

Cliffs and Sea Lochs: Sea Eagles and Sea Lochs - Mark Ruskell MSP

Hello, my name is Mark Ruskell and I am the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife. I am also the Nature Champion for the White-tailed Eagle, also known as the 'sea eagle'.

Imagine a bird with a wingspan of up to almost two-and-a-half meters – that's more than the height of this display!

The majestic white-tailed eagle is the UK's largest bird of prey, and they were re-introduced to Scotland in 1975 - almost one hundred years after they were originally driven to extinction.

Today, most of Scotland's white-tailed eagles are now found on the west coast, with the Isle of Mull, Isle of Skye and Wester Ross being reliable places to see them flying with their enormous wings outstretched. Despite the huge success of the reintroductions, the species remains vulnerable and is just gaining a foothold in Eastern Scotland.

White-tailed eagles are mostly able to adapt to different places and can be found inland; however, coastal areas, islands and sea lochs are favoured by these magnificent birds.

Scotland's sea lochs are stunning coastal formations shaped by ancient glaciers. They differ from freshwater lochs in that their water source is governed by the sea, with tidal narrows and shallow sills protecting these lochs from the heavy waves of the open ocean.

These deep waterways are found on the western and northern coastlines of Scotland, and these sea lochs harbour a unique variety of marine life, including many different fish species – perfect for a white-tailed eagle looking for a meal!