Clyde Regional Marine Plan
Statement of Public Participation

November 2026



Fig 1: Clyde Marine Region

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Introduction

This document is called the Statement of Public Participation. The purpose of this document is to set out the key stages involved in the development and production of a Clyde Regional Marine Plan and how stakeholders and the wider public can engage in the marine planning process.

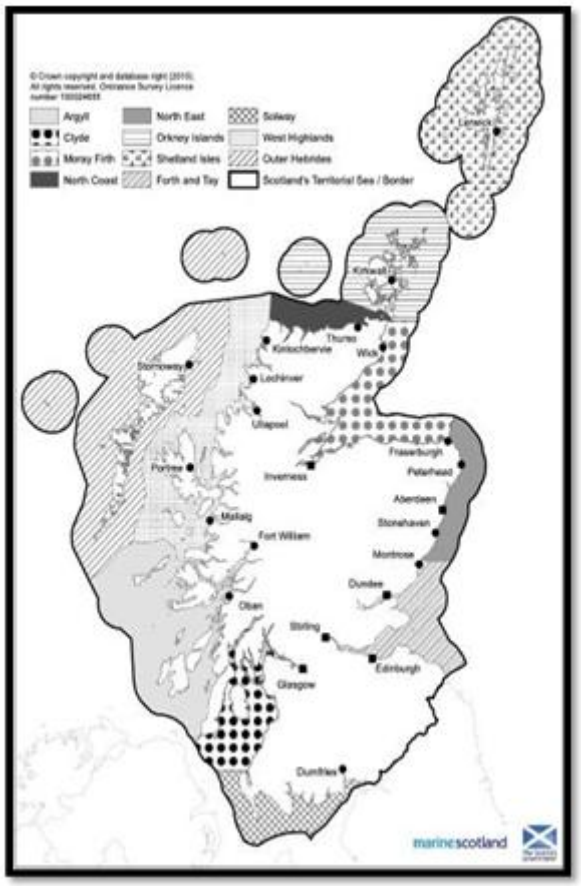


Fig 2: Illustrative Map of Scottish Marine Regions

Background

The Marine (Scotland) Act achieved Royal assent on 10 March 2010. The Act provides a framework which will help to balance competing demands on Scotland's seas. It introduced a duty to protect and enhance the marine environment and support sustainable development. In line with this duty, the Scottish National Marine Plan, adopted and published in 2015, provides the policies and objectives for the management of Scotland's seas. In September 2022, Scottish Ministers announced their intention to update the National Marine Plan. National Marine Plan 2 is expected to be published in 2028.

The Marine Scotland Act allows for the creation of Scottish Marine Regions. These have been established and extend out to 12nm (see Figure 2). Following on from this, regional marine planning partnerships have been established to take forward marine planning in 3 of the regions thus far. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) is one such partnership working to create a Regional Marine Plan for the Clyde. The CMPP is made up of a range of stakeholders from around the Clyde Marine Region. A list of the partnership's members is included in Appendix A. Members meet every quarter to discuss the development of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

The CMPP members aim to build a marine plan based on consensus; however, the CMPP Board is there to facilitate decision-making if needed. For more information, including the core objectives of the CMPP, please see our website.

The Plan will create a framework for integrated, sustainable and co-ordinated planning and management of the Clyde Marine Region's environmental, economic and community resources. In accordance with the Marine (Scotland) Act, neighbouring administrations of the Clyde Marine Region have been informed that a Clyde Regional Marine Plan is being prepared and details of consultation will be available through this Statement of Public Participation (SPP).

This SPP has been developed in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Act and approved for publication by Scottish Ministers. It also follows the 7 National Standards for Community Engagement[1]. The National Standards for Community Engagement are clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community engagement. They are built around the values of: Inclusion, Support, Planning, Working together, Methods, Communication and Impact.

