

# Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

Consultation Stakeholder Engagement Sessions  
February 2023



## **Who we are:**

The Scottish Government – Marine Scotland

NatureScot

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

## **Purpose of today's session:**

An information session to complement the live public consultation on our proposed approaches to designating a suite of HPMAs in Scottish seas.

## Today we will cover:

- Overview of what we are consulting on and why
- What HPMAAs are, why we are proposing them and how they relate to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Our proposed policy approaches to managing activities and legal considerations
- The proposed HPMA site selection process
- How we are considering the impacts of HPMAAs
- Delivery timeline – outline of full programme of work
- Overview of the consultation process

Throughout this presentation, we will highlight how and when stakeholders can be involved in the process.

# Consultation overview

## Why are we consulting?

Bute House Agreement commitment:

Designate at least 10% of Scotland's seas as Highly Protected Marine Areas by 2026

## What are we consulting on?

Policy Framework

Site Selection Guidelines

Initial Sustainability Appraisal

Partial Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) Screening Report

Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

# Policy Framework: sections 2 & 3 - defining HPMAs and their aims

## What are HPMAs?

HPMAs are proposed to be designated areas of the sea that are strictly protected to allow the marine ecosystems within to recover and thrive. These areas safeguard all of their marine life for the benefit of the planet and current and future generations; providing opportunities for carefully managed enjoyment and appreciation.

## Aims of HPMAs:

- Meet our domestic and international commitments
- Facilitate ecosystem recovery
- Enhance the benefits that coastal communities and others derive from our seas
- Contribute to the mitigation of climate change impacts
- Support ecosystem adaptation and improving resilience

Question 1. What is your view of the aims and purpose of Highly Protected Marine Areas as set out in sections 2 and 3 of the draft Policy Framework?

[▶ Related information](#)

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

Please explain your answer in the text box

# Policy Framework: section 4 - HPMA / MPA relationship

- MPA network is made up of different types of designations
  - Sites are designated to protect specific, named features.
- HPMA's will complement and form part of this network
  - Will add value to existing network
- HPMA's may overlap fully or partially with existing MPAs
  - Maximise conservation benefits by affording stricter site protection

# Policy Framework: section 6 - sectoral considerations

Question 2. What is your view of the effectiveness of the approaches to manage the activities listed below, as set out in section 6 of the draft Policy Framework, in order to achieve the aims and purpose of HPMAs?

▶ [Related information](#)

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Commercial fishing (of any kind)	<input type="radio"/>				
Recreational fishing (of any kind)	<input type="radio"/>				
All other recreational activities	<input type="radio"/>				
Finfish aquaculture	<input type="radio"/>				

- 16 sector-specific considerations/activities with proposed management approaches
- Some activities will be restricted / not compatible with HPMAs
- Some activities will be allowed to continue at carefully managed, non-damaging levels

# Policy Framework: section 8 - legal proposals

Question 3. What is your view of the proposed additional powers set out in section 8.3.2 of the draft Policy Framework: “Allow for activities to be prohibited from the point of designation to afford high levels of protection.”

▶ [Related information](#)

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

Please explain your answer in the text box

Question 4. What is your view of the proposed additional powers set out in section 8.3.3 of the draft Policy Framework: “Establish processes to permit certain limited activities within a HPMA on a case-by-case basis for specified reasons.”

Question 5. What is your view of the proposed additional powers set out in section 8.3.4 of the draft Policy Framework: “Activities which are not permitted in a HPMA but are justified in specified cases of emergency or force majeure.”

Question 6. What is your view of the proposed additional powers set out in section 8.3.5 of the draft Policy Framework: “Measures for activities allowed and carefully managed in HPMAs.”

# Development of Site Selection Guidelines



- Aim of the guidelines: to describe the proposed process for identifying and selecting HPMAs in Scottish waters, while considering socio-economic factors and stakeholder engagement.
- To develop the guidelines we:
  - Considered lessons learnt
  - Developed high-level principles
  - Considered feedback from key stakeholders
- We are inviting you to provide feedback.

