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Deputy Moz Scott
Chair, Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Office
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BY EMAIL

Dear Deputy Scott,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 November 2023 regarding the Marine Park. Please find below some information to address the queries that you have raised.

Outline of the Marine protected area network / Marine Park within the Marine Spatial Plan

The Draft Marine Spatial Plan has been developed in consultation with stakeholders from the marine industry including fishing, leisure sectors and government bodies, initially through a series of public scoping workshops (Feb to March 2023) and latterly through targeted meetings. The Jersey Fishermen's Association (JFA), Jersey Inshore Fishing Association and recreational fishing representatives were involved at all stages as was the Marine Resources Panel. The JFA provided data on their fishing areas and activities through a proprietary framework called FishMap. The JFA owns FishMap and we only use the data by agreement with them. Access to the FishMap data can be requested from Don Thompson.

Spring MSP scoping Workshops

A summary of the initial March 2023 workshop outputs is attached. Responses have been grouped by subject and set in a table. This provides an overview of the topics that stakeholders wanted the MSP to consider before drafting began.

Draft MSP & Consultation

The above list of topics, together with the objectives set by the States of Jersey, BIP and Carbon Neutral Roadmap, was used to shape the plan's outline. The plan's detail derives from an evidence base of data constructed across several years plus consultation with government departments and organisations (such as Ports of Jersey and energy companies) that have responsibility for key policies, laws, conventions and infrastructure.

The Marine Spatial Plan draft document was published in October for consultation through to the start of next year. The Environment Scrutiny Panel was briefed before release and has taken a decision to comment on/review the version of the plan that will follow after the public consultation, but before submission to the States of Jersey. The Minister for the Environment's Marine Resources Panel has been kept informed of progress and received a briefing on the MSP in the week before release.

The Jersey Fishermen's Association, Jersey Inshore Fishermen's Association and fish merchants' representative were briefed in detail on the MSP's contents immediately before release and have since engaged with the department in formulating a fleet response to the consultation.

Marine Resources officers are arranging a workshop in Guernsey and have scheduled a meeting in France next week to engage regional stakeholders as part of the consultation process. A summary of the MSP document in French has also been provided to the French regional fisheries committees.

As of 14 November, we have received 13 consultation responses and these are collated through an online system. Within the project's DPIA requirements we did not make provision to copy individual responses to anyone beyond the project team. It is intended to download the opinions received at the end of each month and to produce a summary of their contents. These documents can be shared with the Panel at that time.

I hope this information helps to address your queries but if you would like any further information, then please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Renouf', written over a horizontal line.

Deputy Jonathan Renouf
Minister for the Environment