



Orkney Marine Planning Update

Spring 2022

Introduction

Since our last update in Winter 2021, Orkney Islands Council worked with the Orkney Marine Planning Advisory Group (OMPAG) to set up 12 sub-group meetings between December 2021 and February 2022 to discuss the drafting of the general and sectoral policies of the draft regional marine plan for Orkney.

The Orkney Islands Regional Marine Plan (OIRMP) will provide a statutory policy framework for public authorities, including planners, decision-makers and regulators, to make decisions on sustainable development and activities in the Orkney marine environment. The policies in the OIRMP will need to support decision making within the scope of the Plan's statutory purpose, i.e. the sustainable development of the area, along with policies to protect and enhance nature conservation sites (for more detail see the [Winter 2021](#) update in the 'Related Downloads' section).

Chair of OMPAG

Councillor Graham Sinclair, an Elected Member for Orkney's North Isles, was the very capable chair of the OMPAG during its first year of inception. However, as he will not be seeking re-election at the Council elections in May, he will also no longer be chair of the OMPAG. Our thanks go to Cllr Sinclair for his help and support over the last few years whilst the delegated functions to prepare the marine plan were being sought by OIC. An update will be provided once the new chair is known.

Recreational Activities Survey and Islands Visits

Feedback from Orkney Matters shows that island communities are keen for planning officers to visit in order to keep them up to date on what is proposed for their island. As Orkney is so intrinsically linked to the sea, we are trying to ensure that we take an integrated approach to both land use and marine planning. To help with this approach, as outlined in the Winter 2021 update, we are planning to visit some island communities in April and May to outline the Orkney marine plan process.

These visits will coincide with the launch of the Marine and Coastal Recreational Activities Survey, which will allow people to draw on a map, straight from their mobile phone or desktop computer, the areas they use for recreational activities and answer follow up questions such as what activities they do there (swimming, sailing, kayaking, beach combing etc), what facilities are important, and where improvements could be made. The survey will be open for four months; a further update will be given when the survey goes live on March 21st 2022.

Publicity regarding the visits will be made once arrangements are firmed up but do not hesitate to get in touch beforehand if you would like more information (see contact details at the end).

Natural Capital Assessment of the Orkney Marine Region Area: update

This report, which was flagged up in the Winter 2021 update, is now available on the Scottish Wildlife Trust website: [Oceans of Value – Scottish Wildlife Trust](#)

Marine Scotland staffing update

In addition to the new contact for regional marine planning Fiona Munro, as advised in our Winter 2021 update, she has been joined by a new member of staff. Sophie Humphries has taken over as Marine Planning and Strategy Manager and will work with Fiona on advising us regarding marine planning issues.

Contact us

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