



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation Coordinator
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Date: 22/07/2021

Dear Consultee

Subject of letter

I am writing to invite views on **Best practice guidance for developing compensatory measures in relation to Marine Protected Areas**.

The government has developed this guidance as a framework to assist:

- regulatory bodies responsible for decision-making in the marine area,
- statutory nature conservation bodies (SNCBs) who provide advice to public authorities and developers, and
- any other public authorities whose functions are capable of affecting MCZs, SACs or SPAs to,

consider how to reduce and mitigate impacts on the marine environment within MPAs and, where this isn't possible how to deliver compensatory measures.

This consultation seeks views from all interested parties on the proposed guidance. We are particularly keen to hear from marine industries that are subject to the consenting and / or licensing process on how applicable and feasible the guidance is.

The following documents may be found on the [Citizen Space online consultation tool](#):

- Guidance document for Best practice guidance for considering compensatory measures in relation to development affecting Marine Protected Areas
- Consultation document for Best practice guidance for considering compensatory measures in relation to development affecting Marine Protected Areas

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact offshorewind@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool). [Consultation guidance compensatory measures in MPAs](#)

If you have additional information that you would like to submit as a part of your consultation response please contact us at offshorewind@defra.gov.uk

Responses or additional information or documents can also be sent to:

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York
YO1 7PX.

Or email: offshorewind@defra.gov.uk

Responses should be received by 30/09/2021

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this consultation.

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office “Consultation Principles” and be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultationprinciplesguidance.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

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Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Team & Marine Licensing Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs