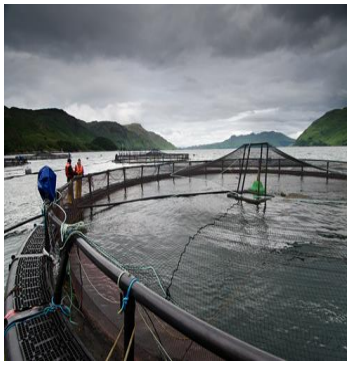






# THE EMFF CLYDE-WIDE PUBLIC DIALOGUE REPORT

Resources FOR CHANGE

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Resources for Change Ltd, Directors: A Davies, M King
VAT number: 996 4504 72. Company Number 7310220.
Registered Address: Cwrt Isaf Farmhouse, Llangattock,
Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1PH.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an analysis and evaluation of public values in relation to the developing Clyde Regional Marine Plan. The design and delivery of the public dialogue process was carried out by Resource for Change, in association with C2W and Evolved Research and Consulting, on behalf of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP). This process and the resulting evaluation report focussed both on general policy areas as well as more specifically those policies relating to fisheries and aquaculture.

## THE PURPOSE

The on-going development of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan, which began in 2017, involved a pre-consultation stage in 2019, which identified a number of areas requiring attention, specifically fisheries and aquaculture. To give further consideration to these policy areas and sense check the developing draft overall, a process of public dialogue was instigated as part of a European Maritime and Fisheries Funded public engagement project. The generic purpose of the dialogue was to gather feedback and views from the public in an innovative and compelling manner so as to develop insights and enable improvements to be made both to the regional marine plan and policy-making process. The key aim was as follows:

*To enable a process that would allow members of the public to engage in fulsome discussions with regards to key areas of the Clyde RMP identified through the pre-consultation process (aquaculture and sea fisheries) as requiring further consideration so as to contribute to specific improvements to policy.*

## THE APPROACH

The EMFF public dialogue was designed around three locations in the Clyde Marine Region, namely Glasgow, Ayr and Dunoon. These locations are socio-economically and geographically different and as none of them have strong links to either fishing or aquaculture they can be seen to reflect unbiased public opinion of the industries.

For each location, 22 participants were recruited on the basis that they were representative of the locality and with no previous experience of marine planning or public dialogue. For each location two rounds of dialogue took place in the period November – December 2019. The first round involved an introduction to the issues and group understanding of the Clyde, whilst the second round developed the dialogue, identifying specific values and policies and leading to a series of agreed outcomes. These were drafted into a final letter per location, signed by the participants.

## KEY OUTCOMES

Several strong themes emerged from the public dialogue process. Firstly, there was a strong **geographic specificity** reflected in the different locations with the participants in Ayr and Dunoon demonstrating a closer affinity to the Clyde than those in Glasgow. Whereas Glasgow demonstrated a more 'out of sight, out of mind' view of the Clyde, Ayr and Dunoon reflected a closer and more intimate relationship.

However, whilst Ayr participants identified the positive opportunities provided by the Clyde, those in Dunoon reflected more on the barriers to connectivity, peripherality and isolation.

All three locations considered the introduction of a **marine planning system** to be a positive step forward in protecting the Clyde Marine Region but the idea of a **'social licence'** whereby the public fully understand its purpose and scope and where marine planning aligns with public expectations is still very much in development.

Views shared by all participants identified concerns around climate change, marine plastics and the protection of natural heritage, which is not surprising given the importance, topicality and newsworthiness of those subject areas. There was also general support for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture to support jobs and local communities, even though the locations selected were not dependent on them. However, concerns were raised that the specific policies themselves lacked clarity and did not go far enough towards addressing sustainability.

Understanding these complex policy areas, using complex technical terms however provided a challenge to the public dialogue process and raises an issue for future and on-going engagement. The need for greater awareness and understanding of marine issues through education and better communication was a key outcome the dialogue process and links to the concept of marine or **ocean literacy**, very topical given that 2021 marks the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

> *"Developing innovative ways to communicate Ocean Science by simplifying the language used to communicate, and offering an open, comprehensible and wide access to sound knowledge as well as by raising awareness within the Ocean communities but also beyond the Ocean sphere, by promoting Ocean Literacy"*
>
> UNESCO, 2019

Building capacity aligns well with further **public engagement** and this dialogue clearly identified a willingness for the public to continue being involved with the process going forward. The benefits of this are well documented and public engagement is already embedded within the RMP process. However, not only has the dialogue process already informed the RMP, with a new Chapter having been drafted on how to communicate and engage with the public, but it has provided an additional onus to embed a system of public engagement as part of the implementation and iterative review stage of the marine planning process, once the Plan becomes operational.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

### 1.1.1 THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL MARINE PLAN FOR THE CLYDE

The introduction of statutory marine planning in the UK, Europe and beyond, reflects a clear and apparent need to address increasing and often competing pressures that face the marine environment, with protection having lagged that of terrestrial systems. Whereas land-use planning in the UK has been in place since the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947, no such system was available for the marine environment until the ascent of the Marine and Coastal Access Act in 2009. This primary statute laid the basis for an effective system of governance to be established and involves a tiered approach to marine planning with a UK-wide Marine Policy Statement (2011) identifying a high-level statement of objectives. The devolved Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 provides the basis for marine planning in Scotland, and this is defined strategically within the National Marine Plan (NMP), published in 2015. These 'Marine Acts' identify the need to manage the marine environment sustainably with the Marine (Scotland) Act laying out the policy framework for the territorial inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (from 12 to 200 nm).

The Act also enables inshore marine planning to be implemented through a series of Regional Marine Plans (RMP), which aim to ensure ecosystem health across the region, taking into account local circumstances. The Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015 designated eleven such regions (see Figure 1), with the associated RMPs to be developed on a local level under delegated functions as allocated by Scottish Ministers through Ministerial Direction. In the case of the Clyde region, delegated functions were given to the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) in March 2017.

The CMPP grew out of the former Firth of Clyde Forum and the Clyde Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI), charged with developing and delivering the RMP to Scottish Government, and currently has a membership of 23 stakeholders including Local Authorities, other Statutory Authorities, as well as representatives from business, industry and environmental organisations. As a result, the CMPP is a statutory consultee for marine licence applications and pre-application consultations sought within the Clyde Marine Region (CMR), though it is currently not exercising this responsibility until such time as the RMP is signed off by Scottish Ministers.

The purpose of the RMP is to enable effective decision-making in relation to human activities in such a way that social, ecological and economic objectives are addressed in a co-ordinated and balanced manner. The RMP must be in line with the NMP. The regional approach allows for a more detailed application of broader national objectives and enables the determination of specific policies and guidance for regional development aimed at protecting and enhancing the marine environment as well as supporting the sustainable economic development of industries such as fishing, aquaculture and renewables. These policies must be considered by public authorities in decision-making, noting that these decisions (such as licensing of particular applications) may be undertaken by a range of different

authorities. As with all planning systems, the development and implementation of marine planning is adaptive and iterative, based on periodic review.

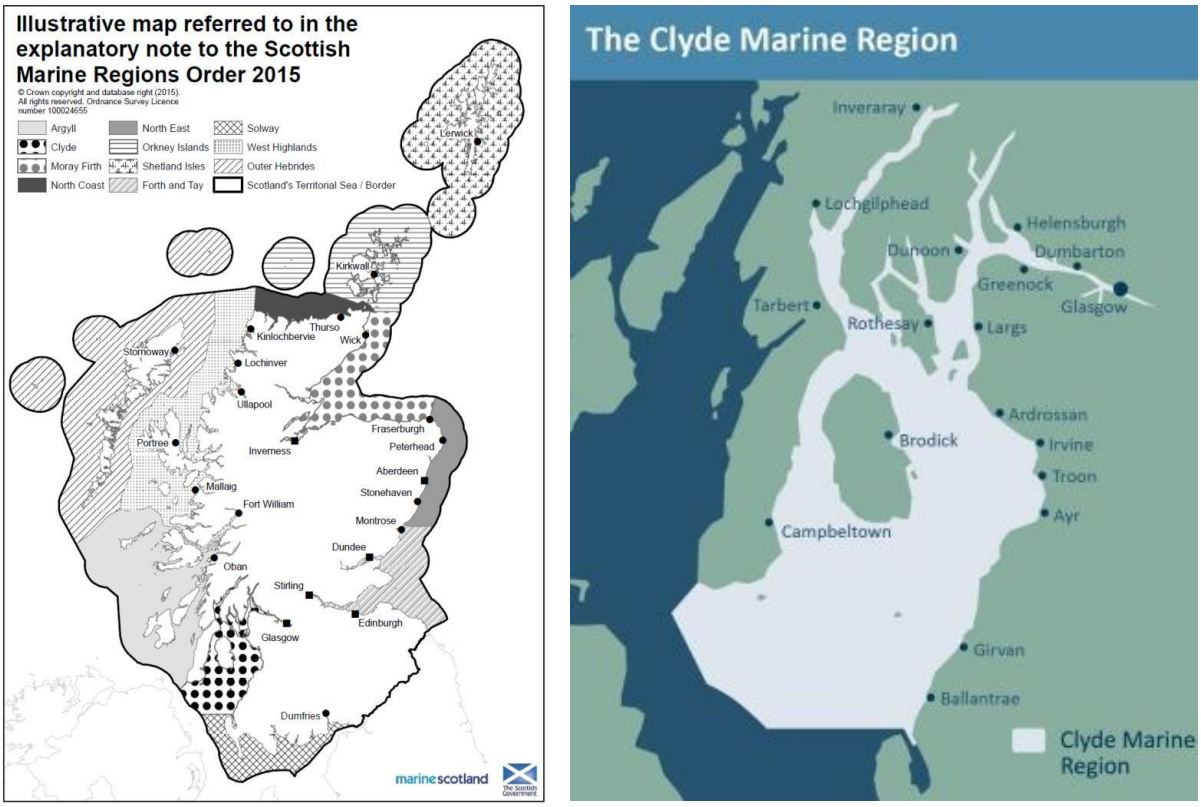



**Figure 1: The Scottish Marine Regions and the Clyde Marine Region**

As part of its' delegated function, the CMPP specified a process through which the RMP should be developed. The process included completing an assessment of the condition of the CMR to provide a baseline for establishing policies and highlighting data gaps, though the timescales involved were subject to amendment. As a result of this and the complex nature of the region, a 'pre-consultation draft' of the RMP was written to enable feedback at an interim stage. In total, 49 responses were received reflecting a range of views and identifying particular critique around elements of the Plan relating to both commercial fishing and aquaculture.

There is a long history of commercial fishing in the Clyde that supports both the local economy and associated communities. Having changed in nature over the years, commercial fishing activity is now largely focused on Nephrops with approximately 84% of the fleet working on this specific fishery. The Clyde Marine Region Assessment 2017 highlighted concerns in the region over pressures on the seabed due to some fishery activities and over the lower number of different types of fish species targeted compared to the 1920s. Current fishing activities and practice is charged with emotion, and strong feelings run on either side of the debate.

Aquaculture within the region is also a similarly contentious issue. Aquaculture makes a significant contribution to the economy and provides year-round jobs in some of the more remote coastal communities. The industry is supported by Scottish Government who wish to see a significant growth in

aquaculture nationally. However, the industry is already seen by some stakeholders as being at or above carrying capacity within the Clyde. The interaction between sea fisheries and aquaculture adds another layer of complexity as the siting of installations can potentially limit access to fishing grounds whilst also impacting on water quality.

Therefore, fisheries and aquaculture represent elements of the RMP that are subject to the closest scrutiny and ones where further understanding of the issues, as well as the priorities and perceptions of the public, would add value in influencing and formulating effective policy.

In order to address this, as well as more generally to foster a good practice approach, a process of stakeholder participation and public engagement has been embedded into the development and timeline of the RMP.

### 1.1.2 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO SUPPORT MARINE PLANNING IN THE CLYDE

Marine conservation initiatives and marine planning approaches have increased over recent years but, ocean management still lags behind terrestrial planning and governance in incorporating and involving communities in its development. Enabling the participation of stakeholders and engaging with the general public is seen as a key to the Clyde RMP development process, with a Statement of Public Participation (SPP) outlining the timetable for development and opportunities for engagement. The nature of the process is participatory, based on effective partnership working and involving stakeholders from the outset to reflect key sectors such as environmental conservation, recreation and commercial interests as well as local communities. However, the process for plan development, as shown in Figure 2, also highlights stages of wider engagement, including importantly, with members of the public.

