



Scotland's Marine Atlas

URL: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/data>

Purpose of application

Scotland is developing marine planning to implement the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. One of the first tasks is the development of a National Marine Plan.

Scotland's Marine Atlas, published in March 2011 (hard copy, HTML and pdf) is the "Information for the National Marine Plan". It is also an assessment of the condition of Scotland's seas, based on scientific evidence from data and analysis, supported by expert judgement.

National Marine Plan interactive, is a complementary initiative to the Atlas and is a web based GIS interactive planning tool that allows you to view different types of information and where appropriate, links have been provided to the related parts of Scotland's Marine Atlas.

Marine Scotland interactive is a resource for providing access to spatial data held by Marine Scotland. It holds information as maps, video clips and photographs with access enabled through the use of freely available software and social networking sites.

Geographic extent

The suite of three tools, Scotland's Marine Atlas, National Marine Plan interactive and Marine Scotland interactive covers the full extent of Scotland's coastline out to the fishery limits generally about 200 n miles, an area of 468,994 km².

Target audience

Policy makers, local marine planners, government agencies, researchers, consultants, stakeholders and interested citizens.

Data included (general categories)

Information on:

- Physical characteristics – waves, tides etc
- Clean and safe seas – hazardous substances, biological effects, eutrophication etc
- Healthy and biologically diverse seas – protected areas, species and habitats, etc
- Productive seas – full range of economic activities
- Climate change

Distinguishing features

- Downloadable data sets
- Ability to print out maps

Atlas support (financial/institutional)

The Atlas was a collaborative partnership project between Marine Scotland, a department of central Scottish Government, and various agencies, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and MASTS (the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology Scotland – a higher education collaboration). NMPi and MSi were developed and are maintained by Marine Scotland with data from a variety of sources including SNH and SEPA .

Future directions - Planned improvements include:

- Populating NMPi with as many maps from the Atlas as possible
- Keeping the data layers updated.