



Scottish
Environment
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Gillian Martin MSP
Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Scottish Parliament

Petition on Marine Protected Areas signed by more than 3,000 people

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Members of Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Group welcome this week's publication of the consultation on fisheries management measures for Scotland's offshore marine protected areas. This is a crucial step towards ensuring Scotland's marine protected area network is well-managed, essential to help address the climate and nature crises at sea. We have appreciated engaging with your officials at the Marine Directorate on plans around this consultation.

Marine protected areas are vital for protecting Scotland's precious marine environment. This network plays a crucial role in safeguarding marine biodiversity, which supports thriving communities, sustainable economic opportunities and, if properly protected from damaging activities, contributes to urgently needed ocean recovery.

We welcome the Scottish Government's ongoing commitment to protecting and enhancing the health of Scotland's seas, but we remain concerned that a large proportion of the network remains open to damaging fishing activities. We believe that well-managed MPAs are essential to achieving the government's environmental goals and ensuring a thriving marine environment for future generations.

There is strong public support for marine protected areas from people across Scotland. Scottish Environment LINK's petition has been signed by 3,171 people, who support the following statement:

Scotland's marine protected areas need real protection. I call on the Scottish government to put tailored fisheries restrictions in place across Scotland's marine protected areas by the end of 2025.

A full list of signatories and their postcodes is attached.

On behalf of LINK members I am therefore writing to urge that the consultation on fisheries management measures for inshore MPAs, SACs and SPAS currently lacking them, and those for



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protecting Priority Marine Features (PMFs) outside the MPA network, are put to public consultation by the end of 2024 in order to ensure they are in place in time.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Duncan



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