

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Structure

Q1. Do you agree with the timescales outlined?

Yes No

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is a key driver for addressing problems with marine and coastal litter. As part of the Directive Members States are required to prepare national strategies to manage their seas to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020, it is felt this should be achievable.

North Ayrshire Council believes it makes good sense for the implementation of the Scottish Marine Litter Strategy to be aligned with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MFSD).

Vision

Q2. Do you agree with this vision?

The vision of having reduced marine litter in Scotland so that it does not pose significant risks to the environment or communities is sound and one which North Ayrshire Council agrees with.

Yes No

Q3. Does the draft vision have the right level of ambition? If not, please offer alternative text or suggestions.

North Ayrshire believes that the vision to reduce marine litter by 2020 so that it does not pose significant risks to the environment or communities shows the right level of ambition.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Q4. Do you think implementation to achieve Good Environmental Status under Descriptor 10 will be sufficient or do you think additional action in Scotland is also necessary?

Yes No

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to prepare national strategies to manage their seas to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020.

North Ayrshire Council agrees with the characteristics of the GES Descriptor relating to the amount of litter and its degradation products on coastlines and in the marine environment being reduced over time so that levels do not pose a significant risk to the coastal and marine environment.

The indicators and targets set to achieve a reduction in marine litter are a positive move however, these need to be monitored in a uniform way. In order to achieve the monitoring of the indicators and targets set under GES Descriptor 10 a standard method of monitoring needs to be developed and implemented.

Further consideration could be given to measures and targets that identify litter items into categories/types of litter e.g. Primary sources such as Fishing and Recreational litter. By developing effective indicators it may enable better management of litter and use of resources.

Strategic Directions

The Marine Litter Strategy vision is operationalized by five strategic directions in the areas of education, reducing inputs, seizing opportunities and economic growth, monitoring and engagement. The five strategic directions are as follows:

Direction 1: Improve public and business awareness of, and behaviour changes around, marine litter.

Direction 2: Reduction of land-sourced marine litter entering the marine environment, in parallel to the National Litter Strategy.

Direction 3: Contribute to a low carbon economy by treating 'waste as a resource' and seizing the economic and environmental opportunities associated with Zero Waste Plan.

Direction 4: Improvement on monitoring at a Scottish scale.

Direction 5: Stakeholder engagement at the UK, EU and international scales.

Q5. Do you agree that Strategic Directions are a suitable way of outlining action under the Strategy?

Yes x No

Q6. Do you agree with the list of Strategic Directions?

Yes x No

If not, how would you reword them or what would you add?

Actions

Strategic Direction 1:

Q7. What are your views on the possible actions?

The main strands of the actions to educate the public and raise awareness of litter and to change manufacturing design to be more environmentally friendly are correct. Consideration could also be given to options for enforcement.

Q8. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?

Both actions, (1) to improve public and business awareness of marine litter and (2) to encourage behaviour changes around marine litter are equally important. In order to add a bit of weight to this action it should be aligned with the 'Information' strand of the three strands of the proposed National Litter Strategy which are:

- *Information: communication, education and support business*
- *Infrastructure: providing/servicing bins, product design, guidance and future funding*
- *Enforcement: improving the effectiveness of legislation and training*

Q9. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?

Currently Local Authorities work with Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful on a number of clean up and recycling initiatives. By developing these initiatives further they could easily accommodate education on marine litter. These initiatives would further be complemented by enforcement activities where appropriate.

Strategic Direction 2:

Q10. What are your views on the possible actions?

Of the following two 'possible' actions:

- Expand 'Fishing for Litter' initiative to significantly increase awareness and impact of, and contribute to a reduction in marine waste litter
- Incorporate marine litter reduction into regional marine plans under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

The use of the existing initiative of Fishing for Litter to increase the awareness and impact that marine litter can have appears sensible and the correct channel to communicate this message. In order to get the message across consideration should be given to how and by what means this message is delivered to create the necessary impact on the target audience.

The incorporation of any actions for the reduction of litter in a plan needs to identify how performance against these actions will be measured and reported.

The actions both existing and suggested are important for reducing marine litter overall. More detail is required re-specific actions and these should be taken forward as part of the national litter strategy co-ordinated by Zero Waste Scotland.

Q11. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?

Both 'possible' actions identified under Direction 2 above seem equally important.

Q12. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?

The 'possible' actions identified above could be delivered under the existing activities.

Q13. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.

The proposed addition of the 'possible' actions to the existing ones will complement the overall actions to address marine litter

Strategic Direction 3:

Q14. What are your views on the possible actions?

The 'possible' actions under Direction 3 are:

- Look for additional opportunities to incentivise recycling and correct disposal – market instruments to support waste as resource initiative, e.g. 'Recycle and Reward' pilot.
- Seek investment for environmental monitoring in coastal and maritime industries

The addition of the 'possible' actions will help improve the overall actions needed to address marine litter.