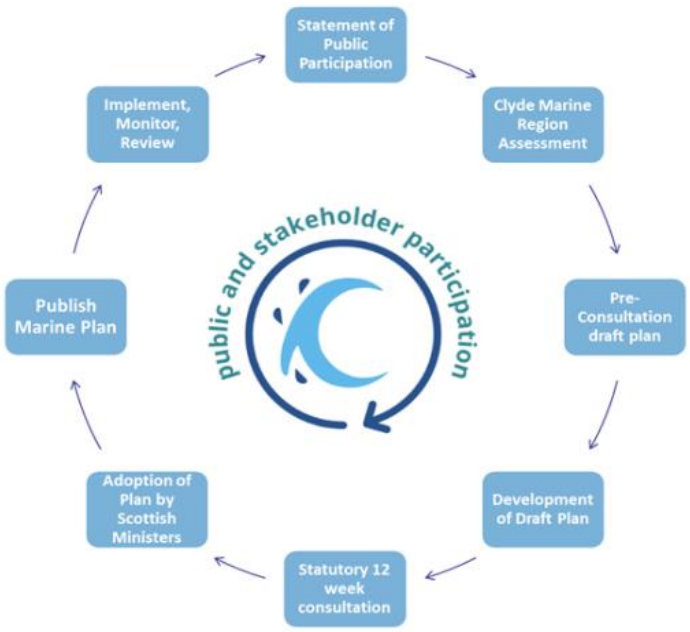



**Figure 2: CMPP process for plan development from Statement of Public Participation (SPP)**

Public engagement is a generic term used to describe the myriad number of ways in which activities can involve the 'public' and by definition is a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the aim of generating mutual benefit (National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement, 2018). Carried out effectively, this can provide insight into specific issues and a greater understanding of local values, thereby supporting the quality and richness of the policy-making process. This will inevitably strengthen the final RMP but can also add a layer of legitimacy to the process in defining an accountability to the Plan's development. The benefits of employing such a process are well documented and the CMPP has aimed to ensure the public are engaged in an innovative and compelling way as part of an enhanced process of engagement through a commitment to:

- Providing opportunities for all relevant stakeholders and members of the public to be involved in the development of policies that will impact upon them
- Ensuring that arrangements for participation are inclusive, clear and transparent
- Providing communications through a range of jargon-free formats
- Ensuring that all representations are fully considered
- Following the seven National Standards for Community Engagement

This engagement process has been developed alongside and, in conjunction with, the Plan development. An important early engagement took the form of a 'public dialogue' process aimed at better understanding of the key issues in the Clyde as perceived by a representative sample of the public. This initial work was carried out by consultants Collingwood Environmental Planning Ltd in association with the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Research Services Ltd (SRSL) during the period September - October 2017 with the following specific aims:

1. Involve members of the public in an innovative and compelling way and develop strong insights which improve the regional marine plan and the policy making
2. Utilise the Clyde Assessment and Topic Sheets to gather feedback on main issues and public perceptions of potential solutions; and
3. Allow participants to scrutinise assumptions about what may be practical and question the parameters used to reach conclusions

The work led to a report published in 2018 and along with the Clyde Marine Region Assessment (2017) and National Marine Plan (2015), informed the development of policy culminating in the production of a pre-consultation draft RMP in 2019. This draft was made available to the public and wider stakeholder groups as part of the pre-consultation stage, between March-May 2019. To support this, participation was also facilitated across the region through 28 engagement events (as well as newspaper adverts and online promotion) with the process and feedback identifying several issues and specific areas for further policy development.

As noted previously, areas requiring specific attention were sea fisheries and aquaculture and as a result, these were identified as being the focus for an additional stage of public dialogue to further develop and help drafting the next iteration of the RMP.

#### 1.1.2.1 PUBLIC DIALOGUE – THE EMFF CLYDE-WIDE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

To support its public engagement work and with a view to encouraging wider participation, particularly amongst those people who would not normally engage in such processes, the CMPP received funding from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) for the period March 2019 to December 2020. As a result, it has developed a range of novel techniques including a video to explain marine planning and to illustrate what lies beneath the waters of the Clyde; three animations on marine litter, climate change and mobile species; stand-alone information displays for use in public spaces; and a guide for community groups about marine planning. The EMFF funding also enabled the second round of public dialogue to take place.

A call for tenders for the EMFF funded Clyde-wide public engagement project was announced in the summer of 2019 with Resources for Change (www.r4c.org.uk) the winning contractor, including C2W Consulting (Sarah Brown) and Evolved Research & Consulting Ltd (Anthony Gallagher) as sub-contractors. Given that Sarah Brown had previously worked for the CMPP, and that Anthony Gallagher became Chair of the CMPP at the same time as the tender process was being evaluated, there was a clear need to be transparent and demonstrate the independence of these two people in their respective roles. Consequently, their involvement was communicated to CMPP Members and approved accordingly by due process.

A two-stage approach to public dialogue took place during the period November – December 2019 in three locations around the CMR, namely Glasgow, Ayr and Dunoon. Enabling an overall review of marine planning in the Clyde, the public dialogue also focussed more specifically on the two areas of the draft Plan that received the most criticism during the pre-consultation – sea fisheries and aquaculture – with details of the approach outlined in Section 2.0

## 1.2 PUBLIC DIALOGUE AIMS

The generic purpose of public dialogue is to gather feedback and views from people in an innovative and compelling manner so as to develop insights which enable improvements to be made to the regional marine plan and policy-making process.

The key aim is as follows:

*To enable a process that would allow members of the public to engage in fulsome discussions with regards to key areas of the Clyde RMP identified through the pre-consultation process (aquaculture and sea fisheries) as requiring further consideration so as to contribute to specific improvements to policy.*

## 1.3 REPORT STRUCTURE

This report addresses the key purpose of this project which is to engage recruited members of the general public in regard to the development of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan, specifically focusing on

fisheries and aquaculture. It does not contain all data collected as a result of this process, but instead draws on this data to identify the key insights and enable a series of recommendations to be made on the future development of the RMP. Collected raw data can be found in Volume 2 of this work. The appendices included with this report include the letters written by each location-specific cohort as an output for Round 2.

This report is structured as follows:

***Chapter 1 – Introduction:*** outlines the contextual background to the project, as well as specifying the aims for the public dialogue. It includes an outline of the structure of this report.

***Chapter 2 – Methodology:*** provides an overview of the specific approach taken to public dialogue in this project, as well as highlighting the nature of the public dialogues including times, locations, recruitment of participants and the facilitation process. It importantly includes the range of data gathered as part of the project and how this data is analysed.

***Chapter 3 - Data and Results:*** This chapter draws together the various outcomes of the process, including reference to the first tranche of public dialogue carried out in 2017. The main purpose of the chapter however it to reference the raw data derived from this project, and importantly includes the key output per location which is that of the letter.

***Chapter 4 - Discussion and Insights:*** This chapter discusses the data and in doing so identifies a number of key themes, that provide insight into the public's view of both marine planning in the Clyde but also more specifically in relation to the policy development areas of fisheries and aquaculture.

***Chapter 5 – Conclusions and Recommendations:*** This final chapter both summarises and reiterates the key points as well as specifying key recommendations that derive from the process.

# 2. METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 APPROACH TO PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Public dialogue is a process typically associated with concepts of deliberative democracy; where democracy is not just about representation in decisions but the results of an active participatory role that involves deliberation by citizens on issues that directly or indirectly affect them. As such, it is conceptually in keeping with Arnsteins' view of citizen empowerment as defined in his ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969) and the International Association for Public Participation's Spectrum of Participation (2004). The latter, as shown in Figure 3, encompasses a range of ways in which the juxtaposition of 'experts' and citizens, or the public at large, can be engaged in decision- making. The spectrum ranges from the provision of information, whereby experts instruct citizens of particular outcomes, to ones whereby citizens are empowered through structural arrangements (i.e., partnerships or assemblies), to influence and agree those decisions. It should be noted that within different contexts, both are relevant to 'good' or effective governance.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

| | INFORM | CONSULT | INVOLVE | COLLABORATE | EMPOWER |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. | To place final decision making in the hands of the public. |
| PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC | We will keep you informed. | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide. |

**Figure 3: IAP2 Spectrum of Participation (International Association for Public Participation, 2004)**

Public dialogue as an approach lies in the 'involve' though to 'collaborate' range of the spectrum, drawing together members of the public with knowledgeable stakeholders, such as for example scientists or policy makers, in order to converse, deliberate and reflect on particular areas of interest and provide a perspective into their values, interests and concerns. In doing so, this can influence and affect policy development for those areas in question. As an approach it is especially useful for discussing complex and controversial issues where there are either gaps or uncertainties in the knowledge base or simply entrenched and binary positions. In doing so, it can provide for a richer understanding of public

aspirations and values enabling decision-makers to better take account of those concerns in developing policy. By creating space for public dialogue, and by enabling those spaces to influence decisions, decision-makers can demonstrate accountability as well as increase the legitimacy of future actions.

The key characteristics of public dialogue are as follows:

- Participants come from diverse backgrounds and bring a range of views and perspectives;
- Participants are provided with written information and information from experts which they are able to interrogate during the dialogue sessions;
- Participants listen to and discuss with each other, develop their views and reach conclusions; and
- The outcomes of the dialogue are used to inform decision-making.

The approach taken to public dialogue in this Clyde-wide public engagement project has involved following the Sciencewise guiding principles for public dialogue in science and technology (BEIS, 2018). This involves *inter alia* working deliberatively and enabling embedded time for reflection for all those involved as well as allowing empathetic facilitation and careful design to build trust in the process so that the participants can work together as equals. It is also aligned to the 7 principles of the National Standards for Community Engagement, as defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and shown in Figure 4.

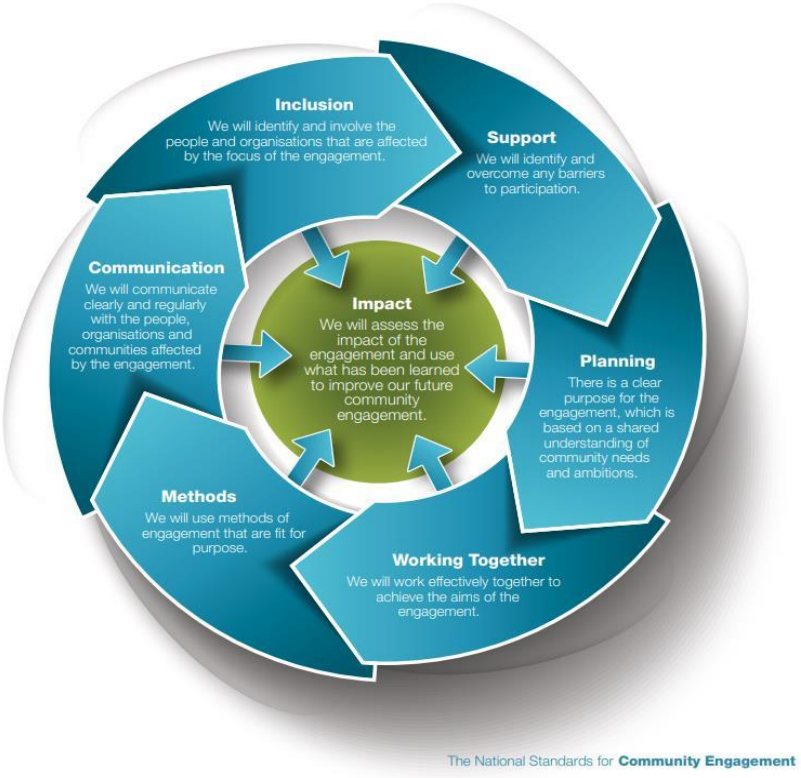



**Figure 4: The 7 National Standards for Community Engagement**

To foster collaborative working, a co-design approach was taken whereby a close relationship with the CMPP enabled the development and design of both the dialogue process and relevant materials and resources.

## 2.2 EMFF PUBLIC DIALOGUE PROCESS

Public dialogue was structured around a two-stage process involving three locations agreed through co-design with the CMPP, with Round 1 and Round 2 events being held in each location. The duration and timing of events were as follows:

Round 1 events: Midweek evening
Duration 3hrs 15mins (including 15 mins registration)
Times: 1745 – 2100

Round 2 events: Saturday daytime
Duration: 6 hrs 15 mins (including 15 mins for registration)
Times: 0945 - 1600

For each location a recruitment process identified a representative sample of participants willing to engage in both stages of the process.

### 2.2.1 DIALOGUE LOCATIONS

The locations selected for public dialogue, as shown in Figure 5, were Glasgow, Ayr and Dunoon. These were chosen as they provided a geographic and socio-economic representation of the region as well as being different from the locations selected for the first round of public dialogue in 2017 (Greenock and Tarbert). In terms of jurisdiction, the three towns fall under different local authorities' Glasgow in (Glasgow City Council); Ayr (South Ayrshire); and Dunoon (Argyll and Bute).

Using the same methodology as applied in the first phase of public dialogue, Duffy and Stojanovic's (2017) typology of Scottish coastal towns defines Glasgow and Ayr as having 'industrial roots' and Dunoon within the category 'peripheral fishing and port town'.




**Figure 5: Public dialogue locations in the Clyde Marine Region**

### 2.2.2 THE RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

The recruitment of participants was carried out by the company Roots Research, who were given the brief to select a demographically representative sample of the adult general public (age 16+), in line with 2011 Census data, able and willing to attend both rounds of the public dialogue per location. The number of participants required for each location was 20, though the recruitment company was asked to recruit 22 in each location to insure against no-shows.

By way of incentive, £100 was given to each participant subject to their attendance with £30 for attendance at the Round 1 and a further £70 paid at the end of Round 2. The recruitment criteria given to the company was as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Criteria for the recruitment of public dialogue participants**

| Criteria | Target |
|---|---|
| **Gender** | 50% identifying as male / female |
| **Age** | Good age distribution across age groups from every adult life stage from 16 to 75+ |
| **Ethnicity** | An appropriate proportion of black and minority ethnic participants. In-line 2011 census data for each recruitment area. |
| **Life stage** | A broad range of life stages from students, young |

| | |
|---|---|
| | professionals, raising young children to empty nesters and those who are retired |
| **Current working status and type** | A range of people who are employed (part-time/ fulltime/ self-employed) and unemployed, plus those who are retired. |
| **Social Grade** | Mix of ABC1C2DE |
| **Geographic location** | Glasgow (urban area)<br>Dunoon and its hinterland<br>Ayr and its hinterland |
| **Experience of market research/ dialogue** | Should not have taken part in a focus group/ Citizens' Jury/ Citizens' Assembly or public dialogue in the last six months.<br>Must not have been part of the first round of public dialogue for the Clyde Marine plan which took place in September/ October 2017 |
| **Experience of the issue** | It is important that the dialogue recruits 'fresh faces' - who have not previously engaged with marine planning in the Clyde or elsewhere.<br>Dialogue participants should not work within the fishing, aquaculture and related industries |

## 2.3 THE FACILITATION PROCESS

The two-stage process was designed such that Round 1, in providing an introduction to the purpose of the dialogue as well as to marine planning in the Clyde and the key issues, would set up a period of deliberative thinking and conversation prior to Round 2, such that Round 2 could then develop this into a considered and developed group outcome. As such the facilitation was designed with this developmental process in mind.

