

# Marine Scotland – Strategic Planning, Consenting & Licensing

David Pratt & Zoe Crutchfield

A blue-tinted photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are large, dark, jagged rock formations. The middle ground shows a calm bay or inlet with a sandy beach. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky. The entire image is overlaid with white, curved, abstract shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

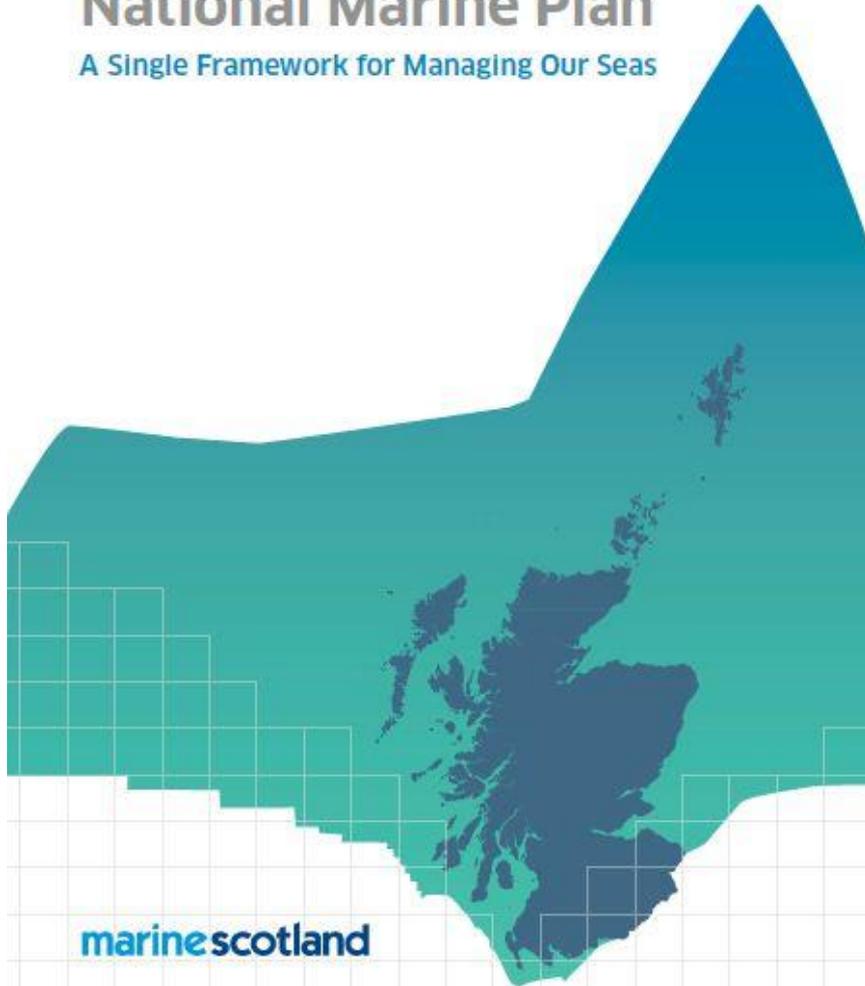
marinescotland

# National and Regional Marine Planning



## Scotland's National Marine Plan

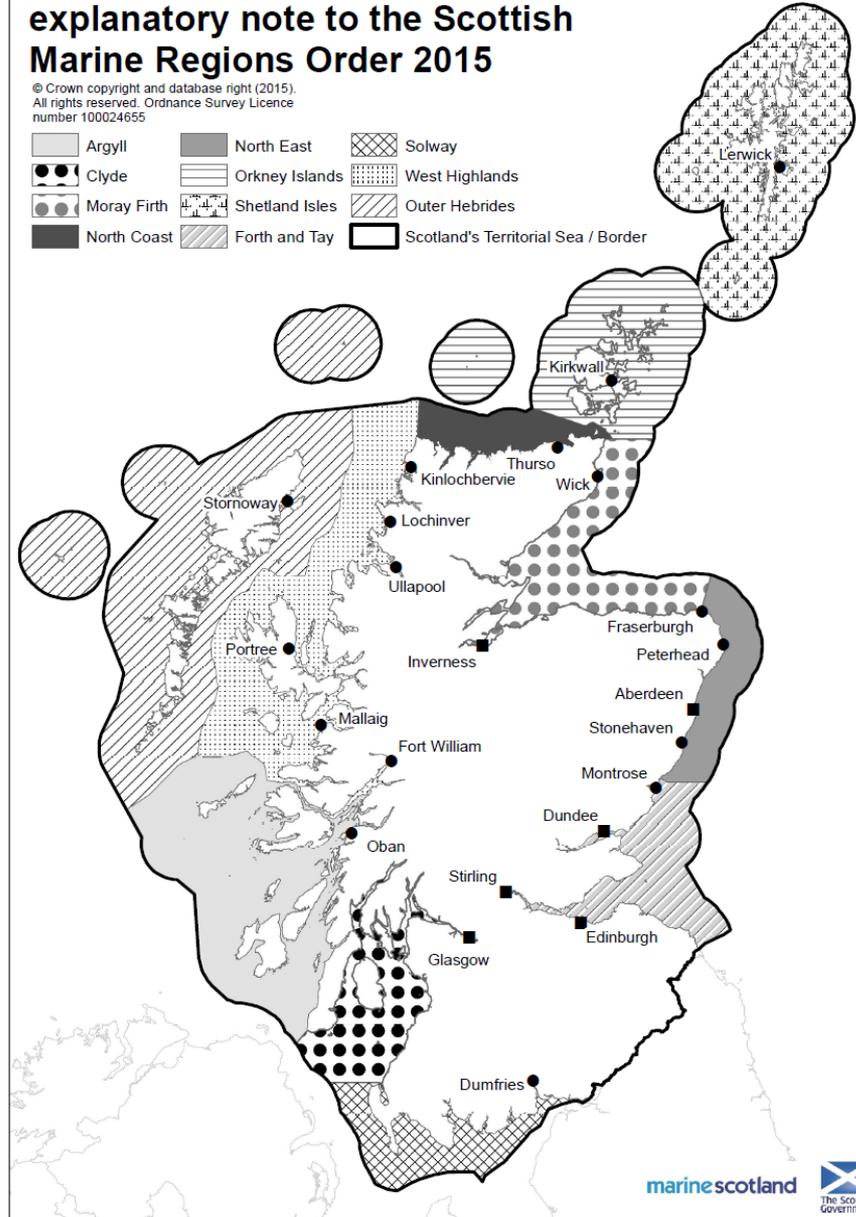
A Single Framework for Managing Our Seas



### Illustrative map referred to in the explanatory note to the Scottish Marine Regions Order 2015

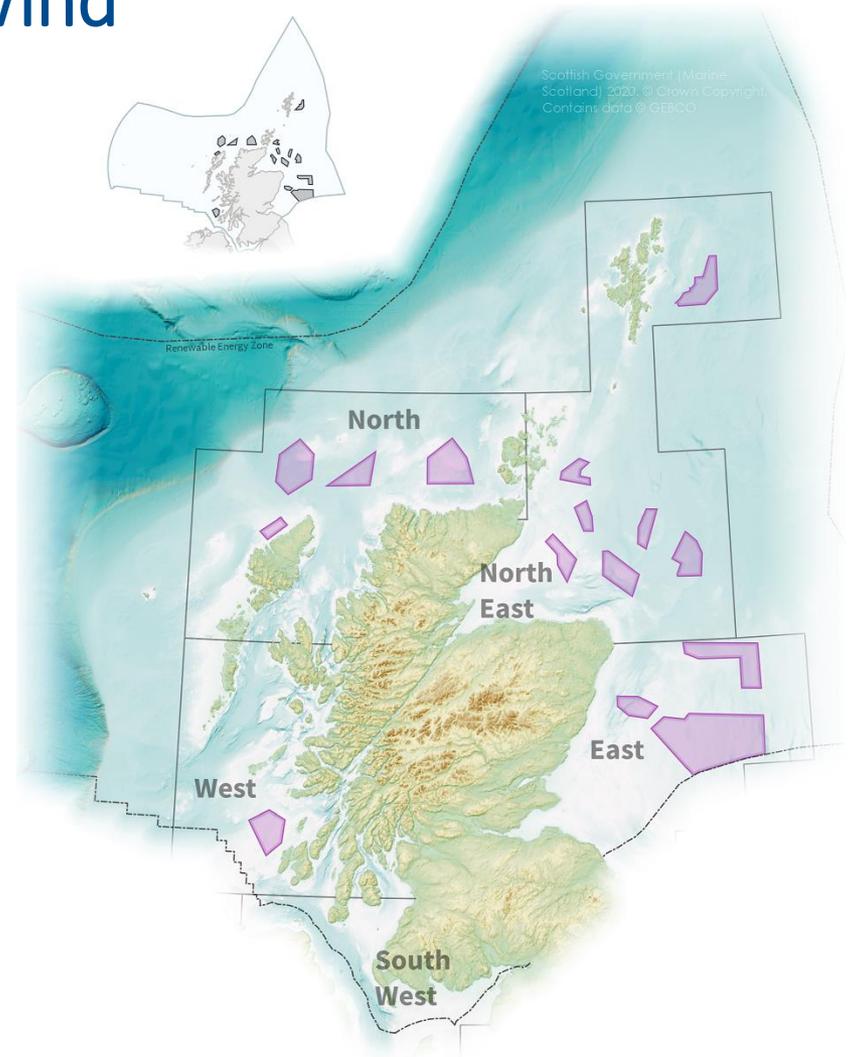
© Crown copyright and database right (2015).  
All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100024655

