

Developing proposals for coastal and marine National Parks



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The Task....



- To develop proposals for the aims, powers, governance and funding of a coastal and marine NP
- To identify one or more possible areas
- To identify the added value
- To prepare advice by end of March 2006



Key Aspects...

- Ministerial request
- Proposals to build on the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.
- Initial steps in longer process
- Stakeholder engagement, not consultation



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Ministerial Steer...

- Include areas of land & sea
- No areas ruled in or out
- Need to have potential for public access and enjoyment
- Need to generate significant community benefits



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SNH programme of work



1. Engagement with stakeholders
2. Review and policy development
3. Developing the assessment framework
4. Identifying and assessing possible areas



Engagement with stakeholders



- Invitation to contribute
- Press and PR to raise awareness
- Establishment of stakeholder group
- National seminars on 30th November (Inverness) and 8th December (Glasgow)
- SNH web site (www.snh.org.uk)



Review and Policy Development

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- Commissioned research
 - marine & coastal recreation
 - sustainable tourism
 - relevant protected areas experience
- Papers on added value, powers and functions, governance, funding.



Emerging Issues - Powers

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- Possible Coastal functions?
 - Planning Authority
 - Access Authority
- Application of NP (S) Act 2000 below MLWM?
 - National Park Plan
 - Management of marine activities or developments



Emerging Issues - Governance



- Viability of direct elections?
- Implications of single local authority?
- Involvement of key stakeholders from outwith area?

....scope for other approaches?



Developing the Assessment Framework



Stage 1	Develop indicators for criteria and collate data – identify broad areas	By Mid Nov
Stage 2	Develop more specific proposals for areas	By Mid Dec
Stage 3	Comparative assessment of areas	By mid Feb

The Legislative Criteria

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- Outstanding national importance
 - Natural heritage
 - Combination of natural and cultural heritage
- Coherence and collective identity of the area
 - Natural and cultural
 - Management issues
- Special needs of the area

Key Components of Stage 1 Assessment

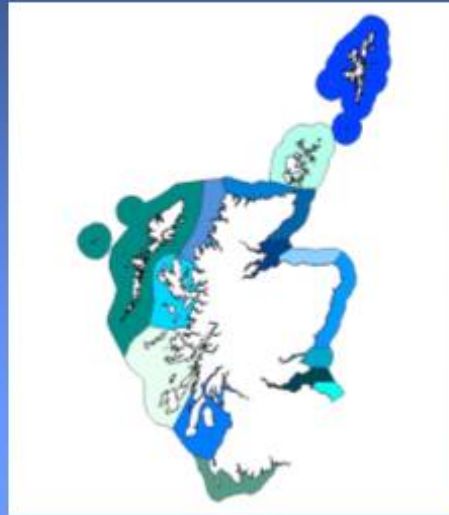
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Biodiversity	BAP priority habitats and species; designated areas, benthos and biotopes; birds; fish, mammals, earth science
Landscape	Designated landscapes; naturalness/wildness
Enjoyment and Recreation	Recreational resources and facilities; training centres and clubs; popular beaches, eco-tourism and tourism operators and visitor attractions
Cultural Heritage	?????

Divisions for Data Collation in the Stage 1 Assessment

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Undertaking Stage 2 and 3

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Stage 2	Generation of long list of more specific proposals for areas	Focus on coherence and collective identity of possible areas
Stage 3	Comparative assessment of specific proposals	Focus on added value of National Park designation

Emerging Issues

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- National importance?
- How far inland, how far out to sea?
- Scale of Park?
- Implications of Ministerial steers?
- Degree of support?



.....the next key steps

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- National seminars (Nov-Dec)
- Final stakeholder group meetings (Feb)
- SNH provides advice to Ministers (March)
- Ministers consult on SNH's advice – second half of 2006
- Ministers initiate designation process – 2007
- Park designated - 2008

Issues for today?

- What's in it for the cultural heritage?
- What cultural heritage values should underpin the assessment ?
- Is there the data to inform the assessment of these values?
- Is there any consensus over possible areas?

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