

Response ID ANON-FKGY-ETWB-3

Submitted to **A consultation on proposals to designate four Marine Protected Areas in Scottish waters**

Submitted on **2019-08-30 18:07:23**

The Sites

1 Do you support the designation of these possible Marine Protected Areas?

Support_rating - North-east Lewis:

Strongly Support

Support_rating - Sea of the Hebrides:

Strongly Support

Support_rating - Shiant East Bank:

Strongly Support

Support_rating - Southern Trench:

Strongly Support

Please enter your comments about this question below. Please ensure you indicate which site(s) your comments refer to.

Comments (optional):

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is based in Lamlash Bay, on the Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire. We are a community-led charity with the aim of restoring an abundant and productive marine environment around the Isle of Arran, and the wider Clyde region, for the socio-economic benefit of all. COAST have been successful in establishing the first marine No Take Zone (NTZ) in Scotland (which is the first community-led NTZ in the UK) and achieving the statutory designation of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA). We are members of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership and the Coastal Communities Network.

COAST fully supports the designation of the four new Marine Projected Areas (MPAs) covered by this consultation. They will provide an important contribution towards protecting the mobile species, benthic habitats, seabed and water column features identified for the proposed sites. There needs to be rapid progress in designating these sites.

These sites need to be effectively managed from the start, and it is a significant flaw that specific, enforceable management measures for these four MPAs are not being consulted on as an integral part of the consultation. The Scottish Government needs to urgently bring forward MPA management measures for these four site and also, the existing (already designated) MPAs that lack specific protection. This is essential if the Scottish Government is to meet its international and national obligations for biodiversity protection.

All the MPAs in the network need to be effectively monitored as part of a well-funded site- and network-level programme of MPA monitoring. Further investment is required from Scottish Government to support this work.

Scientific Case for Designation

2 Do you agree that the scientific evidence presented justifies the case for the designation of each site?

Yes

Please enter your comments about this question below. Please ensure you indicate which site(s) your comments refer to.

Comments (optional):

COAST considers that the scientific evidence presented for the four sites justifies their designation as MPAs. While data gaps are recognised, a strong case has been made for each of the proposed sites. More work is required on cumulative effects which needs to be taken forward promptly.

COAST has always championed the involvement of communities in MPA management. As a community organisation actively involved in collecting data about the South Arran MPA and Lamlash Bay NTZ, we are pleased to see in these current proposals the acceptance and use of data from other sources such as that collected by coastal communities and other local stakeholders.

Conservation and Management Advice

3 Do you have any comments on the Conservation and Management Advice for each site?

Yes

Please enter your comments about this question below. Please ensure you indicate which site(s) your comments refer to.

Comments (optional):

As already noted, the current conservation and management proposals do not bring in any specific protection for the proposed sites. For the sites to be effectively protected, specific management measures need to be implemented and enforced. Without this, the sites will simply exist as 'paper parks' and they will fail to address the ongoing damage to Scotland's marine wildlife. The ongoing problem of illegal fishing incursions in Scottish MPAs highlights the need for effective

enforcement of all management measures.

The "upper scenario" guidance/advice should be applied for all four MPAs in order to provide sufficient protection.

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments

4 Do you have any comments on the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment for each site?

No

Please enter your comments about this question below. Please ensure you indicate which site(s) your comments refer to.

Comments (optional):

Sustainability Appraisal

5 Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal, including the Environmental Report and the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment?

No

Please enter your comments about this question below. Please ensure you indicate which site(s) your comments refer to.

Comments (optional):

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Lucy Kay

What is your email address?

Email:

lucy@arrancoast.com

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

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?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Usefully concise consultation document with the additional supporting documents made it easier to get to initial information. Consultation questions clear.

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: