

 **The Scottish Government**

MPA policy in the seas around Scotland

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The Seas around Scotland

- Significant marine area and largest coastline in Europe - over 11,000km
- Vitally important to the sustainable future of Scotland
- Contain distinctive and important habitats and support a diverse range of species

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The Seas around Scotland

- 70% of Europe's population of grey seals and 35% of the EC population of common seals
- Over 20 species of whales, dolphins and porpoise around the Scottish coastline
- Important seabird populations and examples of reef habitat

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Contributing to UK delivery of international objectives:

- 31 SACs for seals and bottlenose dolphin as well as important marine habitats e.g. reefs and lagoons
- 49 SPAs classified which have one or more species of seabird as the qualifying interest
- 29 out of the UK's 56 OSPAR MPAs submitted as the UK's initial contribution

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Work in Progress

- extend the SPA network into the Marine Environment
- identify inshore aggregations for seabirds
- consider what other areas may be required to complete the Natura and OSPAR



The Scottish Government New Marine Legislation

Scottish Parliament Marine Enquiry called for a network of MPAs

AGMACS recommended improvements to 3 pillar system of marine conservation (sites, species protection and wider legislation)

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to introduce new marine legislation

Ministers have said likely to include a simpler regulatory system and more action on conservation

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What has Government in the UK delivered so far?

- 81 SPAs and 98 SACs
- Management arrangements in place for marine sites
- UK co-chaired Working Group on EC-wide Marine N2K guidance
- 56 OSPAR MPAs as an initial contribution – more than any other country
- But work remains to be done...

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...Next steps

- Build on firm foundations by completing Natura network
- Identify gaps that need to be filled to deliver the OSPAR network
- Consider nationally important sites
- New legislative proposals