[1] http://www.voicescotland.org.uk/Seven-NS/

Statement of Public Participation: Participation Commitment

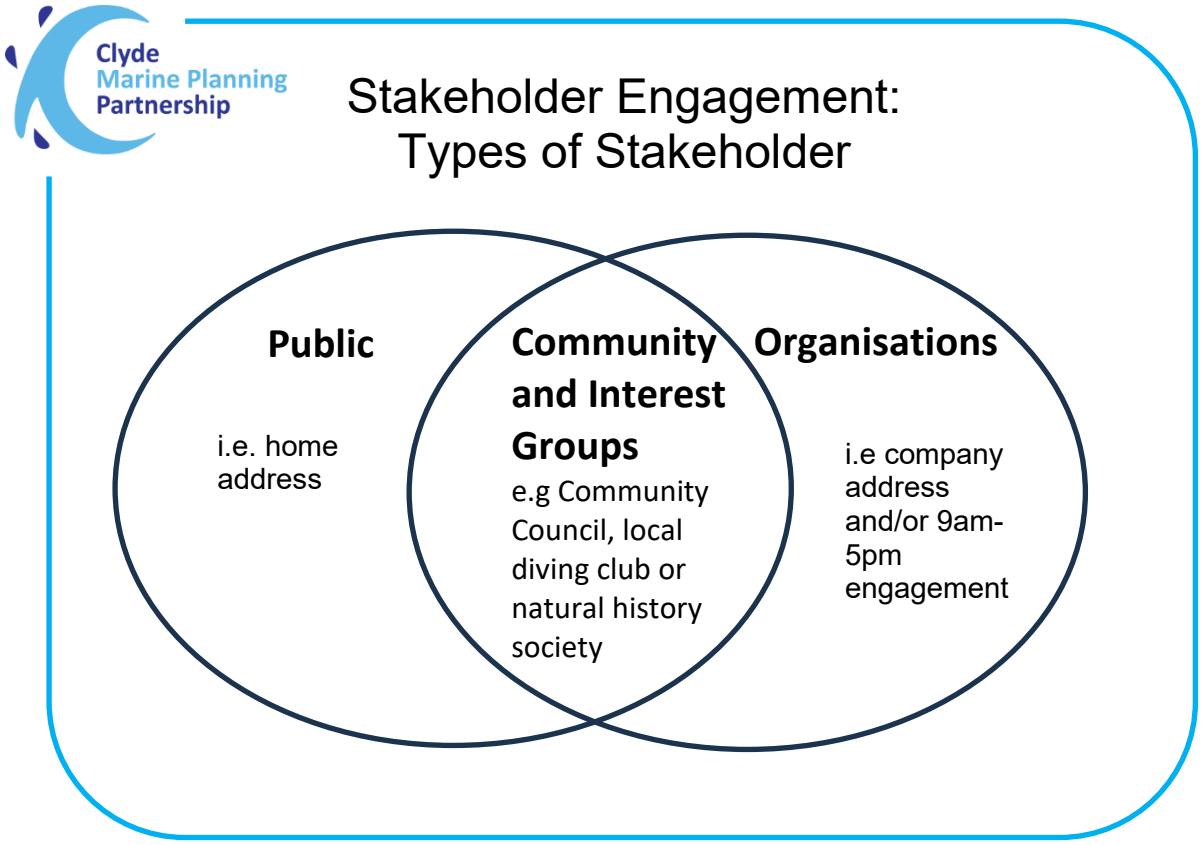
The CMPP is committed to:

- Providing opportunities for all stakeholders and members of the public to be involved in the development of policies that will impact upon them.
- Ensuring that arrangements for participation are inclusive, clear and transparent.
- Providing communications through a range of formats that are easy to understand.
- Ensuring that all representations are fully considered.

Involving stakeholders from the beginning of the planning process has been vital for the creation of the Clyde Marine Plan. The participation process has and must continue to involve a number of key sectors including environmental conservation/protection, recreation and commercial interests. However, we aim to continue to engage as wide a range of stakeholders as possible including the members of the CMPP and other businesses and organisations with an interest in development of the Plan and also, importantly, members of the public.

