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31 July 2024

Consultation on Fisheries Management Measures within Scottish Offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Dear Edward,

I am writing to inform you of an upcoming public consultation on the proposed fisheries management measures within Scottish offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which is to be launched in Summer 2024.

The Scottish Government has committed to the delivery of fisheries management measures for existing MPAs where these are not already in place and provide protection for designated features to ensure conservation objectives are being met. There are 20 sites in which the Scottish Government is intending to consult on, an overview of these sites is provided in **Annex A**. Of these 20 sites, three of these sites overlap with inshore region and in this context the term "MPAs" includes sites designated as MPAs and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

I will inform you of this consultation launch date and where to respond to the consultation in due course. In the mean time, officials within the Marine Directorate are more than happy to meet with you, at a time of your convenience, to discuss the details of the upcoming consultation with you. Please contact [REDACTED] to set up a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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Annex A

There are 27 sites (MPAs, SACs with marine components and SPAs with marine components) in the Scottish offshore region. Fisheries management measures for 20 of these sites will be implemented through this process to ensure the site conservation objectives are achieved. These 20 sites are shown in the overview map in Figure one and listed in Table 1 for Northern North Sea and Table 2 for Northwest Waters.

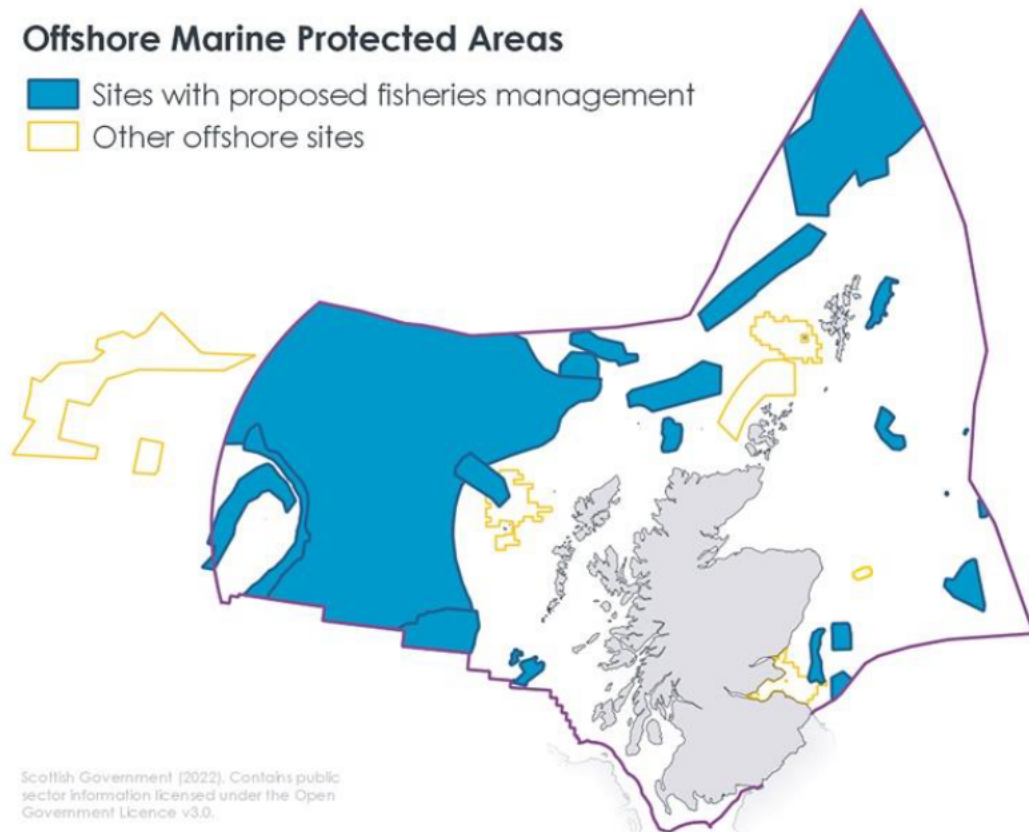


Figure 1. Scottish offshore marine region with highlighted marine protected areas requiring fisheries management measures.

Table 1. Offshore sites with fisheries management proposals in Northern North Sea (NNS)

Site name	Designation
Braemar Pockmarks	SAC
Central Fladen	MPA
East of Gannet and Montrose Fields	MPA
Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt	MPA
Firth of Forth Banks Complex	MPA
North-East Faroe-Shetland Channel	MPA
Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain	MPA
Pobie Bank Reef	SAC
Scanner Pockmark	SAC

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Table 2. Offshore sites with fisheries management proposals in Northwest Waters (NWW)

Site name	Designation
Anton Dohrn Seamount	SAC
Barra Fan and Hebrides Terrace Seamount	MPA
Darwin Mounds	SAC
East Rockall Bank	SAC
Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope	MPA
North West Rockall Bank	SAC
Solan Bank Reef	SAC
Stanton Banks	SAC
West of Scotland	MPA
West Shetland Shelf	MPA
Wyvile-Thomson Ridge	SAC

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