



Section 1: General Policies

The policies within this Plan are designed to guide all marine and coastal users in terms of proposed and existing development(s) and activities. Users of this Plan must also comply with the National Marine Plan and other relevant legislation.

The general policies within this section of the Plan provide a framework for the sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal environment. The policies within this section can be considered cross-cutting, as they are all potentially relevant to any proposal for development or activity by any sector or user of the marine and coastal environment and should be adhered to in advance of the relevant sectoral policy. The chapters are laid out in the same order as they appear in the National Marine Plan.

Each chapter follows the same format, this includes:

- A context which sets out a summary of the main information relevant to the policy area. More information on each of the areas can be found within the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).
- Objectives and policies; objectives provide a measurable strategic aim or goal for each policy area and policies which will deliver the objectives are set out underneath.
- Maps are included at the end of the chapter. For the latest available spatial data, see [National Marine Plan interactive](#) (NMPi). It is recommended that NMPi is used in conjunction with this Clyde Regional Marine Plan.
- Links to further information on the policy area.



Chapter 6: Non-Native Species

Clyde Marine Region Context

Non-native species are those that have been intentionally or unintentionally introduced outside their native range as a consequence of human activity. Once established, if these species then threaten biodiversity and/or cause economic damage, they are referred to as 'invasive'. The Clyde Marine Region is known to have 12 marine non-native species and the arrival of other species, which are already present in other parts of the UK and Ireland, is likely. Under the Water Framework Directive, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency report on a number of non-native



Didemnum vexillum found in Loch Fyne.

species which are present in the Clyde Marine Region. These include leathery sea squirt (*Styela clava*), carpet sea squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*), Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*), wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) and common cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*). Also present in the Clyde Marine Region are a non-native bryozoan (*Tricellaria inopinata*), a hydroid (*Cordylophora caspia*), the acorn barnacle (*Semibalanus balanoides*), an orange sheath tunicate (*Botrylloides violaceus*), green sea fingers (*Codium fragile fragile*), Japanese skeleton shrimp (*Caprella mutica*), and orange tipped sea squirt (*Corella eumyota*). Marine non-native species are extremely difficult, or often impossible, to eradicate once established, so for these species good biosecurity is paramount. It should be noted that, whilst not a marine species, Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is spread by the sea along the Clyde coastline. In addition, American mink (*Neovison vison*) habitat is often alongside water bodies, including coastlines, and this species has a detrimental impact on some ground nesting birds and water voles.

Island ecosystems, being relatively isolated from mainland areas, are highly vulnerable to the impacts of non-native species. This includes both plants and animals. In particular, the introduction by people (deliberate or accidental) of predatory mammals including cats, rats and mice on islands can impact seabird populations and other ground nesting birds such as breeding waders. For example, the population of puffins on Ailsa Craig is now recovering following the removal of rats from the island.

Good biosecurity practice should consider the international standards set out by the Convention on Biological Diversity: prevention of introduction and establishment of non-native species is the best option, ecologically and economically; for newly arriving species early warning and rapid response (eradication) is the next priority; and long-term control measures (including restoration of the original native wildlife) should be strategic and planned. The public can also play a role in reducing the risk of spread by being aware of and applying good practice, for example when moving equipment for recreational activities.

For further details on this issue, see Chapter 5.10 of the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).

Objective



Objective NNS 1 The risk of introduction and spread of non-native species is reduced in the Clyde Marine Region through improved management of the main pathways. The impacts of non-native species on both the ecosystem and the economy are minimised.

MEASUREMENT: SEPA waterbody status – GECS¹ assessment. Marine licence determination process. Designated site monitoring.

