

PILOT PENTLAND FIRTH AND ORKNEY WATERS MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

MARCH 2015

Current status of the Plan

Based on input from stakeholders to inform the process, the working group have prepared pre consultation drafts of the following documents:

- Pilot Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Marine Spatial Plan
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Regional Locational Guidance
- Socio-Economic Baseline Review

At the beginning of March these will be sent to Orkney Islands Council and the Highland Council to be considered at the following committees:

Orkney: Development and Infrastructure Committee (26th March) and General Meeting of the Council (28th April);

http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/2015_12.htm

Highland: Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee (26th May).

http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20003/committee_information/489/caithness_and_sutherland_area_committee

Once the council committees have considered the documents the working group will take account of any changes and update the documents ready for public consultation.

Public Consultation

The public consultation for all of the documents will be in summer 2015 and we look forward to your continued support and input. The dates of the 12 week consultation and any associated events will be sent out once confirmed.

Tourism and Recreation Study

The Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters area is also being used as a case study to test methodologies being developed to collect data in relation to tourism and recreation taking place in the marine environment. There will be workshops organised in the area as part of this work so if you would like to know more get in touch using the contact details below.

New Publication

A study has been carried out by Marine Scotland Science to estimate the value of marine species caught in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) region and specifically in the Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters Strategic Area (PFOW-SA) to onshore processing in both Orkney and the North Highlands. This report is supported by a detailed input-output analysis of economic linkages and benefits from Orkney and Northern Highland based fish and shellfish processing.

www.gov.scot/PFOWmarinespatialplan

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