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Convener
Rural Affairs Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

14 September 2026

Consultation on Proposed Fisheries Management Measures within Scottish Inshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Proposed Priority Marine Feature (PMF) Management Areas

Dear Mark,

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government has today (14th September 2026) launched the public consultation on the proposed fisheries management measures within Scottish inshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and proposed Priority Marine Feature (PMF) management areas.

The Scottish Government has committed to the delivery of fisheries management measures for existing MPAs where these are not already in place and key biodiversity locations outwith the MPA network to provide protection for protected features to ensure conservation objectives and policy requirements are being met. There are 76 MPAs and 90 proposed PMF management areas in which the Scottish Government is consulting on and an overview of these is provided in **Annex A**. Of these 76 MPAs, three overlap with the offshore region and - in this context - the term "MPAs" includes sites designated as Nature Conservation MPAs (NCMPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The 3 MPAs that overlap into the Offshore region are:

- Seas off St Kilda SPA
- Seas off Foula SPA
- Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA

As the Committee will be aware, the development of these proposals has been informed by years of stakeholder engagement, scientific evidence gathering and discussion with

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representatives from the fishing industry, environmental organisations, coastal communities, local authorities, and other interested parties.

Given the scale and complexity of the proposals, covering more than 160 sites and areas across Scotland's inshore waters, the consultation has been extended beyond the standard 12-week duration and will run until 18 January 2027, going beyond the intended sixteen week period due to the festive period. This extended consultation period will provide stakeholders and members of the public additional time to consider the evidence, reflect on the proposals, and provide informed views to help shape the future management of Scotland's seas.

Following analysis of the consultation responses and final decision by the Minister on the proposed measures, the Scottish Government intend to implement these fisheries management measures for MPAs and proposed PMF management areas through a Scottish Statutory Instrument.

I recognise that these proposals are of significant interest to those who use and depend on Scotland's seas. I would like to reassure the Committee that the Scottish Government remains committed to working closely with fishing communities, conservation organisations and local leaders throughout the consultation process to ensure that we achieve an appropriate balance between environmental protection and the social and economic wellbeing of our coastal and island communities.

During the consultation period we will be hosting 26 drop-in sessions around the coast of Scotland. At these sessions officials and representatives from Nature Scot will be available to discuss the consultation and provide help and support on how to use the consultation platform and documents. These sessions will be focused on protected areas near to the location the session is held in, but if stakeholders have an interest in sites and areas elsewhere they are welcome to ask about them. The list of locations are listed in **Annex B**, some venues are TBC.

During the consultation we are also running a series of seventeen online sessions to support people to respond to this consultation. The online sessions will explain to stakeholders about this consultation, and offer support with responding to it. Attendees to the online sessions will also have the opportunity to ask questions on the proposals. More online sessions can be added, if required.

The consultation document can be found here: [Proposed Fisheries Management Measures within Scottish Inshore Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\) and Proposed Priority Marine Feature \(PMF\) Management Areas](#). There will be a information session by officials open to all MSPs on Wednesday 16th September from 1400 – 14:50.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