All dialogue sessions were facilitated by two experienced representatives of the consultancy team, Mike King and Sarah Brown, allowing for the sessions to break down into smaller working groups to ensure that all participants had the opportunity to contribute. In addition, there was at least one 'observer' representing the CMPP in attendance at all sessions (Fiona Mills, Sinead Sheridan and Madlaina Michelotti) whilst Professor Mike Heath, University of Strathclyde and Chair of the C2020 Research Advisory Group, attended all Round 2 sessions. Professor Heath was not there to either lead or direct the discussions but instead to act as an 'expert witness' and address questions raised by the participants specific to the issue of fisheries.

### 2.3.1 ROUND 1 FACILITATION

Each of the three Round 1 events took place on consecutive evenings as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Glasgow: Premier Inn, George Square | 12 November |
| Ayr: Robert Burns Museum | 13 November |
| Dunoon: Burgh Hall | 14 November |

The full facilitation plan for Round 1 can be found in Volume 2 of this report. However, as stated, the key was to introduce the subject area and provide the fertile ground from which deliberative thinking and collective ideas could be harnessed in greater detail during Round 2. To aid with the introduction, in advance of Round 1, participants were sent a programme of the event, as well as some pointers for discussion and a pre-task requiring them to identify and bring along an article or picture about the Clyde that either they thought interesting or meant something to them. This acted as prompt and ice breaker to enabling a discussion around what the participants thought was 'special' about the Clyde and what their connection to it was. To enable this and as part of this 'warm-up' session, small groups were facilitated in considering a timeline of the Clyde, identifying significant events that had taken place in the region. Participants were asked to introduce themselves as well as locate their particular picture or item on the timeline, saying why they thought it important. This was facilitated using post-its and a flip chart and lead to a more developed conversation around why the Clyde is significant and specifically what was positive and what was negative from the perspective of participants' experience.

Thereafter followed a series of sessions and activities aimed at both awareness raising and providing context to marine planning as well as exploring the participants thoughts though group discussions. An introductory presentation on marine planning and its purpose lead on to the CMPP's animated video on the Clyde Marine Region Assessment and a subsequent discussion around participants' initial feedback. Identifying what they were encouraged or concerned by was explored as participants worked in pairs to consider their responses to each.

The second CMPP animation on the summary condition of seabed habitats, fish and shellfish was shown with participants subsequently split into work groups of threes and tasked with reflecting on what they had heard together with what further information they would need to receive in order to have a better understanding of the issues involved and how to deal with them.

In order to introduce the topic of aquaculture, a topic sheet was handed out and participants given time to read it. The process of using work groups of three people to reflect on what they had read and identify further information they would require in order to have a better understanding and to be able to make a better view, took place.

To conclude the workshop, and by way of homework, participants were asked to converse with their friends and family about the session and what had been discussed so as to ask for their views and in particular what the future of the Clyde should be like in 20 years' time.

### 2.3.2 ROUND 2 FACILITATION

Each of the three Round 2 events took place on consecutive Saturdays as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Glasgow: Premier Inn, George Square | 23 November |
| Dunoon: Burgh Hall | 30 November |
| Ayr: Robert Burns Museum | 07 December |

Round 2 built on the baseline of understanding established in Round 1 and the full facilitation plan is shown in Volume 2. The purposes of the public dialogue were outlined as described previously in this report. Participants were informed that the final output of the day was for them to deliberate, propose and agree a set of aspirations that would be laid down and written in the format of a letter addressed to the CMPP on behalf of the whole group.

A series of activities followed, starting with a consideration of the group's homework and how they would like to see the Clyde in 20 years. This was facilitated using images and signposted boxes indicating either 'yes please' / 'no thanks' / or 'not fussed'. Once these were classified, the work groups were asked to identify the two most significant items under both 'yes please' and 'no thanks'. In the next session, the question was reversed somewhat where the small work groups were asked to identify what benefit the Clyde could bring to their local communities in 20 years. Work groups were asked to prioritise what they saw as the most beneficial items.

Following these initial stages, the focus of the workshop became concerned with specific policy areas within the RMP, evaluating what the groups' thoughts and concerns were and what they wanted to see achieved. Whilst not all areas were considered, a selection was made from the following:

- Climate Change
- Historic Environment
- Landscape/Seascape
- Coastal Processes, Coastal Flood and Storm Damage Alleviation
- Natural Heritage
- Non-Native Species
- Marine Litter

The outcomes of this discussion were recorded and, as with previous activities, were fed into the development of the final letter. However, the key areas of sea fisheries and aquaculture were left out of this discussion as they then formed the basis for specific policy development work in subsequent activities. Linking Round 1 with Round 2, the information identified by the participants in Round 1 with regards to fisheries was fed back to the group who were then introduced to Professor Mike Heath, a mathematics and statistics specialist focusing on fisheries at the University of Strathclyde. Mike was able to answer a series of questions from the group as well as explain some of the key aspects of the issue.

The groups were shown the fisheries policy included in the draft RMP and asked to review it. Having done so, they were asked to consider what they thought of the policy, whether good or bad; whether it addressed the issues sufficiently; or whether they thought aspects were missing and what they thought should therefore be developed. Participants were asked to review the policy from the perspective of one of four key stakeholder groups, namely:

- Fishermen (developers)
- Environmental conservationists
- Community groups
- Government and Relevant Authorities

A facilitated session ensued where the Facilitator read through the current policy with each line and statement being sense checked with the group allowing clarification and suggestions to be proposed. These were recorded, along with any comments in respect of strengths and weaknesses, positives and negatives.

A similar exercise was then carried out in relation to aquaculture policy, except in this case the fishermen were replaced by a group of fish and shellfish farmers. As with fisheries, a facilitated session drew this together with the Facilitator reading through the current aquaculture policy enabling each line and statement to be sense checked and allowing for clarifications and suggestions to be proposed. As previously these were recorded, along with group comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the current policy.

After each component of the day the facilitators worked on developing the findings into a formal letter on behalf of the group. A final plenary session reviewed the proposed wording of the letter and refined it to best reflect the combined agreed views of participants. Suggestions and amendments were made before the letter was signed off by the group. The letter, which represents the combined and deliberated thoughts of the two-stage process, was forwarded to the CMPP representing the public dialogue output for that location. Each location submitted such a letter.

## 2.4 DATA RECORDING

An array of relevant data was gathered by the public dialogue process, which can be categorised as follows:

**Participant details:**
This entails a socio-demographic classification of the participants as collated by the recruitment company in fulfilling their role. It provides data on age; gender; occupation etc. and allows for social profiling to allow greater insight into the outcomes of the dialogue.

**Direct workshop records and reports:**
This is the data collected as a result of direct participant engagement with the various activities and sessions during the dialogue workshops, produced by the participants themselves. Both rounds of the workshops recorded this in a variety of ways dependent on the task at hand. The methods of recording are as follows:

- Post-its
- Flipcharts
- Audio recordings
- Letters

Post-its were used to allow participants to contribute ideas at various stages and these were collected on to either the timeline, in Round 1, or on to flipcharts during other sessions. They also allowed for

alignment according to specific questions and provided flexibility in organising against specific values or categories of response.

Audio recordings, agreed to by all participants, were taken at several important stages, for example, the collective discussions around fisheries and aquaculture policy.

Additional to the recordings, participants were asked as part of Round 1, additional questions they would like to ask or information they would require in order for them to better understand the issues surrounding both fisheries and aquaculture. This was used to inform Round 2. However, the most important output and direct record is that of the letters written to the CMPP by each cohort of participants as the outcome of Round 2. These letters are specific to the collected view of the group and relate to the development of the RMP to date and more specifically to fisheries and aquaculture.

**Indirect workshop records, transcripts and photos:**
Records of the workshops were made by the Facilitators using photographs but also in transcribing the outputs. To gain a greater insight into the thoughts of the Facilitators, telephone interviews were held with them following completion of the workshops.

**Third party observations:**
Observations were gathered through telephone interviews with the three representatives of the CMPP who acted as observers during the public dialogue process as well as an interview with Professor Mike Heath.

**Participant feedback:**
All participants were asked to complete and submit two separate feedback forms at the end of each workshop. The forms largely focussed on the dialogue process but also addressed the key substantive aspects of it. Different questions were asked at the end of each Round allowing for both qualitative feedback as well as a value-based response set against a series of prescribed statements. The possible responses were as follows: Don't know; strongly agree; tend to agree; neither; tend to disagree; and strongly disagree.

**Contextual data and information:**
There is other contextual information and data available that is relevant to completing the evaluation. In particular, the first tranche of public dialogue published in 2018 provides a baseline of public understanding in relation to marine planning for the Clyde and specifically sectors and issues seen as being of particular significance.

## 2.5 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis and its subsequent evaluation was conditional on the nature of details gathered through the process, which was largely qualitative in nature, with only the social profiling of the participants offering any real quantitative data which in itself was limited. As such, there were various options available for carrying out the analysis, including systematic coding or multi-criteria analysis. However, following

discussions with the client, it was decided that as the key outputs were letters, a more appropriate approach would be to carry out textual analysis looking for cross cutting themes. This focussed on the direct output from participants, during the workshops but also from participant feedback. This analysis reviewed outputs from the three locations and looked for similarity and dissimilarity, taking account of the differing participant cohort profiles.

Interviews with the facilitators, the fisheries expert Professor Mike Heath, and the three observers from the CMPP who between them attended all the workshops, were used to sense check the findings as well as provide insight where possible.

# 3. DATA AND RESULTS

This chapter reviews and analyses data associated with both rounds of the public dialogue as carried out in the three locations around the Clyde. It does so from a location-specific perspective and focuses on the following fields:

- Social profile of participants
- Direct workshop outputs
- Facilitator and third-party observations
- Participant feedback

## 3.1 SOCIAL PROFILING OF PARTICIPANTS

In total, 66 participants were recruited across the three locations, 22 in each. To profile each cohort, the key characteristics of the participants identified through the recruitment process were as follows:

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Life stage
- Employment status
- Occupation
- Social grade segment
- Geographic location

Raw data on the respective cohorts can be found in Volume 2 of this report but the following will summarise the key location-specific profiles.

It is important to note that given the relatively small number of recruits per location, drawing anything statistically significant from the profile was not the point of the exercise. Instead the purpose was to demonstrate that the public dialogue reflected a good cross-section of people per location and that the process was inclusive as required by the 7 National Standards for Community Engagement.

### 3.1.1 GLASGOW RECRUITMENT

Of the 22 participants recruited initially for Glasgow, 11 were female and 11 were male. In summary, the group ranged in age from 19 to 70, with an evenly split profile across the age ranges (5 in the 16-30 category; 8 in 31-44; 5 in 45-60; and 4in 60+). Of the total recruited participants this gave an average age of 42.

In terms of ethnicity, 2 identified as being mixed multiple ethnic; 3 as Asian / British Asian; and, 17 White, whilst 8 were married; 3 co-habiting; 1 divorced; 1 widowed; 9 were single. In terms of employment, 11 were employed; 1 self-employed; 2 unemployed; 3 students; 2 homemakers; and 3 retired. A range of occupations and social segment groupings were identified, with 12 of the group classifying as urban dwellers and 10 as suburban.

Not surprisingly perhaps this cohort, more so than the others, reflected a more metropolitan mix, being slightly younger and with a more diverse ethnic mix.

### 3.1.2 AYR RECRUIMENT

Of the 22 participants recruited for Ayr, 11 were female and 11 were male. In summary, the group ranged in age from 18 to 77, with a reasonably evenly split profile across the age ranges though slightly fewer in the younger age group (3 in the 16-30 category; 8 in 31-44; 5 in 45-60; and 6, 60+). Of the total recruited participants this gave an average age of 48.

In terms of ethnicity, 2 identified as being mixed multiple ethnic; and 20 as White, whilst 10 were married; 1 co-habiting; 1 divorced; 8 were single, and 2 living with parents. In terms of employment status, 13 were employed; 1 unemployed; 2 students; 2 homemakers; and 4 retired. A range of occupations and social segment groupings were identified, with 14 of the group classifying as urban dwellers and 8 as rural.

### 3.1.3 DUNOON RECRUITMENT

Of the 22 participants recruited for Dunoon, 12 were female and 10 were male. In summary, the group ranged in age from 22 to 76, with a generally older profile across the age ranges (2 in the 16-30 category; 3 in 31-44; 8 in 45-60; and 9, 60+). Of the total recruited participants this gave an average age of 55.

In terms of ethnicity, 1 identified as being mixed multiple ethnic with 21 White, whilst 10 were married; 3 co-habiting; 3 divorced; 6 were single with 14 being employed; 2 unemployed; and 6 retired. A range of occupations and social segment groupings were identified, with 12 of the group classifying as urban dwellers and 10 as rural.

## 3.2 DIRECT WORKSHOP OUTPUT

Key direct participant outcomes of the public dialogue process are as follows:

- Round 1 geographic specificity in each cohort's degree of engagement with the Clyde Marine Region
- Round 1 questions and information relating to fisheries and aquaculture
- Round 2 consideration of aspirations and evaluation of policy area priorities
- Round 2 critique and value of the developing fisheries and aquaculture policies in the Clyde RMP

- Round 2 summary output in the final agreed letters

The collated questions regarding fisheries and aquaculture that stemmed from Round 1, as well as the final agreed letters from Round 2 are included as appendices to this report with the following accounts summarising the key outcomes of the process per location. The emboldened text highlights key areas or points raised.

### 3.2.1 GLASGOW

To facilitate the most effective engagement with participants, the cohort was split into two groups for both rounds of the dialogue.

