

# Scottish Government submission of 23 January 2024

## PE2034/B: Stop the current proposals for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) in Scotland

Thank you for the chance to comment on PE2034 titled “Stop the current proposals for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HMPAs) in Scotland”.

I note this petition was published on 20 June 2023. I would like to draw the committee’s attention to a [statement made to Parliament on 29 June 2023 by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition](#) at which she stated that the proposals for HPMAs would not be progressed.

Additionally, on 7 November 2023, we published [our response to the public consultation on our HPMA proposals](#) which confirmed they would not be progressed and that we would no longer be looking to designate 10% of Scotland’s seas as HPMAs by 2026.

I hope you find this response helpful.

**Marine Directorate**