

Key outcomes from the peer review



Scotland's Marine Assessment 2020 has been subjected to a rigorous peer review. This was viewed by Scotland's Seas Data Assessment Group (SSDAG) as an essential component of the delivery of a robust assessment. The peer reviewers provided detailed comments on all aspects of SMA2020. These were returned to the authors who then responded to the comments. The peer reviewers were asked to respond to a number of questions. Specifically that the assessment:

1. Satisfied the requirements, Section 5 (4) (b) and (c), of the [Marine \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).
2. Supported the National Marine Plan vision for the marine environment: 'clean, healthy, safe, productive, biologically diverse marine and coastal environments, managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people'.
3. Adequately covered the subject areas/sectors of the National Marine Plan.
4. Contained useful and appropriate status and trend information.
5. Contained information focused on the statutory Scottish Marine Regions as well as the non-statutory Offshore Marine Regions.

6. Contained material to support the 'Climate Change – Evidence Base' statements in the National Marine Plan.

7. Contained material to support an ecosystem-based approach.

8. Contained material to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the [Scottish National Performance Framework](#).

The peer reviewers concluded that SMA2020 satisfied the requirements of the relevant sections of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, supported the National Marine Plan vision and contained the necessary material to support the various statements and goals.

The peer reviewers provided a range of useful comments on the various topics, assessments and chapters. These were taken into account in finalising the material available on the SMA2020 Portal and contained within this document. SSDAG would like to acknowledge the considerable contribution of the peer reviewers to the final product.