# General principles

- Use of a robust evidence base
- HPMA scale and the use of functional ecosystem units
- Ensuring added value
- Delivering ecosystem recovery



Question 9. What is your view of the general principles that are intended to inform the approach to HPMA selection, as listed below and set out in section 4.1 of the draft Site Selection Guidelines?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Use of a robust evidence base	<input type="radio"/>				

# Functions and resources of significance to Scotland's seas

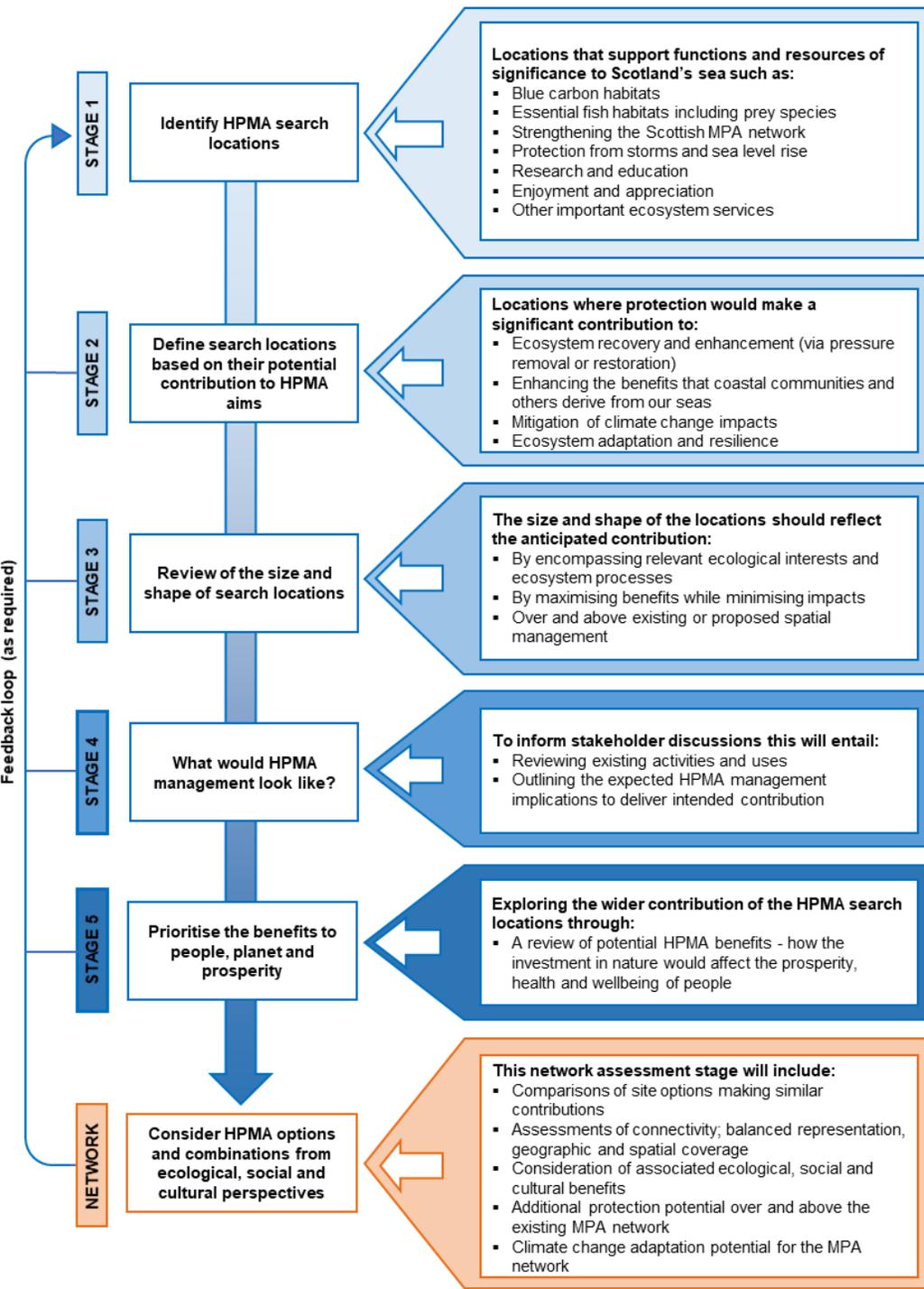
- Blue carbon
- Essential Fish Habitats
- Strengthening the Scottish MPA network
- Protection from storms and sea level rise
- Research and education
- Enjoyment and appreciation
- Other important ecosystem services



