

**SUBMITTING EVIDENCE TO A SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE
DATA PROTECTION FORM**

Name:	Robbie Calvert
Date:	12/07/2019
Organisation: (if required)	The Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland
Topic of submission:	Regional Marine Planning

I have read and understood the privacy notice about submitting evidence to a Committee.

I am happy for my name, or that of my organisation, to be on the submission, for it to be published on the Scottish Parliament website, mentioned in any Committee report and form part of the public record.

I understand I will be added to the contact list to receive updates from the Committee on this and other pieces of work. I understand I can unsubscribe at any time.

Non-standard submissions

Occasionally, the Committee may agree to accept submissions in a non-standard format. Tick the box below if you would like someone from the clerking team to get in touch with you about submitting anonymously or for your submission to be considered but not published. It is for the Committee to take the final decision on whether you can submit in this way.

I would like to request that my submission be processed in a non-standard way.

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Regional Marine Planning

SUBMISSION FROM RTPI SCOTLAND

Regional Marine Planning – Call for Evidence

Development and Implementation of the Regional Marine Plans

1. *Are the objectives for the establishment of the Scottish Marine Regions still appropriate?*

Yes.

2. *How effective has the approach to establishing Marine Planning Partnerships been in practice? Are they working as anticipated? What are the opportunities/constraints/barriers to success?*

With only the Clyde and Shetland Isles Marine Planning Partnerships (MPPs) having been formally progressed, and only Orkney in the process of developing such arrangements, RTPI Scotland is concerned that the establishment of MPPs has not been sufficient across the country. Many 'lessons learned' from the establishment of the first generation of MPPs should be considered by Scottish Government to inform the future development of MPPs. One of the key restraints in developing MPPs, identified from our members, has been a lack of appropriate resourcing for local authorities, MPPs and across key stakeholders.

Whilst recreation groups are required by the Marine Act 2010 to be included in MPPs, RTPI Scotland believes the exclusion of community interests needs reviewed for future MPPs. Early, frontloaded engagement is key in both the planning process and the negotiation of appropriate community benefits.

3. *What progress has been made in the development and implementation of Regional Marine Plans and what are the objectives and priorities for the next 5-10 years?*

Since the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, no statutory RMPs have been adopted in Scotland. Concerns have been expressed that provisions in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in regards to the delegation of functions relating to Regional Marine Plans (RMPs) have not allowed for an appropriate amount of local flexibility. RTPI Scotland would like to highlight new regional arrangements in the Planning (Bill) Scotland as passed, in which Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) have replaced Strategic Development Plans. Provisions for RSSs will allow for a more flexible approach to regional working, intended to be a more relevant and responsive bridge between national and local scale planning. Scottish Government could explore similar changes to RMP.

RTPI Scotland would wish to see objectives and priorities over the next 5 -10 years for Regional Marine Plans to achieve clear alignment and integration with:

- The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
- Regional Spatial Strategies
- Local Development Plans including aligning or integrating any possible marine strategies or action plans with LDP action programmes and monitoring statements
- The Infrastructure Investment Plan

4. *Is the system of marine planning sufficiently integrated with the terrestrial planning system?*

RTPI Scotland believes marine planning and land use planning at the national level should be better aligned to allow for a coherent cross over between both disciplines which are so thoroughly interlinked and interdependent. RTPI Scotland notes that in the Planning (Scotland) Bill as passed the NPF4 is to have regard to the National Marine Plan prepared under section 5 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. In order to ensure that the plans are integrated, it is important that the input of the marine planning sector is sought in the consultation process.

RTPI Scotland believes that, whilst in certain areas alignment is considered sufficient, across the country as a whole, this is not the case and there must be stronger links between land use planning and marine planning. Combining marine and land issues in planning and development is a relatively new idea, but one which hopes to build on the success of planning on land to promote greater sustainability in the management of our marine environment. The need for alignment, for example, in development and infrastructure with both marine and terrestrial components is clear. Furthermore there are some clear overlaps of jurisdictions between marine and land use planning in intertidal zones and in terms of sectors with fish farming operations falling under the jurisdiction of the land use planning system.