The existing actions are:

- Marine Scotland working with Zero Waste Scotland to produce waste as a resource toolkit targeted at coastal and maritime resource managers, and minimum standards for recycled materials
- Encourage port and harbour reception facilities to drive separate collection
- Deliver project to establish free fishing net disposal at a network of fishing ports across Scotland, to include the infrastructure to recover and recycle the nets and other plastics recovered from fishing operations
- Engage with the Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (March 2011) in particular building opportunities for resource efficiency (energy, water, waste materials) and sustainable business practices across the economy.

Q15. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?

Both 'possible' actions under Direction 3 would play a significant contribution towards reducing marine litter.

Q16. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?

It may be possible to deliver the 'possible' actions under the existing actions.

Q17. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.

The addition of the 'possible' actions with the existing ones will, if employed, enable recycling and reuse of materials and by doing so align it with the broader move towards resource and waste efficiency and recovery.

Strategic Direction 4:

Q18. What are your views on the possible actions?

The 'possible' actions for consideration under Strategic Direction 4 are:

- Alignment of Non-Governmental Organisations, Scottish, UK and international monitoring programs with UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy; Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment National database; International Council for the exploration of the Sea and OSPAR
- Develop a baseline for coastal litter, seabed and water column, which can be used for Marine Strategy Framework Directive reporting purposes

- *Prioritise an initial evaluation on the current state of research to give a scientific and technical basis for monitoring, knowledge gaps and priority areas for research*
- *Develop/test standardised monitoring approaches, to allow comparisons at the National and EU scales*
- *Better use of fisheries research vessels to undertake seabed monitoring of marine litter during scientific trawls.*

North Ayrshire Council is responsible for the management of litter and waste within its area and as such welcome any action to reduce waste. The possible actions identified are about developing monitoring systems and processes and identifying who is responsible for them. This approach appears appropriate.

Q19. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?

Each possible action identified is integral to support Direction 4. .

Q20. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?

An integrated approach to the monitoring of activities undertaken by the key delivery organisations will enable a better understanding of the extent of the marine litter problem and identify whether the actions adopted to improve it are working. This integrated approach should be co-ordinated by Marine Scotland.

Q21. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.

A standardised method/s of monitoring and recording would be beneficial.

Strategic Direction 5:

Q22. What are your views on the possible actions?

The possible actions to be considered are:

- National steering group on marine litter, led by Marine Scotland, to co-ordinate approach and share best practice amongst Scottish Government departments, directorates, agencies and non-governmental organisations including resource sharing and prioritising actions
- Marine Scotland to more actively engage with, and share best practice with other competent authorities on a regular basis
- Ensure that regional marine plans consider scope to reduce marine litter

The possible actions identified to co-ordinate and share best practice to enable the reduction in marine waste appear sound.

Q23. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?

All possible actions appear to be of equal importance however, a national steering group on marine litter should be set up and led by Marine Scotland.

Q24. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?

Yes with an integrated delivery approach co-ordinated by Marine Scotland.

Q25. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.

No comment

Option for delivery

Q26. Do you think that Option 4 is the most appropriate mechanism for developing and improving policies under the Marine Litter Strategy?

Yes x No

Any other views on the options outlined or other options not identified are also invited.

Option 4 to introduce the strategy through a medium cost and networked approach is preferred as a more balanced approach when compared to other 3 options re (1) Do nothing; (2) Low cost network approach; (3) High cost centralised approach.

Equalities

Q27. Are there any equalities issues that should be factored into the Equalities Impact Assessment for the Marine Litter Strategy?

Yes No x

No

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Q28. Do you have any feedback on the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment?

Yes No

No

Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

Q29. Are there any particular issues that you wish to highlight with regard to the partial BRIA, and the potential impacts on the third sector, business and the economy?

Yes No

The impacts of reducing marine litter will be of benefit to both local and national economies in Scotland and will add to/improve the experience of our local communities and tourist interested in marine activities and sports(e.g. observing marine life and sailing) and improvement in amenity value of our beaches.

General

Q30. Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?

Yes No

As a Local Authority with significant coastal areas and beaches, we recognise the importance of robust mechanisms and the need for a coordinated approach for controlling marine litter and coastal litter. The suggested controls, through securing clean beaches and coastal areas, will have a direct and positive impact on our tourism economy.

With this in mind, North Ayrshire Council carries out a beach cleaning regime in accordance with the guidance issued by Keep Scotland Beautiful. The cleaning regimes were reviewed by Scottish Natural Heritage who were undertaking a review in partnership with the Firth of Clyde Forum. This group has developed a strategy on Marine Litter and has done a significant amount of work around identifying the main source of marine litter and beach cleaning activities.