Developing a
Regional Marine Plan
for the Clyde

Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)



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Abbreviations used in this document

Term	Abbreviation
Candidate Special Area of Conservation	cSAC
Clyde Marine Region Assessment	CMRA
Clyde Marine Region	CMR
Clyde Regional Marine Plan	CRMP
Clyde Marine Planning Partnership	CMPP
Habitats Regulations Appraisal	HRA
Likely Significant Effect	LSE
Local Development Plan	LDP
National Marine Plan	NMP
Proposed Special Area of Conservation	pSAC
Proposed Special Protection Area	pSPA
Special Area of Conservation	SAC
Special Protection Area	SPA
NatureScot	NS
Strategic Development Plan	SDP

Introduction

Scotland's vision for the marine environment is for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive, and biologically diverse seas, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people'[1]. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) has prepared the Clyde Regional Marine Plan (CRMP), as part of realising this vision.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, *etc*.) Regulations 1994[2] (as amended) require that, where a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site and/or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), the plan-making authority shall make an "Appropriate Assessment[3]" of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives, prior to the plan's adoption. However, after considering mitigation measures, mitigation should not be used to avoid a conclusion of likely significant effect[4]. The consideration of mitigation is in fact an Appropriate Assessment following a conclusion of LSE.

If the likelihood of having a significant effect on a European site can be ruled out based on objective information, then those plans or policies can be screened out and do not need to be included in an Appropriate Assessment. Aspects of a plan or project that either clearly have no ecological connectivity to the site's qualifying interests, and/or obviously will not undermine the conservation objectives for the qualifying interests to which they have a connection will also be screened out. This procedure is known as the "Habitats Regulations Appraisal" (HRA) of plans.

The CRMP can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites, unless in exceptional circumstances where the provisions of Article 6(4) are met[5]. Therefore, the CRMP should be subject to HRA; this report records the results of that appraisal.

The Clyde Regional Marine Plan

The UK Marine Policy Statement is a high-level framework for preparing marine plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment throughout the UK. Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP), which was adopted in 2015, sets out strategic policies for the sustainable development and use of Scotland's marine resources out to 200 nautical miles, following agreement between The Scottish and United Kingdom Governments that a marine plan for Scotland's inshore waters and a marine plan covering Scottish offshore waters will be published in one document and will be collectively referred to as the 'National Marine Plan'. However, we recognise that the 'National Marine Plan' comprises of two Plans made under two separate pieces of legislation (The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009) therefore unless otherwise stated, policies within this Plan apply to both inshore and offshore waters. The National Marine Plan will not affect reserved functions within inshore waters until a direction is made under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010. The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 also allows for Regional Marine Plans to be developed to take account of local circumstances and smaller

[1] Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) - https://bit.ly/420ZQeN

[2] The Conservation (Natural Habitats, *etc*.) Regulations 1994 - https://bit.ly/3pQUPbd

[3] An Appropriate Assessment is a scientific appraisal of all the likely significant effects of a plan or project on the relevant qualifying interests of a European site, based on the site's conservation objectives, to ensure that the plan or project will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site. (NS Habitats Regulations Appraisal webpages - https://bit.ly/3dCAP1d)

[4] NatureScot guidance note: The handling of mitigation in Habitats Regulations Appraisal – the People Over Wind CJEU judgement (https://bit.ly/3T4beaM)

[5] If a plan or project must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest but will likely affect the integrity of a European site, necessary compensatory measures must be taken to ensure the overall coherence of the European sites network is protected. The proposal put forward must be the least damaging for habitats, for species and for the integrity of the European site, regardless of economic considerations. (European Commission Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC – https://bit.ly/3dBX9YM)

ecosystem units for inshore waters out to 12 nautical miles. Guidance for regional marine plans is provided in the NMP.

The CMPP, acting under the Delegation of Functions (Regional Marine Plan for the Scottish Marine Region for the Clyde) Direction 2017, has developed a draft regional marine plan for the Clyde Marine Region (CMR). The CMPP comprises over 20 Members who are key to the plan development process. Wider stakeholder views are also incorporated through sectoral- and issues-based working group meetings, workshops and public engagement events. The pre-consultation draft CRMP was developed over 2018 and early 2019, taking into account the findings of the Clyde Marine Region Assessment (CMRA), outputs from working group meetings and discussions with stakeholders. The Plan was then redrafted (between late 2019 and early 2020) based on the pre-consultation feedback, further stakeholder workshops and public dialogue sessions.

Further amendments of the plan were carried out following comments from Marine Directorate between June 2021 and February 2026.

The CRMP, once adopted by Scottish Ministers, will provide a statutory policy framework to support effective decision-making and appropriate inward investment, enabling delivery of the Plan's long-term vision and aims. The Plan is expected to contribute to the management of the competing demands for the use of the CMR, whilst protecting and enhancing the marine environment. The Plan supports delivery of Scotland's NMP in a regional context and conforms to the UK Marine Policy Statement. The Plan also considers land use planning frameworks and supports an integrated planning approach throughout the Region, see Figure 1. Marine and coastal zone developments must be in line with both marine and land use planning policy since the CRMP includes the area submerged at Mean High Water Spring tide, and land use planning authorities are responsible for all land use planning matters down to Mean Low Water Spring tides and for marine fish farming (finfish and shellfish) out to three nautical miles. In the intertidal zone, between low and high water spring tides, land use planning authority therefore overlaps with marine planning's responsibilities for the marine area.

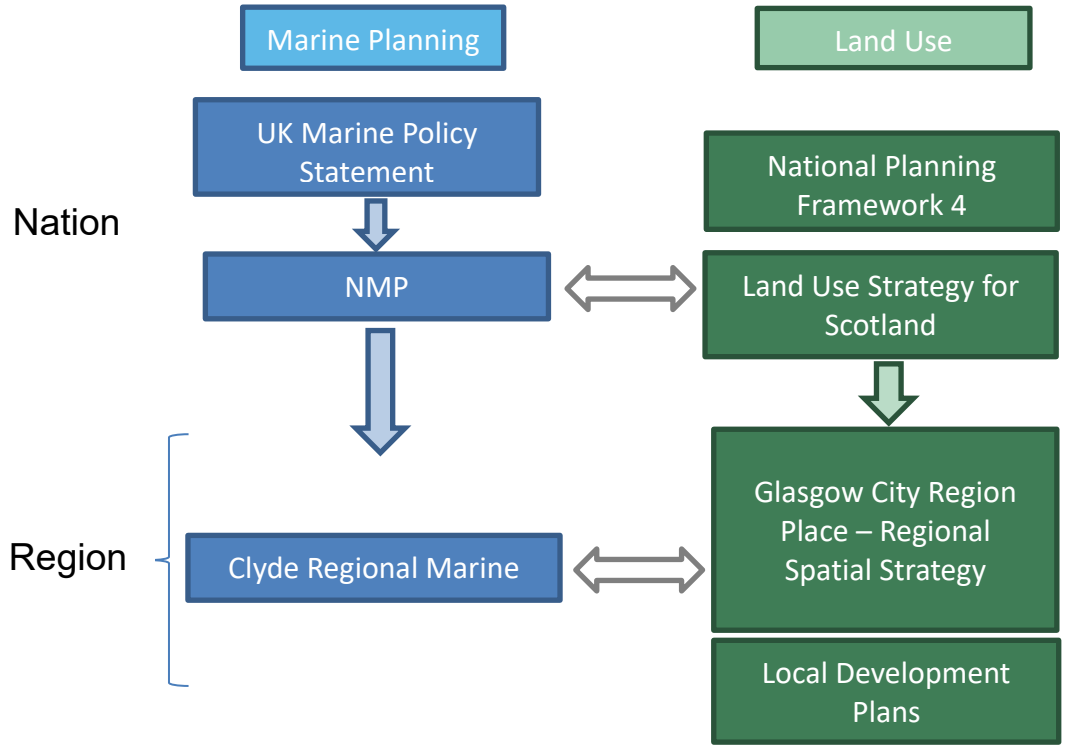


Fig. 1: Diagram illustrating the relationship between marine and land use planning policy

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 states that 'public authorities must take any authorisation and enforcement decisions in accordance with the appropriate marine plans unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.' Public authorities must also have regard to this Plan when making any decision which could affect the CMR. Policies within the Plan are for the use of applicants to shape proposals, public authorities to guide decision-making and other marine users to understand how the policies support the sustainable development and use of the CMR. The Plan provides locally relevant information and policy to support implementation of the NMP.

Contents of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan

The CRMP provides a strategic policy framework for managing developments and activities around the CMR. The Plan aims to encourage the sustainable development of marine industries; incorporate environmental protection and, where possible, enhancement; take account of social considerations in marine decision-making; and have a role in contributing to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

The Plan's vision, aims, objectives, policies and recommendations for local management/marine users have been developed in accordance with a set of overarching Guiding Principles (GPs) which acted as a top level filter for plan development. Sustainable development (GP1), support delivery of Good Environmental Status (GP2), and the ecosystem approach (GP3) represent fundamental aspects of marine planning as already set out in global agreements and EU, UK and Scottish strategies and plans. Adding value, not complexity (GP4) and multiple responsible use of marine space (GP5) establish the tone of the Plan.

