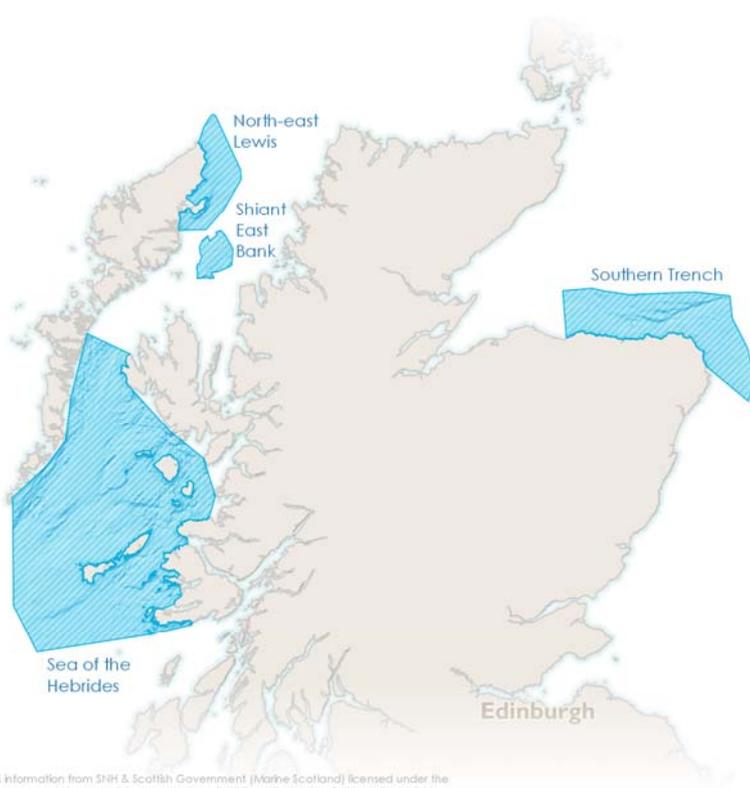




Proposals to designate four new Marine Protected Areas in Scottish waters: Information for the fishing industry

We are seeking views on the designation of four Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Scottish Waters. The purpose here is to provide an overview of the proposals, how fishers and the industry may be affected and links to further sources of information.

This consultation is supported by scientific advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and assessment of the environmental, social and economic impacts, which are outlined below. The locations of the possible MPAs (pMPAs) are shown in Figure 1, along with details of the protected features for each site.



Possible MPAs and Protected Features

North-east Lewis pMPA

Risso's dolphins, sandeels, and geodiversity features
Size: 907 km²

Sea of the Hebrides pMPA

Basking sharks, minke whales, fronts, and geodiversity features
Size: 10,039 km²

Shiant East Bank pMPA

Circalittoral sands and mixed sediment communities, Northern sea fan and sponge communities, shelf banks and mounds, and geodiversity features
Size: 308 km²

Southern Trench pMPA

Burrowed mud, minke whales, fronts, shelf deeps, and geodiversity features
Size: 2,536 km²

Figure 1: Location of pMPAs

Management Advice

The Conservation and Management Advice document developed for each site includes advice from SNH on how to manage the sites to reduce the pressures on the protected features.

Management Scenarios

While fisheries management measures for these sites are not proposed at this stage, hypothetical scenarios around potential future management, building on the SNH advice, have been used to assess the potential impacts of the sites. Full details of these management scenarios can be found in **SEA Report Section 3.4**.

Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal has been developed for the sites which assesses the potential environmental, social and economic impacts of the pMPAs and management scenarios.

Environmental Assessment

Potential environmental effects are considered as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This considers the potential impacts to the environment (both positive and negative), including the effects on the protected features, other plants and animals as well as geology and the quality of the environment. The results of this assessment can be found in **SEA Report Section 5**. Any future need for fisheries management measures will be considered separately, with further stakeholder discussion, assessment and public consultation.

Social and Economic Assessment

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) considers the potential impacts from the designation of the pMPAs on Scotland's economy and people, based on possible management scenarios. Potential impacts on the fishing industry are discussed in **SEIA Section 4.6**. The table below summarises the potential average cost impacts (from the intermediate management scenario) in three ways; **direct GVA** (Gross Value Added) is the total reduction in value added to the economy by fishing over 20 years; **loss of landings** is the annual reduction in landings from that pMPA; and **employment** is the equivalent of full-time employees lost to the fishing industry over 20 years.

Potential Cost Impacts to the Fishing Industry	North-East Lewis pMPA	Sea of the Hebrides pMPA	Shiant East Bank pMPA	Southern Trench pMPA
Direct GVA	ND*	£16,000	£177,000	£1,288,000
Annual loss of landings	ND*	£2,000	£30,000	£234,000
Employment	ND*	0	0.5	3.5

* ND = Value cannot be disclosed where the data represents five or fewer vessels

Impacts by fishing method:

Based on the intermediate management scenario the greatest potential loss of landing value across the four sites is demersal trawls (£259,600) dredges (£4,100) and seines (£2,300). More information can be found in **SEIA Section 6.3**.

Impacts by vessel home port:

Under the intermediate scenario, the annual loss of landings by home port of the vessels, the greatest potential losses are in Fraserburgh (£206,000), Stornoway (£10,000), Buckie (£9,000), Mallaig (£9,000), Campbeltown (£7,000), and Ullapool (£7,000). More information in **SEIA Section 6.2**.

Impacts by port of landing:

Ports with the greatest potential loss of landings (as a percentage of the total landings to that port under the intermediate scenario) are Gareloch (16.3%); Macduff (0.8%); Fraserburgh (0.6%); and Gairloch (0.4%). More information can be found in **SEIA Section 6.4**.

What Next: We are now inviting views on the four MPA proposals. The consultation will close on 30 August 2019. Full details of the consultation including copies of all the documents can be found at: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/four-new-marine-protected-areas>.

Further information: <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/developing/consultation>