

## 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?

No. I think that all seals should be given total protection along with all cetaceans. The idea of licensing fish farmers etc to kill seals because they can't make adequate cages is an appalling one. If I can't make a coup secure enough to stop the local urban foxes eating my chickens then I reckon the foxes deserve the chickens. Seals don't take a great many wild salmon but dolphins do and I don't see any legislation planned to shoot dolphins. Common seals are in significant decline, especially on the east coast, so giving anyone licence to decrease the population even more is outrageous and counter to all known principals of conservation science.

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?

If you insist on having registered haul out sites then yes. I can only comment in any detail about the Firth of Forth which I know well. Although there maybe others, there are significant haul out sites at **Braefoot Bay** (mainly grey selas), **St Baldred's Boat**( grey seals, Seacliff) and **Granton Harbour** (harbour seals) which have been omitted from your list. Seals also regularly haul out on Inchkeith Island, the Bass Rock and Craigleith Island outwith the pupping season although these are of course less vulnerable to disturbance from casual passers by on the shore.

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?

Comments

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?

I think that the entire area of Scottish coastal waters should be a SAC for seals

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?

Seals have been turning up with strange helical injuries that may have been caused by some kind of propeller or water abstraction system. More investigation is needed to know what is causing this damage so it can be prevented. In the west, fish farming is a hazard to seals if fish farmers are allowed to kill the seals.

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?

Comments

Question 7: Do you have any views on whether the boundaries of particular haul out sites included on the list might be revised ?

Nation wide

### Equality 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.

The Scottish government's policy to allow licensed killing of seals clearly discriminates against seals whatever their gender or colour 😊