The vision of the CRMP is: "*The marine and coastal environment of the Clyde Marine Region is clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, with fair access for all. It is managed to ensure sustainable multiple use which enables nature to flourish and supports thriving resilient local communities.*"

The Plan's high-level aims relate to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development, healthy and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment, and the wellbeing of communities.

The Plan consists of general, cross-cutting policies (Section 1) which could be relevant to any proposal and should be adhered to in advance of the relevant sectoral policy (Section 2). Section 2 outlines sectoral policies relating to the key economic activities in the CMR.

Chapters in Section 1:

1. Climate Change
2. Historic Environment
3. Landscape/Seascape
4. Coastal Processes, Coastal Flood and Storm Damage
5. Natural Heritage
6. Non-Native Species
7. Marine Litter
8. Connecting People to the Clyde Marine Region

Chapters in Section 2:

9. All Sectors
10. Sea Fisheries
11. Aquaculture
12. Sport, Recreation and Tourism
13. Shipping, Ports, Harbours and Ferries
14. Energy, Subsea Cables and Pipelines
15. Defence
16. Marine Aggregates

Each chapter contains objectives followed by policies and recommendations which support delivery of the objectives. The policies provide a framework to ensure that the economic, social and

environmental benefits are delivered. The Plan should be read and used as a whole and in conjunction with the NMP. Proposed developments and activities will also need to comply with existing legislative and regulatory requirements.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

This draft HRA has been developed based on the consultation draft CRMP and has been undertaken following NatureScot (NS) guidance[6], which includes detailed guidance on the stages that need to be followed to complete an appraisal and the considerations that need to be taken into account. This HRA records the outcomes of completing stages 1-5 of the appraisal process. This will be reviewed in light of consultation feedback and comments, if necessary.

Appraisal Results

Stage 1 – Decide whether the CRMP is subject to HRA

The CRMP was assessed against the criteria in Figure 2 to determine whether an HRA is required. It was considered that an HRA is required because the CRMP provides a framework for deciding applications and influencing decision-makers. The CRMP will be a material consideration in the determination of: marine licence applications; agreements, consents and permits from other consenting authorities; and marine or coastal planning and works licence applications.

[6] Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of Local Development Plans (LDPs) - Guidance for planning authorities in Scotland; November 2023 (https://bit.ly/49SsnKj)

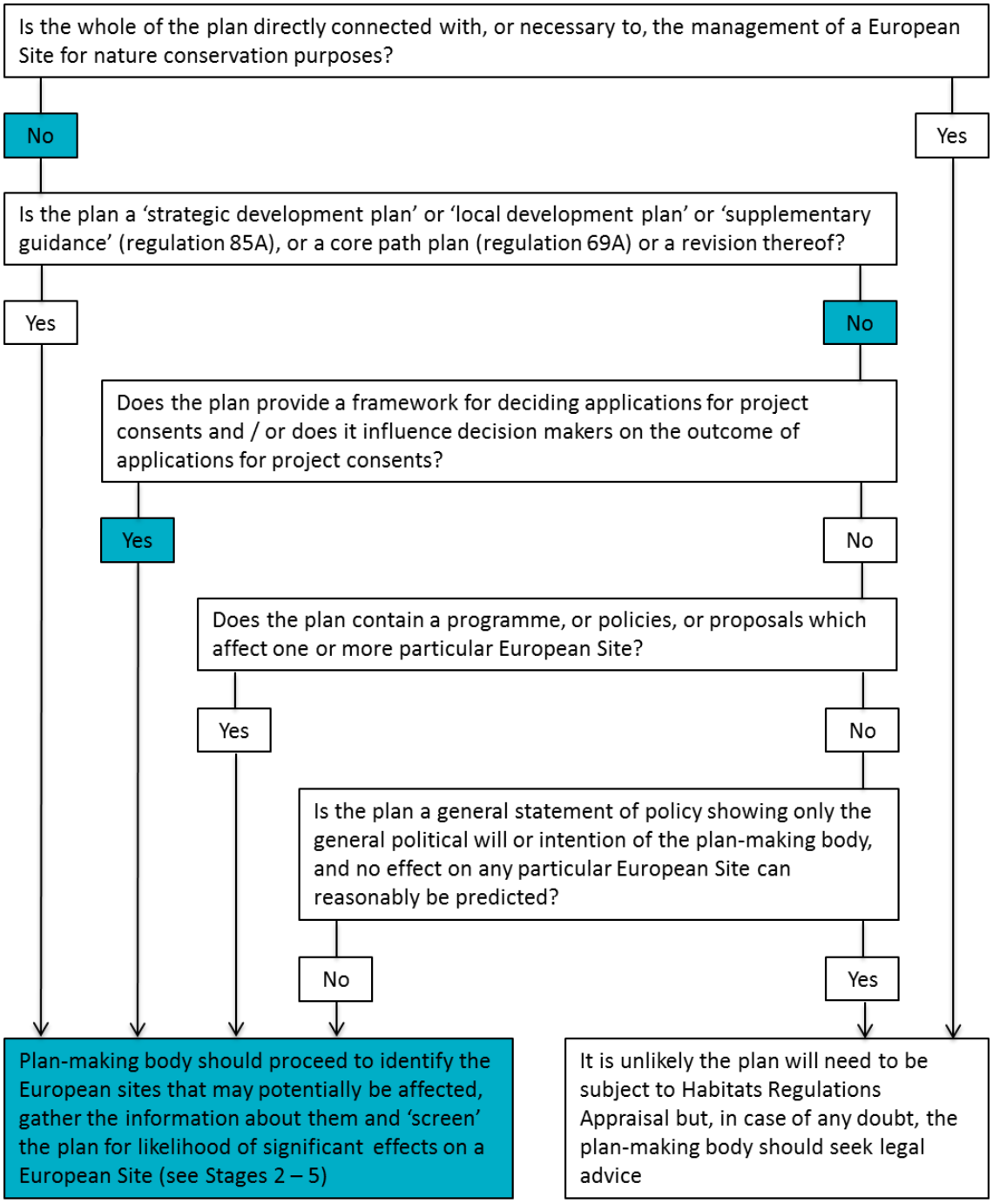


Figure 2: *Deciding if the Clyde Regional Marine Plan should be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal based on the criteria set out in 'Guidance for planning authorities in Scotland' (NatureScot 2023)*

Stage 2 – Identification of European Sites

The CRMP covers the geographical extent of the CMR. However, many coastal zone developments and activities in the terrestrial environment have links to the marine environment and can have potential impacts on marine and coastal natural, historic and cultural heritage. Proposals for developments and activities across the land-sea interface, as well as aquaculture operations, often need to obtain planning permission, a marine licence and other consents and licences relating to their proposed development and operations. Therefore, all European sites that have the potential to be impacted by the CRMP, not just those sites within the boundaries of the CMR, have been considered. This meant considering whether there are further impact pathways that may result in impacts outside of the CRMP boundaries.

European sites for consideration under HRA are: Special Protection Areas (SPAs), including proposed SPAs (pSPAs); Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), including candidate SACs (cSACs) and proposed SACs (pSACS); and Ramsar sites. Scottish Government policy affords the same level of protection to pSPAs and pSACs as that which applies to SPAs, SACs and cSACs. It is now updated Scottish Government policy to afford Ramsar sites the same protection as European sites[7].

A list of European sites that should be considered in the appraisal was identified (Table 1). There are no proposed or candidate European sites in the CMR. Sites were chosen based on their location, pathways to the CMR and pressures identified through Site Link and the Natura Standard Data Forms. There are two Ramsar sites, Inner Clyde and Loch Lomond, within the CMR that overlap with the Inner Clyde SPA, and Loch Lomond SPA and Loch Lomond Woods SAC respectively. The Ramsar sites protect the same qualifying species as the overlapping SPA and SAC sites, therefore they will not be considered as separate sites during the screening stage. All Ramsar interests are safeguarded by assessing the effects on the overlapping SPA and SAC sites.

The SACs and SPAs with terrestrial qualifying features have been included because they are found around the Clyde's coast and there could be links between developments/activities around the Region and these sites. HRA guidance recommends considering sites in the same coastal "cell" for Plans that could affect the coast. The CRMP includes policies that encourage a joined up approach between land use and marine planning, and policies often refer to marine and coastal developments. There is the potential for cumulative impacts, across the land-sea interface that could adversely impact terrestrial European sites. Some of the qualifying features in these sites are sensitive to threats that marine and coastal developments/activities can add to, such as air pollution (e.g. from increased vessel traffic), pollution to surface waters (including marine) and recreational pressures. A precautionary approach is taken when selecting sites, which is important given the complexity of marine and coastal systems.

