



**LINK**

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### **Membership application for the Clyde Regional Marine Planning Partnership**

Dear Isabel,

I am writing on behalf of Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Group to request membership of the Clyde Regional Marine Planning Partnership (MPP).

We are aware Clyde MPP has recently constituted and has an open process for membership applications in advance of its next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

We consider that we would be well-placed to assist with the objectives of the CMPP, set out in Clause 3 of the CMPP's Constitution: namely:

- Considered perspectives on the **sustainable management** of the Clyde Marine Region
- Knowledge and research expertise in the use of the **ecosystem approach**
- Capacity to input to the **development of a regional marine plan**
- Capacity to assist with **projects to implement that plan**

We are aware that a member of Scottish Environment LINK, RSPB Scotland, is currently a member of the Regional Marine Planning Partnership. We collectively consider that additional representation by Scottish Environment LINK's members would further secure the contributions and input of a wide range of organisations with a track record of engagement in the development of marine planning in Scotland.

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 35 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

Our Marine Group has nine members: Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust, Marine Conservation Society, National Trust for Scotland, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, WWF Scotland.

As a collective group, we engaged closely during both the drafting and implementation of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and have also actively engaged on the Clyde 2020 project and a number of historical Clyde initiatives, including the Clyde Sustainable Scotland Marine Environment Initiative

(SSMEI) and, variously, project-specific outputs according to member expertise such as the Clyde Marine Litter Strategy. In a recent [briefing](#) we set out a number of key priorities, and set out our support for well-resourced marine planning in Scotland.

Our members are accustomed to partnership working and collectively represent a wide network and large number of supporters, members and volunteers which could assist with the evolving profile of - and engagement with - participatory regional marine planning in Scotland.

Furthermore, via the Group structure of Scottish Environment LINK (there are six Groups: Land, Marine, Planning, Governance, Economics and Social Justice), our Marine Group liaises with expertise throughout the LINK membership and could usefully channel the input, contributions and perspectives of other key members of our network (e.g. perspectives from the Planning and Land Groups on terrestrial planning processes and land-sea planning integration).

Subject to whether this request is approved by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership members, we would propose to nominate a representative of our Marine Group to provide continuity of engagement and input to the work of the CMPP.

We would like to take this opportunity to state our support for the objectives of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan and look forward to your members' consideration of this application.

Yours sincerely,



**Calum Duncan**

Convenor, Scottish Environment LINK Marine Group

[www.scotlink.org/workareas/marine/](http://www.scotlink.org/workareas/marine/)

On behalf of:

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

Marine Conservation Society

National Trust for Scotland

RSPB Scotland

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Scottish Ornithologists' Club

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Whale and Dolphin Conservation

WWF Scotland

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