

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

**1. Do you agree with the proposals set out in the draft Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013?**

Yes  No

If no, please explain why not and your suggested alternative(s).

Comments

**2. Do you have any further comments? In particular we are seeking views on**

- the drafting of the Order;
- the co-ordinates establishing the marine region boundaries;
- the boundaries outlined at paragraph 8 above;
- the names of the regions suggested; and
- the illustrative map.

*I would like to stress that this response represents my own personal views and not necessarily those of the University of Tromsø.*

Defining the SMRs is no easy undertaking but this consultation has been easy to follow and transparent throughout. The communication of real challenges in the process is commendable, especially in relation to the difficulty of managing physical, ecological, and (existing) administrative characteristics.

As someone researching the development and use of maps as a governance instrument I must also complement the logical progression of maps presented in the consultation. These culminated in a clear and informative illustrative map, which represented the suggestions made along the way by various groups and stakeholders.

One aspect of the SMRs that would be interesting to know about is the potential for future change. I don't recall reading anything about the process of review and possible changes to SMR boundaries following their implementation. It is possible that boundaries do not translate to logical management processes (be they based on biological data or administrative capacities) or lack the flexibility to incorporate new management needs. How will the progress and/or relative success of the SMRs be monitored?

Also, if I may return for a moment to the initial *Defining their boundaries* consultation round, I wonder if Question 1 might have been left until later on or possibly to the end of the questionnaire. People are expected to read before answering all questions but experience tells us that this does not always happen. Asking whether SMRs should be created for the purpose of regional marine planning should follow from a presentation of all of the relevant information and complexities involved.

Nevertheless, I look forward to watching the rest of the design process unfold and a smooth transition towards adoption of this new governance system.

**3. Do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions discriminates disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?**

Yes  No

**4. If you answered yes to question 3 in what way do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions is discriminatory?**

Comments