[7] Wetlands - protecting Ramsar sites: updated Scottish Government policy (https://bit.ly/4aiFIMm)

Table 1: *European sites selected as being potentially affected by the Clyde Regional Marine Plan and reasons for their selection*

European site	Reason for selection
Tarbert Woods SAC	Coastal site which could be impacted by marine and coastal developments/activities (e.g. air pollution, ecosystem modifications, cumulative impacts).
Lendalfoot Hills Complex SAC	Coastal site which could be impacted by marine and coastal developments/activities (e.g. air pollution, pollution to surface waters, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, cumulative impacts).
Loch Lomond Woods SAC	Near the CMR at Succoth. Upstream from the CMR. Impacts could include marine water pollution and invasive non-native species.
Endrick Water SAC	Atlantic salmon (one of its qualifying features) migrates through the CMR.
Ailsa Craig SPA	In the CMR.
Inner Clyde SPA	In the CMR.
Loch Lomond SPA	Upstream from the CMR. Impacts could include changes in abiotic conditions, ecosystem modifications and human intrusions and disturbances. Greenland white-fronted goose may fly over or use the CMR whilst overwintering at the site.
Arran Moors SPA	Coastal site which could be impacted by marine and coastal developments/activities (e.g. ecosystem modifications, cumulative impacts).
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA	Coastal site around the top of Loch Fyne which could be impacted by marine and coastal developments/activities (e.g. recreation/disturbance, ecosystem modifications, cumulative impacts).
Glen App and Galloway Moors SPA	Coastal site which could be impacted by marine and coastal developments/activities (e.g. ecosystem modifications, cumulative impacts).
Black Cart SPA	In the CMR[8].

[8] Black Cart SPA is in the CMR but is not included in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network because its habitat classification is mostly 'inland water bodies' and 'improved grassland', which are not marine habitats. Consideration of whether a SPA should be part of the MPA network is based on whether a site supports bird species that are dependent upon Scotland's marine environment (marine associations/components). Whooper swans are not dependent on the marine environment. (NatureScot Commissioned Report No. 547, see pages 68-75 : https://bit.ly/30belQV)

Stage 3 – Gathering information

Information on the selected SAC and SPA sites that may potentially be impacted by the CRMP is represented in Tables 2 and 3. Information was gathered from NS SiteLink[9] and the Natura Standard Data Forms[10] for the respective sites.

The conservation objectives for qualifying species in SPAs and SACs listed above are:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:
    - Population of the species as a viable component of the site
    - Distribution of the species within site
    - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
    - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
    - No significant disturbance of the species

The conservation objectives for qualifying habitats in SACs listed above are:

- To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:
    - Extent of the habitat on site
    - Distribution of the habitat within site
    - Structure and function of the habitat
    - Processes supporting the habitat
    - Distribution of typical species of the habitat
    - Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
    - No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

[9] NS SiteLink - https://bit.ly/42UwuQs
[10] Natura Standard Data Forms - https://bit.ly/3WmbTCl

Special Areas of Conservation

SACs are designated areas for habitats and species (terrestrial and marine) under Annex I and II under the Habitats Directive[11]. SACs with marine components are sites that contain qualifying marine habitats or species[12]. There are no SACs with marine components, including cSACs and pSACs, in the CMR. There are four terrestrial/freshwater SACs within the area surrounding the CMR (Table 2).

Table 2: *Information on the Special Areas of Conservation that could potentially be affected by the Clyde Regional Marine Plan*

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates priority habitat)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
1	UK0030286; 8390	Tarbert Woods	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Unfavourable Recovering	Invasive species	Forest and Plantation management & use (medium) Problematic native species (medium) Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (high) Grazing in forests / woodland (high) Other ecosystem modifications (medium) Invasive non-native species (high)
2	UK0013592; 8288	Lendalfoot Hills Complex	Base-rich ferns	Unfavourable, no change	Over grazing	Grazing (high) Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (high) Changes in abiotic conditions (medium) Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (high) Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) (medium) Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (medium) Forest planting on open ground (high) Modification of cultivation practices (medium) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (low) Biocenotic evolution, succession (medium) Problematic native species (medium) Forest and Plantation management & use (medium) Roads, paths and railroads (medium) Invasive non-native species (low) Fertilisation (medium) Renewable abiotic energy use (medium) Fire and fire suppression (medium) Mining and quarrying (medium)
			Dry heaths	Unfavourable, recovering	Over grazing	
			Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals	Favourable, recovered		
			Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable, no change	Over grazing Under grazing	
			Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Favourable, recovered		
			Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable No Change	Invasive species Over grazing	

[11] Special Areas of Conservation – overview (https://bit.ly/2zxClTB)

[12] SACs for Marine Habitats and Species: Annex I – Marine Habitats and Annex II – Marine Species (https://bit.ly/3ccUuDs).

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates priority habitat)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
						Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high) Structures, buildings in the landscape (medium)
3	UK0013573; 8298	Loch Lomond Woods	Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	Favourable Maintained	Climate Change Development Recreation/disturbance	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (high) Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (medium) Forest and Plantation management & use (medium) Grazing in forests/ woodland (high) Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (medium) Problematic native species (medium) Other ecosystem modifications (medium) Roads, paths and railroads (high) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high) Marine water pollution (medium) Invasive non-native species (high) Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (high)
			Western acidic oak woodland	Unfavourable Declining	Forestry operations Invasive species (Beech, Conifers, European Larch, Rhododendron) Over grazing (Cattle, Deer, Goats)	
4	UK0019840; 8252	Endrick Water	Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)	Unfavourable Recovering	Agricultural operations Game/fisheries management Invasive species (Giant hogweed – *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, Himalayan balsam, Japanese Knotweed) Water management	Utility and service lines (medium) Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (medium) Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (medium) Renewable abiotic energy use (medium) Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (high) Changes in abiotic conditions (high) Cultivation (low) Introduced genetic material, GMO (medium) Grazing (low) Annual and perennial non-timber crops (low) Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (medium) Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (medium) Other ecosystem modifications (high) Interspecific faunal relations (medium) Changes in biotic conditions (medium) Abiotic (slow) natural processes (medium)
			Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)	Favourable Maintained	Same as above. Additional negative pressure: Water quality	
			River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)	Favourable Maintained		

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates priority habitat)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
						Forest and Plantation management & use (low) Discharges (medium) Mining and quarrying (medium) Modification of cultivation practices (low) Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)(high) Urbanised areas, human habitation (low) Invasive non-native species (high)

Special Protection Areas

SPAs are designated areas for the conservation of birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive[13]. SPAs with marine components are defined as those sites with qualifying Birds Directive Annex I species or regularly occurring migratory species that are dependent on the marine environment for all or part of their lifecycle, where these species are found in association with intertidal or subtidal habitats[14,15]. There are two SPAs with marine components in the CMR – Ailsa Craig SPA and Inner Clyde SPA (Table 3). There are no pSPAs in the CMR. There are five terrestrial SPAs within the area surrounding the CMR (Table 3).

Table 3: *Information on the Special Protection Areas that could potentially be affected by the Clyde Regional Marine Plan*

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates assemblage qualifier only)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
5	UK9003091; 8463	Ailsa Craig	Northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*), breeding	Favourable maintained	No negative pressures identified	Renewable abiotic energy use (medium) Changes in biotic conditions (medium) Inundation (natural processes) (low) Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (medium) Interspecific faunal relations (medium) Marine water pollution (low) Invasive non-native species (medium) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (low)
			Common guillemot (*Uria aalge*), breeding*	Favourable maintained		
			Seabird assemblage	Favourable maintained		
			European herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), reproducing*	Unfavourable No change		
			Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*), reproducing	Unfavourable No change		
			Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), reproducing*	Unfavourable recovering		

[13] Special Protection Areas – overview (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/)
[14] SPAs with marine components: (https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/spas-with-marine-components/)
[15] JNCC SPAs with Marine Components Spreadsheet, updated 15th March 2022: (https://jncc.gov.uk/resources/07078ed3-496d-432b-974e-1754b47536c7)

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates assemblage qualifier only)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
6	UK9003061; 8514	Inner Clyde Estuary	Common redshank (*Tringa totanus*), non-breeding	Unfavourable, declining	Recreation/disturbance	Changes in abiotic conditions (medium)
7	UK9003021; 8531	Loch Lomond	Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	Climate Change Over grazing (Deer) Recreation/disturbance	Changes in abiotic conditions (high) Interspecific faunal relations (high) Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (medium) Sport and leisure structures (medium) Renewable abiotic energy use (low) Grazing (low) Changes in biotic conditions (high) Other ecosystem modifications (medium) Utility and service lines (low) Forest and Plantation management & use (medium) Other human intrusions and disturbances (high) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high)
			Greenland white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained	Development Recreation/disturbance	
8	UK9003341; 8614	Arran Moors	Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*, breeding	Favourable Maintained	Burning Invasive species	Grazing (high) Interspecific faunal relations (high) Other ecosystem modifications (high) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high)
9	UK9020307; 10113	Glen Etive and Glen Fyne	Golden Eagle - *Aquila chrysaetos*, breeding	Favourable Maintained	Recreation/disturbance	Grazing (low) Renewable abiotic energy use (medium) Changes in biotic conditions (medium) Forest planting on open ground (medium) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high) Other ecosystem modifications (low)
10	UK9003351; 8615	Glen App and	Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus*, breeding	Favourable Maintained	No negative pressures identified	Interspecific faunal relation (high) Grazing (high)

No.	Site		Qualifying features and their condition (*indicates assemblage qualifier only)		Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site (level of impact – high, medium or low)	
	Codes (Natura Standard Data Form / NS SiteLink)	Name			NS SiteLink	Natura Standard Data Form
		Galloway Moors SPA				Other ecosystem modifications (high) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (high)
11	UK9003221; 8471	Black Cart SPA	Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining	No negative pressures identified	Changes in biotic conditions (medium) Utility and service lines (medium) Other forms of pollution (medium) Renewable abiotic energy use (low) Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear) (medium)

Stage 4 – Discretionary consultation with NatureScot on method and scope of appraisal

NatureScot were informally consulted twice during the drafting of this HRA as Members of the CMPP in terms of methodology, scope, sites potentially affected, and other relevant information.

