British Marine is the membership body for the leisure, Superyacht and Small Commercial marine industry in the UK.

Given the tight timescales that we have been afforded, British Marine only wish to comment on question 5 of the Call for views.

The Bill will provide a regulation-making power for the Scottish Ministers to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters. Do you agree with this power? Do you have any comments on how it should be used?

British Marine support the proposals allowing Scottish Ministers to create a marine licensing scheme for coastal waters. It is British Marine’s understanding that the current marine licensing regime, as enforced by Marine Scotland, does not provide adequate business security to those operating in the marine environment.

In particular, British Marine wish to see existing licenses regimes to be transferred under this Bill and for their length to be extended significantly. As an example, Those businesses deploying floating structures such as pontoons will only be issued with a 6 year licence from Marine Scotland. The level of investment in these structures is significant (running into millions of pounds) and intended to provide a return over and in excess of 20 years.

For these projects to be issued with a 6 year licence, without a guarantee that they will be reissued after that time, is a significant business threat and could jeopardise future investment in marine developments.

As a result, British Marine would welcome a change to the existing licensing regime where, given agreed systems, timescales for such licenses would be extended to 20 years. Thus providing business security and investor confidence.

I do hope that these views are of use to the committee and would welcome further involvement during the progression of this Bill.

British Marine Scotland
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