atlas development
The development of the Atlas was led by Marine Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Marine Alliance for Science & Technology Scotland. It is the first detailed atlas of Scottish waters and features maps, graphics and information which support the new marine planning framework. The Atlas also formed part of the initial assessment of marine waters required under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Outreach
As well as meeting these statutory requirements, the Atlas was also disseminated to all secondary schools in Scotland. A schools pack containing colourful posters and a background DVD was also sent to all schools. The Atlas presents a very wide range of information on the marine environment and marine activities in an accessible and engaging format, in order to ensure that the wider public has the opportunity to find out more about Scotland’s seas.

www.gov.scot/marinescotland
blogs.gov.scot/marine-scotland/
@marinescotland
Scope of the Atlas

The Atlas is split into chapters which consider the different aspects of our vision for the seas – and whether they are in fact Clean and Safe; Healthy and Biologically Diverse; and Productive. Other chapters deal with the physical characteristics of the seas, the impacts of climate change and the overall assessments of condition and productivity at both a national and regional level.

The Atlas can be viewed at www.gov.scot/marineatlas where there is also an Education Zone. An e-publication version can also be downloaded.