Stage 5 – Screen the CRMP for likely significant effects on European sites

'Screening' is a term used to describe the initial stages of the HRA and the purpose of the screening stage is to[16]:

- Identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, so that they can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans;
- Identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect, because of links/connectivity, but which are minor residual), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, which therefore do not require 'Appropriate Assessment'; and
- Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require Appropriate Assessment.

An effect is considered to be a likely significant effect (LSE) if it cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information and if it is a significant effect either individually or in combination with other plans and projects. The precautionary principle is applied when assessing the likelihood of effects the CRMP will have on European sites in the CMR.

The screening process includes key steps to eliminate or 'screen out' elements of the CRMP that will not have an LSE on a European site and 'screen in' elements of the CRMP that will have an LSE on a European site. Elements of the CRMP that are screened into the Appropriate Assessment will be subject to further appraisal. Only those elements determined as having LSEs with respect to the qualifying feature(s) or conservation objectives of a given European site will be highlighted for inclusion in the Appropriate Assessment.

The 'screening' process includes three key stages:

1. screening out general (policy) statements and general criteria-based policies;
2. screening out policy and/or projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the CRMP; and
3. screening out aspects of the CRMP that could have no LSEs on a site, alone or in-combination with other aspects of the same plan, or with other plans or projects.

The following aspects of the CRMP were screened following the above screening stages:

- Vision, aims and guiding principles
- General objectives, policies and recommendations
- Sectoral objectives, policies and recommendations

First, aspects of the CRMP which are either general (policy) statements or general criteria-based policies were screened out under stage 1. Aspects of the CRMP which were not screened out under stage 1 were then considered under stage 2; any aspects of the CRMP which refer to existing policy or regulation not originally proposed by the CRMP were screened out. The remaining aspects of the CRMP were considered under stage 3, which includes five sub-stages (stages 3a-3e, see Table 4).

Table 4 summarises the results from the screening stage. The vision, aims and guiding principles were reviewed under screening step 1 and they were screened out because they are general policy

[16] Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of Local Development Plans (LDPs) - Guidance for planning authorities in Scotland; November 2023 (https://bit.ly/49SsnKj)

statements and will have no LSEs on any European sites. Further details are provided in Annex 1. Similarly, all the objectives were reviewed under screening step 1 and they were also screened out because they are general policy statements and will have no LSEs on any European sites. Further details are provided in Annex 2. The general policies and sectoral policies were reviewed according to the three key screening stages. The results show that none of the general and sectoral policies will have LSEs on any European sites, therefore they can all be screened out of the Appropriate Assessment. Most policies and recommendations were screened out under screening stages 1 and 3. Policies in the natural heritage chapter were amended after an initial screening to explicitly include the protection and enhancement of European sites. Further details are provided in Annex 3 and 4.

Although many aspects of the CRMP are screened out under screening stage 1, because they are either general (policy) statements or general criteria-based policies, they also fit the criteria for later screening stages. Many aspects of the CRMP intend to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site (*stage 3a)*. Many of the policies or recommendations will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development or other kinds of change (*stage 3b*). For many of the policies and recommendations in the CRMP, it is not known where, when or how they may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected (*stage 3e*).

Table 4: *Screening results – Stages 1-3*

Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	**Relevant parts of the plan**	
	General	**Sectoral**
Stage 1: General (policy) statements or general criteria-based policy which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals	Vision, Aims, Guiding Principles All of the objectives Policies CC 1-2 Recommendation rCC1 Recommendation rHE1 Policies SCAPE 1-3, Recommendation rSCAPE 1 Policies CP 1, 3-4 Recommendation rCP1 Policies NH 1-2, 4 Policy NNS 1, Recommendation rNNS 2 Policies ML 1,2 Recommendation rML 2,4 Policies CONNECT 1, 3, Recommendations rCONNECT 1-6	All of the objectives Policies SEC 1,2 Recommendations rSEC 1-2 Policies FISH 1-3, Recommendations rFISH 1-4 Policies AQUA 1-5 Policies SRT 1 & 3, Recommendation rSRT 1 Policies SHIP 4-5, Recommendation rSHIP 1 Policies ENCA 1-2 Recommendation ENCA1 Recommendation rDEF 1 Policy AGG 1
Stage 2: Aspects excluded from the appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this plan	None	None
Stage 3a: Aspects which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment	Policies CC 3-5 Policies HE 1-2 Policy CP 2 Policy NH 3 Recommendation rNH 1 Recommendation rNNS 1 Recommendation rML3	Recommendation rAQUA 1
Stage 3b: Aspects which will not lead to development or other change	Policy CONNECT 2	None
Stage 3c: Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect,	None	None

Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	Relevant parts of the plan	
	General	Sectoral
or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site		
Stage 3d: Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site (minor residual effects), because any potential effects would be so restricted that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site	None	None
Stage 3e: Aspects which are too general so that it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected	Recommendation rML 1	Policy SRT 2 Policies SHIP 1-3

The HRA process only assesses whether a plan or project could undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and therefore have a likely significant effect on these sites. HRAs do not focus on the potential benefits a plan or project could have on European sites. However, it is important to note that the CRMP includes policies that intend to protect and enhance the natural environment and the CRMP intends to manage marine resources better which in turn will also support European sites.

In-combination assessment

The requirement for in-combination assessment has been reviewed in two steps: the potential effects on European sites of the CMRP on its own, and the potential effects on European sites of the CRMP in combination with other plans or projects.

Clyde Regional Marine Plan on its own

All of the general or sectoral policies and recommendations have been screened out of further assessment as they are either general (policy) statements, are not policies and/or projects generated by this plan or could have no LSE on a European site. None of the policies direct activities to a particular location or provide for them to be carried out in a particular way. Nor are they linked to a European site. In consequence, no in-combination assessment is required for the CRMP on its own.

Clyde Regional Marine Plan with other plans/proposals

The CRMP must be in accordance with Scotland's NMP and the UK Marine Policy Statement. The Plan does not replace or remove existing regulatory regimes or legislative requirements. It provides a consistent overarching framework to be used when reaching decisions about development and use in the Clyde Marine Region. The Plan will operate within the context of, and seek alignment with, both statutory and non-statutory plans. This includes but is not limited to: the National Planning Framework, the Scottish National Adaptation Plan, Local Development Plans, City Region and Growth Deals, Mission Clyde, River Basin Management Plans, Flood Risk Management Plans, Inshore Fisheries Group Management Plans, Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans and Coastal Change Adaptation Plans.

Given that the focus of the CRMP is on policies, rather than proposals, this part of the HRA focuses on the potential for cumulative effects of the CRMP, NMP, Glasgow City Region Place – Regional Spatial Strategy and LDPs for the Planning Authorities around the CMR.

The CRMP, NMP, Glasgow City Region Place – Regional Spatial Strategy and LDPs together set out a framework of social, economic and environmental policies which identify issues that need to be taken into account when making decisions about developments, activities and/or initiatives in the marine and coastal environment, either within the CMR or nationally. These policy documents

include a presumption for sustainable development and use. Alone, policies in these plans encouraging economic growth have the potential to result in effects on the qualifying interests of European sites. However, these policies are balanced by the requirement for development and use to be sustainable, and this is further elaborated by policies which protect European sites and their qualifying features.

The cumulative effects of this policy framework are that: economic growth is supported, focusing on the right type of development in the right place; and potential adverse effects on European sites are avoided from development(s) and/or activities in marine and coastal environments.

The policies in the NMP, Glasgow City Region Place – Regional Spatial Strategy and LDPs are general statements or general criteria-based policies and none of them direct activities to a particular location or provide for them to be carried out in a particular way without providing policy caveats which consider European sites. This, in combination with the policies that protect European sites (e.g. GEN 9 in the NMP and NH 1 in the CRMP), means there should not be in-combination effects of these frameworks on European sites.

Conclusion

The vision, aims, general principles and objectives of the CRMP are all general policy statements which have been screened out of the assessment. The majority of the general policies are general policy statements or are general criteria-based policies which set out expectations that apply to all developments and activities in the marine and coastal environment of the CMR (as defined in the Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015). Other general policies intend to protect the natural environment. Therefore, none of the general policies are considered to have LSEs on any European site and have been screened out of the assessment.

The majority of sectoral policies are general criteria-based policies which set out expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals for sectoral developments and/or activities in the marine and coastal environment. Some sectoral policies were screened out of the assessment because they refer to existing national legislation or policies and others were screened out because it is not known where, when or how policies may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected. None of the sectoral policies are considered to have LSEs on any European site and have been screened out of the assessment. No connectivity or direct pathways for impact have been identified between the general or sectoral policies and specific European sites.

In conclusion, the CRMP does not include any aspects which could have LSEs on any European sites. An Appropriate Assessment of the CRMP is therefore not required. The CRMP intends to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment and provides a framework for the sustainable development and use of the CMR.

