

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cothromachadh Carboin is
Cumhachd
Gillian Martin MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Calum Duncan
fanny@scotlink.org

Our Reference: 202400428345
Your Reference: Petition on Marine Protected Areas signed by more than 3,000 people

3 September 2024

Dear Calum,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 July 2024 regarding Scottish Environment LINK's petition.

Scottish Government understands the importance of protecting the marine environment and the Scottish MPA Network protects and enhances our marine environment, supporting ecosystem health, improved livelihoods, economic prosperity, social inclusion and wellbeing.

Protecting our marine environment is vital to both halt biodiversity loss and for the long-term viability of our marine industries. It is not possible to have sustainable and profitable marine industries in the long term without a healthy marine environment.

MPAs protect Scotland's vulnerable and unique species and habitats, ensuring that their benefits can be accessed by current and future generations. They are a key tool in ensuring our marine environment is restored, adaptable and resilient to climate change, and sustainably managed to achieve good environmental status.

As you are aware, the consultation on fisheries management measures within offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is ongoing and will close on 14 October.

We would encourage you to promote engagement with the consultation to your members, so that their views can help inform the decision making process. They can access and respond until the 14th October here at [Citizen Space](#).

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Following this date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach a decision regarding fisheries management measures within Scottish offshore Marine Protected Areas.

For the inshore area, developing evidence-based and effective fisheries management measures for the large number of MPAs is a complex and challenging process. This has resulted in a delay to the ambitious timeline set in 2022 but we are working at pace to deliver the public consultation on inshore MPAs as soon as the required impact assessments have been completed

We are continuing work on assessing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of inshore proposals ahead of public consultation.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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