Question 8. What is your view of the proposal that HPSA site identification should be based upon the "functions and resources of significance to Scotland's seas," as set out in Annex B of the draft Site Selection Guidelines?

	Strongly support	Support	Neutral	Oppose	Strongly oppose
Blue Carbon	<input type="radio"/>				

# Five-stage site selection process

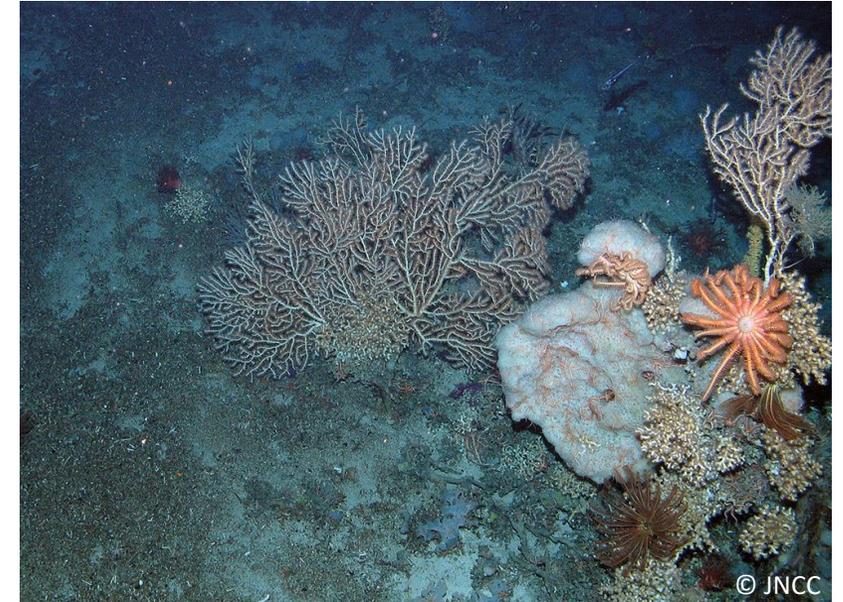


Question 10. What is your view of the proposed five-stage site selection process, found in sections 4.2 and 4.3 as well as Figure 2 and Annex A of the draft Site Selection Guidelines?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

# Contribution to HPMA aims

- Facilitate ecosystem recovery and enhancement via the removal of pressures and/or active restoration
- Enhance the benefits that coastal communities and others derive from our seas
- Contribute to the mitigation of climate change impacts
- Support ecosystem adaptation and improve resilience, including to climate change



Question 11. Do you have any further comments on the draft Site Selection Guidelines, which have not been covered by your answers to the previous questions?

Please add your response in the text box

# Impact Assessments: Sustainability Appraisal

- An Initial Sustainability Appraisal has been published, which summarises an initial **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report** and **Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA)**
- The initial assessments will be built on throughout the project as proposed sites are identified and evidence gathered
- We will seek to gather detailed views on **socio-economic factors** directly from stakeholders throughout the engagement process, especially at the stage where site locations are considered.

# Impact Assessments: BRIA & ICIA

- **Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) and Partial Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) Screening documents also form part of the consultation package**

Question 14. What is your view of the partial ICIA screening report as an accurate representation of potential impacts, raised by implementation of the draft Policy Framework and Site Selection Guidelines?

