Inquiry into the management of marine protected areas in Wales - Consultation submission form

Your contact details

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| Name: |  |
| Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?  |  |
| Organisation (and role if applicable): |  |
| Telephone/Mobile number: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Would you like to be added to the Committee’s contacts database for future inquiries? |  |

Disclosure of information

The Assembly’s [policy on disclosure of information](http://assembly.wales/inquiryprivacy) is available, please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee. This policy can be requested in other formats by contacting the Committee Clerk.

Submitting evidence

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission form to SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales.

Alternatively, you send it to: Committee Clerk, Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee, National Assembly for Wales Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Background

Marine Protected Area (MPA) is the collective term for all forms of protected nature conservation sites in the marine and coastal environment. Sites can be designated under domestic, European and international legislation. MPAs can have different levels of restriction, for example, No Take Zones where many activities are prohibited, through to multi-use MPAs where lots of activities can be allowed if they do not have an adverse impact on the wildlife and habitats for which the site has been designated.  Wales does not at have any No Take Zones, only multi-use MPAs. MPAs are the primary tool to conserve biodiversity whilst balancing the multi-use nature of the marine environment through the sustainable management of activities and natural resources.

The seas around Wales make up over half the area of Wales. There are 128 MPAs covering over 5500 square miles, or 35% of the Welsh seas and 75% of the coastline. This includes sites such as Skomer Marine Conservation Zone in Pembrokeshire that has been an MPA in some form for over 25 years.

In its inquiry into marine policy in Wales, the Fourth Assembly’s Environment and Sustainability Committee expressed concern about the level of priority given to the marine environment by the Welsh Government. Amongst its recommendations, the management of Marine Protected Areas was highlighted as a priority area for improvement.

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee is calling for evidence to support its inquiry into the management of marine protected areas in Wales.

Objectives

* To assess the management of Welsh marine protected areas with a view to identifying opportunities to maximise the economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits that can be derived from them.
* To understand what the implications of leaving the European Union will be for marine protected areas and to identify any issues that will need to be addressed during the exit process.

**Submissions should focus on the terms of objectives and address the following questions.**

**We ask that respondents limit their answers to each question to no more than 250 words.**

Consultation questions

Question 1

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| Has the management of Welsh seas received sufficient resource and strategic direction to enable sustainable management that supports the well-being of current and future generations? (250 words) |
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Question 2

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| How should Area Statements, to be developed by Natural Resources Wales, cover Welsh seas? *(For example should the sea adjoining each welsh Local Authority be included in its Area Statement, or should the marine environment be considered separately in one or more marine Area Statements?)* (250 words) |
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Question 3

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| How well are Wales’ MPAs currently being managed?*(This can include aspects such as the condition of sites, staffing to deliver management, surveillance and enforcement activities and the data on the extent of activities taking place in MPAs)* (250 words) |
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Question 4

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| What are the key issues affecting the effective management of multi-use MPAs? (250 words) |
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Question 5

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| Do existing Welsh MPAs currently provide the right protection for the conservation of Welsh marine biodiversity? (250 words) |
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Question 6

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| What lessons can be learnt from current MPA management activity in Wales (including designation, implementation and enforcement)? (250 words) |
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Question 7

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| Are there MPA examples or practices elsewhere that Wales can learn from? (250 words) |
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Question 8

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| The majority of Wales’ MPAs are designated under the EU Habitats Directive. How should the Welsh Government’s approach to MPA management take account of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union? (250 words) |
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Question 9

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| If you had to make one recommendation to the Welsh Government from all the points you have made, what would that recommendation be? (250 words) |
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Question 10

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| Do you have any other comments or issues you wish to raise that have not been covered by the specific questions? (250 words) |
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