



Marine Scotland
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

12 February 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on the Draft Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013

Scottish Renewables welcomes this opportunity to comment on the draft Scottish Marine Regions Order 2013. Scottish Renewables is the representative body for the renewable energy industry in Scotland, representing over 320 member organisations.

Our comments relate to the boundary between the proposed 'North Coast' and 'Orkney' regions, and the interaction between the pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) Spatial Plan, sectoral marine planning, regional planning and the National Marine Plan.

We note the proposed boundary splits the area currently being planned for under the pilot PFOW Spatial Plan. We recognise that this plan is a non-statutory pilot and is not intended to perform the function of a regional marine plan as defined with the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. However, we also understand that if the pilot plan is approved by the Scottish Ministers it will become a material consideration in the determination of marine licensing applications and consideration will also be given to the pilot by the Scottish Ministers when they make relevant decisions even if it is not subsequently approved by them. There is also potential for Highland Council and Orkney Islands Council to adopt the pilot plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance or as Supplementary Guidance to the appropriate Local Development Plan. Given the pilot plan will most likely constitute a material consideration, we request further clarity on whether it will actually be adopted as supplementary guidance by the Councils or if there is any mechanism open to the Scottish Government to direct the Councils to do so.

It is important to recognise this area was chosen to pilot the marine spatial planning process because of its tidal and wave resources and the pilot plan aims to guide future decisions made on the proposed offshore renewable energy activities.

We therefore request that the relationships between the pilot PFOW spatial plan, the regional plan, the National Marine Plan and the sectoral plan (currently being developed by Marine Scotland) are clarified in order to understand what the impact on potential offshore

3rd Floor, 49 Bath Street, Glasgow, G2 2DL
☎ 0141 353 4950 📧 @ScotRenew
✉ info@scottishrenewables.com
www.scottishrenewables.com



Scottish Renewables Forum Limited.
A company limited by guarantee in Scotland No 270072
Registered office: c/o Harper Macleod,
The Calceolo, 45 Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3PE

renewable developments may be were there to be discrepancies between them.

Given the potential for the PFOW area to be subject to five separate planning regimes (National Marine Plan, Sectoral Plans (of which there will be three), 'North Coast' Plan, 'Orkney' Plan and pilot PFOW Plan), we suggest consideration should be given to combining the proposed 'Orkney' and 'North Coast' regions to create a new 'Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters' region. This would enable the pilot plan to be adopted as the statutory regional plan for the PFOW area, subject to the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act, environmental assessments and public consultation processes. Creating a single PFOW region would mean the area is subject to just three sets of plans (National Marine Plan, Sectoral Plan and Regional Plan), rather than the currently proposed five. This would also mean only one Marine Planning Partnership (MPP) would need to be created to manage the regional planning of the PFOW area.

However, we stress Scottish Renewables has not been involved in the development of the pilot PFOW plan to date. Therefore this proposal is made from an administrative standpoint and is not a reflection on our view of the content of the plan. We request the opportunity to become more involved in the development of the pilot plan to help ensure it supports the ambitions of Scotland's offshore renewables industries.

It should also be noted the proposed boundary cuts through a potential new Area of Search for tidal energy, TN1. Ideally, Areas of Search should be within a single region covered by one MPP.

We accept this would involve a slight extension to the west of the current pilot PFOW plan but believe this would involve fewer resources than the creation of two new plans and two separate MPPs.

If you have any questions in relation to this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lindsay Leask', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name and title.

Lindsay Leask
Senior Policy Manager – Offshore Renewables