Question 15. Do you think that the implementation of the draft Policy Framework and Site Selection Guidelines will have any significantly differential impacts - positive and/or negative - on island communities?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Question 16. What is your view of the partial BRIA as an accurate representation of the potential impacts, issues and considerations raised by the implementation of the draft Policy Framework and Site Selection Guidelines?

Question 17. Do you think that the implementation of the draft Policy Framework and Site Selection Guidelines will have any financial, regulatory or resource implications - positive and/or negative - for you and/or your business?

Question 18. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, please specify in the text box below, which of the proposals/actions you refer to and why you believe this would result in financial, regulatory or resource implications for your business.

Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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## Scottish Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

**Overview**

The Scottish Government's vision for the marine environment is for clean, healthy, safe, productive and diverse seas, managed to meet the long term needs of nature and people. Through the [Bute House Agreement](#), Scottish Ministers have committed to designate at least 10% of Scotland's seas as Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs), by 2026. These sites will provide high levels of protection by placing strict limits on some human activities, such as fishing and aquaculture, while allowing non-damaging recreational activities to take place at carefully managed levels.

**Closes 20 Mar 2023**  
**Opened 12 Dec 2022**

**Contact**  
HPMA Policy Team  
[HPMA@gov.scot](mailto:HPMA@gov.scot)

This consultation is seeking views and comments on a number of key documents that propose how HPMAs will contribute this vision.

[Read the consultation paper](#)

### Ministerial Foreword



As Minister for Environment and Land Reform, I am delighted to be consulting with you on what HPMAs in Scotland should look like, how they should be selected and implemented, and how they will affect our lives.

In Scotland, we are understandably proud of our natural environment, whose beauty, richness and diversity is emblematic of our national identity. We also all recognise the urgency of

# Consultation process

## Contents

We know that not everyone will wish or feel able to answer all of the questions in this consultation. You're encouraged to answer the questions you'd like to respond to, but you don't have to respond to all of them.

The links in the table below correspond to the pages within the consultation. By clicking a link it will take you to the related page and questions. Once you have completed the relevant questions on the page you can click 'Continue' to return here and choose the next page to view.

You will also see the option to 'Save and come back later' at the bottom of each page. This feature allows you to return to the consultation at a later date without losing the answers you've already entered as part of your response. You do still need to submit your response before the consultation closing date or the response will be lost.

There are some questions you have to answer on the 'About you' page. Once these have been completed you may submit your response.

Page	Response
<a href="#">Draft Policy Framework</a>	0 of 7 questions answered
<a href="#">Draft Site Selection Guidelines</a>	0 of 4 questions answered
<a href="#">Initial Sustainability Appraisal</a>	0 of 2 questions answered
<a href="#">Partial Island Communities Impact Assessment (ICIA) Screening Report</a>	0 of 2 questions answered
<a href="#">Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)</a>	0 of 3 questions answered
<a href="#">Our Commitment</a>	0 of 1 questions answered
<a href="#">About you</a> (Required)	0 of 8 questions answered
<a href="#">Evaluation</a>	0 of 1 questions answered

We recommend reading the full suite of documents (as listed above) before starting to submit your responses. You can view these in the related links below.

Give us your views

[Begin consultation >](#)

**Related**

- [Policy Framework](#)
- [Site Selection Guidelines](#)
- [Initial Sustainability Appraisal](#)
- [Partial Island Communities Impact Assessment \(ICIA\) Screening Report](#)
- [Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment \(BRIA\)](#)
- [Socio-Economic Impact Assessment](#)
- [Strategic Environmental Report](#)

**Question 5. What is your view of the proposed additional powers set out in section 8.3.4 of the draft Policy Framework: "Activities which are not permitted in a HPMA but are justified in specified cases of emergency or force majeure."**

[Related information](#)