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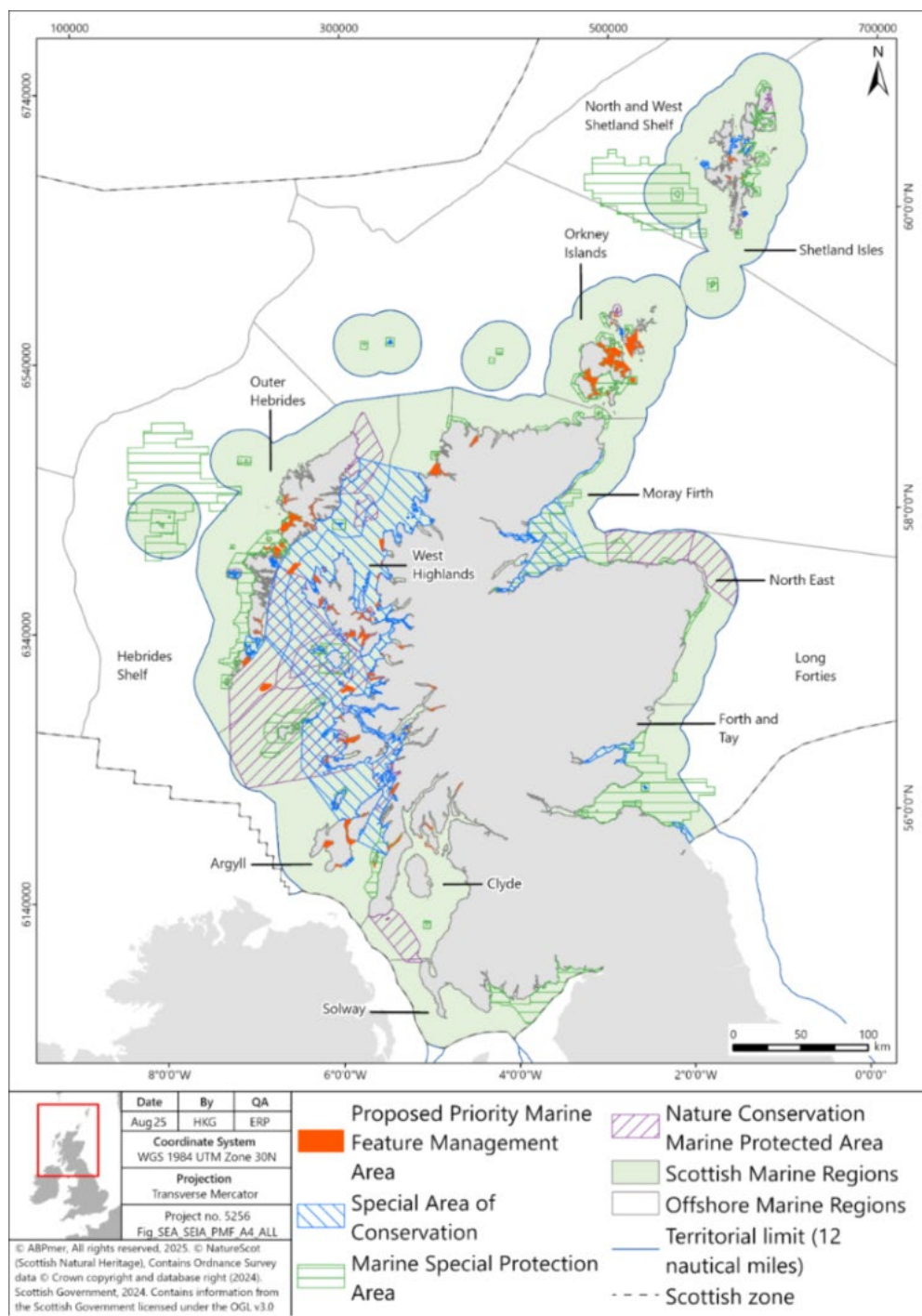
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Annex A

There are 76 MPAs (NCMPAs, SACs with marine components and SPAs with marine components) in the Scottish inshore region. Fisheries management measures for 76 of these MPAs will be implemented through this process to ensure the site conservation objectives are achieved. These 76 MPAs and 90 proposed management areas are shown in the overview map in Figure one and listed in Figure two for the Scottish Marine Regions (SMRs) they come under.

Figure 1. Scottish inshore marine regions with highlighted MPAs and proposed PMF management areas requiring fisheries management measures.



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Figure 2. List of Scottish Marine Regions (SMRs) and any MPAs and proposed PMF Management Areas within the region where fisheries management measures have been developed for consultation.

