

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

The OHIFG is unable to agree or disagree simply because it is unclear as to the definition and purpose intended of 'targeting future marine conservation action'. If it is for the purposes of providing a sustainable and viable fishery for our communities then that would be supportable. We particularly require more information on how 'conservation' will apply to mobile species.

It is important for us that species such as Spiny Lobster (Crawfish), Mackerel, and Herring in particular remain available to the fleet and we would suggest that in the context of the above they be removed from the list until it becomes clear that this is the stated intention.

We are all interested in the conservation of marine species, we cannot have a sustainable fishery, a sustainable economy and a sustainable community without some element of conservation. Continued access to all mobile marine species must be maintained and only withdrawn following scientific ICES, however we require more information on the end purposes of this.

General

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

Yes No

We note that recommended PMF's are to be taken account of in Environmental Statements and licensing/consenting decisions. Does this mean that they are in force even in draft form?