During **Round 1**, groups (Green and Blue) identified **what was significant** about the Clyde and the CMR, with one of the key themes being that of its ***natural heritage***, with descriptors including its wildlife, scenery, beauty spots, birds, seals, biodiversity and ecosystems. The links to this were expressed as being ***"always part of my life"*** and 'views with associations' with the groups also identifying the region as a ***location for activities*** such as walking, cycling, running, sailing, swimming. Aspects of ***industrial use*** were identified in ship building and shipyards, fishing, Faslane and power generation, though economic aspects were also acknowledged through references to regeneration, growth and new investments.

The Clyde was seen as important for ***transportation and access*** as this was referenced repeatedly both in identifying links to other areas but also particular forms of access such as 'nice bridges', tunnels and 'getting to the other side'. However, it was also stated that the Clyde 'divides Glasgow'. This could be a negative cultural reference or a geographical one, though there were plenty of positive ***cultural references*** such as Radio Clyde, the 'song of the Clyde' and venues, something particular to Glasgow. Negative connotations around the region include suicide, "smelly in the summer", litter and pollution as well as an interesting statement that the Clyde was "not utilised socially like in other cities (e.g. Paris)" and that whilst the Clyde was synonymous with Glasgow, it was ***"almost taken for granted"***.

The groups were particularly **encouraged** by the fact that "people are working together" and ***"very positive that there is a plan in place"***. They were 'encouraged by action being taken, with public opinion being considered' and "a concerted effort involving a good spread of stakeholders" and "all of the relevant agencies being involved". They were "pleased in the overall project …. but that it needs urgency".

There was also encouragement in the sense that the Clyde was getting healthier. When reviewing the Clyde Marine Region Assessment they ***"thought there would be a lot more red, so this is actually positive"*** and they were particularly pleased to see the health of the river; less oil spillage; improved eutrophication; and 'increases in shark and seals is very encouraging' as this represented a 'benefit to future generations'.

**Concern** was also expressed by both groups around negative changes to the landscape particularly ***inappropriate developments*** and "building flats along the whole of the Clyde". There was also concern around ***pollution***, particularly littering and plastics, as well as continuing pollution from hazardous

substances. The 'general health of nature' was identified as being disheartening, particularly declining numbers of birds. ***Climate change*** was identified as being important along with the need for further research. There was a concern around what will replace the loss of the large traditional industries such as ship building, and whether tourism could step up.

The key areas for concern identified were ***lack of connection to the Clyde***, a ***lack of awareness of the Clyde*** and of the issues it faced, particularly amongst the young; that it was 'forgotten', out of sight, out of mind; and that people were not connected with it anymore. There was a concern that the Clyde is an afterthought and it needed someone to speak for it; there was an urgency to thinking of the Clyde as a whole rather than just an inner-city river; there were ***"two Clydes, an inner and an outer***"; and that those responsible should communicate better. Could community stewardship provide an answer?

As homework, the participants were tasked with thinking about the issues raised and discussing them with their family and friends prior to Round 2. To help with further consideration of the fisheries and aquaculture policy development, the participants were asked for any questions they would like answered. Questions and associated responses are collated and included in Volume 2 of this report.





**Round 2** started with a consideration of the conversations the process had kick-started for the participants and feedback from those. Largely, it seemed that there was ***very little awareness of the marine planning process*** and a ***lack of knowledge of the issues.*** Generally, feedback suggested that the process of engaging the public in thinking through marine planning and policy development was a good thing. Communication and awareness however were seen as problems that need addressing and in conjunction, some suggested that getting out to visit the coast more often and greater 'low carbon footprint' accessibility would help in this regard. Various ideas were suggested as to what would support this, though there was some concern expressed around increasing development along the coastal strip.

To gain a greater understanding of what the participants wished to see happening in the **Clyde in 20 years**, and to test group priorities, a series of 'tiles' identifying specific actions or outcomes (e.g. a visitor centre or greater signage around the coast) were used to categorise according 'yes', 'no', or 'not fussed'. Prioritising the most significant 'yes' activities as well as the most significant 'no' activities led to a group discussion around aspirations. The groups agreed that they would like to see ***thriving marine and coastal***

***environment*** with diverse and productive marine wildlife and strong coastal heritage, as well as litter free beaches. They would like to see a coastal visitor centre to better ***communicate and act as a focus of information*** and that coastal developments should make better use of brownfield sites for shops and restaurants rather than for housing or industry.

They did not see the need for greater public transport to the coast as this was seen as sufficient already, nor did they see any need for more ferries or sea trips on the Clyde as there was a concern around climate change and carbon emissions. They also did not want to see any reduction in the protection of marine reserves.

By 2040 the key aspirations they had were for the Clyde to provide a better place to live, specifically:

- Cleaner water, less plastic
- A greater awareness and appreciation of the Clyde by local people

Understanding **how the participants thought these aspirations could be achieved**, and in particular how the public might like to be involved in the future followed; it was agreed that a two-way process of 'top down' actions by 'Government', as well as 'bottom up' action by communities and individuals is essential. Government, at all scales, including regulators and 'Relevant Authorities' is important to enable ***stricter and more enforceable regulations***, appropriate to achieve agreed objectives, whereas civic society should actively lobby politicians and Government agencies whilst working together to raise awareness of key issues, starting from a young age, with ***individuals taking personal responsibility*** to reduce their carbon footprint.

How close the aspirations of the public were to the **general policy areas** as defined in the draft RMP were considered. Particularly, how important these areas were and how they should be addressed. In Glasgow, the key areas identified within the RMP were as follows:

- Marine litter
- Climate change and coastal processes
- Natural heritage and the impact of non-native species

In terms of ***marine litter***, the cohort considered the need for further information and particularly the ***need for education and public information.*** Various routes, including perhaps public information films could help with a culture of behavioural change and it was important that individuals act responsibly. For example, in acknowledging that this was a clear and present issue that needed addressing, the public could avoid using balloons or unnecessary packaging and containers. However, governments also had a role to play in ***supporting recycling initiatives***, making recycling easier so that there were common standards and policies as well as greater collection of 'rubbish' for example from boats. Government and regulators could also hold companies to account in supporting initiatives that enforce accountability and producer responsibility for example.

In terms of ***climate change***, the participants saw this as a global issue requiring international cooperation as well as Government action to support change but there was also a need for better communication and education to support individual actions and behavioural changes. There was a need to find out more with

regards to the ***likely consequences and impacts of climate change*** on the coast and flooding but also in terms of the impact on fish stocks and size. Individuals needed to know what they could do and what their carbon footprint was, with education aimed at the young but not limited to only children. What technology was available to support this and what improved infrastructure could also be implemented? Forward thinking and planning was seen as a key requirement.

In terms of ***natural heritage***, the view expressed and agreed was that people need to get outside to engage more with nature which would help in providing a greater impetus for protection and better management. It was agreed that there should be support for more designated areas and marine reserves as well as controls to stop 'overfishing' and that new developments should not impact adversely on natural heritage.

This prioritisation of general policies led on to more specific attention to fisheries and aquaculture and in particular whether the policies as written in the draft RMP were seen as effective or not. In terms of ***fisheries***, the participants reviewed the policy and felt that it demonstrated useful elements such as being research-led and considered relevant technology. However, they were concerned that it adversely affected small businesses, which they felt represent the nature of fisheries in the Clyde MR, and that there was a need to consider job security. They were also less than clear on who regulates fisheries and how policies would be enacted. Further, they considered that there was a lack of consideration of enforcement through fines and incentives; as well as a lack of knowledge of the consequences of restricting or reducing fisheries within the region. This included a link to the effects on the local economy and communities. There was also no clear link to climate change.



With regards to ***aquaculture***, participants felt there were some positive aspects of the policy. Specifically, the use of integrated and fish clean systems, including use of wrasse for disease management, and proper controls of acoustic deterrent devices, though there was concern that these acoustic devices would impact on cetaceans. People were concerned that the wording of the ***policy was weak***, citing that the terminology should reflect ***'must' rather than 'encouraged'*** and that the policy should be more 'black and white'. They considered overall that the policy needed strengthening. Aspects of the policy also came in for some discussion, specifically whether it was 'future proofed' both in terms of ongoing research but also whether it took account of climate change. As part of developing the sustainability aspect of the policy they also considered that there should be support for local onshore processing and access to fish so that it was sold locally.

In total the Glasgow participants were encouraged to see that there was a ***marine planning process*** in place and were looking forward to it being implemented. However, in terms of their expectations, they wanted to see it being ***developed further*** to address issues the public considered important and was more 'joined-up', linking for example to wider issues like climate change and public health. They also wanted to see it ***connect to Glasgow better***, connecting and communicating in an inclusive way to all walks of society, such as with the younger generation. Young people want to be included but they needed to be given the opportunity to engage.

### 3.2.1 AYR

During **Round 1**, both of the Ayr groups identified what was **significant about the Clyde** and the CMR, with one of the key themes being the opportunities provided by the Clyde, either ***on the water*** "playing in inner tubes", diving and fishing, boat / ferry trips etc, or ***on the coast***, "walking the dog for miles", coastal visits with the kids, day trips to specific historic sites etc. The coastal scenery featured highly, as did the nature of the town being busy with holidaymakers.

Aspects of the ***marine planning process*** meant people were particularly **encouraged** and the fact that there was a plan in place for the future should ensure environmental protection and raise awareness of environmental issues. People were also encouraged by the process of bringing experts together to ensure the future sustainability of the region, noting the 'cleaning up' of the sewage pipes and the sewage boat running into the Clyde and better managed fish farms by way of examples.

People did raise several **concerns**, specifically relating to the fish in the Clyde, their health and productivity. There were also concerns about economic development and regeneration in the region, concerns regarding ***pollution from golf courses and farms*** through use of fertilisers, rumours of ***oil development and the impact of HMNB Clyde, aka 'Faslane'***. They identified access to the coast as an issue, with several ***paths being overgrown***. They also expressed some concern over a lack of leadership from Local Authorities and whether the RMP would be implemented.

As homework, the participants were tasked with thinking about the issues raised and discussing them with their family and friends prior to Round 2. To help with further consideration of the fisheries and aquaculture policy development, the participants were asked for any questions they would like answered

on these areas. These questions and associated responses are collated and included in this report in Volume 2.




**Round 2** started with a consideration of the conversations the process had kick-started for the participants and feedback from those. Key areas that were raised included fishing, the ***lack of fishing*** has a negative economic ***impact locally*** including three pubs situated by the local fish market closing down. There had been some discussion around marine plastics as well as the growth and investment into the region by the Royal Navy. There was some surprise expressed that the Royal Navy were not one of the partners within the CMPP, given their importance to the region. There were also some positive reactions expressed in relation to the ***development of the RMP*** and how engaged people were by it. They were pleased it was taking place and wished to see its success.

In order to gain a greater understanding of what it was the participants would like to see happening in the **Clyde in 20 years**, and to test group priorities, a series of 'tiles' identifying specific actions or outcomes (e.g. a visitor centre or greater signage around the coast) were used to categorise according 'yes', 'no', or 'not fussed'. Prioritising the most significant 'yes' activities as well as the most significant 'no' activities then lead to a group discussion around aspirations. They wanted to see greater community and public engagement with coastal and marine issues, which could be enhanced through the development of a local coastal visitor centre. They were also very keen that ***beaches be free of litter*** and that there was a thriving and healthy coastal ecosystem providing a quiet and tranquil environment with enhanced and beautiful seaviews. What they did not want to see is ***inappropriate coastal development***, a built-up sea front comprising houses, flats and offices or any reduction in the presence of marine reserves.

In prioritising these issues, people identified that by 2040 they would like to see the Clyde being a better place to live as a result of an improved managed natural environment which supports a diversity of marine wildlife, allows for good walks, public transport and access to the outdoors. In addition to the Clyde being renowned for its environment they also wanted it to be a ***centre of excellence for marine research with a thriving economy***, including ***marine-related industry such as boat building,*** sustainable tourism and a healthy fishery providing Clyde caught fish to local people.

This could be enabled by actions on various scales, including individual, community, regulators and government. Making the ***Clyde a more significant part of people's lives*** was of paramount importance, supported by engaging actively within local communities and taking an interest in the environment, the planning process and the machinations of politics. Lobbying politicians, being more involved in decision-making and the provision of ***better education for people of all ages*** about the marine environment, could help this process. There was an acknowledgement that there was a personal and community responsibility to enable this action.

When reviewing the 'general' policy areas identified in the RMP, the participants considered the key areas as follows:

- Climate change
- Marine litter
- Natural Heritage
- Landscape/seascape

Interestingly, both ***climate change and marine*** litter are topics that have received the most significant attention nationally and internationally. With respect to the former, people wanted to see ***"it taken seriously"*** with consideration given to the life cycle of resource use in the region, including support for renewable energy. People also wanted to see policy development relating to ***flood protection*** in relation to mitigation and adaptation, including relocation of some houses and businesses where necessary. With respect to marine plastics people wanted to see a ***change in attitudes towards plastics***, including support to help businesses decrease their waste streams to provide better controls on what ends up in the sea and the substitution of plastics where possible in the design process of businesses.

Climate change and plastics demonstrated the participants' desires to see increased innovation ***"providing global leadership"***, as well as ***improved education resources and increasing active community participation*** and management of the marine environment through effective regulatory enforcement.

In reviewing the more specific policies relating to fisheries and aquaculture, people identified that ***fisheries policies*** provided clear guidance and potentially supported sustainable employment with a positive aspect identified around enabling enhanced monitoring to help better understand the issues. However, they also thought that overall policies were not strong enough and needed to be developed so that they were more enforceable. There were too many gaps that could be misinterpreted, and the wording lacked clarity. They also considered that there was lack of joined-up thinking between policies, that the policies were micromanagement, ignoring the local and family-based knowledge. People

identified that there needed to be ***more positive policies that supported and protected the fishing industry rather than just restricting actions***. There needed to be an additional policy that focussed on reducing the carbon emissions associated with fishing, perhaps with the introduction of a carbon levy. Lastly, people identified the need for a feedback loop for the community.