- |             |                |                                     |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Argyll      | North East     | Solway                              |
| Clyde       | Orkney Islands | West Highlands                      |
| Moray Firth | Shetland Isles | Outer Hebrides                      |
| North Coast | Forth and Tay  | Scotland's Territorial Sea / Border |

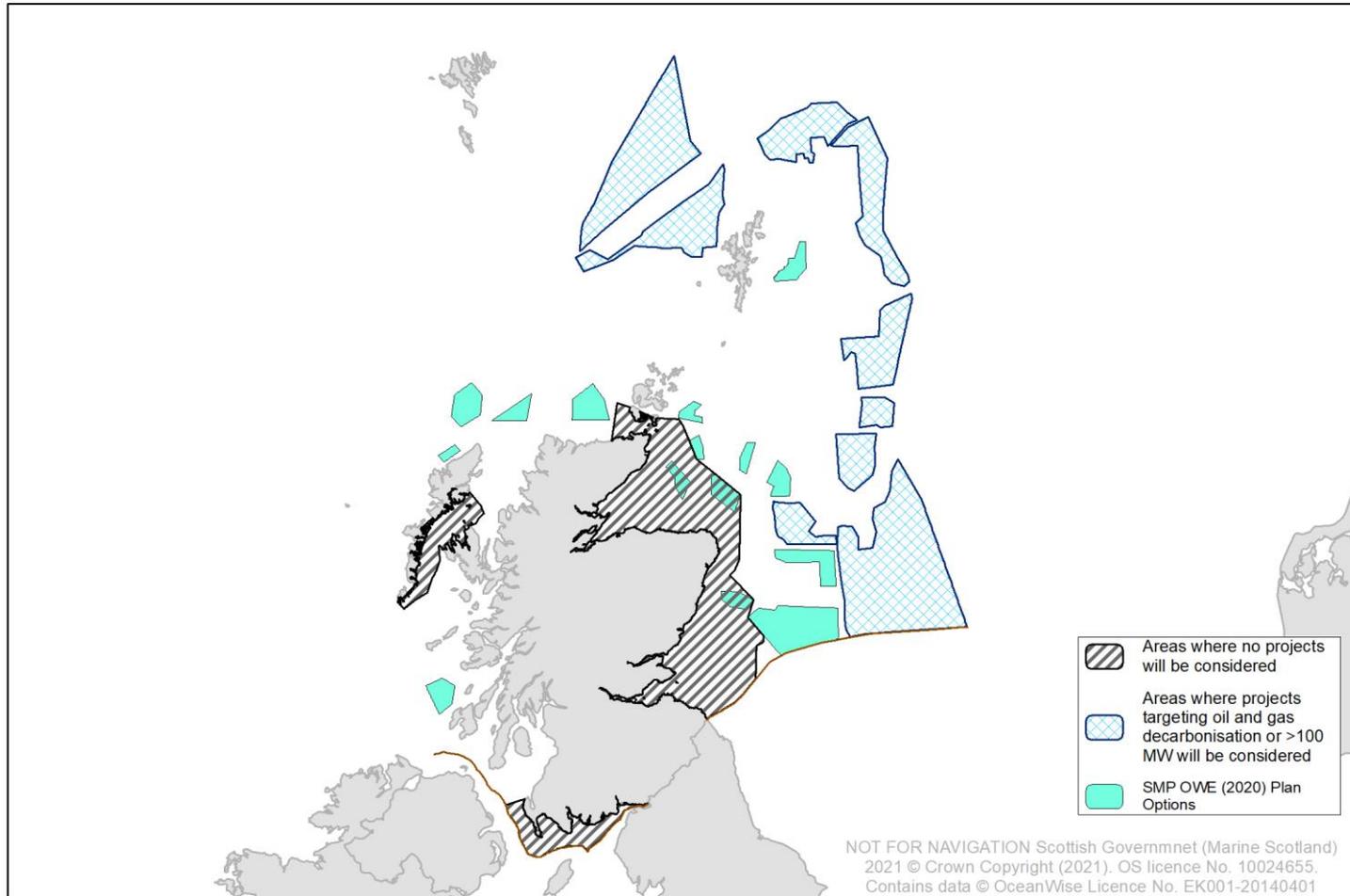


# Sectoral Marine Plan & ScotWind

- ScotWind (seabed leasing by Crown Estate Scotland) follows the adoption of the Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore Wind Energy (2020)
  - 15 Plan Options
  - 10 GW potential generation capacity
- Detailed Environmental and Socio-economic Assessments
- Plan and project level mitigation measures to avoid or minimise negative impact, particularly on seabirds and Special Protection Areas.