Argyll

- Coll and Tiree SPA
- Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mór SAC
- Loch a' Chnuic and Ardilistry (Islay) proposed PMF management area
- Loch a' Chumhainn (Mull) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Craignish (Argyll) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Indaal (Islay) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Tarbert (Jura) proposed PMF management area
- Moine Mhor SAC
- North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA
- Gigha, North-East proposed PMF management area
- Port Appin to Lismore (Loch Linnhe) proposed PMF management area
- Port Ellen (Islay) proposed PMF management area
- Sea of the Hebrides NCMPA
- Sound of Gigha SPA
- Sound of Iona (Mull) proposed PMF management area
- Sound of Islay (Islay) proposed PMF management area
- Gigha, South proposed PMF management area
- Ulva and Loch na Keal (Mull) proposed PMF management area
- South-East Islay Skerries SAC
- West Loch Tarbert (Kintyre) proposed PMF management area

Clyde

- Ailsa Craig SPA
- Ardlamont Point (Cowal) proposed PMF management area
- Clyde Sea Sill NCMPA
- Gourock (Inverclyde) proposed PMF management area
- Inchmarnock (Bute) proposed PMF management area
- Kyles of Bute proposed PMF management area
- Loch Long, Upper (Argyll) proposed PMF management area
- Merkland (Arran) proposed PMF management area
- Sannox (Arran) proposed PMF management area
- Scalpsay Bay, Gallachan Bay, and Stravannan Bay (Bute) proposed PMF management area
- Skipness Point (Kintyre) proposed PMF management area

Forth and Tay

- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
- Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC

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- Forth Islands SPA
- Isle of May SAC
- Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA
- St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA

Moray Firth

- Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC
- East Caithness Cliffs NCMPA
- East Caithness Cliffs SPA
- Moray Firth SAC
- Moray Firth SPA
- Southern Trench NCMPA
- Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA

North Coast

- Cape Wrath SPA
- Loch Eribol (Durness) proposed PMF management area
- North Caithness Cliffs SPA

North East

- Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA
- Fowlsheugh SPA
- Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie, and Meikle Loch SPA

Orkney Islands

- Bay of Swartmill (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Bay of Tuquoy, Westray (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Calf of Eday SPA
- Copinsay SPA
- Copinsay (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Hoy Sound (East) to South Walls (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Hoy Sound (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Hoy SPA
- Marwick Head SPA
- North Orkney SPA
- Eday, Sanday, and Stronsay (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Orkney Sounds and Firths (South) proposed PMF management area
- Papa Westray, South (Orkney) proposed PMF management area
- Papa Westray NCMPA
- Rousay SPA
- Faray and Holm of Faray SAC
- Scapa Flow SPA
- Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA
- West Westray SPA

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- Widewall Bay (Orkney) proposed PMF management area

Outer Hebrides

- Aird an t-Sruith, Sound of Harris proposed PMF management area
- Berneray (East) Sound of Harris proposed PMF management area
- Boreray and Berneray (North Uist) proposed PMF management area
- Easaigh and Ceilegraigh (Sound of Harris) proposed PMF management area
- East Loch Tarbert and Scalpay (Harris) proposed PMF management area
- East of Mingulay proposed PMF management area
- Flannan Isles SPA
- Loch Aineort (South Uist) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Baghasdail (South Uist) proposed PMF management area
- Loch nam Madadh SAC
- Loch Seaforth (Lewis) proposed PMF management area
- Lochs Tamnabhaigh, Tealasbaigh, Reasort, and Crabhadail (Harris) proposed PMF management area
- Mingulay and Berneray SPA
- Monach Islands NCMPS
- Monach Isles SAC
- North-East Lewis NCMPS
- North Rona SAC
- North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA
- Pabaigh, South (Sound of Harris) proposed PMF management area
- Pabaigh, South-East (Sound of Harris) proposed PMF management area
- Rangas, Bhotarsaigh and Sursaigh (North Uist) proposed PMF management area
- Seas off St Kilda SPA
- Sgeir an Fheidh (South Uist) proposed PMF management area
- Shiant East Bank NCMPS
- Shiant Isles SPA
- Sound of Barra SAC
- Sound of Taransay and West Loch Tarbert (Harris) proposed PMF management area
- South-East Barra and Vatersay proposed PMF management area
- St Kilda SPA
- Stulaigh (South Uist) proposed PMF management area
- West Coast of the Outer Hebrides SPA