Policy – Authorisations and consents

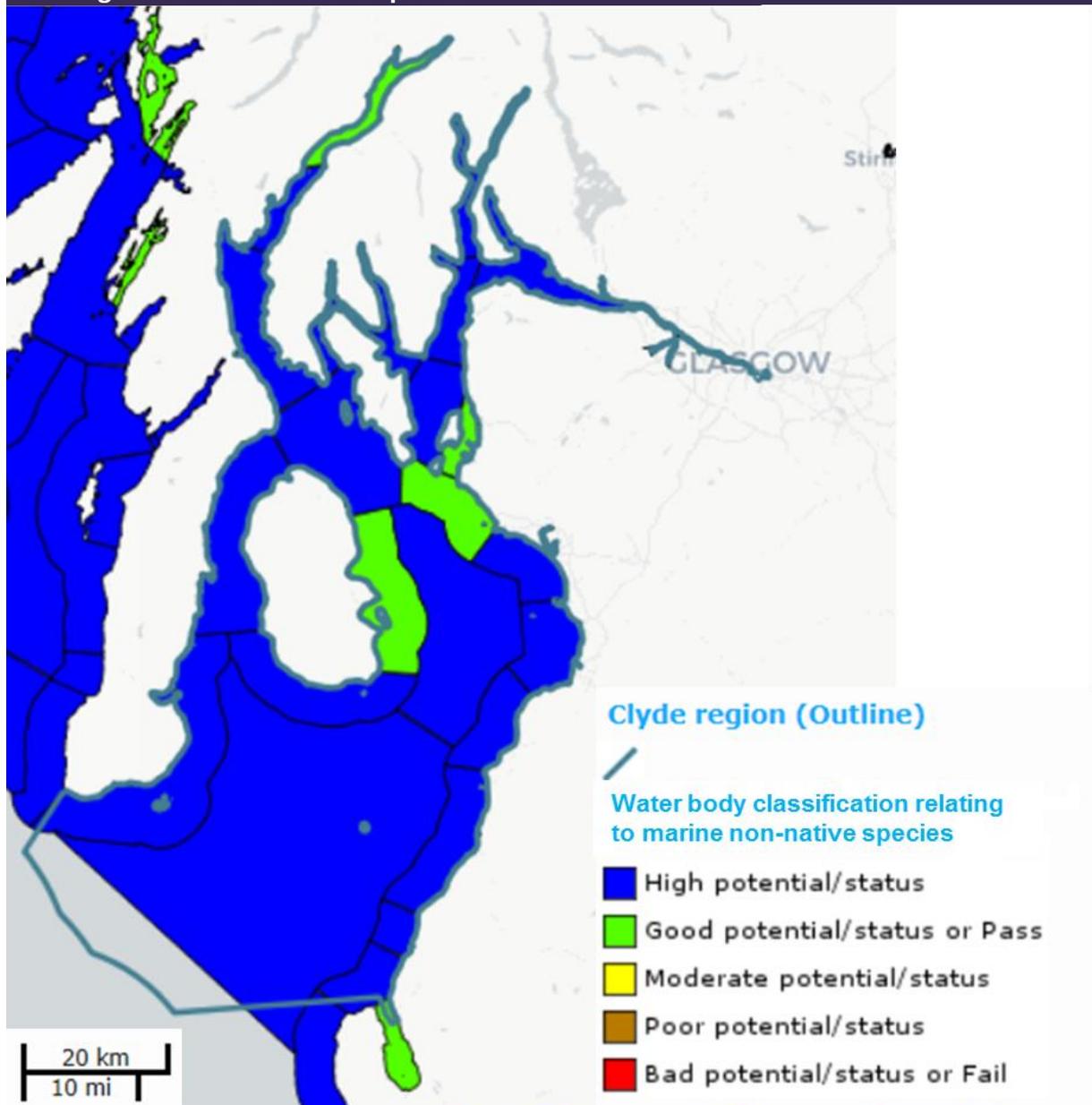
Policy NNS 1 Applications for marine and coastal development(s) and/or activities will be supported where they demonstrate that they have minimised the risk of introducing or spreading marine non-native species and terrestrial non-native species affecting seabirds, particularly when this involves moving equipment, boats, materials or livestock from one water body to another, or when undertaking activities within a water body where non-native species are known to exist, for example introducing structures which may inadvertently facilitate the settlement of non-native species. Local licensing regimes relating to the marine environment should also stipulate a requirement for consideration of marine biosecurity.

Policy – Management

- Policy NNS 2** Activities to research and/or eradicate non-native species, including research on how climate change will affect non-native species in the Clyde Marine Region, or to set up schemes to prevent the spread of non-native species will be supported in line with Policy NNS 1.
- Policy NNS 3** All organisations using the Clyde Marine Region should take into account the risk of introducing or spreading non-native species and put in place biosecurity management measures to minimise this risk. Where relevant, a site-based biosecurity plan for marine non-native species and terrestrial non-native species affecting seabirds should be developed in line with best practice Marine Biosecurity Planning guidance.
- Policy NNS 4** Marine users of the Clyde Marine Region, including, but not limited to, use for sports such as sailing, motor boating, sea angling, scuba diving, sea kayaking, jet skiing, wind and kite surfing, should, where possible, follow best practice procedure, such as the Great Britain Non-native Species 'check, clean, dry' procedure, when moving equipment into, out of and within the Clyde Marine Region.

¹ Good Ecological Status under the Water Environment and Waters Services (Scotland) Act 2003

Map NNS 1 – Scottish Environmental Protection Agency water body classification relating to marine non-native species².



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² Non-native species monitored by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency are leathery sea squirt (*Styela clava*), carpet sea squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*), Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*), wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) and common cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*).

Further information

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Ballast Waste Management (BWM) Convention was adopted to improve the global regulation of the transfer of non-native species. The IMO provides a [list of guidelines and guidance documents](#) related to the BWM Convention.

Scottish Government: [The Code of Practice on Non-Native Species for Scotland](#)

Marine Scotland: [Marine Invasive Non-Native Species](#)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency: [The river basin management plan for the Scotland river basin district: 2015–2027](#), Chapter 8

Scottish Natural Heritage and Firth of Clyde Forum: [Marine Biosecurity Planning Guidance](#) – for producing site and operation-based plans for preventing the introduction of non-native species.

Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 748: [Marine biosecurity planning – Identification of best practice: A review](#)

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership: [Biosecurity information including Biosecurity Plan](#). Contact the CMPP to obtain dangle books and posters to enable marine users to identify non-native species.

Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat: [website](#). The GB Non-Native Species Secretariat promotes best practice guidelines for water users to prevent the spread of non-native species, known as [Check, Clean, Dry](#):

- **Check** your equipment and clothing for living organisms. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.
- **Clean** and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.
- **Dry** all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

To report sightings of suspected non-native species, call 08452 30 20 50.