Local authority planning departments are key participants in MPPs and the formations of MRPs. However due to the lack of MPPs and MRPs progressing across the country and issues associated with resourcing, the alignment of land use planning and marine planning may not have been as strong as intended. Research by RTPI Scotland has shown that planning departments have seen disproportionately large cuts to their budgets in last ten years when compared to other local authority departments. Since 2009 they have seen a 25% decrease in planning staff and a 40% real term cut in budgets. In order to ensure better alignment, both land use planning and marine planning need to be sufficiently resourced.

5. *What is required to deliver an effective Marine Planning system under Part 3 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010? Is the National Marine Plan capable of delivering sustainable development within Scottish Marine Regions in advance of those areas having an RMP in place?*

LDPs, Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitat Regulations Appraisal are to have regard to have regard to the National Marine Plan (NMP) and the NMP often

underpins policy in LDPs. Marine Scotland also consults terrestrial local authorities on marine planning matters where required. Whilst this provides a sound framework for the fundamental issues in marine planning, notably the safeguarding of Marine Protected Areas, without RMPs, RTPI Scotland believes that optimal engagement with local communities, elected Members and commercial stakeholders will not be achieved.

RTPI Scotland therefore believes that RMPs hold value for the marine planning system and the country as a whole, however without sufficient resourcing they may not deliver the intended benefits. RTPI Scotland is concerned that Scottish Government marine economic statistics show the marine economy GVA falling by 26% between 2008 and 2016, and this would indicate that, from an economic perspective, the NMP is not currently delivering the sustainable development the country needs. RMPs are a critical lever by which sectoral interests can be integrated spatially at a local level to maximise the social, environmental and economic benefits. They provide the appropriate spatial scale for which partnership working can deliver a shared vision for the marine region and find locally appropriate solutions. Lack of a spatial plan at the correct geographic scale may result in Scotland not realising the full potential of its marine environment. Considering the resourcing issues in local authority planning departments discussed in Q4, RMPs will be important in supporting informed and efficient decision making for development management teams going forward.

Following completion of Dynamic Coast, Scotland's coastal change assessment in 2020, there is an opportunity for local authorities without RMPs in place to review their respective Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) and in turn assess how these can align with the formation of RMPs.

6. What funding and support is available for the development of RMPs?

RTPI Scotland understands that RMPs require significant resource for staff and data collection, resources which have not been realised as set out in the Financial Memorandum to the Marine (Scotland) Bill 2009.

7. What duties/requirements are there on local authorities to develop and implement RMPs?

There are no duties on local authorities to develop RMPs, with provisions in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, s.12, preventing full delegation of regional marine planning functions. Local authorities must have regard to the RMP with the authorisation or enforcement of any decisions relating to the Scottish marine region.

8. Is there sufficient marine planning expertise in all Local Authorities for development of RMPs?

RTPI Scotland understands the situation to vary across local authorities. Depending on the importance of the marine industry in the locality, some local authorities have dedicated Marine Planning teams. Other local authorities have little to no skills or capacity to effectively undertake or support marine planning. A commonality amongst local authorities however in developing RMPs is a difficulty is accessing or recruiting staff with appropriate

marine and terrestrial planning knowledge and skills. With MPPs and MRPs still emerging at this stage it is somewhat unclear as to future requirements in terms of a workforce pipeline.

We believe that the relatively new practice of marine planning can learn a lot from the long and well established policies, procedures and practice of land use planning. Given appropriate resourcing, planners can provide highly useful skills and knowledge to support marine planning, including policy making, GIS skills and stakeholder engagement methodologies.

Marine planning involves, beyond traditional land use planning, knowledge of a specific consenting regime, international law and a range of environmental and agricultural laws and regulations. RTPI Scotland notes that Planning Circular 1/2015 provides a high level guidance for planners around the relationship between the statutory land use planning system and marine planning and licensing. However at a regional level RTPI Scotland would promote the drafting of protocol and guidance including good practice. The sharing of good practice and provision of CPD in this area is something RTPI Scotland could provide support for.

To ensure the pipeline of marine planning professionals RTPI Scotland is willing to work closely with Scottish government, Marine Scotland and higher education providers including our accredited planning schools.