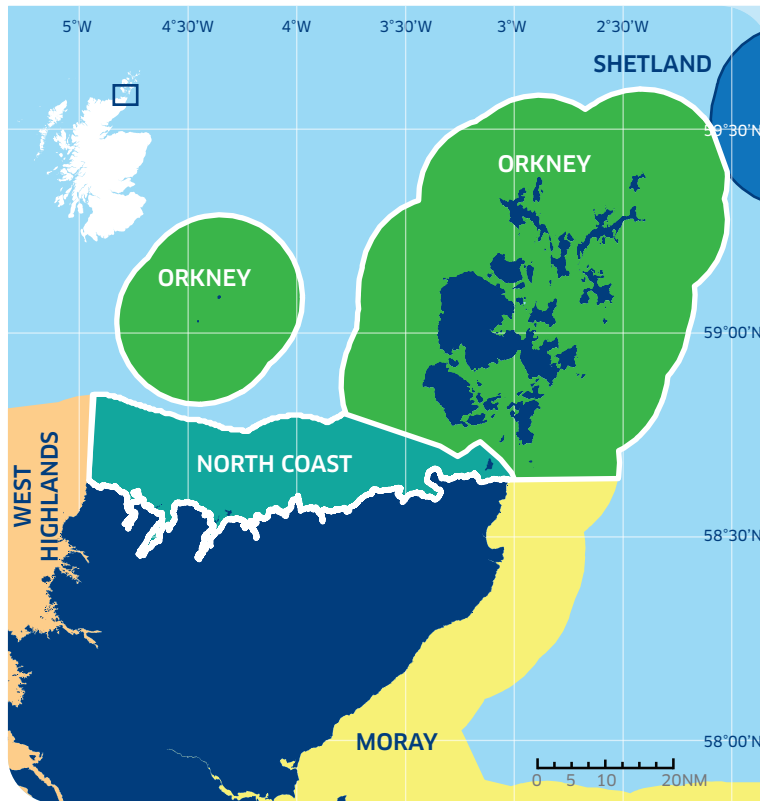


A MARINE SPATIAL PLAN FOR THE PENTLAND FIRTH AND ORKNEY WATERS



 **PFOW**
Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters as per
Scottish Marine Regions



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

marinescotland

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THE PLAN AREA COMBINES THE SCOTTISH MARINE REGIONS OF ORKNEY AND THE NORTH COAST

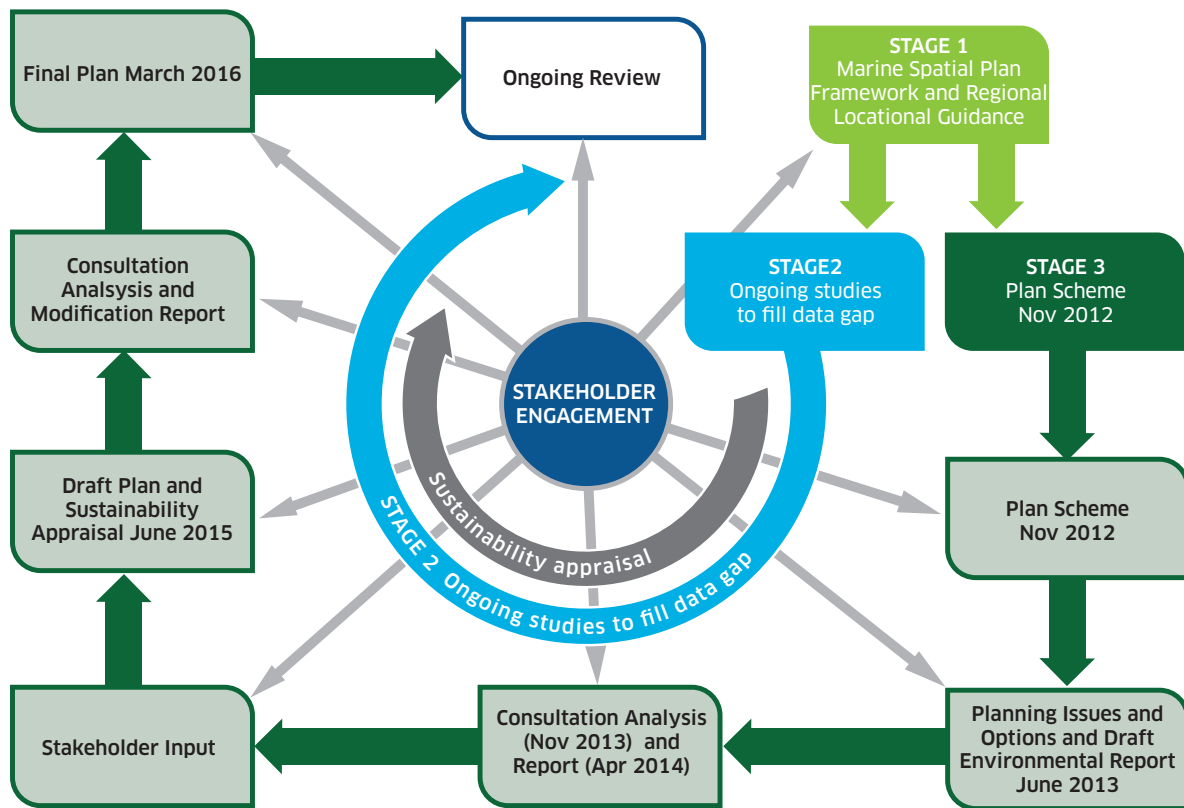
Introduction

Managing our marine environment is vital to ensure our seas continue to provide sustainable resources, jobs and wider economic benefits. Commercial fishing, renewable energy, tourism, recreation, aquaculture, shipping, and oil and gas all contribute towards a diverse marine based economy and the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters have long been recognised as having exceptional renewable resource potential as well as being of very high environmental quality.

A working group consisting of Marine Scotland, Orkney Islands Council and Highland Council have developed a pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan. The Plan sets out an

integrated planning policy framework, in advance of statutory regional marine planning, to guide marine development, activities and management decisions, whilst ensuring the quality of the marine environment is protected.

The process of piloting this process resulted in many lessons learned that will inform the preparation of future regional marine plans that will be developed by Marine Planning Partnerships. This will support sustainable decision making on marine use and management and provide an important stepping stone towards the introduction of regional marine plans around the entire coast of Scotland.



Development of the plan

The process of developing the pilot Plan was taken forward by the working group with input from a wide range of stakeholders. This work involved three stages:

Stage 1 was the creation of Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan Framework and Regional Locational Guidance (published in March 2011). This set out the process for developing the plan and made recommendations on how information and knowledge gaps should be filled.

Stage 2 consisted of a set of ongoing studies taking forward the recommendations made in Stage 1 so that that development of the pilot Plan was underpinned with an adequate knowledge base. This stage was carried out in parallel with Stage 3.

Stage 3 was the process of preparing the plan and associated documents with ongoing stakeholder input. The main steps were:

- A Plan Scheme that set out the key stages for the preparation of the Plan and consultation and identified the key stakeholders
- A public consultation on a Planning Issues and Options Paper and draft Environmental Report
- Input to the consultation was used to develop a Draft Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan for public consultation
- The Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan and all the associated documents were then finalised on the basis of comments received to the consultation
- The Plan received ministerial approval in March 2016

<http://www.gov.scot/pfowmarinespatialplan>