Types of stakeholder – three groups of stakeholder types have been identified.

- Public - those are identified by a home address only and who we usually do not have contact details for unless they have joined our mailing list.
- Community and Interest Groups - groups and organisations who have a structure and are identifiable e.g. a community council or beach clean group.
- Organisations - organisations approachable through a business address and who are engaged mostly during working hours.



Preparation and Participation Timetable

This Statement of Public Participation (SPP) provides the process and participation timetable involved in creating the Clyde Regional Marine Plan and as the Plan's process develops, the SPP will be updated to give details on future events and information on events as they have occurred. Events have taken place throughout the Region in previous years, and more will be planned with a good geographical spread and to give as many people as possible an opportunity to engage with the development of the Plan.

The process to create a Clyde Regional Marine Plan involves the following 10 stages, some of which have already taken place. Indicative timeframes are also given.

Stage 1: Initial meetings to raise awareness of marine planning and where Partnership Members discussed the scope and content of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan: March – July 2017

Stage 2: Public and stakeholder workshops and events: July 2017 – June 2018

Stage 3: Preparation of Pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and early stage work to inform the Sustainability Appraisal, which included the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): July 2017 - June 2018

Stage 4: 6 week opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the Pre-consultation draft Clyde Marine Plan and supporting documents: June 2018 – July 2018

Stage 5: Development of the consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan in response to comments made during the pre-consultation period: August 2018 – March 2019

Stage 6: Draft Plan reviewed by the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate and approval of the draft Plan by Scottish Ministers for public consultation: April 2019 – October 2026

Stage 7: 16 week consultation on the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and associated supporting documents (including SA-SEA, partial BRIA, EQIA and CRWIA): November 2026 – February 2027

Stage 8: Revision of the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan in response to comments made during consultation on the Plan and supporting information, and submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval to publish: Spring/Summer 2027

Stage 9: Consideration by Scottish Ministers followed by adoption and publication of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan along with relevant supporting information: Autumn/Winter 2027

Stage 10: Review, monitoring and reporting on plan implementation, and any amendment of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan: Plan adoption onwards, 2028

Stage 1: Initial meetings to raise awareness of marine planning and where Partnership Members discussed the scope and content of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

March – July 2017

Initial meetings where CMPP Members discussed the scope and content of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan			
Date	**Location**	**Timing**	**Details**
22.03.2017	Peelports Office, Robertson Street, Glasgow	10.30-16.00	Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) Members meeting and Annual Members Meeting
18.04.2017	Clydeplan offices, Regent St, Glasgow	10.30-16.00	'What is Marine Planning in the Clyde' CMPP members meeting
27.06.2017	Abode Hotel, Glasgow	10.30-16.00	Clyde Marine Planning Partnership Members meeting NB – Quarterly Members meetings are not open to the public. Minutes are published on the website.
Initial meetings to raise awareness of marine planning			
23.05.2017	Lochgilphead Community Centre	12.30-14.00	Marine Spatial Planning challenge introductory game – open session.
23.05.2017	Arrochar Three Villages Hall	19.30-21.00	
24.05.2017	West of Scotland College, Greenock	11.00-12.30	
04.07.2017	Riverside Museum, Glasgow	18.30-21.00	Marine Spatial Planning challenge introductory game - Targeted workshops working with divers and rowers to introduce marine planning and develop understanding.
05.07.2017	Arran High School, Lamlash	18.30-21.00	
07.07.2017	Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club, Greenock	18.30-21.00	
03.05.2017	Village Hotel, Glasgow	10.00-12.00	Marine recreation stakeholder meeting, Royal Yachting Association Scotland, British Marine Scotland and Sail Scotland.
Other Meetings			
25.05.2017	Victoria Quay, Edinburgh	11.00-15.00	Stakeholder meeting regarding Clyde scallop stock assessment.

