



NOTICE OF MOTION TO MORAY COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023

Proposed Highly Protected Marine Areas in Scotland

To ask that Council recognises

- The importance of the fishing industry to many Scottish coastal communities
- That fishermen are already subject to terrible spatial squeeze pressures, further reductions of the area available to them for fishing could drive many out of business.
- If fishermen are driven out of business this would be a colossal blow to coastal communities that are already struggling with the present cost of living crisis.
- Coastal communities must be involved in any determination on what form HPMA's take and where they may be situated.
- Any proposal should follow an agreed process alongside the local community and fishing industry, involving an evidence gathering phase, an analysis phase and a piloting phase before any proposal should go ahead.

Council notes that with climate change we are already seeing fish stocks moving north. This means that any proposals should be flexible, either shadowing the fish as they move or subject to regular, yearly, updates so they do not end up closing parts of the sea for no purpose. (Science Daily, 18 January 2022, link below)

To request that the Council Leader write to the Scottish Government seeking a reconsideration on the proposals by the SNP and Green Party to impose 10% of Scotland's waters as Highly Protected Marine Areas without full and proper scientific backing for their proposals, or proper consultation with local communities and the fishing industry.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/01/220118094137.htm>

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MACRAE

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS