

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1. Do you agree with the recommended list of Priority Marine Features as the basis for targeting future marine conservation action in Scotland's seas?

If your response includes a suggestion to amend the list, please indicate the specific species and habitats that your comments apply to and, where possible, provide or reference any evidence or data sources which have influenced your comments.

Yes No

Chondrichthyes are very sparsely represented. *Squatina squatina* is on the IUCN red list as "Critically Endangered" but has not been included as a pmf. The blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) is classed as "Near Threatened" but isn't listed as a pmf. In contrast, all whales and dolphins are listed but, for example, *Phocoena phocoena*, has an IUCN red list status of "Least Concern" as do many other whales and dolphins. This makes no sense.

Gadus morhua (cod) has recently been reported to have a thriving stock status (from a paper published by Marine Scotland-Science staff). Why has this species been included? I'm sure it is also possible to say the same for *Scomber scombrus* (Atlantic mackerel) which has MSC accreditation. How do you propose to protect pmf species which are commercially caught fishing species and fall under the common fisheries policy?

General

Q2. Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?

Yes No

With regards habitats, it is fine to try and protect habitats listed as a pmf that are current but, what measures are being put in place to rejuvenate/rehabilitate known habitats which are not classed as a pmf due to their poor quality? For example, an individual horse mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*) is not a pmf (and shouldn't be in my opinion) but a horse mussel bed is. Fine, but if there is a low abundance of horse mussels in an area, low enough to not constitute a bed but still showing signs of a previous bed in that location, then that area would not deserve 'protection'. However, if a mechanism was put in place for the rehabilitation of that area then surely this would be of benefit and is more of a proactive approach?