

MPA10118

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Dear Sir,

Stimulated by a leaflet - Planning Scotland's Seas - that I picked up in my local library I followed up by looking at some websites with regard to Marine Protected Areas. It is very good news that further such sectors are proposed to enhance the safeguarding of the diverse sea life around our shores.

I appreciate that with sessile species such corals and seaweeds and sedentary species such as molluscs, their habitats and distributions can be identified and measures put in place to protect them.

Living in Aberdeen, I enjoy watching birds at places from Troup Head with its gannets to Fowlsheugh with its razorbills, guillemots and small colony of puffins. But I am concerned by the reports of the drastic decline in a number of seabird species in recent years. To help arrest this catastrophe, particular care must be taken in designating protected areas for the advantage of seabirds, for example by ensuring that both breeding sites and feeding areas are designated as protected areas.

I have read, for example, that the Joint Nature Conservancy Council proposes that the Firth of Forth Banks Complex should become an MPA as they are rich in sandeels and further, that seabirds be included in the designated species.

Other feeding areas must be known that deserve the same protected status.

I very much welcome the proposed protection measures and hope that full consideration is given to the status of the seabirds; the alternative is the imminent extinction, or reduction to remnant populations, of a number of species of seabird.

Yours faithfully

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