

MPA CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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

Yes No

North Berwick Community Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation and is supportive of plans which will help to maintain the sustainability of any form of marine life found near our shores.

The Scottish Seabird Centre which is located in North Berwick is renowned for its work in protecting seabirds and their habitats and throughout the year attracts thousands of visitors who come to operate cameras situated on islands in the Forth allowing viewers to monitor wildlife activity.

The Centre plays a major part in educating the public especially young people on the importance of maintaining a safe litter free environment in which various species can develop and this has a beneficial effect on the town in general.

We support the designation of 29 MPAs including the Firth of Forth Banks complex and extending the MPA proposals to include other vulnerable species.

Individual possible Nature Conservation MPAs

2. Do you have any comments on the case for designation, management options and socioeconomic assessment for the possible Nature Conservation MPA(s)?

Firth of Forth Banks

Designation: Yes No X

Management Options: Yes No X

Socioeconomic Assessment: Yes No

The importance of the tourism business generated by the Scottish Seabird Centre cannot be over emphasised as the facility brings thousands of visitors to the area every year either to visit the Centre or to enjoy a boat trip around the islands.

Additionally the Centre provides employment for local people and an interest / learning experience for a large number of volunteers who interact with members of the public. Both jobs and visitor numbers would suffer with consequential detrimental effects on the economy if marine conditions deteriorated causing a drop in seabirds and other forms of wildlife.

All of the above:

Yes No

Insert comments

Sustainability Appraisal

3. Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal of the MPA network as a whole?

Yes No X

Final Thoughts

4. On the basis of your preferences on which MPAs should be designated ,do you view this to form a complete or ecologically coherent network , subject to the completion and recommendations of SNH's further work on the 4 remaining search locations?

Yes No

5. Do you have any other comments on the case for designation, management options, environmental or socioeconomic assessments of the pMPAs, or the network as a whole?

Yes No

Thank You.