

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

General questions

Question 1: Do you consider that the overall number of seal haul out sites proposed at national/regional/local level represent a reasonable balance between seal conservation and other sustainable activities around the Scottish coastline?

I have no comment on other seal haul out sites as my knowledge extends only to my local area.

Question

2: Do you consider that additional sites should be included at national/regional/local level and, if so, why, how many additional sites and which sites?

I am satisfied that the single site identified on Arran (003) is sufficient for the current local seal population. I have no comment on the sites identified at a regional or national level.

Question
3: Do

you consider that fewer sites should be included at national/ regional/local level and, if so, why, how many fewer sites and which sites?

No

Question

4: Do you agree that existing Special Areas of Conservation for seals should be added to the list of seal haul out sites being considered for possible designation?

Yes

Question

5: Do you consider that particular national or regional level activities might represent a potential risk of harassment to seals on haul out sites in general?

Yes. I am particularly concerned about the locations and presence of fish farms and the hazards that they pose to seals in the light of current legislation that allows for the culling of seals around fish farms and by fishermen.

Question
6: Do
you

consider that particular local activities might represent a potential risk of harassment to seals on particular haul out sites included on the list?

Yes. In addition to my concerns about fish farms voiced above, I also perceive a threat to our local seal haul out site from the public, boats, and leisure activities in the area. At site 003, Arran there is daily interference from leisure activity.

Question
7: Do
you

have any views on whether the boundaries of particular haul out sites included on the list might be revised ?

No

Equal

ity assessment

The Scottish Government must ensure that any policies that it implements do not unduly discriminate against persons defined by age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race and religion and belief. We would welcome your views on whether you believe that any of the propositions set out in this consultation paper will unduly impact on any of these groups mentioned.

None