

List of Questions used for Elite Interviewing (national regulators and SNCBs) in England and Scotland

1. Ecologically coherent network and MPAs

-To what extent the provisions to set up an ecologically coherent network of MPAs under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 help filling the gaps left by Natura 2000?

-Which SSSIs with marine components and Ramsar sites will be included in the network and how are they chosen?

-Are you aware of the way in which the process to designate new MPAs and establish the MPA network has been conducted in Scotland (England)? If so, in your view, which country adopted the most effective approach and why?

-Could you provide your assessment of the issues listed below?

- Designation of new sites (e.g. grounds for designation, number of sites, not inclusion of reference areas...)
- Management (e.g. measures, authorities, monitoring...)
- Evidence (e.g. lack of accurate scientific knowledge of the marine environment, lack of integration of non-scientific knowledge into policy decisions, number and type of institutions involved in evidence gathering...)
- Risk (e.g. endorsement of the precautionary principle, ability to cope with unpredictable environmental change...)
- Costs (e.g. monitoring, de-designating sites, conduct new scientific research, costs to be paid by coastal communities and other stakeholders...)
- Time-scale (e.g. time required to set up the network, capability to adapt the network in the face of new information or environmental stressors...)

2. Adaptive Management and MPAs

-How would you define Adaptive Management?

-What are the benefits and challenges of adopting an adaptive management strategy for the UK network of marine protected areas?

-To what extent do you think that the current efforts to set up an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the UK enable adaptive management?