This draft HRA will be updated after the public statutory consultation based on any feedback received on the draft HRA and/or the draft CRMP.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Screening of the vision, aims and guiding principles

Title	Statement	Comments
Vision	The marine and coastal environment of the Clyde Marine Region is clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, with fair access for all. It is managed to ensure sustainable multiple use which enables nature to flourish and supports thriving resilient local communities.	The vision may be regarded as a general policy statement as it is aspirational, strategic and very general. The vision does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
Aims	Contribute to Scotland's transition to a low-carbon economy.	The aims may be regarded as general policy statements as they are aspirational, strategic and very general. The aims do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
	Support resilient local communities in the Clyde Marine Region to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change.	
	Promote the use of marine and coastal assets in the Clyde Marine Region to respond to climate change issues.	
	Provide a policy and planning framework for safe and sustainable development and use which encourages innovation and attracts future investment in marine and coastal assets in the Clyde Marine Region.	
	Provide a plan for decision makers to have regard of when responding to marine developers on the early identification of localities of most and least constraint, including consideration of potential environmental factors and sectoral interactions	
	Underpin the regeneration of urban coastal areas and support a sustainable economy in rural coastal areas.	
	Maintain and enhance the health of the Clyde Marine Region, including biodiversity and the landscape/seascape, by protecting and improving its natural resources.	
	Ensure that the Marine Protected Area network contributes to the protection and enhancement of the Clyde Marine Region's biodiversity and identify other opportunities for environmental enhancement.	
	Ensure that use and developments contribute to protection and enhancement of the Clyde Marine Region's Priority Marine Features.	
	Promote sustainable and socially inclusive development and use of marine and coastal resources, including through improvements in access.	
	Support the connection of people to the Clyde Marine Region through cultural heritage, work opportunities, educational initiatives and recreational pursuits.	
	Contribute to the wellbeing and cultural diversity of local communities.	
Guiding Principles	Sustainable Development	These strategic guiding principles are regarded as general policy statements. The guiding principles do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
	Support delivery of Good Environmental Status	
	Ecosystem Approach	
	Adding value, not complexity	
	Multiple responsible use of marine space.	

Annex 2 – Screening of the objectives

Objective	Comments
CC 1: Development(s) and use in the Clyde Marine Region are carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of climate change by 2045.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support climate mitigation and adaption in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
CC 2: Natural carbon stores and the associated benefits and services they provide are maintained and enhanced in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to protect and enhance natural carbon stores and the associated benefits and services they provide. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
HE 1: Marine and coastal historic environment and cultural assets in the Clyde Marine Region, whether visible, buried, submerged or intangible, are protected and enhanced.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to protect and enhance marine and coastal historical and cultural assets in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
HE 2: People's knowledge and experience of the marine and coastal historic environment is enhanced through improved awareness of the historical and cultural assets of the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve people's knowledge and experience of the marine and coastal historic environment. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.

Objective	Comments
SCAPE 1: Nationally and locally important landscape/seascape character of the Clyde Marine Region is protected and enhanced, at both a wider and a local level, to contribute to the quality of life and wellbeing of local communities and visitors.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to protect and enhance national and local landscape/seascape characters. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
CP 1: Development(s) and/or use in the Clyde Marine Region are resilient to the dynamic nature of the coast, including the impacts of climate change, using natural assets and soft engineering where possible.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support coastal resilience. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
NH 1: The overall health of marine and coastal ecosystems of the Clyde Marine Region and the ecosystem services they provide are protected and enhanced, particularly with regard to achieving the conservation and/or management objectives for the relevant Marine Protected Area network sites, other coastal designated sites, Priority Marine Features (irrespective of location), and other protected habitats and species.	These objectives are regarded as general policy statements which set out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to protect and enhance the natural environment, including European sites from inappropriate development or adverse impacts. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
NH 2: Development and use of the marine and coastal environment, in combination with measures to protect habitats and species, have an overall positive impact on biodiversity and the health of the Clyde ecosystem.	
NH 3: Knowledge and data on marine and coastal species, habitats and ecosystems within the Clyde Marine Region are improved to identify opportunities for their protection and enhancement and to inform sustainable development.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve knowledge and data on the marine and coastal environment. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
NNS 1: The risk of introduction and spread of non-native species is reduced in the Clyde Marine Region through improved management of the known pathways. The impacts of non-native species on both the ecosystem and the economy are minimised.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of non-native species and thus protecting the natural environment, including European sites, against additional pressures. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
ML 1: Development(s) and/or use does not contribute to marine litter in the Clyde Marine Region (SD2).	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to reduce the amount of marine litter entering the marine environment. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
ML 2: Development(s) and/or use seek to contribute to the circular economy (SD3).	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to reduce litter entering the Region by contributing to the circular economy. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
ML 3: An increase in beach and riverine cleaning activities and data collected through such activities which contribute to the evidence base on marine litter (SD1&4) within the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to increase marine litter clean-up and data collection activities in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
CONNECT 1: Local communities and marine users are meaningfully engaged in the decision-making process for proposals in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support meaningful stakeholder engagement in Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
CONNECT 2: People's knowledge and enjoyment of the Clyde Marine Region is improved through sustainable and responsible use and/or experience of the natural environment, its historical and cultural assets and locally farmed or sourced products. This leads to an improvement in people's ocean literacy, sense of place, health & wellbeing and supports the local economy.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support people's knowledge and enjoyment of the Region through sustainable use/experience. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
CONNECT 3: Responsible public access to the marine and coastal environment is improved in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve responsible public access to the marine and coastal environment. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SEC 1: Encourage the safe and appropriate multiple use of infrastructure and the marine spatial area between sectors in the Clyde Marine Region, including local collaboration across and within sectors.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage safe and appropriate multiple use of infrastructure. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SEC 2: Ensure infrastructure, such as ports and harbours and those related to supply chain, adequately support sectors operating in the Clyde Marine Region, including onward links to the transport network outwith the Region. Any development aligns with the integrated transport objectives in Local Development Plans.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support sectoral infrastructure requirements. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SEC 3: The availability of and access to knowledge and data which inform sustainable development, identify opportunities for protection and enhancement and strengthen our understanding of cumulative impacts and mitigation measures are improved in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve the availability of and access to knowledge and data. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SEC 4: Cumulative impacts of development(s) and activities in the Clyde Marine Region are mitigated.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to mitigate cumulative impacts of developments and activities. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.

Objective	Comments
FISH 1: A sustainable, diverse and resilient marine ecosystem which enables a wide range of long-term environmentally sustainable fishing opportunities in the Clyde Marine Region, supplying both local and other markets.	These objectives are regarded as general policy statements which set out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to support sustainable fisheries in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
FISH 2: Fisheries operate and are managed to achieve economic, social and employment benefits and contribute to the availability of food supplies. .	
FISH 3: All fisheries in the Clyde Marine Region are managed to restore and maintain populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield, based on the best available scientific advice. Fisheries operate at an appropriate level with respect to stock and environmental considerations and do not overexploit stocks.	
FISH 4: Fisheries adapt to changes in species distribution and abundance due to climate change in the Clyde Marine Region.	
FISH 5: Bycatch of non-target species in the Clyde Marine Region is avoided or reduced.	
FISH 6: Fisheries spatial management protects and enhances areas of importance to fisheries activities, including fish habitats such as nursery areas and spawning grounds.	
FISH 7: Knowledge and data on fish stocks and areas of importance to fisheries activities are improved within the Clyde Marine Region to inform sustainable fisheries and to ensure that interactions with other marine users are well managed.	
AQUA 1: Sustainable development and diversification of the aquaculture sector in appropriate locations within the environmental carrying capacity of the Clyde Marine Region, providing socio-economic benefits to rural areas and islands and supporting the wider supply chain in Scotland.	These objectives are regarded as general policy statements which set out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to support sustainable development and diversification of the sector. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
AQUA 2: Aquaculture development actively contributes to the protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Clyde Marine Region by undertaking action and/or research & development initiatives which support sustainable development of the sector, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.	
SRT 1: The Clyde Marine Region provides world class sustainable sport, recreation and tourism experiences for local people and visitors. The social benefits, including health and wellbeing, economic benefits and environmental benefits (through protection and enhancement of unique, natural resources which attract visitors and which are relied upon for recreational activities) generated by this sector are protected and spread across residents, local communities and beyond.	These objectives are regarded as general policy statements which set out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to support sustainable sport, recreation and tourism, including improving public access, in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SRT 2: Public access to the sea is improved in the Clyde Marine Region, along with supporting infrastructure and facilities.	
SHIP 1: Collaborative efforts to promote the Clyde Marine Region as a tourist destination are continued by supporting sustainable development of the market for cruise ships and smaller cruise vessels, whilst seeking opportunities for related socioeconomic activity.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support sustainable cruise industries in the Region. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SHIP 2: An increase in the use of ports, harbours and other coastal facilities in the Clyde Marine Region for the construction, servicing, decommissioning and recycling of marine structures and vessels, particularly where activities contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to increase the use of ports, harbours and other coastal facilities. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SHIP 3: Connectivity is improved and sustainable transport by sea and rail is increased within the Clyde Marine Region and beyond.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which set out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to maintain and improve transport network. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
SHIP 4: Opportunities for associated environmental enhancement are explored where capital or maintenance dredging is proposed in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support opportunities for environmental enhancement for proposed capital or maintenance dredging. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
ENCA 1: The Clyde Marine Region plays its part in the transition to a decarbonised Scottish Economy while ensuring energy security. Offshore energy generation is essential to securing long term benefits and jobs for local communities and contributing to energy security. This includes the use of marine wind, wave and tidal renewable energy sources in the Clyde Marine Region.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
ENCA 2: The laying, replacement and maintenance of important subsea cables and pipelines in the Clyde Marine Region is undertaken with due consideration of all marine users.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to ensure activities related to subsea cables and pipelines are undertaken with due consideration of all marine users. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.