With respect to the ***aquaculture policies***, people again felt it was good that something was being put in place and that policies covered a broad range of the issues. However, people were concerned that there was a lack of clarity around enforcement, particularly with respect to the role and power of the regulator. In this regard they considered there may be compliance issues. They also thought the language used was complex while policy proposals on sea lice and wild wrasse populations were particularly problematic. There was some concern around policies being too restrictive and impacting on the ability of the sector to generate jobs and growth. The question was also raised as to whether this provided a fair level of regulation compared to other countries? In total, people considered that aspects that needed further development related to compliance, who pays for it and what happens in cases of non-compliance? They also considered there was an angle missing which was that of how decisions could be made around the associated land-based infrastructure, given that this was missing from the policies.

Overall, people were ***very pleased to see the Plan in process*** and that the community is being ***consulted***. People were looking forward to seeing the Plan enacted and hoped to see improvements in the draft policies going forward. They also wanted to see Local Authorities play their part, for them to be accountable and for there to be ***open and transparent communication*** about the Plan going forward.

### 3.2.1 DUNOON

During **Round 1**, both Dunoon groups identified what was **significant** about the Clyde and the CMR, with one of the key themes relating to the ***use of the water***, either from the perspective of a visual spectacle such as cruise liners, tall ships, the Waverley steamer, nuclear submarines and power boat racing, or activities such as water skiing, sailing, walking around the Clyde, swimming, building rafts, taking the family to the beach, jumping off the piers, and skimming stones etc. Related to this, Her Majesty's Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde at Holy Loch was raised positively but also negatively in terms of being a potential 'holocaust'. The use of the ***Clyde as a transport route*** was seen as significant but referred to negatively in terms of the reliability of the ferries and lack of reliable public transport in general. Relating to transport, it was noted that the Clyde makes a "mess of coastal roads during storms". Whether this relates to the collection of seaweed on the road or coastal erosion is unclear.

The Clyde was identified as being significant for tourism in the summer, as the gateway to the national park and its visual attractiveness, including views of the rising moon and beaches. Various aspects of the natural heritage of the region were cited as significant including dolphins and porpoises, though the ***"Clyde is always changing"***, with changes to the marine environment noted with the 'total lack of fish' and the increasing size and number of jellyfish.

In terms of what the participants were **encouraged** by, people were pleased to see marine planning, including stakeholder engagement as part of the process, and they hoped that it might enable greater

opportunities for jobs in the region. People were encouraged that something was being done, that action was being taken and that they were being consulted about the plan. They were particularly encouraged that water pollution was being taken seriously, noting the "use of chemicals in intensive fish farming and their effect on marine life", and the effects of sea lice on natural populations. People were also encouraged that the "Banana boat" dumping sewage sludge from Glasgow no longer runs. Relating to research and data gathering, people were encouraged that this was on-going so that changes could be measured.

On the flip side, participants were **concerned** that there was still a long way to go with respect to "being able to swim in the Clyde" and that sewage treatment could be better, including improved controls on sewage pollution from recreational boats. There were concerns about the amount of marine litter on beaches and potential leaks of hazardous substances from various sources such as Hunterston nuclear power station.

Groups identified fishing as an issue and in particular the depletion of types of fish as well as the impact of sonar on populations of fish, whales and dolphins, linking this to stranding of Pilot Whales. Another key area of concern was related to ***transport and accessibility in the region***. Whilst people were pleased to be engaged in the marine planning process, they were ***concerned that this engagement was real,*** that they would be taken seriously and what commitment there was to the plan in terms of future funding.

As homework, the participants were tasked with thinking about the issues raised and discussing these with their family and friends prior to Round 2. To help with further consideration of the fisheries and aquaculture policy development, the participants were asked for questions they would like answered on these areas. These questions and associated responses are collated and included in this report in Appendix 1.

**Round 2** started with consideration of the conversations the process had kick-started with and feedback from these. The key issue from the conversations was that of the ***ferries,*** particularly why "they are constantly getting cancelled because they are just like bathtubs", and "not stable enough" in bad weather. It was suggested that they are hard to get on and off if you have a disability. However, the main point appears to be reliability and the frequency with which ferries are cancelled. ***Cancellations of the ferries*** has a significant impact on commuters, who as an alternative have to drive, which in itself can be difficult due to landslides that it was claimed have increased as a result of cutting down trees on slopes. It was claimed that a lot of people, especially in Glasgow, think Dunoon is on an island rather than a peninsula, but that it still resulted in deliveries to the area 'costing a fortune'. The weather impacting on the area 'bombarded both by land and sea', exacerbated the issue of accessibility and the sense of isolation that many feel, with it also being claimed that living in the area counted against you when going for jobs elsewhere in places like Glasgow, for example.

When considering what the group's aspirations were for the region and what it would be like in **2040**, the ferries came up again with many hoping they will be improved, that there would be better travel options by sea, perhaps including sustainable water taxis or a hydrofoil to Glasgow. People would like to see improvements in the piers and the provision of more marina's locally which could ***support a thriving and sustainable tourism industry***. A healthy coastal environment and effective licensing and regulation, with a greater community involvement in what happens in the Clyde is desirable. People want to see more

information (including digital) outlining what to do in in the region and facilities that enable the public to learn about the coast as well as enjoy it.

What they did not want is inappropriate coastal development on the seafront, particularly houses, offices and industry. Nor do they want to see a reduction in the protection afforded to the marine environment in the shape of marine nature reserves.

In terms of aspirations, the participants believed that the CMPP and the marine planning process would help achieve them and should be supported, particularly by enabling ***greater public participation in decision-making***. This would involve the community being more enthused and engaged with local democratic processes by, amongst other things, attending community meetings or lobbying local politicians. Aspirations could also be better achieved by ***supporting new business models (e.g. remote working) to develop the local economy*** by creating more sustainable employment, and by ***better education of future generations*** about key issues in the region.




Reviewing issues addressed within the developing RMP, participants thought that the key **'general' policy areas** of particularly importance were as follows:

- Climate Change and coastal processes
- Landscape / Seascape
- Marine litter
- Marine non-native species

There is a desire to address ***climate change*** by setting emission targets and by supporting potential carbon sinks within the region. The impact of climate change is seen on coastal processes that include increased local property flooding in Greenock, on coastal roads, and increasing damage associated with pebbles being strewn over roads during storms. Promoting long-term thinking, is seen as important and

accessing funds from developers to mitigate environmental impacts was proposed, as were opportunities for renewable energy including encouraging a move away from carbon-emitting fuels for ferries.

In terms of ***land and seascapes***, there was a desire for sensitive sighting and acceptable types of development (Kelpies – yes; high rise flats – No). The community should be involved in decision-making processes and have powers to veto developments they did not approve. The point around Section 106 funding being reinvested in the community was also stressed.

In relation to ***marine litter***, participants supported stringent licensing and fines to stop littering as well as a better system of waste management with "more bins in the right places", a deposit return scheme and encouragement for the younger generation to become engaged.

With respect to ***marine non-native species***, participants were keen that there should be more research and monitoring into such introductions to gauge impact as well as to better understand how these species are introduced. There was an acknowledgement that more shipping increased the risk of introducing non-native species and there was a suggestion around enhanced rules and regulations for ballast water.

To address these issues, the group was keen that the RMP ensures that business and industry take responsibility for any environmental damage and there is a strong regulatory framework that monitors and controls these issues.

Participants were asked to review the fisheries and aquaculture policies within the draft RMP. With respect to ***fisheries***, people were pleased to see the policies having an emphasis on creating sustainable fisheries but felt that the use of technical language was a barrier to public engagement. Wording could either be drafted so that it is less complex or gives an explanation to facilitate the layman's understanding. People were concerned that there is too much emphasis on voluntary compliance and not enough on enforcement. People stressed that it was essential to have a regular stock assessment, strong monitoring and documentation processes and they were concerned about the economic impact the policies might have on local businesses, as well as who would pay for it.

With respect to ***aquaculture***, people felt the policies gave certainty and a structure that business could work with and were pleased that the RMP would provide a proper oversight of the sector. They considered that good monitoring and enforcement would lead to it being more accountable, though people seemed unclear as to who would be the regulator. As with fisheries, participants considered that the language in the RMP was too complex and considered it open to interpretation. To improve it, people considered that policies should be more protective of marine protected areas and further information should be made available regarding the long-term management of any aquaculture site but also to enable transparency for public engagement and decision-making.

In total the participants from Dunoon considered that the marine planning process was a good initiative and that the RMP would be crucial to the future sustainability of the Clyde MR. They also considered that meaningful, proactive public engagement was very welcome but to make this more easily accessible, information should be disseminated both in plain English and Gaelic. They also recognised there was a lot

of work involved in developing the RMP and that the CMPP should be given additional resources so they could complete the task effectively.

## 3.3 FACILITATOR AND THIRD-PARTY OBSERVATIONS

Informal interviews were carried out with the two R4C representatives who facilitated the public dialogue, as well as Professor Mike Heath, a fisheries expert from the University of Strathclyde who fielded questions on fisheries during the Round 2 workshops in the three locations. Interviews were also carried out with the three CMPP team members who acted as 'observers' and who between them attended the six workshops.

These interviews sought to gain insight into the public dialogue process and gauge similarities and differences that were evident between the three locations as well as greater understanding of the key thoughts and outcomes from the process. They sought to sense check the outcomes that emerged from the direct output of the participants at each location.

All of the interviewees considered the process a positive one and identified a good degree of engagement across the three locations, though particularly in Ayr and Dunoon. Mike King noted that Glasgow was the least engaged, echoing the findings in the workshops, but also noted that the participants seemed very ***willing to continue being engaged*** going forward, which raises a question as to how this will be enabled. He also identified the difference in attitude demonstrated by the participants in Ayr and Dunoon, with the former focussing on the positive aspects of the CMR and the opportunities it offered as opposed to the problems (isolation, barriers etc) that seemed to be the main focus for those in Dunoon.

Sarah Brown stressed both the ***difference in understanding and expectation of what the public considered marine planning*** to be for and how far it could go as opposed to the reality of what it can achieve. In this she described the discrepancy between the two. Both Sarah and Mike also highlighted how the participants had identified that the ***policy areas they reviewed were weak*** and in need of strengthening.

The policy areas the participants reviewed in any detail were fisheries and aquaculture which are two of the more difficult to understand. Professor Mike Heath noted that in this it was difficult for them to get to grips with what was being asked of them simply because of the complexity of the subject areas. He noted that there were some ***good questions*** asked and that this improved as they went through the dialogue process with Glasgow being particularly poor in this regard but with both Ayr and Dunoon demonstrating better understanding and asking better questions.

Professor Heath noted that there were particularly good questions asked about some of the other policy areas, in particular in relation to ***climate change*** and the stated policy goal for Scotland to achieve net zero in carbon emissions. All three of the interviewees as well as the CMPP observers noted that climate change was the key issue highlighted throughout the dialogue process. They also all highlighted the need for ***better communication of issues***, whether that be through formal education processes or other dissemination means. In this they noted, and supported the assertion made by participants that there

was an information gap and hence there was a need to address this so that the coastal communities could become better educated and more familiar with issues affecting the Clyde.

## 3.4 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

The following accounts will identify the key elements of the participant feedback by Round and per location. Although 22 participants were recruited for each of the six workshop locations, numbers 'on the day' varied, hence the results are based on the actual attendee numbers. In addition, there was also a slight disparity with the number of feedback sheets completed and hence the actual number of feedback responses per location is also stated.

At each location there were a variable amount of qualitative responses written but where additional statements were added, these are included in the following accounts.

### 3.4.1 GLASGOW

In Round 1, 21 feedback sheets were received and responses to the questions are summarised in Table 2. Data shows that there was a good degree of agreement and coalescence around particular responses. For example, 15 of the respondents either 'tended to disagree' or 'strongly disagreed' that the recruitment and advance details of the workshop were 'well handled'. This is not surprising as the participants were not given the information in advance by the recruitment company and hence all of them turned up to the event without any understanding of its aims and objectives. However, following on from this difficult start people went saw the workshop a positive experience.

**Table 2: Round 1 participant feedback in Glasgow**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Strongly disagree** | **Tend to disagree** | **Neither** | **Tend to agree** | **Strongly agree** | **Don't know** |
| 1 | The recruitment **process and advance details** for the event were well-handled | 3 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| 2 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the two workshops I am attending | | 3 | 3 | 7 | 8 | |
| 3 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic of marine planning to enable me to contribute to the discussions | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 14 | |
| 4 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | | | | 7 | 14 | |
| 5 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | | | | 4 | 17 | |
| 6 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | | | | 1 | 20 | |
| 7 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 17 | |
| 8 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | | | | 1 | 20 | |
| 9 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | | | | 2 | 19 | |
| 10 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | | | 2 | 1 | 18 | |
| 11 | **I learned something new** about the Clyde and marine planning as a result of taking part today | | | | 1 | 20 | |
| 12 | Attending the workshop today was a **positive and worthwhile** experience | | | | 2 | 19 | |

In terms of qualitative feedback, other than information prior to the event, statements related to the time allowed for discussions as there was a "lot of information to take in during the process" and "not enough time during the sessions to consider". However, the event was "very informative"; "learned a lot'; and "loved it and can't wait until the next session".

People were "pleased that there was an actual plan being developed" as they learned about the "changing use of the Clyde", its complexity and current use and problems. To sum up, "I have always taken the Clyde for granted and this workshop has enabled me to consider the deeper issues within the project".

