

MPA 10060



4 October 2013

MPA Network Consultation,
Scottish Government,
Marine Planning & Policy Division,
Area 1-A South,
Victoria Quay,
EDINBURGH,
EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir,

This is an individual response to the Planning Scotland's Seas MPA Consultation. I am writing to voice my concerns for the future of our seabirds and marine habitat. Unless protected now, it will be too late to save many of the species that form part of our coastal inheritance, and give the shores and cliffs of Scotland their distinctive appeal and interest. We need an MPA network in Scotland's seas because our marine wildlife needs protection. Reports from the BTO, and other scientific research shows that MPAs benefit seabirds, but feeding areas are as important as breeding areas, so the plans need to be coherent and consistent for all aspects of seabird life. Feeding "hotspots" need to be protected too.

The Clyde Sea Sill, East Caithness Cliffs, Fetlar-Haroldswick, Monach Isles, Papa Westray and Small Isles must be designated to protect not only the black guillemot, but all other seabird species, including puffin, razorbill and kittiwake, found in these sites, and added to the list of designated features.

Seabirds must be added to the Firth of Forth proposed MPA list of designated features. Sandeels are a vital part of the ecology of this area, and an important food source for seabirds, so they must also be protected, and it is vital that the Firth of Forth becomes an MPA. This proposed MPA has been recommended by the joint Nature Conservancy Council and Scottish Natural Heritage. I encourage you to take note of their responses.

The Scottish Government has committed to an international agreement to create an ecologically coherent network that is "representative" of nationally important species and "particularly important for highly mobile species, such as certain birds". MPAs are needed to complement Special Protection Areas as we must try to stem the frighteningly rapid decline in our seabird populations.

Yours faithfully

