

Dear Marine Scotland

Scotland's whales and dolphins need protection!

I fully support a Scottish Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, and what the government is proposing is a good first step. But, a coherent MPA network must include sites for whales and dolphins.

Scotland has more whales and dolphins than anywhere else in northern Europe, but they haven't been included in the proposed MPA designations. WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation provided scientific evidence for whale and dolphin MPAs, with the support of more than 36,000 advocates.

Alongside those 29 MPAs proposed by the government's own nature conservation advisors, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), please designate MPAs for whales and dolphins without delay.

The MPA network must be built upon.-More species and habitats must be protected by the network and clear evidence supports this need, including for harbour porpoises.

Dear Marine Scotland

Alongside those marine protected areas (MPAs) proposed by Scottish Natural Heritage there is good evidence to immediately include whales, dolphins and porpoises, please designate MPAs for whale's and dolphins without delay.

The MPA network must be built upon. More species and habitats must be protected by the network and clear evidence supports this need, including for harbour porpoises.

Effective management should restrict damaging activities in each MPA so that adequate protection and recovery is possible within and beyond the boundaries of the site.

I fully support a Scottish MPA network and what the government is proposing is a good first step. Thank you for developing an MPA network that we hope will be well managed and world-leading.