# Sectoral Marine Plan & INTOG Leasing



# Key Challenges

- **Prioritisation**
- **Sustainable Development vs Climate Emergency**
  - **Environmental impact conflicts/Natural Capital**
- **National & Local Economic Benefit**
- *Effective Local Engagement*
- *Increasing our Knowledge*

# Research and Data

marinescotland

**ScotMER**

**Scottish Marine Energy Research Programme**

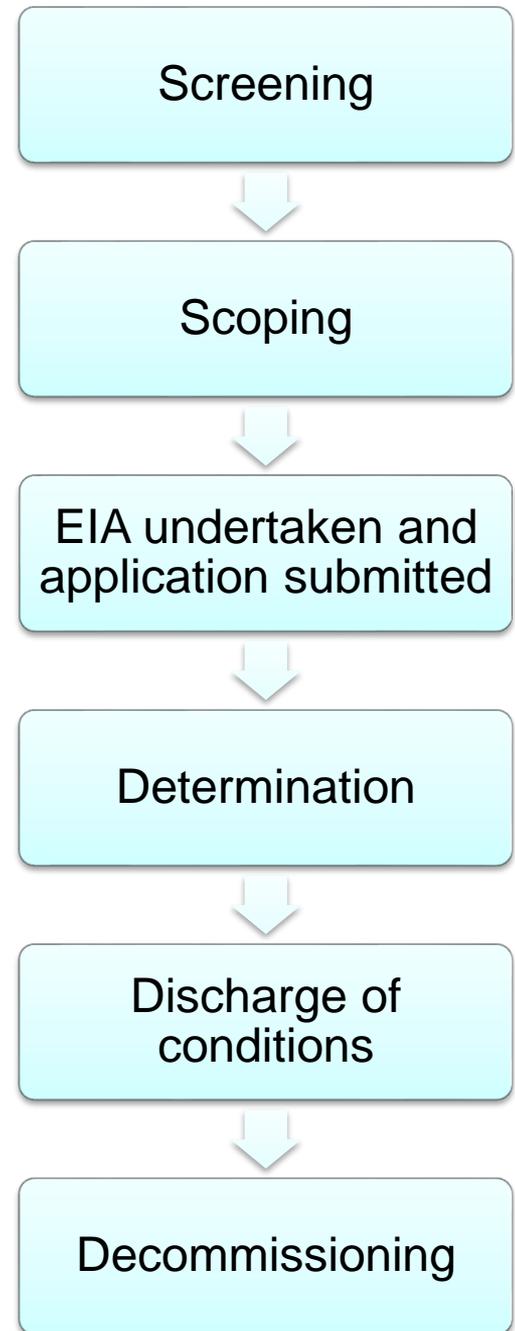
Collaborative research to support the sustainable development of offshore renewable energy in Scotland's seas



# Licensing and Consenting

- Electricity Act 1989 – Section 36
- Marine Licence
  - 0 and 12 NM
- Marine Scotland Act 2010
  - 12 and 200 NM
- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
- MS-LOT issue Scoping Opinion
- Recommendation to Scottish Ministers
- Energy Act - Decommissioning

