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27 February 2013

By email: marineconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Geary,

THE DRAFT SCOTTISH MARINE REGIONS ORDER 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft order for the formation of Scottish Marine Regions.

Our response is informed by The Crown Estate's extensive experience of managing activities within the marine environment and, within its core remit, of balancing economic activity with stewardship of natural resources for future generations to use and enjoy. We are committed to working with government departments, stakeholders and industry in helping to manage the coastal and marine environment.

While national marine planning sets the wider context for planning within Scotland, effective marine planning on a regional scale can make a valuable contribution to the overall objectives to manage increasing demands for the use of the marine environment, encouraging economic development of marine industries and incorporating environmental protection into marine decision-making whilst allowing more local involvement in the decision-making process.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft order and the proposed boundaries for the Scottish Marine Regions, and look forward to engaging the process of formation of the Marine Regions and subsequent Regional Marine Plans.

Yours sincerely

Annie Breaden
Policy and Consents Manager (Scotland)

ANNEX 1: CROWN ESTATE RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ORDER FOR SCOTTISH MARINE REGIONS.

Key points

Marine Region Boundaries

- It is important that Marine Region boundaries facilitate effective marine planning and for this reason, we consider that Marine Region boundaries should align with physical features rather than being derived as an extension of terrestrial planning boundaries.
- We recognise that the boundaries will inevitably intersect seabed or coastal areas with existing TCE leases. However, where existing (and future) marine and coastal activities do straddle more than one administrative marine boundary, it is important that the management and regulation of these activities remains consistent, even if the activity is to be considered in multiple plans or by multiple regulators at different times. In particular, we draw your attention to the following proposed renewable energy locations which straddle, or are in close proximity to, the boundary between Marine Regions:
 - Mull of Kintyre, tidal demonstration site – this site straddles the Argyll & Clyde Scottish Marine Regions.
 - Ness of Duncansby, tidal development – this site straddles the North Coast and Moray Scottish Marine Regions.

Detailed maps of these sites can be found in Annex 2 and 3.

Interaction with other plans and policies

- We note that the development of the Pilot Marine Spatial Plan for the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) is ongoing. The PFOW Marine Plan area overlaps with two of the proposed Marine Regions – the North Coast and Orkney Marine Regions. Further clarity on how these administrative regions will interact is required in order to ensure that the Pilot Plan and the future plans for the North Coast and Orkney Marine Regions are consistent and can deliver the objectives set for each area.

Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree with the proposals set out in the draft Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013? If no, please explain why not and your suggested alternative(s).

No. We have some concerns regarding the boundaries as currently proposed.

- We have some concerns regarding the practicability of the boundary line running through the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe (between Argyll and West Highland Marine Regions) in terms of its ability to deliver effective marine planning. This is particularly relevant given that that Sound of Mull was selected as a pilot marine plan under the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI) on the basis that the area could provide lessons for the future in marine planning across regulatory/authority boundaries. The project concluded that the Sound of Mull should be treated as a single entity and, therefore, we recommend that

the boundary is revised to ensure a more coherent approach to marine planning which is not based on extensions to existing terrestrial planning boundaries.

- As discussed above, we also have some concerns regarding the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters area. The PFOW Marine Plan area overlaps with two of the proposed Marine Regions – the North Coast and Orkney Marine Regions. Further clarity on how these administrative regions will interact is required in order to ensure that the Pilot Plan and the future plans for the North Coast and Orkney Marine Regions are consistent and deliver the objectives set for each plan.
- In addition, we have some concerns about the feasibility of managing the area to the west of John O’Groats where there are three Marine Regions in a relatively small area. We would suggest that the North Coast Marine Region need not extend out to the 12nm limit.