Stage 2: Public and stakeholder workshops and event.

<u>September 2017 – August 2018</u>

To assist with planning engagement the CMPP identified four geographical areas across the Marine Region. They are the inner Clyde estuary, outer Clyde Estuary, upper lochs and islands. For planning purposes these boundaries are flexible and the areas should be regarded as a guide only.



Events were held across the four areas to raise awareness of the Clyde Regional

Marine Plan and invited representation on what should be included in the plan and input was encouraged for development of policy options.

Engagement with stakeholders gathered feedback and opinions on the main issues and informed the development of policy options. There were a number of 1-2-1 and group meetings and events including sectoral working groups and workshops to inform the development of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

The working groups were made up of relevant Members of the CMPP and wider stakeholders were invited to take part. Some events were tailored to attract specific interest groups, to inform discussion on specific issues and sectors. Initially meetings focussed on:

- National sectoral ambitions and how the Clyde Marine Region can contribute.
- Opportunities and constraints including any interactions with other sectors.
- Cross-cutting theme of 'climate change mitigation and adaptation'.
- The ecosystem approach i.e. taking account of how nature works and the benefits that it provides to people (ecosystem services).
- Brexit considerations – how it may impact the regional marine plan.
- Development of policy options including spatial elements and SEA considerations.

Working Groups	
The timing of these groups varied. The working groups met as often as necessary but met at least twice by Jan/Feb 2018 to input to development of the pre-consultation draft.	Working Groups were developed on: • Fisheries (working with West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG), Clyde 2020 and wider stakeholders e.g. processors) • Aquaculture • Sports, recreation and tourism • Shipping, ports, harbours and ferries. A regional socio-economic working group will consider initially: • A desk-top project to review marine and coastal elements of reports, strategies and plans which are already available to inform this area of work. • The work will inform development of social and economic objectives of the plan.
Workshops	
The timing and venues for these events were advertised at least two weeks in advance. Initially a one-day workshop was planned for each topic, but if discussion or particular topics warrant more than one was held.	Workshops were facilitated on the following topics: • Mobile species (mammals, sharks, skates, rays, seabirds and waterbirds) and underwater noise. • Marine Litter (especially plastic) • Marine invasive non-native species and biosecurity. • Submarine cables

Stage 3: Preparation of Pre-consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and early stage work to inform the Sustainability Appraisal, which included Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

September 2017 - February 2019

The pre-consultation draft was a very early draft of the Regional Marine Plan which reflected discussions with stakeholders and the public and set out the Clyde Marine Region objectives, policy options and gave detail on the potential impacts of the policies to be considered. It was set out to be an adaptable document still open to considerable change. The pre-consultation draft was published on the CMPP website and views were sought on the content in June-July 2018.

Once adopted, the Clyde Regional Marine Plan will contribute to the management of the competing demands for the use of the Clyde Marine Region while protecting and enhancing the marine environment. The Plan has the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects. The draft Plan has been produced using the Ecosystem Approach, which looks to: take account of how nature works; take account of the benefits that nature provides to people (ecosystem services); and involve people in decision-making.

The Clyde Regional Marine Plan will also be assessed for impact on a wide range of areas. Reports of the following assessments have been prepared alongside the Plan:

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
In Scotland, public bodies are required to assess, consult on, and monitor the likely impacts their plans, programmes and strategies will have on the environment. This process is known as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)
Under the Habitats Regulations, all competent authorities must consider any plan or project could affect a European site before it can be authorised or carried out. This included considering whether it will have a 'likely significant effect' on a European site, and if so, they must carry out an 'appropriate assessment'. This is known as a Habitats Regulation Appraisal. The term 'European Site' is used to refer to what were previously known as Natura 2000 sites. In Scotland, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are given legal protection by the Habitats Regulations.

Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)
A partial BRIA have been developed to inform and assess the impacts of the regional marine plan policies. A BRIA is used to assess the costs, benefits and risks of any proposed legislation, regulations, policy changes or guidance that may have an impact on the public, private or third sector or regulators. A partial BRIA will be published during the statutory consultation period to gather feedback from those stakeholders affected by the change.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)
A draft EqIA has been produced that assesses the likely impact of the proposed policies against the needs to the equality duty, taking into account relevant evidence relating to different groups of people. The EqIA has identified potential negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics and adapt accordingly, in compliance with legislation.

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)
A draft CRWIA has been produced that assesses the potential impacts of all proposed policies on children's human rights and wellbeing.

Island Community Impact Assessment (ICIA)
A draft ICIA has been produced in line with the requirements under the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. The ICIA assesses and takes into account the impacts the draft Plan policies might have on islands communities, and how it can improve or mitigate the outcomes of those policies for the communities.

Stage 4: 6 week opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the Pre-consultation draft Clyde Marine Plan and supporting document.

June 2018 – July 2018

The pre-consultation draft Plan and associated documents were made public on the website and people could respond by either following the 'Consultation Responses' button on the consultation web page, by email or by post.

The feedback at this stage was collated and analysed and a summary published on the website. The CMPP have given regard to the representations made and they have been used to inform development of the statutory consultation draft of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

Stage 5: Development of the consultation draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan in response to comments made during the pre-consultation period.

August 2018 – March 2019

The Plan was revised in light of comments received, and a further version of the Plan was developed. Further dialogue was undertaken with stakeholders, and policy options were refined in line with the SEA and other assessments.

Stage 6: Draft Plan reviewed by the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate and approval of the draft Plan by Scottish Ministers for public consultation.

April 2019 – October 2026

Scottish Ministers have considered the draft Plan along with the associated documents and provided feedback. This process required several iterations of the draft plan to be produced as feedback was received from Marine Directorate on multiple occasions. The consultation draft was submitted to Scottish Ministers for their agreement to its publication in October 2026. Permission was granted on the 27th October and the draft plan was published on the CMPP website and brought to the attention of interested parties the week after.

Stage 7: 16 week consultation on the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and associated supporting documents (including SA-SEA, partial BRIA, EQIA and CRWIA).

November 2026 – February 2027

The draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan was published in November 2026. The public consultation for the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan went live on 4th November 2027 and will close on 24th February 2027. Consultation events will be held in multiple geographical locations to reach the wide range of communities of the Clyde. These events will be advertised online, via email and in the printed press. Consultation information is available on the website and has been sent out in email alerts to our stakeholder database. A questionnaire will form the basis of the consultation; and this is available on the website and has been sent out in e-alerts to our e-newsletter subscribers.

In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the consultation period for the Plan and SEA Environmental Report has been advertised in relevant newspapers. The CMPP will take such further steps as it considers appropriate to ensure

that the proposals contained in the consultation draft are brought to the attention of interested persons.

Those that wish to respond to the consultation can either fill out the response form on our website, or download the response form, fill it out and submit it via email to info@clydemarineplan.scot, or post it to us at Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, Floor 7, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