In Round 2, there were again 21 participants at the workshop but only 18 responses were received, as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Round 2 participant feedback in Glasgow**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Strongly disagree** | **Tend to disagree** | **Neither** | **Tend to agree** | **Strongly agree** | **Don't know** |
| 1 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the workshop I am attending | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 15 | |
| 2 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic to enable me to contribute to the discussions | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 13 | |
| 3 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 13 | |
| 4 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | 1 | 1 | | 5 | 11 | |
| 5 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 15 | |
| 6 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 11 | |
| 7 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | 2 | | | 2 | 14 | |
| 8 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 13 | |
| 9 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 15 | |
| 10 | I understand that the Clyde Regional Marine Plan should **balance** the needs of users with the needs of the environment | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 14 | |
| 11 | **Fisheries policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 12 | **Aquaculture policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| 13 | Attending the workshop was a **positive and worthwhile** experience, and I have learned something | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 15 | |

As with Round 1, there were very positive responses and statements around the process as it was "well run and interesting"; it was "really informative. I have learnt something"; and "you've enlightened me. thank you", though "time was a bit tight". However, there was one outlier respondent who 'strongly disagreed' with every question implying a deep degree of unhappiness about the process and marine planning in general. The same respondent also stated that it was "great to have experts to hand" and that they "would love to get the results and understand further developments". It is very likely that the respondent read the form incorrectly in terms of how they should answer the questions.

It was noticeable that despite very similar responses to most of the questions, two questions that demonstrated some disagreement related to fisheries and aquaculture which, following on from other results, shows the complexity and difficulty of the area for members of the public to fully understand in such a short space of time or via such a process. This was summed up by the comments regarding fisheries, people were "not sure, will have to read more but a difficult wide-ranging area so don't know how I'll come to a conclusion" and that there was "work to be done".

### 3.4.1 AYR

In Ayr, 21 attended Round 1 with 20 feedback sheets submitted, the results of which are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Round 1 participant feedback in Ayr**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Strongly disagree** | **Tend to disagree** | **Neither** | **Tend to agree** | **Strongly agree** | **Don't know** |
| 1 | The recruitment **process and advance details** for the event were well-handled | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 | |
| 2 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the two workshops I am attending | 1 | | 1 | 10 | 8 | |
| 3 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic of marine planning to enable me to contribute to the discussions | 1 | 2 | | 7 | 10 | |
| 4 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | | | | 9 | 11 | |
| 5 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | | | | 6 | 14 | |
| 6 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | | | | 4 | 16 | |
| 7 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | | | 1 | 4 | 16 | |
| 8 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | 1 | | | 7 | 12 | |
| 9 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | | | | 5 | 15 | |
| 10 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | | | 3 | 5 | 12 | |
| 11 | **I learned something new** about the Clyde and marine planning Environment as a result of taking part today | | | | 4 | 16 | |
| 12 | Attending the workshop today was a **positive and worthwhile** experience | | | | 4 | 16 | |

As with Glasgow, there was some uncertainty at the start of the workshop with "confusion over the venue' and they "didn't receive an email" (explaining the process) and were "left in the cold for 20mins" and "went to wrong building". However, as previously, people were very positive about the process, thinking it "interesting and informative" and "thought provoking" with information during the event being "explained clearly and screen presentations were excellent". As a result, people learned a lot as they "didn't know of CMPP beforehand".

In Round 2, 20 participants attended and submitted feedback as show in Table 5.

**Table 5: Round 2 participant feedback in Ayr**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly disagree | Tend to disagree | Neither | Tend to agree | Strongly agree | Don't know |
| 1 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the workshop I am attending | | 1 | | 5 | 14 | |
| 2 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic to enable me to contribute to the discussions | | | | 6 | 14 | |
| 3 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | | | | 5 | 15 | |
| 4 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | | | | 6 | 14 | |
| 5 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | | | | 3 | 17 | |
| 6 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 15 | |
| 7 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | | | | 5 | 15 | |
| 8 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | | | | 4 | 16 | |
| 9 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | | | | 4 | 16 | |
| 10 | I understand that the Clyde Regional Marine Plan should **balance** the needs of users with the needs of the environment | | | 1 | 5 | 14 | |
| 11 | **Fisheries policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 | |
| 12 | **Aquaculture policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | |
| 13 | Attending the workshop was a **positive and worthwhile** experience, and I have learned something | | | | 5 | 15 | |

As with Glasgow, there was strong alignment in responses for most of the questions, and the experience was "informative and enjoyable"; "very well organised" and "following the workshop I feel more interested in the topic". There was a comment about "possibly too much information", and with respect to fisheries and aquaculture it is clear a greater understanding needs to be developed. These two questions once again demonstrated the greatest variation in responses though each area received comments such as "needs to be looked at" and "more work needed".

### 3.4.1 DUNOON

In Round 1, 16 feedback sheets were submitted at Dunoon, with the results shown in Table 6.

**Table 6: Round 1 participant feedback in Dunoon**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly disagree | Tend to disagree | Neither | Tend to agree | Strongly agree | Don't know |
| 1 | The recruitment **process and advance details** for the event were well-handled | | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | |
| 2 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the two workshops I am attending | | | | 7 | 9 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic of marine planning to enable me to contribute to the discussions | | | | 5 | 11 | |
| 4 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | | | | 6 | 10 | |
| 5 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | | | | 4 | 12 | |
| 6 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | | | | 1 | 15 | |
| 7 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | | | | 4 | 12 | |
| 8 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | | | | 6 | 10 | |
| 9 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | | | | 3 | 13 | |
| 10 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | | | | 3 | 13 | |
| 11 | **I learned something new** about the Clyde and marine planning as a result of taking part today | | | | 1 | 15 | |
| 12 | Attending the workshop today was a **positive and worthwhile** experience | | | 1 | 4 | 11 | |

As previously, the "recruitment was vague and misleading" and people were "not sure what the purpose was before the first presentation" as they had received "no details" beforehand. However, during the event the "communication was very good" and there were a lot of positive comments such as it was "very informative and would be interesting to see the outcome"; "interesting and informative and made you think"; and event "I thought tonight would be boring but I feel I now have more knowledge of what is happening in the Clyde and the waters around where I live".

What participants learned included more "about salmon farms and the environment"; that the "planning process exists"; and the need to "question more" and that there should be "more social media use to raise awareness for people to participate".

During Round 2, there was a clash of events in Dunoon as the result of a Christmas pantomime which reduced numbers. There were only 11 attendees and participant feedback forms, with the results shown in Table 7.

**Table 7: Round 2 participant feedback in Dunoon**

| | Statement | Response | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Strongly disagree** | **Tend to disagree** | **Neither** | **Tend to agree** | **Strongly agree** | **Don't know** |
| 1 | I am aware of and understand the **purpose** of the workshop I am attending | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | |
| 2 | I was provided with **enough, clear information** on the topic to enable me to contribute to the discussions | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | |
| 3 | I felt that the information provided was **fair and balanced** | 1 | | | 5 | 5 | |
| 4 | I could ask questions easily and **get appropriate answers** | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | |
| 5 | I found the **speakers/ observers** helpful in answering questions | 1 | | | | 10 | |
| 6 | I had enough **time** to discuss the issues | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | |
| 7 | I was able to **contribute** my views and have my say | 1 | | | 3 | 7 | |
| 8 | The **facilitators** provided professional help and support | 1 | | | | 10 | |
| 9 | Having **'specialists/ observers'** present did **not disturb** me | 1 | | | 2 | 8 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | I understand that the Clyde Regional Marine Plan should **balance** the needs of users with the needs of the environment | 1 | | | 2 | 8 | |
| 11 | **Fisheries policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | 1 | 1 | | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 12 | **Aquaculture policies** in the Clyde Regional Marine Plan currently balance the needs of the industry with the needs of the environment | 1 | | | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 13 | Attending the workshop was a **positive and worthwhile** experience, and I have learned something | 1 | | | 1 | 9 | |

There was a consensus around the responses, though one participant felt that it was “very hard to understand” and clearly didn’t enjoy the experience. By and large though, the responses were very favourable, including interestingly with respect to fisheries and aquaculture unlike the other two locations. Comments included “enjoyable and informative”; “a better understanding of what is happening in the Clyde’ and “absolutely enjoyable and educational”.

# 4. DISCUSSION AND INSIGHTS

By reviewing direct outputs of participants and sense checking the findings with the facilitators and observers, several cross-cutting themes emerged. Themes might be seen as reflective of public expectations with regards to what marine planning could or should achieve and, in developing an agreed acceptance with local communities and, other stakeholders, as to its purpose and scope it can lead to the definition of a 'social licence'. However, the themes also reflect a public understanding of issues and their values with respect to managing the Clyde MR as a whole. This is contextualised by personal experiences, information gathered, knowledge gained and influenced by locally specific issues and news topicality, aspects which are often driven at different geographic scales.

The following emergent themes will now be considered:

- Geographical specificity and profile
- Marine planning expectations and policy values
- Marine and ocean literacy
- Public engagement with marine planning for the Clyde

In reviewing the themes, consideration will be given to the significance each has for the development and implementation of marine planning in the region, including implications for the CMPP in terms of short-term Plan development but also longer-term iterative process.

## 4.1 GEOGRAHICAL SPECIFICITY AND PROFILE

A starting point for considering the geographic specificity of the different locations could be the social profiling of the cohorts. Certainly, there were some differences that could be drawn from the groups. For example, of the three locations, and based on the initial 22 recruited participants per location (as opposed to those who showed up for both rounds of the process), the average age of the Glasgow cohort was 42, significantly lower than Dunoon with an average age of 55 and somewhat younger than the Ayr average of 48. The Glasgow cohort was more ethnically diverse than the other two locations and had more students. Dunoon was the least ethnically diverse, having the fewest number of young people or students and the most retired people. However, it is important to note that given the relatively small number of recruits per location, it is not possible to draw statistical significance with any confidence and it is not the point of the exercise in any case. Instead the purpose was to demonstrate that public dialogue reflected a good cross section of people per location and in this regard, it can be seen to have been done. Profiling does provide some context the differences that can be drawn between the respective locations.

Whilst all three cohorts were positive about the development of marine planning and that the public were being engaged in the process, it was clear that the participants in both Ayr and Dunoon demonstrated a closer affinity to the Clyde than those in Glasgow. The three cohorts identified the CMR as a location for recreational activities such as sailing and other water-sports but, those in Ayr and Dunoon identified first-hand experiences such as "playing in inner tubes" [on the water] and "walking the

dog for miles" [along the coast], as well as "building rafts, taking the family to the beach, jumping off the piers, and skimming stones". In this sense they identified specific personal connections with the marine environment that reflect emotional, often family-orientated and nostalgic ties. It demonstrates a closer and more intimate relationship.

The lack of a personal experience and relationship with the CMR in Glasgow was telling. Whilst there was a comment that the Clyde had 'always been a part of my life', there were also numerous comments in the direct outputs of the workshops and in the participant feedback about the Clyde being 'out of sight, out of mind'; forgotten; that they 'take the Clyde for granted'; and, with the issues raised being not something they normally think about.

The closer affinity of people in Ayr and Dunoon, particularly in the nature of the positive and negative aspects, was clearly expressed by the participants. Both groups for example identified improvements in water quality as being positive, highlighting the fact that the dumping of sewage sludge into the Clyde by the 'banana boat' no longer takes place. This would have resulted from the EU Urban Waste-Water Directive 1991 which forbade such dumping around the UK in 1998. The fact that this was a salient outcome was a demonstration of the proximity to the issue and a reflection of personal experiences and values.

Ayr participants stressed potential opportunities for the CMR such as hosting a centre for excellence in marine research including more marine related industry such as boat building whereas the participants of Dunoon stressed issues around transport and accessibility. In doing so, people focussed more on the negative connotations of the Clyde in terms of the barriers to connectivity and peripherality and isolation, as opposed to the positive opportunities it affords.

## 4.2 MARINE PLANNING EXPECTATIONS AND POLICY VALUES

The concept of marine planning and the fact that such a process was in development for the CMR was new to all of the participants in the public dialogue. This was intended and designed into the recruitment process. As such, the outcomes of the dialogue provide an insight into what the expectations of the public are when considering the role of such a process. Given that marine planning is an objective reality, what the public expect regarding its purpose and scope might be seen as reflected in the values elicited. This is true of both the current public dialogue outputs and those of the previous dialogue carried out in 2017.

The idea of aligning public expectations with objective reality is rooted in the concept of 'social licence' whereby there is a developed understanding of meaning and purpose. This refers to what the public expect of marine planning, what they expect it to do, what it can achieve and, is reflected in the aims of the system but also contingent on its ability to operate and empower to fulfil these aims.

The concept of a 'social licence' in marine and ocean management is still very much in the early stages of development, lagging behind terrestrial planning and resource use, but nevertheless it represents an interesting and important consideration for marine planners going forward. For example, marine

environmentalists cannot assume that the 'public' (typically including coastal and fishing communities, indigenous groups, and others) share the same views and assumptions about marine environments and resources as they do. For example, gaps may well be apparent between public perception of threats to the marine environment and that of marine scientists. Perceptions may also be skewed by the topicality of news, information and peoples' access to it.

Making sense of different sources of information including news stories and the viewpoints of others is contingent on a sense of judgement. For example, there is a now well-developed discourse around the level of trust the public have in expertise of all kinds. This lack of trust has been clearly visible in any number of events in recent years, globally, nationally and regionally, with distrust in science and systems of governance being rife. This is characterised in the perception of many people that academics and their institutions are cloistered in 'ivory towers' and isolated from reality, a perception that challenges the public's view of the veracity of scientific research. For marine planners there is a requirement to embed a 'hands-on' and responsive approach to the use of data and information to enable transparency in decision-making.

The following sections highlight the key deliberations stemming from public dialogue processes, relating to general priorities but specifically to fisheries and aquaculture.