2. Do you have any further comments?

No comment

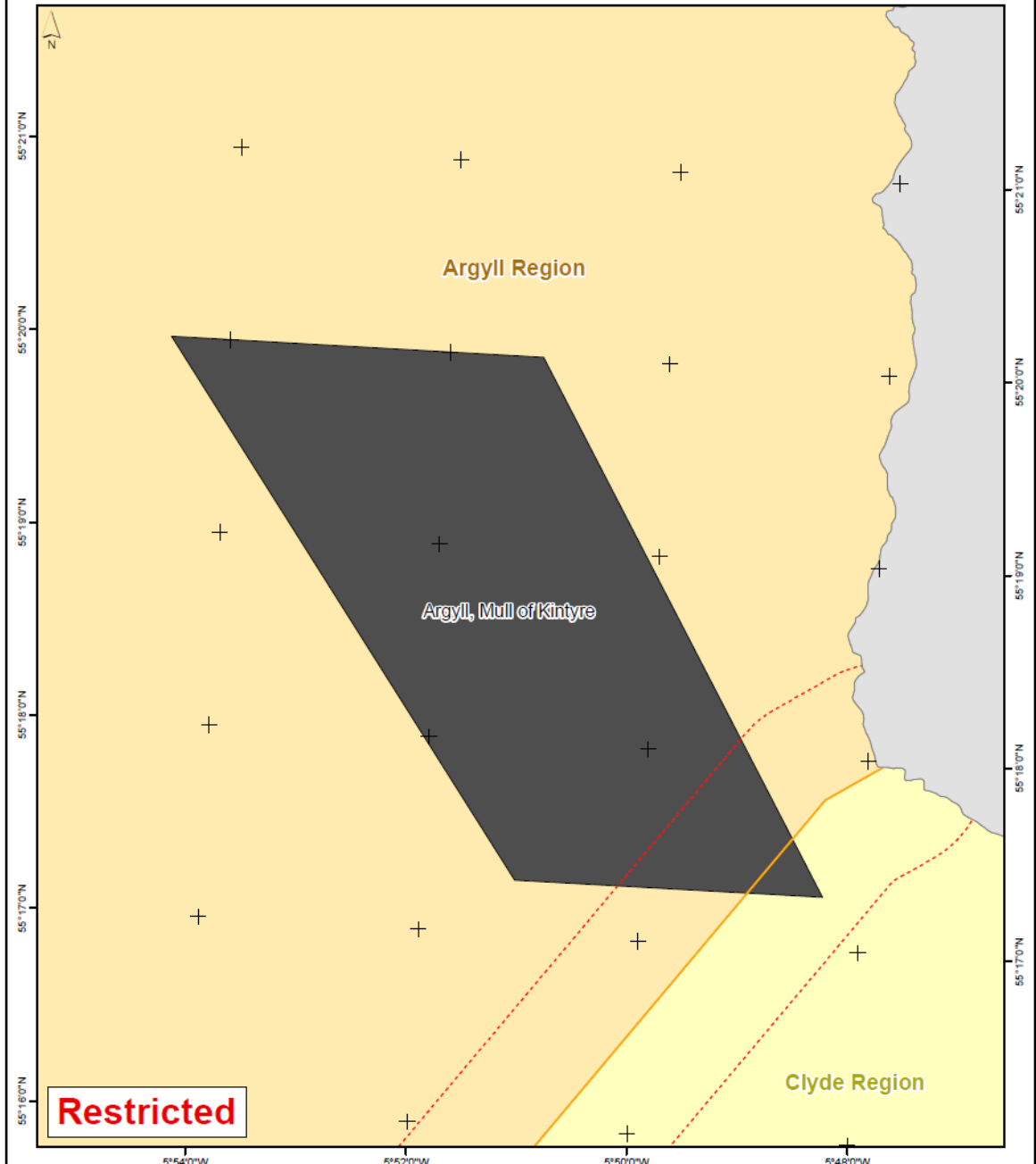
3. Do you believe that the creation of Scottish Marine Regions discriminates disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?

No.

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

No comment.

