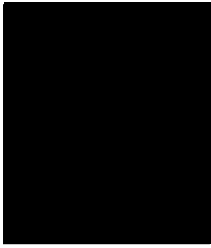


MPA10084

4/11/13

## Marine Protected Area network consultation response



October 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

This is an individual response to the Planning Scotland's Seas MPA Consultation

I agree to my response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)

### **Q1 Do you support the development of an MPA network to Scotland's seas?**

I think that it is vitally important that MPAs are developed and that science is used to define the areas designated.

Unfortunately the proposed areas seem to be inadequate. Scotland has internationally important numbers of breeding seabirds, and have an obligation to protect them. These birds have been declining very rapidly, especially over the past 10 years, despite being protected by Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Birds Directive for the past 30 years. I feel that is very important that the MPAs are extended to protect these birds feeding areas.

It is important that these MPA are monitored to assess their performance. There is a need for a detailed programme of monitoring both within and without the MPAs. This seems to be absent in both the management handbook and in the individual site protocols. Monitoring is needed to assess how well the areas are being protected and to plan any modifications that become necessary. This monitoring seems to be absent in the proposals.

**Q2 Clyde Sea Sill; Q3 East Caithness Cliffs; Q6 Fetlar – Haroldswick; Q14 Monarch Isles; Q19 Papa Westray; Q21 Small Isles; sites proposed for the protection for the *black guillemot***

The black guillemot is the only breeding seabird that is not migratory and is in need of as much protection as the others. It is a beautiful bird, Its scarlet feet and easy viewing making it a tourist attraction. It feeds in the kelp forests, which need protection and management .This seems absent in the present proposals. There is also need for an up-to-date survey of 'tystie' populations, The most recent survey was 15 years ago, a time before the recent catastrophic falls in seabird breeding success.

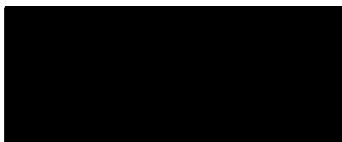
**Q28 NS 29 Firth of Forth proposed MPA**

The JNCC and SNH scientific advice makes quite clear the importance of the Firth of Forth Banks complex, and that the suggested alternatives are quite unsatisfactory. I feel it vital that this area is designated. Recent research has shown the feeding areas during incubation are not the same as those when there are young in the nest, and may be much larger. Guillemots may go 30 miles to feed. It is vital to protect the feeding areas for seabirds to have any chance of reversing the present disastrous breeding collapses.

The Firth of Forth Banks is one of the most important sites for *sandeel*. These are essential food for our seabirds. We have international obligations to protect these birds, A large enough area must be designated as an SPA to encourage sandeel . The sandeel needs to be added to the list of creatures to be protected.

**Q35 Is the proposed network complete?**

The proposed SPAs will not protect seabird colonies adequately. The network will only be adequate if the seas that these birds use and feed in are also protected.



Dr Anne Davidson