### 4.2.1 GENERAL PRIORITIES AND POLICY AREAS

The participants were challenged to consider their values and priorities throughout the public dialogue process for their own local coastal and marine environment and for the regional marine planning process in general. From that, key priorities were identified operating at different geographical scales.

Key policy areas identified by participants in all locations were climate change, marine plastics, and natural heritage. Climate change and marine plastics were identified in the public dialogue process in 2017 and given the topicality of these issues together with the extent to which they have been discussed on all forms of media, it may not be surprising these issues arose. Extreme weather conditions and their associated impacts evident globally, the issue of climate change and its associated complexity of risks is at the forefront of national news reports and the UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26) being held in Glasgow in November 2020, this topic will likely become more prevalent locally in the future.

Likewise, marine plastics have received a huge amount of attention and it is clear that along with natural heritage, the public feel these subjects should be appropriately addressed through the marine planning process and within the RMP. Given these topics are 'General Policies' within the Plan reflects positively on developments to date. However, the question that lies at the heart of the 'social licence' is whether the Plan goes as far in addressing these issues as the public might expect or demand. Moving forward, this is clearly something for the CMPP and the deliberations of the planning process to consider and, whilst it is not possible to review this fully at this stage, as the policies themselves weren't considered in detail, it is something that can be tested at the consultation stage of the RMP process.

### 4.2.2 FISHERIES

Policies that were considered in more detail were those of the 'sector policy' areas of fisheries and aquaculture. These were areas that came in for some critique during the pre-consultation stage of the RMP development process and were the focus of the public dialogue. At the same time, stakeholder work groups were taking place to review the policies and both processes will inform RMP policies in this area.

In terms of the public dialogue, there was a consensus between the three cohorts of participants in many aspects of their critique and analysis. For example, there was support for the overall aims of the policies to develop sustainable fisheries and consequently sustainable businesses and employment for the region. To ensure this, it was deemed essential to have regular stock assessments and strong monitoring processes. There was a considerable degree of discussion in all three locations around new approaches and technologies and how these might help fisheries, including the potential for aquaculture to boost and support wild fish stocks through multi-trophic farming. Whilst this did not clarify whether this was good or bad, more general concern was expressed around the impact of the policies on the industry, whether it would lead to a reduction in fisheries or adversely impact on small businesses. It should be noted that the impact of the RMP policies on businesses will be addressed as they will be stress tested as part of the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment already laid out in the RMP development process.

An interesting and related critique of the policies overall was that to achieve the aim of sustainable fisheries there should be "more positive policies that supported and protected the fishing industry rather than just restricting their actions". This particular view goes to the heart of the 'social licence' issue and relates to the key narrative, around which the three dialogue locations agreed, which is that the policies were not strong enough and in need of further development. There was a view that there were 'too many gaps [in the policies] that could be misinterpreted' and that the 'policies lacked clarity'. It was stated by all three cohorts that there was a concern around enforcement, particularly that 'that there was too much emphasis on voluntary compliance' and a 'lack of consideration of enforcement through fines and incentives'.

In addition to the nature of the policies and the extent to which they would enable sustainable fisheries, there was a commonly held view that there is "no clear link to climate change" and that there "needed to be an additional policy that focussed on reducing the carbon emissions associated with fishing, perhaps with the introduction of a carbon levy". Climate change is considered within the draft RMP under 'general policies' and the RMP should be read as a whole, but this cross-referencing represents an interesting finding which should be considered by the CMPP going forward.

In total the dialogue around the fisheries policies elicited an interesting critique. It is clear that the participants want to see sustainable fisheries within the CMR from which local communities can benefit, but they also wish to see that the CMR is protected through the RMP. Addressing this balance is key and overall people considered the policies were weak, with too many gaps, and a need for greater 'regulation with teeth' to meet the stated aims. In this there is no doubt a need to better educate and inform the public as to the complexity of marine-related governance and specifically fisheries regulations, which lie

outwith the scope of the marine planning system. However, the point was clear that the public wish to see effective management and control.

A final perspective that was reiterated on several occasions was the view that the policies, as well as being controlling, should be framed positively so as to proactively support the development of sustainable fisheries rather than just be restrictive. Whilst this comment was made whilst reviewing policies relating to fisheries, it is clearly relevant more widely and could be seen as being relevant to achieving all of the objectives stated within the RMP.

### 4.3.3 AQUACULTURE

Aquaculture policies identified a range of views and a strong narrative and critique. There was a positive view that the policies would give businesses certainty and structure. The RMP would provide proper oversight, whilst there was support for the use of integrated cleaning systems and proper controls of acoustic deterrent devices, though there was concern that such acoustic devices would impact on cetaceans.

Other concerns across the three cohorts included the level of regulation and whether it was fair, the potential impact of the policies on jobs and the ability of the sector to enable economic growth. However, as with fisheries, it should be noted that the concerns will be addressed as part of the stress testing of the Plan on businesses to be carried out by the CMPP as part of the RMP development process.

Like fisheries there was a more general concern that overall wording of the policies is weak and needs strengthening, citing that the terminology should reflect 'must' rather than 'encouraged' and should be more 'black and white'. This concern was reinforced by a view that there was a lack of clarity around enforcement, particularly with respect to the role and power of the regulator and what happens in cases of non-compliance. Ensuring effective monitoring and enforcement were key and the commonly held view was that the policies do not go far enough in delivering appropriate control and a sustainable industry. This raises a similar point to that made with regards to fisheries, in that the system of planning for aquaculture lies with Local Authorities (albeit they will also be using the RMP in decision-making) and regulatory control is spread among several statutory agencies. Therefore, it is outwith the remit of marine planning. However, despite this apparent anomaly, the key message is that effective controls are important and policies within the RMP require to be clear and enforceable.

Sustainability was raised in the context that there should be more support for local onshore processing of fish and access to allow Clyde caught fish to be sold locally. Other aspects missing from the policies included interaction with decision-making for land-based infrastructure and notably 'future proofing' to take account of climate change. These areas relate to the cross-referencing aspect of the policies to other chapters of the RMP as identified with respect to fisheries. This is an area for potential Plan and policy development that should be considered going forward by the CMPP.

To improve it, participants considered that the policies should be more protective of marine protected areas. More information should be made available regarding the long-term management of any aquaculture site and to enable more transparency for public engagement and decision-making.

Overall, the agreed outcomes of the three dialogue locations identified similar issues with the policies in relation to aquaculture as they did with fisheries; namely, that they lacked clarity, were seen as weak whilst missing certain cross-referenced linkages to specific issues such as climate change. There was agreement that there is a need for positively framed planning measures put in place to address such problems, similar to mentioned under fisheries.

## 4.3 MARINE AND OCEAN LITERACY

Of all the repetitive narratives that came through from the public dialogue process, perhaps the most frequently cited was in relation to a set of interconnected themes; namely, the level of public awareness and understanding of marine issues; the transparency and accessibility of available information and communication and; the degree to which formal and informal processes of education were available to enable a more engaged and discerning population. These connected themes are very often considered together under the concept of 'literacy' and with regards to marine planning, more specifically marine or ocean literacy.

During the dialogue, the most topical and newsworthy issues of climate change and marine plastics were at the forefront of participant thinking. However, there were numerous comments by all three cohorts to a lack of understanding of the issues involved and the availability and accessibility of information to support a greater understanding. This was highlighted as being a key finding of the public dialogue process in 2017 and recurred during the current process, for example, in the more specific policy areas of fisheries and aquaculture, as well as comments like 'out of sight, out of mind' [in Glasgow] demonstrating a lack of visibility.

2021 marks the start of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and thus ocean literacy is very much at the forefront of the international global drive to deliver healthier oceans. Organisations such as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) *inter alia* are currently working on the 'preparatory phase' to the decade to enable it to be 'participative and transformative' with stated ambitions around ocean literacy:

> *"Developing innovative ways to communicate Ocean Science by simplifying the language used to communicate, and offering an open, comprehensible and wide access to sound knowledge as well as by raising awareness within the Ocean communities but also beyond the Ocean sphere, by promoting Ocean Literacy"*
>
> UNESCO, 2019

This statement highlights the need to raise awareness but also reflects the need to communicate in language that is accessible to communities, an issue that was raised during the Clyde public dialogue process with respect to the review of the specific fisheries and aquaculture policies. An oft-quoted issue

cited by the participants during the process was that the 'language used was too complex' and difficult to understand.

The ocean literacy concept raises an interesting question for marine planning, closely aligning as it does to the purpose of the planning process and to the 'social licence' concept of what the public expect. The communication of policies and their meaning is clearly an area that the CMPP needs to consider when drafting of the RMP, but also raises a question as to how far the CMPP can engage in and support activities that deliver greater ocean literacy. Should technical policies be expressed in the simplest language possible or should there be simple translations available for those wishing to understand the necessarily complex and technical policies? Similarly, should greater support of marine and environmental education be more explicit objectives and purposes of the marine planning process and how far should they go in addressing educational, scientific and research gaps identified as being key in delivering a sustainable CMR? These are all key questions facing the on-going and iterative development of the Clyde RMP and of the CMPP in addressing them.

## 4.4 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH MARINE PLANNING FOR THE CLYDE

The benefits of public engagement in environmental resource planning and decision-making are well documented and such are embedded within the RMP development process. This involves two stages of consultation about the Plan (including the pre-consultation stage and a statutory consultation) and two stages of public dialogue, with consultation enabling feedback on the draft stages of the RMP and public dialogue allowing for a richer insight into commonly held societal values relating to the overall process, marine planning in general and specific policies.

Current public dialogue employed a different approach to that of dialogue in 2017, being grounded in a more qualitative approach and based on textual analysis rather than employing semi-quantitative mixed methods approach. Nevertheless, and despite having a more specific focus around specific policy areas, there have been some similar findings; namely, the areas of concern (climate change, marine plastics, natural heritage etc.) and a desire for further information, communication and awareness raising. Feedback generated on the public dialogue process itself was very positive in terms of the experience it afforded, the deliberative approach taken to facilitating workshops and their content. Issues were raised around the communication of policies as a result of complex language used but this is a separate issue from the dialogue itself and overall there were numerous positive statements about what participants learned during the process.

The development of a statutory marine planning system was news to all participants involved in the dialogue, an intended characteristic of the process and the recruitment. A strongly held view across the three cohorts was that this was a positive step forward in protecting the CMR, with the participants particularly pleased that they were being engaged in its development. Some points were raised around how much trust could be placed in the process; whether the public would be listened too (social licence); who was responsible; whether there would be any extra costs and if so, would these be met by the taxpayer. However, scepticism seemed to be vocalised less by those directly engaged in the dialogue, and more by the external members of the public to whom participants had spoken too. Externalising the

conversation in this way represented a designed outcome of the dialogue process that involved participants doing 'homework' between Rounds 1 and 2, and led to several comments, questioning a general confidence in the approach and the role of the public, once again raising the issue of a developed 'social licence'.

Generally, the consensus from dialogue was clear, that an effective marine planning system was a positive thing. There was an agreed consensus across the three locations that the public wished to continue being involved in the RMP process and an understanding that they should also take some responsibility for doing so. This is a strong message for the CMPP and raises questions around how that engagement should happen once the RMP proceeds to the implementation stage following 'sign off' by the Scottish Government. There are various options for embedding effective public engagement within iterative planning processes and degrees to which that engagement operates as illustrated by the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation (as discussed in Section 2.1). Options include standardised approaches to consultation to the use of citizen's assemblies and standing civic fora. It is not within the scope of this report to propose a solution but rather to highlight a need to consider the issue in structuring a post RMP delivery phase of the CMPP. Embedding public engagement from the outset so that it is integral to the Plan review process would seem apposite and a way forward in considering this would be ask the public directly how they wish to be engaged.

What can be stated , is that the centrality of public engagement as being key in developing an effective RMP is acknowledged and has been reflected in the on-going development of the Plan with the addition of an entirely new Chapter as well as a set of objectives and Policies as part of the Plan's General Policies. This demonstrates the value of public engagement and draws together related and relevant elements of the previous drafting that referred to such engagement reflecting their importance.

# 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section reviews the key outcomes of the public dialogue process, identifying the chief recommendations based on these outcomes.

## 5.1 CONCLUSIONS

As part of the process of developing a statutory system of marine planning around the coast of Scotland and following on from the publication of a National Marine Plan in 2015, the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) was delegated to produce a Regional Marine Plan (RMP) for the Clyde in 2017. To support this process, the Clyde Marine Region Assessment was undertaken in (2017) identifying the health of the Clyde against a number of key indicators, as well as an initial stage of public dialogue (2018) to identify a range of public values and priorities. These informed the drafting of the RMP which underwent pre-consultation in 2019 resulting in a number of issues being raised, particularly in relation to fisheries, aquaculture and natural heritage. To give further consideration to these policy areas and sense check the developing draft, a further stage of dialogue was instigated as part of a European Maritime and Fisheries Funded public engagement project. A consultation on the draft RMP is planned for Autumn 2020.

The EMFF public dialogue was designed around three locations in the CMR, namely Glasgow, Ayr and Dunoon. None of these locations are key fishing ports and none have strong links to aquaculture, as aquaculture farms tend to be situated in more rural parts of the Clyde. However, they are suitably different socio-economically and geographically to draw representative conclusions.

For each location, 22 participants were recruited on the basis that they were representative of the locality and with no previous experience of marine planning or public dialogue. For each location two rounds of dialogue took place in the period November – December 2019. The first round involved an introduction to the issues and group understanding of the Clyde, whilst the second round developed the dialogue, identifying specific values and policies and leading to a series of agreed outcomes which were drafted into a final letter, signed by the participants.

By way of outcomes, several very strong themes emerged. Firstly, a key outcome relates to public engagement. The public dialogue itself can be judged to have been successful. Throughout the design and process of the dialogue, consideration was given to ensuring compliance with the 7 National Standards for Community Engagement. As a result, the participants expressed their enjoyment of the process, being happy to be involved and stressing positive aspects such as what they had learned, that they were very happy to hear of a developing marine planning system and their wish that the public continue to be involved in the process going forward.

