



Section 2: Sector 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 Section 1 of the Plan provide a framework for the sustainable development and use of the marine and coastal environment. These general policies should be adhered to in advance of policies within Section 2 as they are all potentially relevant to any proposal for development or activity by any sector or user of the marine and coastal environment.

Section 2 outlines policy relating to the key current economic activities taking place in the Clyde Marine Region. These policies provide a framework to ensure that the economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered for each sector. The chapters are ordered in the same way as 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 11: Sport, Recreation and Tourism

The Clyde Moorings Committee, acting under Deed of Appointment from Crown Estate Scotland, administers applications for moorings within the Clydeport area of jurisdiction. It aims to allocate available resource equitably, avoiding conflict with existing activities or structures and ensuring protection of the marine environment.



Recreational and tourism boats at Ardrossan marina.

Clyde Marine Region Context

‘Sport, recreation and tourism’ is a broad sector combining marine and coastal based sport and recreation, including accommodation and food and beverage providers. The Clyde Marine Region has deep sheltered waters and islands, making it an ideal location for sailing and power boating; there are over 5,000 resident and visitor berths/moorings¹. The Region is of strategic importance in terms of boating on the west coast of Scotland. The Crinan Canal and the Forth and Clyde Canal provide connections to other regions. There are numerous other water sports that take place, including diving, surfing, wind and kite surfing, kayaking and paddle boarding. Scotland’s National Watersports Centre is located on the island of Cumbrae. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is an area of particular focus for recreational activity. Sea and land based fishing/angling is a long established activity, however, deterioration in the fish stock profile and changes to legislation has meant there has been a decline in activity. There are coastal paths and beaches available for sport and recreation which contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors alike. Wildlife watching is becoming increasingly popular. Associated with all of these activities is the wider tourism offering of the Clyde Marine Region through accommodation, food and beverage for visitors.

The Region is accessible to both locals and tourists because of its proximity to transport links with the rest of Scotland’s central belt, two international airports and numerous ferry routes. For many years people have enjoyed taking a trip ‘doon the watter’ to coastal areas of the Clyde Marine Region. Greenock is a key port for visiting cruise liners. The Region is therefore popular with visitors from inside and outside Scotland both as a day trip destination and for longer visits.

For further detail on this sector, see Chapter 6.5 of the [Clyde Marine Region Assessment](#).

Objectives



Objective SRT 1 **The Clyde Marine Region provides world class sustainable sport, recreation and tourism experiences for local people and visitors. The social benefits, including health and wellbeing, and the economic benefits generated by this sector are protected and spread across residents, local communities and beyond.**
 MEASUREMENT: Marine Scotland data. Marine licence and town and country planning determination process. Sector information. Health and

¹ Clyde Marine Region and Solway Firth combined

wellbeing surveys.



Objective SRT 2 Ingress to and egress from the sea is improved, along with supporting infrastructure and facilities.

MEASUREMENT: Infrastructure audits. Sector information.



Objective SRT3 The increasing use of the Clyde Marine Region for sport, recreation and tourism does not have a significant adverse effect on the natural and historic/cultural environment on which it depends, nor does it reduce local socioeconomic wellbeing. Sustainable and responsible use of the area improves people's knowledge and enjoyment of the natural environment, their sense of place and their health & wellbeing.

MEASUREMENT: Monitoring of designated sites.

Policy – Authorisations and consents

- Policy SRT 1** The development or renewal of marine-related sport, recreation and tourism facilities and infrastructure will be supported, particularly those which:
- encourage multiple use by providing hubs for marine sport and recreation,
 - are accessible to all, including those with protected characteristics, and help people to overcome barriers to participation,
 - enable people to engage with and/or enhance natural or cultural heritage,
 - extend the tourism season and/or diversify the sports, recreation and tourism offering,
 - demonstrate a link to transport networks in line with active travel objectives, or
 - provide pump out, wash down and waste management facilities for boat users
- Policy SRT 2** Proposals for the introduction, maintenance and improvement of the network of publicly accessible slipways and shoreside infrastructure, along with supporting facilities where appropriate, across the Clyde Marine Region will be supported.
- Policy SRT 3** National and international sport, recreational and tourism events for motorised recreational vessels are supported in the Clyde Marine Region. Organisers of such events taking place in the Clyde Marine Region must:
- where appropriate, undertake a risk assessment to identify likely significant impacts on protected areas and species,
 - collaborate with and seek advice from relevant authorities, (e.g. Scottish Natural Heritage) to acquire licences where needed and to identify and implement appropriate mitigation measures in a timely manner in advance of any event taking place.
- Event organisers should inform the relevant Statutory Harbour Authority of the nature and details of the event in a timely manner in advance of the event taking place. They should also consider the requirement for biosecurity planning/measures in line with Policies NNS 3 and NNS 4.

