

Question Answer

Do you support the development of an MPA network in Scotland's Seas? Yes

What do you think about the location and size of the proposed South Arran MPA? I agree with the location and designation of the proposed South Arran Marine Protected Area as part of an ecologically coherent network of Clyde and Scottish MPAs. The area proposed around the South of Arran is a positive step forward and will help the sea bed and sea life to recover, but will only be effective if bottom trawling and dredging is prohibited from the whole area. In my view the MPA should extend all around Arran and be linked to Clyde-wide spatial and effort control measures designed to recover the health and productivity of the Clyde Sea. Black guillemot should be included as marine priority feature of the Arran MPA.

What should the management measures be for the proposed South Arran MPA? I support COAST's proposed management options and disagree with Scottish Natural Heritage's management recommendations. All bottom towed trawls, dredgers and hydraulic gear should be excluded from the entire proposed MPA not just from a few areas as SNH propose. This is vital if we are to conserve and recover the nature conservation features throughout the proposed MPA. Properly managed creeling, shellfish diving, and angling should be allowed.

What social and economic effects do you think the South Arran MPA will have? A healthy and productive Clyde Sea is essential to the economy of coastal communities around the Clyde and the West of Scotland. Increased biodiversity and productivity will benefit commercial fishermen, recreational sea anglers and also tourism, which is the most important economic driver in the Clyde.

Other Comments The Scottish Government has a legal obligation to achieve good environmental status in Scottish waters by 2020 and must be able to demonstrate a well-managed network of MPAs are in place by the end of 2016. MPAs should be regarded as integral to the achievement of healthy and productive seas and effective ecosystems management. It is not good enough to view them as simply a way of protecting a few 'relic' species and habitats. The Government needs to show that it is managing our seas for the benefit of everyone in Scotland.