

# **Six-Year Report on Progress with Marine Plans in Scotland (for period 2009-2015)**

## **Introduction**

This document fulfils a reporting requirement set out in section 61(1)(c) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. It sets out the first six-year report on progress with marine plans for the area in which Scottish Ministers have marine planning functions.

## **National Marine Plan**

Scottish Ministers prepared the National Marine plan which was published and adopted by them in March 2015. Its preparation and approval complied with the statutory requirements set out in Schedule 6 to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and Schedule 1 to the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

## **Intentions for amendment**

Scottish Ministers have no current intention to amend the National Marine Plan. Consideration will be given to the need for any amendment as a consequence of the monitoring of the Plan's implementation and effectiveness. The Plan will be reviewed and reported upon as is required by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010; the first report will be published within three years of adoption in accordance with section 61(1)(b) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

## **Intentions for the preparation and adoption of any further marine plans**

Scottish Ministers designated 11 Scottish marine regions by The Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015. That Order identifies the boundaries of the marine regions. Work is progressing to establish Marine Planning Partnerships with delegated planning functions in the Clyde and Shetland marine regions in accordance with section 12 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. Establishment of Partnerships in the Clyde and Shetland marine regions is currently expected in 2016; establishment of Partnerships in other regions will follow in phases in due course. In the interim the National Marine Plan will apply. The preparation of regional marine plans will be

undertaken by established Marine Planning Partnerships for adoption by Scottish Ministers.

## **Background**

Marine planning matters in Scotland's waters are governed by the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, an Act of the Scottish Parliament, and by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, an Act of the UK Parliament. The two Acts established a new legislative and management framework for the marine environment allowing the competing demands on the sea to be managed in a sustainable way across all of Scotland's seas.

The National Marine Plan covers both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles) and applies to the exercise of both reserved and devolved functions. In March of this year a Direction was made under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010 with the effect that the Plan applies to reserved functions in relation to Scottish inshore waters.

A map of the marine area to which the National Plan applies can be found on National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi).

Marine planning will be implemented at a local level through Scottish marine regions to take account of local circumstances and issues. The regions extend from Mean High Water Springs out to 12 nautical miles. An illustrative map of the boundaries is available on National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi). Regional marine plans must be developed in conformity with the National Marine Plan unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.