Tidal Projects And Scottish Regional Seas



- Tidal Site
- Argyll Regional Sea
- Clyde Regional Sea
- Marine Region Boundary
- 1000m Buffer
- Base Map
- United Kingdom



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MaRS
Marine Resource System

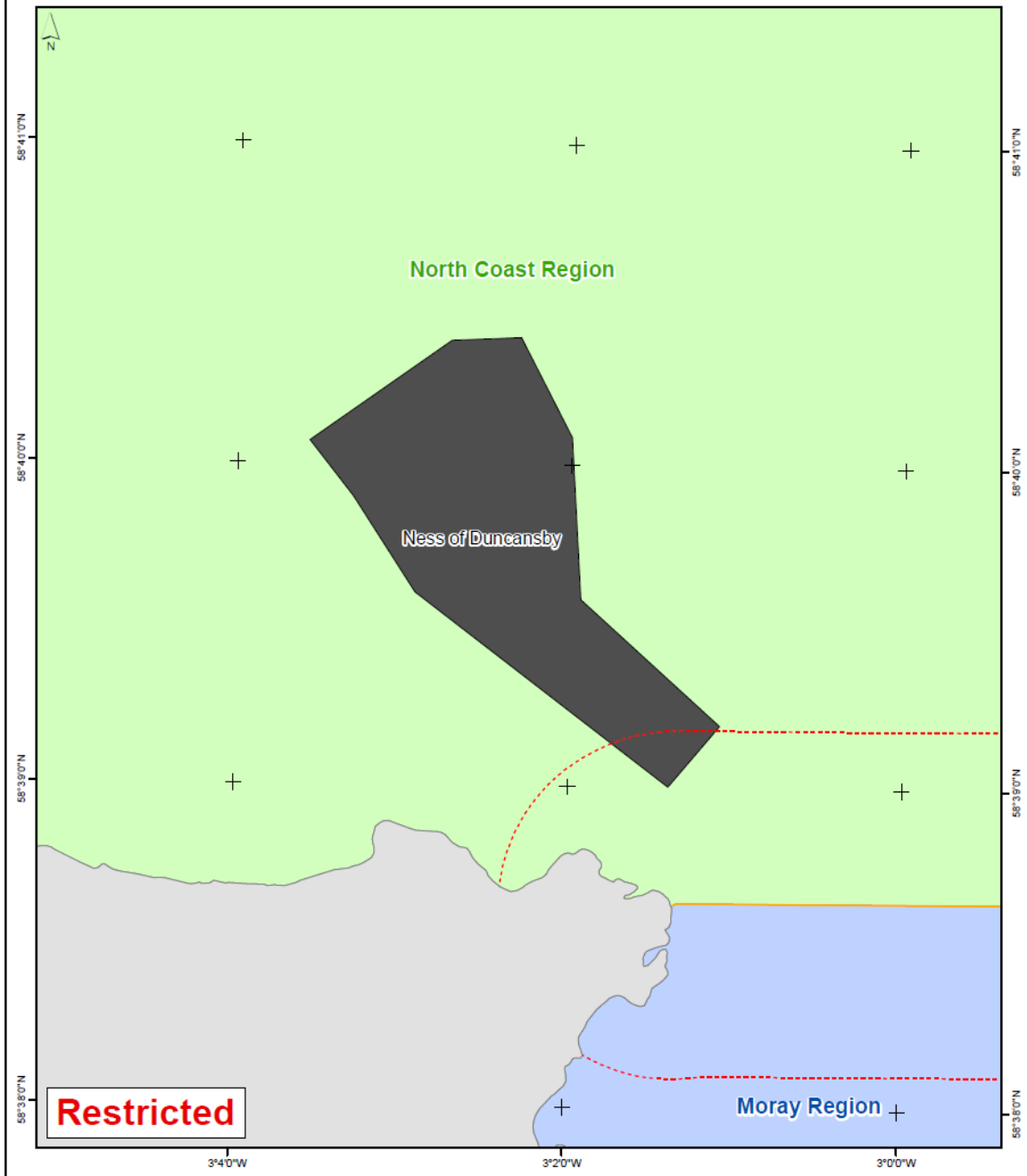
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Tidal Projects And Scottish Regional Seas



- Tidal Site
- Marine Region Boundary
- 1000m Buffer
- Moray Regional Sea
- North Coast Regional Sea
- Base Map**
- United Kingdom



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MaRS
Marine Resource System

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