Objective	Comments
DEF 1: Operations of His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde as the UK Single Submarine Operating Base are undertaken in the Clyde Marine Region, with due consideration of other marine users and the marine environment.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support the Ministry of Defence to consider other marine users and the marine environment when undertaking their activities. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.
AGG 1: Marine aggregate resources are safeguarded in the Clyde Marine Region and any future exploitation is in line with regulations, in particular regarding potential environmental impact.	This objective is regarded as a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to safeguard marine aggregate resources. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 1**.

Annex 3 – Screening of the general policies and recommendations

Policies and Recommendations	Comments
CC 1: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered appropriate and proportionate measures to: a) minimise emissions of greenhouse gases over the lifespan of the proposal; b) adapt to the current and future likely impacts of climate change over the full lifespan of any proposal, including any decommissioning/remediation required; c) support or increase sustainable transport use and local transport solutions if applicable.	These are general criteria-based policies which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CC 2: Proposals for development and/or use should avoid significant harm or damage to carbon stores, including those in intertidal habitats in the Clyde Marine Region. Where an impact on a recognised carbon store (see Maps CC 1 & 2) may occur, it should be demonstrated prior to development taking place that any impacts can be suitably mitigated, using the mitigation hierarchy.	
CC 3: Proposals for development and/or use are encouraged to deliver positive effects on the capacity of recognised carbon stores (as identified in the Scottish Blue Carbon Action Plan) including to support their expansion.	These policies intend to protect the natural environment by encouraging delivery of positive effects on the capacity of recognised carbon stores and encouraging enhancement of carbon stores and nature-based solutions. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
CC 4: Proposals for the enhancement of marine and coastal natural carbon stores, such as habitat restoration or creation and native species restoration, and proposals for other nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change will be supported and encouraged where they demonstrate consideration of potential climate change impacts on the proposal, and are in accordance with the other policies within this Plan.	
CC 5: Proposals for nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change are encouraged and will be supported where they demonstrate appropriate consideration of the effects of the proposal on the wider ecosystem, and are in accordance with the other policies within this Plan.	
rCC1: Developments are encouraged to promote climate justice and help society and the environment to be more resilient to the current and future likely impacts of climate change.	This is a general recommendation statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support the resilience of the Region and does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
HE 1: Development(s) and/or activities will only be supported if they protect marine and coastal historic environment and cultural assets, their context and accessibility. If detrimental impact on historic environment and cultural assets is unavoidable, development(s) and/or activities must: • demonstrate that alternative proposals have been explored, • minimise impacts on these assets, and • ensure mitigation measures are in place.	These policies intend to protect and enhance marine and coastal historical and cultural assets. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
HE 2: Proposals for development and/or use are encouraged to identify opportunities for enhancement of historic environment and cultural assets and/or their accessibility.	
rHE 1: Efforts should be made to protect and promote non-structural and intangible marine and coastal cultural heritage. For example, through museums, visitor centres, festivals, or incorporation into development proposals.	This is a general recommendation statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support the cultural heritage of the Region and does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SCAPE 1: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered, where appropriate:	

Policies and Recommendations	Comments
a) the Seascape/Landscape Assessment of the Firth of Clyde, the relevant planning authority Landscape Assessments and other relevant Strategic Development Frameworks, character appraisals or supporting documentation; b) how the proposal takes into account its effects on the existing character, experience and quality of the landscape/seascape. Where negative or intrusive visual effects are likely, steps should be taken to avoid or minimise effects. This includes developed, altered and cultural landscapes as well as natural areas; c) a high standard of design, in terms of siting, scale, colour, materials and form to ensure the development or coastal use change will be accommodated within specific landscape and seascape types (as shown in Map SCAPE 2).	These are general criteria-based policies which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SCAPE 2: Proposals for development and/or use in the Inner Clyde estuary should consider how the proposal takes into account its effects on the distinctive character of the River Clyde Development Corridor.	
SCAPE 3: Proposals for development and/or use that affect National Scenic Areas, National and Regional Parks, or Local Landscape Areas should demonstrate that they have considered that: a) they will not adversely affect the integrity of the area or its special qualities for which it has been designated, or b) any such adverse effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance (or local importance for Local Landscape Areas). It should be considered whether or not a Design Statement is required to support a proposal for development or use that affects a National Scenic Area or National or Regional Park.	
rSCAPE 1: Efforts should be made to maintain developments, infrastructure and facilities in a coastal or marine location in such a way that they do not have a significant adverse impact on the landscape/seascape qualities of an area.	This is a general recommendation statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support the landscape/seascape qualities of the Region, and does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CP 1: Proposals for development and/or use below the Mean High Water Springs should demonstrate that they have considered the following, proportionate to the scale of development: a) the latest available UKCP sea-level rise and flood risk projections, and wave overtopping impacts where possible, relevant to the full lifespan of the proposal, including any decommissioning/remediation required, b) broader future climate projections and risks and opportunities identified within the UK national, regional and local climate change risk assessments, c) the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Development Management Guidance, the relevant Local Flood Risk Management Plan and any relevant Coastal Change Adaptation Plan, d) sediment dynamics within the relevant coastal cell, including historical trends as indicated in outputs of the Dynamic Coast project and current or future anticipated dynamics, e) any potential exacerbation of flooding or coastal erosion in the wider area, f) protection and use of natural assets for coastal protection, including through options for managed realignment and beach nourishment, and allowing space for the natural assets themselves to adapt to climate change; and g) opportunities for Integrated Green Grey Infrastructure where natural assets cannot be used for flood alleviation.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CP 2: Natural or artificial coastal zone and marine features which provide or could provide flood defence in the future should not be removed without due consideration of future flood risk. Removal of artificial coastal defence materials should only be supported when it can be demonstrated that there are no significant adverse impacts for the environment. Proposals for the removal of artificial coastal defence materials should demonstrate that they have considered positive impacts for the environment, for example where removal may offer a realignment option to allow accommodation space for natural coastal readjustment, habitat restoration and improved long-term resilience.	This policy intends to protect the environment, including European sites, if any artificial coastal defence materials need to be removed. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.

Policies and Recommendations	Comments
CP 3: The installation of new or replacement flood defences, coastal erosion and flooding alleviation works will be encouraged if coastal erosion or flooding threatens existing public infrastructure, important built development, including historic environment features, and where relocation options are not feasible.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses an expectation that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CP 4: For large marine and coastal infrastructure projects below the Mean High Water Springs that involve an element of lock-in or irreversibility , a climate change risk assessment (detailing flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure) should be undertaken and proportionate adaptation features should be included within the proposal in line with best practice guidelines.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCP 1: Communication and connectivity between marine users and land users is encouraged to ensure that the coastal zone is managed and protected appropriately.	This is a general recommendation statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support communication and connectivity within the Region, and does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
NH 1: Proposals for development and/or use should a) consider, where appropriate the potential for cumulative impacts affecting the marine and coastal environment; and b) not result in significant adverse impacts on the national status of Priority Marine Features.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
NH 2: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate, where appropriate, that they have considered: a) relevant conservation objectives and status of relevant Marine Protected Area network sites (Map NH 1 and Table 1), and other coastal designated sites (Map NH 2 and Table 1) and European sites; b) the actions identified in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**. This policy intends to encourage environmental enhancement measures; however, enhancing European sites was initially not explicitly included in this policy so after an initial screening, this policy was amended to include European sites.
NH 3: Proposals for biodiversity and/or ecosystem enhancement will be encouraged to demonstrate consideration of the effects of the proposal on the wider ecosystem and take potential climate change impacts on the proposal into account.	This policy intends to encourage environmental enhancement measures. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
NH 4: Proposals for development and/or use that may limit the ability of diadromous fish species and other mobile species to migrate safely through the Clyde Marine Region should demonstrate that they have considered if suitable mitigation measures are in place.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**. This policy intends to protect the environment, specifically the ability of diadromous fish and other mobile species to migrate safely through the Region.
rNH 1: Where a licence is not required, users carrying out small-scale hand cutting and/or gathering of seaweed are encouraged to consider the potential ecological cumulative impacts of multiple harvesting activities within proximity to each other. Communication between users carrying out seaweed harvesting operations within proximity to each other is encouraged.	This recommendation intends to protect the environment by encouraging consideration of ecological cumulative impacts of multiple harvesting activities. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
NNS 1: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered that they have minimised the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species affecting seabirds and/or the ecological or recreational value of coastal habitats. Proposals should refer to the Scottish Government's Non-Native Species: Code of Practice. Where relevant, a site- or operation-based biosecurity plan should be developed in line with best practice Marine Biosecurity Planning guidance.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rNNS 1: Initiatives are encouraged to research, eradicate and/or prevent the spread of non-native species.	This recommendation intends to protect the natural environment by encouraging initiatives which support the management of non-native species. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of

