

**Flapper skate conservation – Interim protection measures
Meeting with the Ministry of Defence**

**MS Teams online meeting
01 February 2021 13:30**

Attendees

- Marine Scotland
- MOD, Navy Safety Centre

Meeting notes

- Marine Scotland welcomed everybody to the meeting and provided some introductions.
- MOD confirmed that they had received and considered the background report provided ahead of the meeting.
- Marine Scotland outlined the advice received from NatureScot.
- Marine Scotland reported that an urgent MPA and Marine Conservation Order are under consideration subject to Ministerial approval.
- Marine Scotland asked if the proposed site would impact on the MOD BUTEC site.
- MOD said that this site was an underwater testing facility and it's work is mainly acoustic with occasional torpedo tests.
- MOD stated that they are not aware of any pressures on the proposed MPA arising from this site.
- MOD asked if Marine Scotland were aware of any potential acoustic pressures on flapper Skate. Marine Scotland stated that the advice does not suggest any sensitivity of flapper skate to noise but will confirm this with NatureScot.
- MOD mentioned that the BUTEC range is not in constant use and tends to be used a few days or weeks at a time, additionally explosives are not routinely in use at the site.
- The MOD stated that they have no records of use of the proposed site historically as anchorage and if this site was designated they can easily find alternatives.
- Marine Scotland confirmed that they will be sending advice to Ministers at the tail end of next week.
- Marine Scotland thanked the MOD for attending this meeting.
- MOD took the action to contact the remaining MOD stakeholders operating in the area and feedback any relevant use to Marine Scotland. (Action complete).