



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Date: 30 January 2015

Dear consultee,

Consultation on the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones

I am writing to invite views on proposals for the designation of the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).

MCZs protect areas that are important for conserving the diversity of our sea life, particularly where it is rare or threatened. MCZs will combine with other marine protected areas to contribute to a coherent network around our coasts. The first tranche of 27 MCZs was announced in November 2013, and we are now consulting on a further 23 sites. MCZs are designated to help fulfil our obligations under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and support the achievement of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations' vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

The consultation document can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

Responses

Responses can be submitted at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>. Our preferred method is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate, analyse and summarise responses.

If you prefer not to submit your responses online, you can also email them to MCZ@defra.gsi.gov.uk, or send them to the following address:

MCZ Team,
c/o Post Room
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

A response form is included as Annex C within the consultation document.

Responses should be received by **24th April 2015**.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultation Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>



Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Please state if you do not want details of your response to be made public or if there are any restrictions on the use of information submitted, with an explanation of why it should be kept confidential.

We will take your reasons into account, but you should be aware that there may be circumstances in which we will be required to disclose this information to third parties on request. This is in order to comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not be treated as a confidentiality request.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.gov.uk/defra.

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, you can email them to consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk or send them to the following address:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,
Room 629
9 Millbank
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

Yours faithfully,

Paul McLeod

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs