



8 November 2013

MPA Network Consultation
Scottish Government
Marine Planning and Policy Division
Area 1-A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir,

Response to Proposed MPA Network Consultation

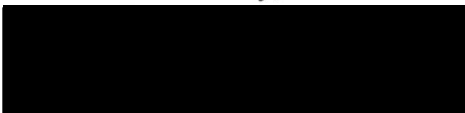
Q1: Yes, I support the development of an MPA network in Scotland's seas.

Q2-34: I have no comments on the detail of the proposed MPAs.

Q35: No, the proposed network of MPAs does not form a complete network. The item which is missing is the protection of feeding areas for seabirds. Whilst some seabird breeding colonies enjoy statutory protection at present under the SPA system and the Black Guillemot population of Canna would be protected under a pMPA the seabird population as a whole has no protection for its food supply. Protection of the food sources used by seabirds at all times of the year is essential for the future survival of our internationally important populations of seabirds, whether the birds are breeding in Scotland, wintering here or just passing through on migration. Clearly this is no simple task with mobile fish populations but is surely something worth pursuing. Where a feeding area appears to be the result of a natural feature then the mobility of the stock is removed from the equation and protection of the feeding area could easily be achieved. An example of this would be the Sound of Gigha, an internationally important wintering site for divers, grebes and seaducks between the island of Gigha and the Kintyre peninsula. Careful monitoring of fish stocks and control of catches would ensure that these bird populations were safeguarded. The extension of the proposed MPA network to this and other such sites would bring the network much nearer to completeness than that which would be formed solely by the proposals currently being consulted upon.

Q36: I have no other comments.

Yours faithfully,



JM Harrison