Summary of consultation events proposed and indicative timescales

Event Type 1: Web Publication	Audience: All	Date: November 2026 – February 2027
Details	The draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan and associated SEA and BRIA and other supporting draft documents have been published on the CMPP website; the consultation will run for 16 weeks.	
Publicity Method	Newspaper advertisement, social media, e-alerts, press release	
Event Type 2: Public meetings	Audience: All	Date: November 2026 – February 2027
Details: in person meetings	During the 16-week consultation period, CMPP will hold a series of public meetings/workshops to raise awareness and discuss the draft Plan and associated SEA, HRA, BRIA, EqIA, CRWIA and ICIA. Drop-in sessions and/or presentations will take place across at least 15 different venues on 15 separate dates. There will be a mixture of morning, afternoon and evening meetings on weekdays and weekends.	
Publicity Method	Social media, press release, e-alerts, direct invite, press release	
Event Type 3: Virtual public meetings	Audience: All	Date: November 2026 – February 2027
Details	During the 16-week consultation period, CMPP will hold a series of virtual presentations and discussions to raise awareness and discuss the draft Plan and associated SEA, HRA, BRIA, EqIA, CRWIA and ICIA. These sessions will involve a presentation and time for Q&A. They will be at least 12 scheduled on 12 different dates. There will be a mixture of morning, afternoon and evening meetings on weekdays and weekends.	
Publicity Method	Social media, e-alerts, printed press, direct invite	
Event Type 4: One to one meetings	Audience: All	Date: November 2026 – February 2027
Details:	One to one meetings with CMPP can be requested by any interested parties. Your organisation or community may wish to speak to the marine planning team and they would be happy to set up a face-to-face or online meeting to discuss the draft Plan.	
Publicity Method	Social media, e-alerts, direct invite	
Event Type 5: Stakeholder updates	Audience: All	2-3 times per year
Details	Stakeholder database emailed updates on progress and how they can participate in the plan making process.	

Stage 8: Revision of the draft Clyde Regional Marine Plan in response to comments made during consultation on the Plan and supporting information, and submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval to publish.

Spring/Summer 2027

The draft Plan and relevant supporting documents will be revised in response to comments made during consultation. As stated in the Marine (Scotland) Act and subsequent Ministerial Direction to the CMPP, following the publication of the consultation draft Plan, the CMPP,

along with Scottish Ministers, must consider whether or not to appoint an independent person to investigate and report on the proposals contained in the draft. Any independent review will take place at this stage, and prior to the Ministerial clearance process, and will be published.

Stage 9: Consideration by Scottish Ministers followed by adoption and publication of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan along with relevant supporting information.

Autumn/Winter 2027/2028

The CMPP must publish the Regional Marine Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after its adoption by Scottish Ministers, together with the following:

- any supporting assessments, documents and information agreed by Scottish Ministers
- a statement on any modifications that have been made to the proposals published in the consultation draft for the Plan, and the reasons for those modifications
- a statement on recommendations from an appointed independent person (if applicable)
- a statement on recommendations from an independent person that have not been implemented (if applicable).

Stage 10: Review, monitoring and reporting on plan implementation, and any amendment of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

Plan adoption onwards, 2028

As the marine environment is constantly developing and evolving, it is important that CMPP members continue to review the Clyde Regional Marine Plan after its publication. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership must keep the following under review in line with the Marine Scotland Act 2010:

- the designation of any area as a Scottish marine region
- the preparation, adoption, amendment or withdrawal of a national or regional marine plan.
- the effects of the policies in the plan
- the effectiveness of the policies in securing that the objectives for which the plan was prepared and adopted are met
- the progress being made towards securing the objectives
- the progress being made towards securing that the objectives in the regional marine plan secure the objectives in the national marine plan.

The CMPP will also prepare a report on the matters kept under review and submit this to the Scottish Ministers. The first report must be published within 5 years from the date of adoption of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan. Scottish Ministers must then consider and decide if the Regional Marine Plan needs to be amended or even replaced.

Appendix A:
Members of the CMPP (as of November 2026)

- Argyll & Bute Council
- Bakkafrost
- British Marine Scotland
- Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited
- CalMac Ferries Ltd
- Clyde Coastal Community Councils
- Clydeport Operations Ltd.
- Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Field Studies Council Millport
- Glasgow City Region Place
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
- NatureScot
- North Ayrshire Council
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Royal Yachting Association Scotland
- Scottish Canals
- Scottish Environment LINK
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- Scottish Sea Anglers Conservation Network
- South Ayrshire Council
- Visit Scotland

Individual Members

- Anthony Gallagher – Chairperson
- Alex Watson-Crook - SIFT
- Alistair Hamilton - South West Regional Inshore Fisheries Group
- Elaine Whyte - Clyde Fishermen’s Association