This outcome of the dialogue process, and the success of their involvement, has to a degree already informed the RMP, with a new Chapter having been drafted on how to communicate and engage with the public, demonstrating a clear sense of the value in which this engagement is viewed. However, there is a further opportunity for the public to engage in the development process of the RMP when it proceeds to

the statutory consultation stage later in 2020. In addition, it should be stated that the outcome of this dialogue also provides an additional onus on the CMPP to embed an appropriate system of public engagement as part of the implementation and iterative review stage of the marine planning process, once the Plan has been signed off by Scottish Government and becomes operational.

In terms of the other key outcomes of the dialogue, the location specific letters identified the agreed deliberations. Many similarities across the three locations were identified but with some notable differences. For example, Ayr and Dunoon demonstrated a closer personal affinity to the Clyde than Glasgow which had more of an 'out of sight, out of mind' view. The connection to the issues in Ayr and Dunoon was also different, with Ayr being more positive about the opportunities the CMR provided and Dunoon focussing more on the negative aspects associated with accessibility, peripherality and isolation.

The dialogue was meant to test both general policy areas with the public as well as the specific ones of fisheries and aquaculture. Views shared by all included concerns around climate change, marine plastics and the protection of natural heritage. There was also general support for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture to support jobs and local communities, even though the locations selected were not dependent on them. However, concerns were raised that the specific policies relating to fisheries and aquaculture lacked clarity and did not go far enough towards addressing the stated aims of achieving sustainability.

In addressing these specific policies and enabling an understanding amongst the public so as to reach a level where there could be detailed in-depth understanding and feedback however is certainly challenging when addressing them in a one-off public dialogue session. The areas are themselves complex and they have a complexity of planning and regulatory responsibilities associated with them. In addition, the technical language used to describe and manage the industries means that future engagement mechanisms should consider how best to communicate these issues going forward. Simpler language, fuller explanations or approaches such as 'citizen's assembly's' might enable longer-term engagement and more detailed dialogue.

In addition to considering the complexity of language or the approach to engagement, a further very interesting outcome from the dialogue related to the drafting of the policies. In particular, there was a desire to see some more positively framed policies that purposefully and explicitly stated an attempt to achieve a desired goal, such as sustainability, rather than just a focussing on restricting particular actions. How the policies initiated positive actions in relation to climate change for example were raised, and as part of this there was also a desire for there to be clear cross-referencing of policy areas for specific issues.

In summary, this public dialogue process introduced its participants to the developing marine planning system in the Clyde for the first time. It introduced them to marine planning for the first time and involved outlining specific issues to them, many of which were entirely new to them. That they identified climate change, marine plastics and natural heritage as being particularly important to them is perhaps not surprising given the importance and topicality of those subject areas. Whilst being concerned with the impacts and control of fisheries and aquaculture, they did also support the goal of achieving sustainable industries for these sectors and strongly indicated their desire to be involved and engaged in the process of marine planning going forward. They very much support therefore the development of a

marine planning system and in essence much of this dialogue can be seen to have reviewed what might be termed a 'social licence' between the developing RMP (as facilitated by the CMPP) and the public. It has scoped what the public expect of a marine planning system. As such, and as with differences between expert stakeholder groups, there is now an ongoing obligation to ensure effective communication and purposeful engagement to achieve good governance.

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The key recommendations are as follows:

1. The CMPP should review the draft RMP and consider the potential for proactive, positively framed policy statements, aimed at achieving agreed aims and objectives.

2. The CMPP should review the clarity and veracity of fisheries and aquaculture policy statements in line with achieving sustainable sectors.

3. The CMPP should consider the possibility of delivering specific sector-based dialogue around the developing marine planning system.

4. The CMPP should consider potential policy development to ensure cross-referencing of key policy areas including climate change.

5. The CMPP should consider structural options for embedding effective public engagement in the marine planning process during the implementation and iterative review stage of the Plan.

6. The CMPP should consider using the term 'social licence' as a purpose of public engagement.

7. The CMPP should consider the option of asking the public how they would like to be involved in developing the marine planning system during the implementation and iterative review stage of the Plan.

# APPENDICES

## GLASGOW LETTER

**Clyde Marine Planning Partnership**
**Clydebank**

**Glasgow Marine Plan Public Dialogue**
**Premier Inn**
**Glasgow**

**23rd November 2019**

Dear Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

A Marine Plan for the Clyde

A group of 21 members of the public from Glasgow met on two occasions in November 2019 to consider marine planning in the Clyde. Below we set out for your consideration what we think is really important to address as to progress the development of the plan.

Aspirations

What we would like to see more of:

- Thriving marine wildlife
- Strong coast heritage
- Litter free beaches
- Promenades with shops & restaurants

Don't want to see is:

- The reclaiming of coastal land for housing
- Abolishing of marine reserves

By 2040 we would like to see Clyde providing us with a better place to live, specifically

- There should be cleaner water, less plastic and,
- a greater awareness and appreciation of the Clyde by local people

This will have come about through:

- Stricter regulation
- Continued lobbying of Government agencies and our politicians
- Starting awareness raising at a young age
- Local people taking personal action to reduce their footprint

Your 'general' policy areas which we think are particularly important are:

- Marine litter
- Climate change and coastal processes

- Natural heritage,
- The impact of non-native species

The policies that you develop under these areas need to reflect that the issues can only be solved by action at all levels, Government, corporate and personal. Education and technological solutions must go hand in hand. We, the community, are happy, to play our part.

**Fisheries policies**
We reviewed your draft policies for both Fisheries & Aquaculture and our feedback is set out below.

- What we felt was good about the policy
    - Research led
    - Use of technology
    - Potential to add to job security in the long-run
- What was less good
    - Might be unfair on small businesses
    - Not clear as to who is going to regulate it, fund it and make it happen
- What was missing
    - Knowledge of what would happen if you stopped fishing
    - Fines & incentives
    - No link to climate change
    - A way to improve links to the local economy and improve competitiveness

**Aquaculture Policies**

- What we felt was good about the policy
    - The use of integrated and fish clean systems
    - Proper controls of acoustic deterrent devices
- What was less good
    - Wording not strong enough e.g. 'must' rather than 'encouraged'
    - Not future proofed – development of sector and climate change
    - How do we trust the regulatory authority to stay up-to date?
- What was missing
    - Emphasis on local economy and food sources
    - Need to link to other initiatives on climate change to avoid counter-productive negative feedback loops

**Conclusion**
We are encouraged to see that there is a plan in place, but we want to see it being implemented. We would like to see the Plan help Glasgow connect to the Clyde better. This is a great initiative, but it must link to wider climate change and health initiatives and demonstrate a joined up approach. The Plan needs to be developed in an inclusive way, with all walks of society, using appropriate media outlets including online, to engage with the younger generation. Young people want to be included, they just need the opportunity.

**Yours sincerely**
*Laura, Nadia, Marianne, Michell, Ursula, Engil, John B, Scott, Meena, Clara, Ruksana, John T, David, Douglas, June, Sue, Ben, Edmond, Max, Andrew & Renu*

## AYR LETTER

**Clyde Marine Planning Partnership**
**Clydebank**

**Ayr Marine Plan Public Dialogue**
**Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**
**Ayr**

**7th December 2019**

Dear Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

A Marine Plan for the Clyde

A group of 19 members of the public from Ayr met on two occasions in November and December 2019 to consider marine planning in the Clyde. Below we set out for your consideration what we think is really important to address to progress the development of the plan.

**Aspirations**

What we would like to see more of:

- Strong community involvement in coastal issues
- Coastal visitor centres
- Litter free beaches, with a balance between community and local authority maintenance
- Thriving coastal wildlife with quiet and tranquil views

Don't want to see is:

- Built up sea front with houses and offices
- Floating suburbs
- Removal of formal marine reserves

By 2040 we would like to see Clyde providing us with a better place to live, specifically:

- A better managed natural environment which supports sustainable tourism, a wide variety of marine wildlife and that gives us a nice place to live
- Good walks, public transport and access to enjoy the outdoors
- An improving economy, which includes selling local fish to local people
- The Clyde is back on the world map for its great environment, but also as a centre for excellence for marine research

This will have come about through:

- Making the Clyde a bigger part of our lives; speaking more about it to family and friends and taking an active interest in what is happening to the environment and politically
- We have started, and been part of, more positive conversations about the Clyde
- Better education for all ages about the marine environment and our personal and community responsibilities
- Lobbying our politicians and being more involved in decision making

Your ‘general’ policy areas which we think are particularly important are:

- Climate change
- Marine litter
- Natural Heritage
- Landscape/seascape

We are particularly keen to see increased innovation providing global leadership, improved education increasing active community participation and active management of the marine environment through effective enforcement of regulations.

**Policy review**

We reviewed your draft policies for both Fisheries & Aquaculture and our feedback is set out below.

**Fisheries policies**

- What we felt was good about the policy
    - It exists and provides clear guidance
    - Gives potential for sustainable employment
    - Focus on monitoring and understanding the issues better

- What was less good
    - Not strong enough, needs to be enforceable
    - Micromanagement, ignores the local and family-based knowledge
    - Too many gaps that could be misinterpreted
    - Lack of joined up thinking between policies
    - Wording not clear, too complex

- What was missing
    - Feedback to the community
    - Policy needs to support and protect the fishing industry, not just restrict their actions
    - Needs a policy on CO2 with consideration of a carbon levy

**Aquaculture Policies**

- What we felt was good about the policy
    - Good to see something getting done
    - Covers a broad range of issues

- What was less good
    - With so many rules there could be compliance issues
    - Is this a fair level of regulation compared to other countries?
    - Concerned it is too restrictive and may impact on the ability of the sector to generate jobs
    - Complexity of language
    - Lack of clarity about enforcement, especially the role and strength of the regulator
    - Sea lice proposals not clear, especially impact on wild wrasse populations

- What was missing
    - What happens in case of non-compliance?

- Who pays for the cost of compliance?
- No supporting policies about associated land-based infrastructure

**Conclusion**
We are very pleased to see the Plan in process and that the community is being consulted. We really want to see this enacted, and hope that the implementation is better than the draft policies. We really want to see Local Authorities play their part, and for them to be held to account. Please continue to be open and transparent about communication the Plan.

**Yours sincerely**
*Jennifer, Sherry, Ian, John, Anthea, Kirsty, Alan, Fearghus, Michael, Vari, Josephine, Brian, Gail, Joel, Aiden, Simon, Andrew, Ainsley, James.*

## DUNOON LETTER

**Clyde Marine Planning Partnership**
**Clydebank**

**Dunoon Marine Plan Public Dialogue**
**Burgh Hall**
**Dunoon**

**30th November 2019**

Dear Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

A Marine Plan for the Clyde

A group of 16[1] members of the public from Dunoon met on two occasions in November 2019 to consider marine planning in the Clyde. Below we set out for your consideration what we think is really important to address to progress the development of the plan.

**Our aspirations for the Clyde**

What we would like to see more of:

- More and better travel by sea
- Piers, boats and marina's
- Thriving coastal wildlife
- More information (including digital) about what to see and do in respect to the Clyde
- Stronger community involvement in marine and coastal issues

What we don't want to see is:

- Built up seafront with houses and offices
- Expansion of industry along the waterfront
- Reduction or removal of marine nature reserves

By 2040 we would like to see Clyde providing us with a:

- Better environment through active and effective licensing and regulation
- A stronger economy through tourism and better sea links to Glasgow
- Improved public facilities to lean about and enjoy the coast

This we believe will come about through:

- Support for initiatives like the CMPP
- More public participation in decision making about the Clyde, including lobbying local politicians
- Community being more enthused and involved in developing new business models (e.g remote working) to support the local economy by creating more sustainable employment.

[1] 16 people attended round 1, 12 attended both rounds. It is the people who attended both that have put their name to the letter

Your 'general' policy areas which we think are particularly important are:

- Climate Change
- Landscape / Seascape
- Marine litter
- Coastal processes
- Marine non-native species

To address these issues, we want to see business and industry avoid and take responsibility for any environmental damage. We need to see a strong regulatory framework that monitors and controls these issues on an on-going basis.

**Fisheries policies**

We reviewed your draft policies for both Fisheries & Aquaculture and our feedback is set out below.

What we felt was good about the policy

- Overall, we are pleased to see the policies having an emphasis on creating sustainable fisheries
- We feel that it is essential to have a regular stock assessment and strong monitoring and documentation processes

What was less good

- We understand the need to use technical language but if you wish to engage the community further you need to speak in clearer language – tell us what it means.
- Throughout we are concerned that there is too much emphasis on voluntary compliance and not enough enforcement.

What was missing

- It is unclear, from all perspectives, who pays for these changes. Is it the tax payer, or the business community?
- We are concerned that the data collected about fishing might lead to unintended negative consequences for local businesses.

**Aquaculture Policies**

What we felt was good about the policy

- The policies give certainty and a structure that business can work with
- It is good to see that proper oversight of the sector should lead to it being more accountable, with good monitoring and enforcement

What was less good

- Language used is very complicated and open to interpretation
- It is unclear about who is regulating and who is accountable
- Policy should be more protective of marine protected areas

What was missing

- Lack of information about the long-term management plan for a site – i.e. in 10 years etc
- A part of the policy should be about making data available in a transparent way

**Conclusion**
We feel the marine partnership should be given additional resources so they can employ more people. They are an integral part of the Clyde and this Plan is key to the future sustainability of the Clyde marine area. Meaningful, proactive engagement is welcomed and we would like more easily accessible information shared with us in plain English, and Gaelic.

**Yours sincerely**
*Janice, Dan, Alisdahair, Maggie, Joan, Niall, Chris, Bud, Joan, Paula, Ewan*