**marinescotland**



# Scoping Scoping Scoping

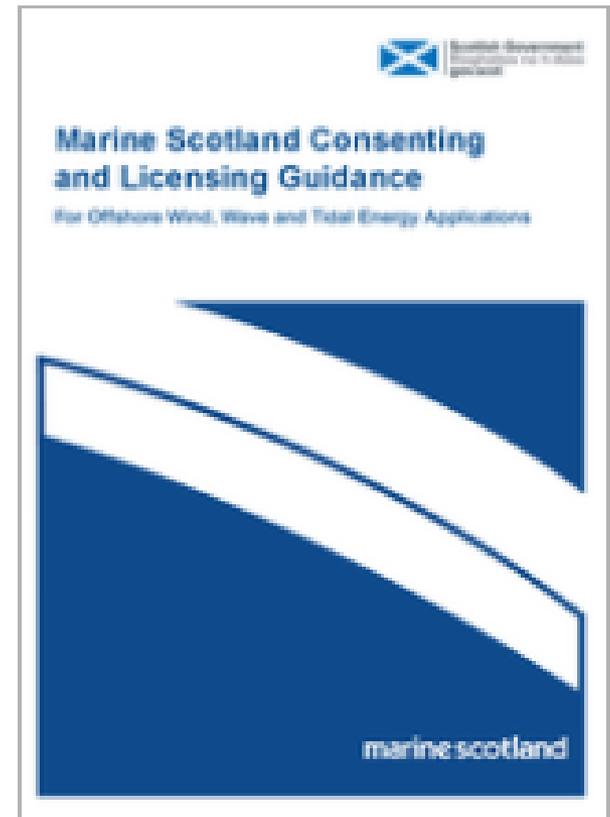


- ...BUT at the right time
  - Too early – changes in project design
  - Too late – decisions already made
- Design Envelope
  - Too tight – changes post consent
  - Too wide – EIA difficult especially cumulative impacts
  - Consider technological developments

# More Scoping Scoping Scoping

- **Get your guidance ready!**
- **Methodologies**
  - Surveys – birds, fish, marine mammals, benthic, visual
  - EIA Assessment & presentation
  - Cumulative Impacts
- **Validity – 1 Year for Scoping Opinion**

**marinescotland**





# Determination – Grant Licences

- **Statutory Consultees**
  - Conservation bodies, navigation, local authorities
- **Stakeholders**
  - Trade bodies – renewables, commercial fisheries, shipping
  - NGO – Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), Wildlife Trusts etc.
  - Individual members of the public
- **Regulatory determination frameworks & standard operating procedures**



# Lessons learned

- Clear consent conditions and **MINIMISE!**
- Clear overarching policies
  - Sectoral and Marine Plans
  - Conflicts between marine users
- Encourage digital EIA
- Resources and technical expertise – everyone needs resource – is there enough to go around?
- Stakeholder management
- Decision making frameworks

# Any questions?

- Planning and policy

David Pratt – Head of Planning and Policy

[David.Pratt@gov.scot](mailto:David.Pratt@gov.scot)

- Licensing and Consenting

Zoe Crutchfield – Head of Licensing Operations Team

[Zoe.Crutchfield@gov.scot](mailto:Zoe.Crutchfield@gov.scot)



# Useful links

## Useful Link

ScotWind Sectoral Plan - [Sectoral marine plan for offshore wind energy - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-for-offshore-wind-energy/pages/introduction.aspx)

INTOG Sectoral Plan - [Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind for Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Decarbonisation \(INTOG\) - Planning Specification and Context Report | Marine Scotland Information](#)

Marine Scotland – Licensing Manual (This manual will be updated next year so keep an eye out!) - [Offshore wind, wave and tidal energy applications: consenting and licensing manual - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/offshore-wind-wave-and-tidal-energy-applications-consenting-and-licensing-manual/pages/introduction.aspx)

ScotMer - [Marine renewable energy: Science and research - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-renewable-energy-science-and-research/pages/introduction.aspx) – It's worth trying to get to one of the yearly symposium we run – good updates and networking

MASTS – Science and Research – [Marine Energy Forum - Welcome to Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland \(MASTS\)](https://www.marineenergyforum.com/) – again there's a yearly meeting which is worth attending.

Crown Estate Scotland – [ScotWind - Our projects - Crown Estate Scotland](https://www.crownestate.scot.nhs.uk/our-projects/)

SOWEC - [Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council \(offshorewindscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/)

ORJIP – Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme - [ORJIP](https://www.orjip.co.uk/)

OWIC - [OWIC | OFTO](https://www.owic.co.uk/) – May be useful links here if you are thinking about your grid infrastructure and how to manage

OWEC - [Offshore Wind Evidence and Change Programme | The Crown Estate](https://www.offshorewindevidenceandchange.com/)