Shetland Isles

- Back of Ollaberry, Yell Sound (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds SPA
- Busta Voe (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- East Mainland Coast, Shetland SPA
- Fair Isle SPA
- Fetlar SPA
- Fetlar to Haroldswick NCMPS
- Foula SPA

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- Hermaness, Saxa Vord, and Valla Field SPA
- Linga Sound (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Lunna Ness, North (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Lunning Sound (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Mousa SAC
- Mousa to Boddam NCMPA
- Noss SPA
- Papa Stour SAC
- Papa, North (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Quey Firth (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Seas off Foula SPA
- Sullom Voe SAC
- Sumburgh Head SPA
- Wadbister Voe (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- West Mainland Voes (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- West Voe, East Burra (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Whalsay, South-West (Shetland) proposed PMF management area
- Yell Sound Coast SAC

Solway

- Solway Firth SPA

West Highlands

- Ascrib Islands (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan SAC
- Canna and Sanday SPA
- East of BUTEC (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Eddrachillis Bay (Assynt) proposed PMF management area
- Eigg, South-East proposed PMF management area
- Handa SPA
- Handa (Durness) proposed PMF management area
- Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC
- Inverie, Loch Nevis (Knoydart) proposed PMF management area
- Little Minch proposed PMF management area
- Loch Ainort and Caolas Scalpay (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Bay (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Bracadale (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Eil (Lochaber) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Hourn (Knoydart) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Leven, Ballachullish (Lochaber) proposed PMF management area
- Loch nan Ceall (Arisaig) proposed PMF management area
- Loch nan Uamh (Arisaig) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Scavaig (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Loch Sligachan (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Lochs Eishort and Slapin (Skye) proposed PMF management area
- Muck and Godag proposed PMF management area

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- North Crowlin Islands and Eilean na Ba (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Oberon Bank proposed PMF management area
- Pabay, North (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Pabay, South-West (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Port Erradale (Gairloch) proposed PMF management area
- Red Point (Torridon) proposed PMF management area
- Rubha Chuaig (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Rum SPA
- Sandaig Bay, Loch Nevis (Knoydart) proposed PMF management area
- Scalpay, North (Inner Sound) proposed PMF management area
- Sgeir na Sean Chroit (Upper Loch Linnhe) proposed PMF management area
- Small Isles NCMPA
- Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh) SAC (including marine component of Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods SAC) – counted as 2 SACs
- South of Muck and Bo Fascadale proposed PMF management area

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Annex B

Consultation Drop- In Sessions			
Western Isles	Stomoway	The Bridge Centre	29/09/2026
	Tarbert (Harris)	Tarbert Community Centre	30/09/2026
	Benbecular	Benbecular Campus	01/10/2026
Oban-Barra	Oban	Corran Halls	06/10/2026
	Barra	Castlebay Community Hall	08/10/2026
Wick and Orkney	Kirkwall	St Magnus Centre	13/10/2026
	Wick	East Caithness Community Facility	14/10/2026
Highland	Mallaig	Mallaig Community Centre	20/10/2026
	Portree	Portree Community Centre	21/10/2026
	Inverness	Inverness Town Hall	28/10/2026
	Ullapool	Village Hall	29/10/2026
	Lochinver	Lochinver Village Hall	30/10/2026
North East	Peterhead	Palace Hotel	10/11/2026
	Fraserburgh	Fraserburgh District Parish Church	11/11/2026
	Buckie	Fishermen's Hall	12/11/2026
North West	Tobermory	Aros Hall	24/11/2026
	Tiree	An Talla Community Hall	26/11/2026
Shetland	Lerwick	TBC	02/12/2026
	TBC	TBC	03/12/2026
South West	Kircudbright	Kidcudbright Community Centre	07/12/2026
	Troon	Riverside Lodge	08/12/2026
	Campbeltown	Kintyre Community Centre	09/12/2026
	Tarbert (Loch Fyne)	Templar Arts Hall	10/12/2026
South East	Anstruther	Pittenween Town Hall	14/12/2026
	Eyemouth	The Hippodrome	16/12/2026
	Edinburgh	Leith Parish Church	18/12/2026

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