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	any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
rNNS 2: All marine users in the Clyde Marine Region should: a) conform to the Scottish Government Code of Practice on Non-native species, the voluntary Clyde Marine Region Biosecurity Plan and, where relevant, the voluntary Loch Fyne Community Biosecurity Plan, b) proactively consider the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species, c) put in place biosecurity management measures to minimise the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species, and d) where relevant, develop a site-, event- or operation-based biosecurity plan in line with best practice Marine Biosecurity Planning guidance.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage all marine users to follow best practice guidelines to minimise the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
ML 1: Proposals for development and/or use should consider the inclusion of a litter minimisation and management plan for its lifespan of the proposal, having regard to the following elements where appropriate: construction, active use and any decommissioning/remediation required. Where a plan is not included, proposals should demonstrate proportionate measures to avoid release of litter throughout the lifespan of the proposal.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
ML 2: Waste water infrastructure should be designed, wherever practicable, to reduce the risk of litter entering the marine environment through watercourses or any other pathway.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses an expectation that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rML 1: Through the Fishing for Litter scheme, or other similar schemes, port or harbour operators are encouraged to provide facilities to fishing vessels to dispose of any litter collected.	It is not possible to identify where, when or how the recommendation may be implemented, or where its effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3e**.
rML 2: Businesses and organisations managing or handling plastic pellets, flakes or powders (nurdles), including shippers, transporters and recyclers, should adopt best practice guidance to prevent these plastics from entering waste water treatment systems and/or the marine environment.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage best practice guidance to prevent plastic nurdles, flakes or powder from entering wastewater treatment systems and/or the marine environment. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rML 3: Development(s) and/or use in the marine and coastal environment should take measures to address marine litter entering the marine environment and should consider opportunities to contribute to the circular economy, for example by recycling old equipment. Initiatives which facilitate this are supported.	This recommendation intends to protect the natural environment by reducing litter and supporting the circular economy. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
rML 4: The Coastal Litter Management Guidelines for Duty Bodies should be followed in carrying out beach cleaning operations. The support by public authorities of local community beach cleaning is encouraged where appropriate.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage best practice guidance for beach cleaning operations and their support. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CONNECT 1: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered taking a proportionate approach to the following: a) engagement with stakeholders from relevant sectors, especially where there might be direct interactions between different uses and/or developments; and b) where relevant, the general public has been informed and consulted during development of the proposal, particularly if the proposal could significantly impact local communities.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
CONNECT 2: Proposals for development and/or use which create and/or maintain coastal trails, paths and walkways, particularly those which connect coastal sites of local importance, are encouraged. These should be designed to prevent impacts on sensitive natural and cultural heritage.	This policy will not lead to development or change itself because it relates to the design of developments / activities which create and/or maintain coastal trails, paths and walkways. Any new developments / activities will need to be designed in a way that prevent impacts on sensitive natural heritage, which includes any European sites and their protected features. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3b**.

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CONNECT 3: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered, where applicable, that: a) access rights to the marine environment are retained and improved, and b) access to the shore and water is optimised for sport, recreation and tourism, and safety issues have been addressed.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 1: All marine users and the general public are encouraged to engage with formal consultation processes in public authority decision-making about development(s) and/or use in the Clyde Marine Region. This can be achieved individually or as a member of a community, interest or sports groups.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage marine users to engage with formal consultation processes in the Region. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 2: All users of the Clyde Marine Region should follow guidance set out in relevant codes and best practice guidelines, which include but are not limited to: *Natural Heritage* • Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code • A Guide to Best Practice for Watching Marine Wildlife • Scottish Outdoor Access Code • Scottish Entanglement Alliance Best Practice Guide for Fishermen *Non-Native Species* • Scottish Government Code of Practice on Non-Native Species • 'Check Clean Dry' Guidance *Sport, Recreation and Tourism* • Clyde Leisure Navigation Guide • The Green Guide to Coastal Boating • Catch and Release: A Guide to Best Practice • Outdoor events in Scotland – Guidance for organisers and land managers	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage all marine users to follow relevant codes and best practice guidelines. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 3: Activities are encouraged which give opportunities to marine users, including the general public, to collect data (e.g. through citizen science projects).	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage citizen science projects. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 4: Activities and experiences are encouraged which engage with those people living in and/or visiting the Clyde Marine Region to improve their interest, awareness and/or knowledge of the Regions natural heritage, historic environment and cultural heritage including the Gaelic language, and/or marine sport and recreation opportunities. Activities and experiences should be accessible to all, including those with protected characteristics, should help overcome physical, cultural and economic barriers to participation and encourage independent living.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve people's interest and awareness of the Region's assets and opportunities. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 5: Activities are encouraged which engage local communities in identifying areas of marine litter accumulation, carrying out beach cleans, and/or communicating issues relating to marine litter. Beach clean organisers are encouraged to contribute to data collecting initiatives. This includes but is not limited to: the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch campaign, Fidra's 'Great Nurdle Hunt' data collection project and Keep Scotland Beautiful initiatives such as Upstream Battle.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage local communities to carry out activities that help reduce marine litter. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rCONNECT 6: Initiatives are encouraged to supply sustainable aquaculture and fisheries products from the Clyde Marine Region to local shops and restaurants to promote the 'Clyde brand' and enhance experiences for local people and visitors to the Region.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage initiatives that support local supply chains. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.

Annex 4 – Screening of sectoral policies and recommendations

Policies and Recommendations	Comments
SEC 1: Proposals for development and/or use should demonstrate that they have considered: a) Any adverse impacts on the efficient and safe movement or navigation of vessels around the Region, to and from strategic freight hubs, ports, harbours, marinas, moorings and anchorages, including ferry operations are avoided or appropriately mitigated; b) demonstrating operational and/or technical mitigation where a proposals' benefits may outweigh navigational interference; c) the cumulative impacts of the proposal, both within and between sectors where possible; d) alignment with any future sectoral spatial management plans developed by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Planning Authorities and/or the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership for the relevant sector; e) potential synergies and partnerships with other sectors; f) avoiding, minimising or mitigating any negative impact on other marine users; and g) avoiding any unacceptable burdens on existing infrastructure and services that cannot be resolved.	These are general criteria-based policies which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SEC 2: Proposals for development and/or use are encouraged where they: a) provide important supply chain services for marine sectors, b) promote any opportunities for shared use of infrastructure and/or marine spatial area and collaboration between and within sectors, c) improve connectivity around the Clyde Marine Region, for example through multi-modal journey planning and active travel, taking into account different types of activity as well as different types of transport and links to other marine regions, or d) provide social, health & wellbeing and economic benefits to local communities and/or more widely, for example through the regeneration of coastal areas, particularly brownfield sites, and/or the diversification of the rural marine economy.	
rSEC 1: Organisations and marine users should share data, which is not commercially sensitive, related to their activities in the marine and coastal environment to central databases and support open data initiatives to facilitate partnership working and increase knowledge of the Clyde Marine Region.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage organisations and marine users to share data. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rSEC 2: Organisations should communicate with other relevant marine users where possible when they are planning to undertake works, including emergency works, in the Clyde Marine Region.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve communication between stakeholders. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
FISH 1: Proposals for development and/or use should avoid, minimise and/or appropriately mitigate significant adverse impacts: a) on commercial fishing opportunities, taking into account seasonality and the year-round operation of the affected fishery; and b) on nursery, spawning and feeding areas for commercially fished species, and associated habitats and species.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account by Marine Directorate, the South West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, fisheries representatives and other parties. The measures listed in this policy intend to prevent adverse impacts on fishing opportunities, their areas and fish stocks, thereby supporting the integrity of ecosystems, their interactions and the benefits they provide. Furthermore, this policy intends to prevent damage to important biological sites and protected species, including European sites. Although fisheries management is considered a potential threat to Endrick Water SAC, Ailsa Craig SPA and Inner Clyde SPA, the listed measures in the policy do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore have no likely significant effects on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.