We propose that some activities otherwise prohibited in a HPMA may be justifiable in cases of emergency and *force majeure*, such as:

- for the purpose of preventing injury, loss of life or damage to property. This could include search and rescue activity, firefighting, anchoring of vessels for safe haven in storms, and any other activities required for the purpose of securing the safety of a vessel, aircraft or marine structure
- Emergency removal of obstructions or dangers to navigation
- Responses to environmental incidents such as chemical or oil spills. This could include use of substances or equipment to disperse, control, contain or recover substances

### About you

Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will still take account of your views in our analysis but we will not publish your response, quote anything that you have said or list your name. We will regard your response as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our [privacy policy](#). By clicking submit you agree to our privacy policy.

**What is your name?**

**What is your email address?**

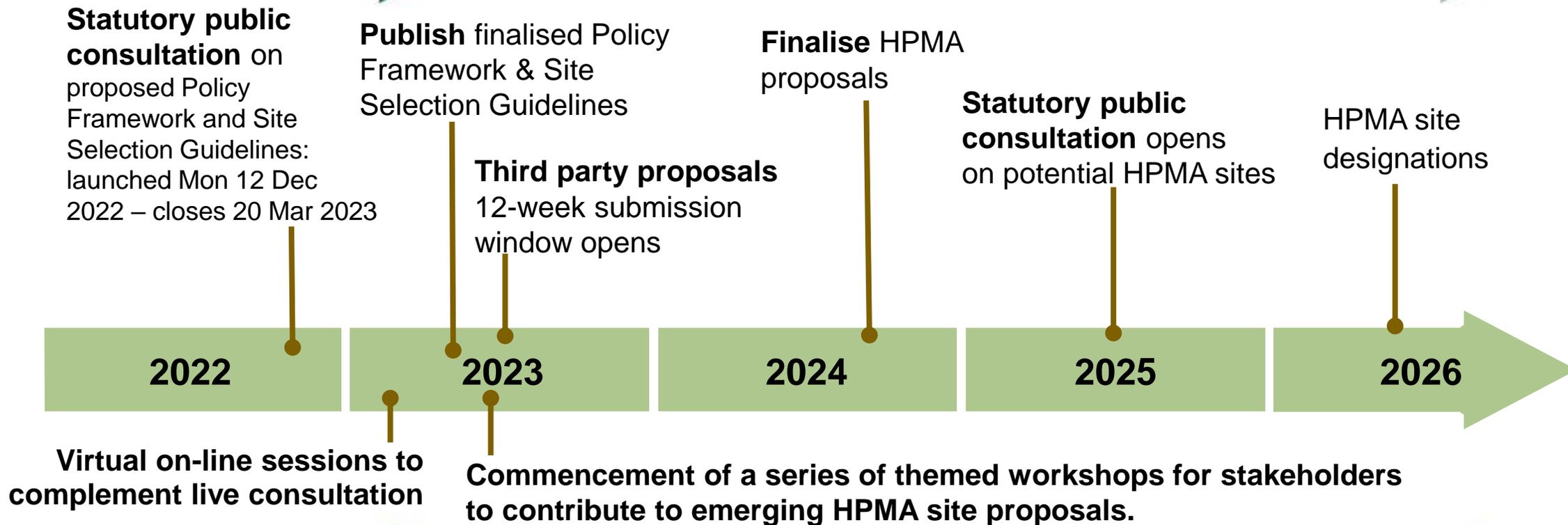
Entering your email address allows you to return to edit your consultation at any time until you submit it. You will also receive an acknowledgement email when you complete the consultation.

(Required)

[Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://consult.gov.scot)

# Indicative timeline showing HPMA project milestones and engagement opportunities

## What we are doing



## Your opportunities

# Q&A

HPMA consultation (12 Dec 2022 – 20 Mar 2023)

[Scottish Highly Protected Marine Areas \(HPMAs\) - Scottish Government -Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://consult.gov.scot)