Policies and Recommendations	Comments
FISH 2: Proposals for development and/or use should consider, where appropriate, the potential for significant adverse impacts on the social, cultural and economic importance of fishing, in particular to fragile communities.	This is a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support the social, cultural and economic importance of fishing. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
FISH 3: The appropriate fishing agencies, organisations and/or fishers that use an area that could be affected by a proposed development should be consulted at an early stage in the site-selection, design and planning process.	This is a general policy statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to improve communication between developers and other marine space users. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rFISH 1: Commercial fisheries in the Clyde Marine Region should aim to ensure that: a) stock assessments are available for all harvested species, appropriate management measures are in place to work towards a situation where populations of all harvested species are at levels which can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield, particularly through reduced effort/catch of crab and lobster fisheries, and Maximum Sustainable Yield ranges are used where appropriate; b) appropriate spatial and other management measures are in place to protect the most important areas for fisheries and to protect those seabed habitats and species which are sensitive to fishing activity; and c) improving technology and fishing practices which will lead to Fully Documented Fisheries with a reduction in bycatch of non-target species, particularly sharks, skates and rays (elasmobranchs).	This is a general criteria-based recommendation which sets out strategic aspirations of the CRMP that should be taken into account by Marine Directorate, the South West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group, fisheries representatives and other parties. The measures listed in this recommendation intend to support the conservation and enhancement of the integrity of ecosystems, their interactions and the benefits they provide. Furthermore, this recommendation intends to prevent damage to important biological sites and protected species, including European sites. Although fisheries management is considered a potential threat to Endrick Water SAC, Ailsa Craig SPA and Inner Clyde SPA, the listed measures in the recommendation do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore have no likely significant effects on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rFISH 2: Scientific research and practical measures to enable fisheries management to contribute to the protection and enhancement of marine ecosystems are encouraged. This includes, but is not limited to: a) studies to consider pressures on harvested stocks such as food web interaction and climate change; b) improved understanding of the habitats and areas that support fisheries including pressure/state relationships and ecosystem role/function; and c) continued monitoring of seabed habitats and species which are sensitive to fishing activity.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support scientific research and practical measures to enable fisheries management to contribute to the protection and enhancement of marine ecosystems. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rFISH 3: Fishers should follow the Scottish Entanglement Alliance best practice guidelines to reduce the risk of marine animals becoming entangled in fishing gear.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out strategic aspirations for the CRMP to encourage fishers to follow best practice guidelines. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rFISH 4: Fishers should follow best practice guidelines in relation to static gear buoy markings in order to reduce the likelihood of adverse interactions with other marine users.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to inform marine users about existing legislation, e.g. the Marking of Creels (Scotland) Order 2020, and any other relevant guidance to improve gear buoy markings. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
AQUA 1: Proposals for finfish farming development should have regard to: a) the Technical Standard for open net Finfish Aquaculture and any future Technical Standard for open net, semi-closed or closed systems; and b) the requirements outlined in the mandatory control measures for the live capture of Scottish wild wrasse for salmon farms and any future fisheries management or legislation regarding cleaner fish.	These are general criteria-based policies which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. AQUA 2 policy protects migratory routes for wild salmon, a qualifying species for Endrick Water SAC. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
AQUA 2: Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered site management actions or initiatives to improve sea lice and disease management, and to reduce the risk of fish escapes.	
AQUA 3: Proposals for mussel farms should be considered where they support delivery of the policy outcomes of NPF4 through policy 32 on aquaculture and are in accordance with the other policies within this Plan.	
AQUA 4: Proposals for seaweed cultivation should have regard to the latest Scottish Government Seaweed Cultivation Policy Statement and any subsequent guidance and/or planning requirements.	

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AQUA 5: Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered that there is no artificial nutrient enrichment of the marine environment to aid production.	
rAQUA 1: Initiatives are encouraged by land and homeowners and public authorities to reduce diffuse pollution and point source pollution from entering water bodies, which can negatively impact water quality, particularly within Shellfish Water Protected Areas.	This recommendation intends to protect the natural environment by reducing pollution from entering water bodies. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3a**.
SRT 1: Proposals for development and/or use relating to sustainable, marine-related sport, recreation and tourism facilities are particularly encouraged where they: a) facilitate multiple use by providing hubs for marine sport, recreation and tourism, b) diversify the sports, recreation and tourism offering, c) demonstrate a link to transport networks in line with active and sustainable travel objectives, d) promote wildlife tourism and/or ecotourism, e) provide an increase in the number and quality of step ashore facilities in the Region, f) provide effective pump out, wash down and waste management facilities for boat users; or g) use mooring systems with low environmental impact, such as Environmentally Friendly Moorings/Advanced Mooring Systems.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SRT 2: Proposals should be supported for the introduction, maintenance and improvement of the network of public slipways and shoreside infrastructure, along with supporting facilities where appropriate and where unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment and amenities are avoided, below the Mean High Water Springs, across the Clyde Marine Region.	It is not possible to identify where, when or how the policy may be implemented, or where its effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3e**.
SRT 3: National and international sport, recreational and tourism events for all recreational vessels are supported in the Clyde Marine Region. Organisers of such events: a) should undertake a risk assessment to identify likely significant impacts on protected areas and species, b) should collaborate with and seek advice from relevant authorities, (e.g. NatureScot) to acquire licences where needed and to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures in a timely manner in advance of any event taking place, and c) should inform the relevant Statutory Harbour Authority of the nature and details of the event in a timely manner in advance of the event taking place.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rSRT 1: All wildlife cruise tour operators operating within the Clyde Marine Region should be WiSe scheme certified.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage wildlife cruise tour operators to be WiSe scheme certified. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SHIP 1: Development(s) and/or activities will be supported that encourage the sustainable growth of the cruise market for ships of around 150 m at appropriate locations, in particular at Dunoon, Rothesay, Helensburgh, Inveraray, Troon, Brodick, Fairlie, Holy Loch, Irvine, Greenock, Ayr, Ardrossan and Hunterston, and where the proposal demonstrates strong links to supporting sustainable tourism, including wildlife tourism, in the local area.	Although these policies highlight locations where developments/activities would be particularly supported, the policies do not specify how they may be implemented or where their effects may occur or which sites, if any may be affected. The policies also do not specify developments/activities must take place only in the highlighted locations which means the policies do not direct developments to a particular location. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore have no likely significant effects on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening step 3e**.
SHIP 2: Development(s) and/or activities will be supported for the construction, servicing, decommissioning and recycling of large marine structures and vessels at appropriate locations, in particular at Campbeltown, Greenock, Hunterston, Troon, and Ayr, and where the proposal demonstrates a positive impact on the regeneration of local areas.	
SHIP 3: Proposals for development and/or use will be supported, particularly where they deliver more sustainable transport, in relation to: a) ferry or related shoreside infrastructure initiatives that improve connectivity to the Kintyre peninsula, the Cowal peninsula and islands of Arran, Bute or the Cumbraes, b) ferry or related shoreside infrastructure initiatives that improve connectivity between the Kintyre peninsula and Northern Ireland, c) infrastructure relating to supporting bulk freight by sea; and/or d) movement connections along, to and across the Clyde estuary.	It is not possible to identify where, when or how the policy may be implemented, or where its effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 3e**.

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SHIP 4: Proposals for capital and/or maintenance dredging activities should demonstrate that they have considered practicable and cost-effective environmental enhancement measures, such as beneficial use of dredged material or dredging methods that retain sediment in the natural system, and how these measures will be delivered, where this is practicable.	These are general criteria-based policies which express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. These policies do not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
SHIP 5: Proposals for new or upgraded infrastructure related to the powering of vessels, such as shoreside power facilities, or treatment of waste from closed loop exhaust gas cleaning systems or similar, will be supported where the infrastructure proposal demonstrates a long-term contribution to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and/or a reduction in pollution from wastewater in the Clyde Marine Region.	
rSHIP 1: The use of compliant fuel is encouraged in the Clyde Marine Region. If an exhaust gas cleaning system is fitted, it should be used in closed loop mode. Large parts of the navigable Clyde are dredged; therefore, until there is sufficient evidence to be confident that the use of open loop scrubbers will not impact negatively on sediment quality (and hence on the ability to dispose of dredged sediment to sea), open loop scrubbers or hybrid scrubbers in open loop mode should not be used in the Clyde Marine Region. This applies in transit, at berth and at anchorage. The waste from the exhaust gas cleaning system should only be disposed at ports where appropriate reception facilities are available.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to encourage the use of compliant fuel in the Region. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
ENCA 1: Proposals for development and/or use relating to offshore wind and marine renewable energy, including test facilities, should demonstrate that they have considered that: a) proposals for commercial-scale developments are sited in draft Plan Option areas identified through the Sectoral Marine Plan process (see Map ENCA 1 and further information section below); b) due regard has been paid to relevant factors in the Sectoral Marine Plans and supporting documentation/assessments (as appropriate); c) proposals for small-scale offshore wind developments undertake early and proactive engagement with relevant public authorities and relevant stakeholders; and d) where applicable, detailed infrastructure restoration and maintenance plans are included for the full lifespan of any proposal, including any decommissioning/remediation required.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
ENCA 2: Proposals for developments will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they contribute to a sustainable, secure and inclusive energy transition, taking account of our Climate Change Policies and in line with statutory marine and land use planning policy, environmental regulations and industry best practice.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rENCA 1: The laying, replacement and maintenance of communication and power cables and any oil and gas pipelines is encouraged where: a) existing routes and landing points are used where practicable, and/or b) the required mitigation and monitoring plans are produced.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to express expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This recommendation does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
rDEF 1: His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde is encouraged to integrate any increased levels of Ministry of Defence marine activity in the Clyde Marine Region in accordance with this Plan, ensuring wide engagement with other marine users.	This recommendation is a general statement which sets out a strategic aspiration for the CRMP to support His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde to integrate Ministry of Defence activities in accordance with this Plan. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.
AGG 1: Proposals for the extraction of marine aggregates should demonstrate that they have considered: a) providing a description of the alternatives that have been considered, such as alternative sources or materials, including dredged material; and b) demonstrating that marine aggregate extraction is an essential part of the proposed project. Where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, the proposal should demonstrate that it has considered an assessment of the physical effects of the operation, including any implications for coastal sediment dynamics.	This is a general criteria-based policy which expresses expectations that will need to be taken into account when considering proposals. This policy does not undermine the conservation objectives of any European sites and will therefore not have a likely significant effect on these sites. **Screened out** of the appraisal under **screening stage 1**.