Policy – Management

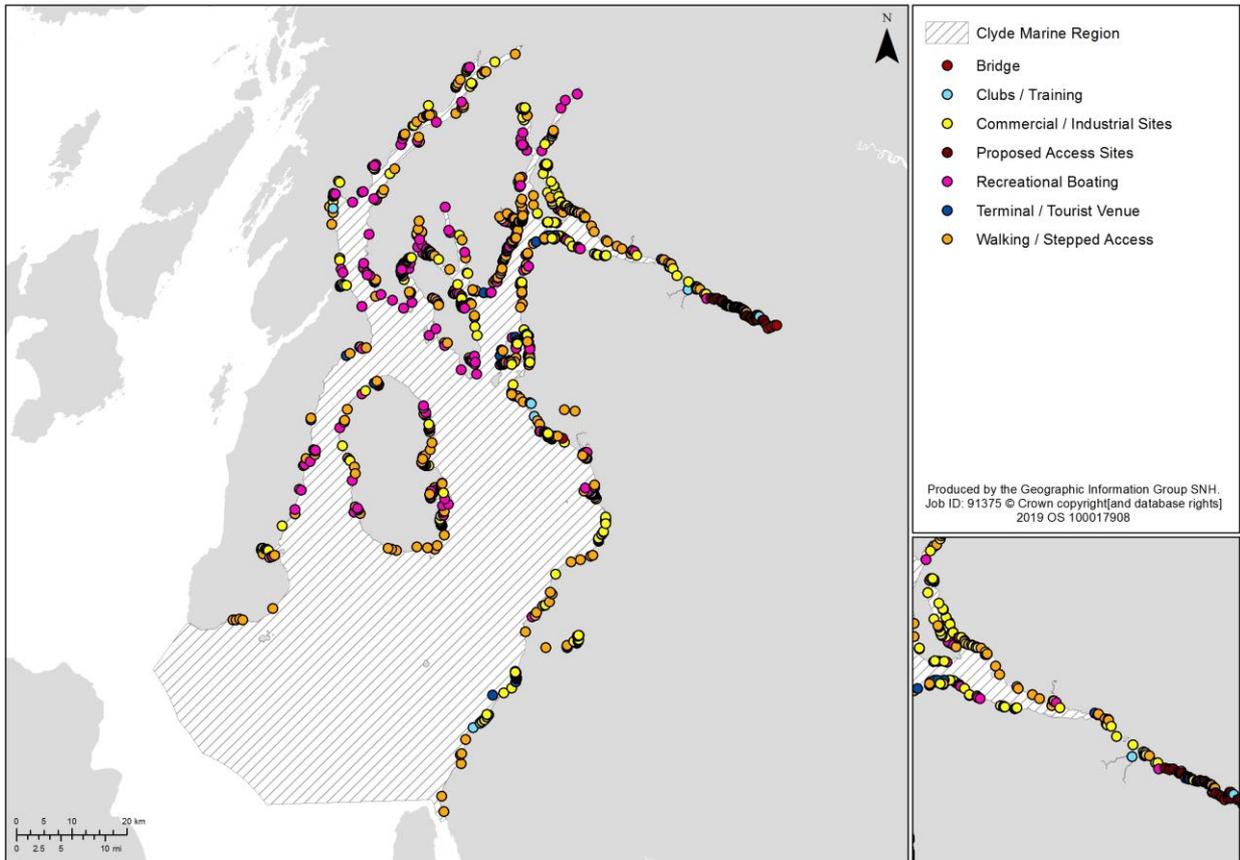
Policy SRT 4 Outreach, education and skills training activities that improve knowledge and encourage participation in marine sport and recreation and associated businesses are supported, in particular where they:

- target hard to reach groups,
- educate users on best practice guidelines for example for marine wildlife watching, biosecurity planning or litter/waste management,
- encourage collaboration between users and organisations to develop and use promotional/educational materials.

Policy SRT 5 Organisations operating in the marine sport, recreation and tourism sector should ensure that staff are adequately trained to comply with best practice guidelines such as the Marine Wildlife Watching Code and the Outdoor Access Code and others relating to litter/waste and biosecurity practices to prevent the spread of non-native species, in line with Chapters 5, 6 and 7. All wildlife cruise tour operators operating within the Clyde Marine Region should be WiSe scheme certified².

² The [WiSe Scheme](#) is a UK national training scheme for minimising disturbance to marine wildlife.

Map SRT 1 – Marine, Sport and Recreation access points in the Clyde Marine Region.



This map is indicative only.

Further information:

The Scottish Marine Tourism Strategy '[Awakening the Giant](#)', 2015 is a 5 year strategy for the sector.

[Tourism Development Framework for Scotland](#), 2016, developed by VisitScotland, sets out actions to assist and promote growth in Scotland's visitor economy to 2020.

[Scottish Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey](#), 2015 was a national survey commissions by the Scottish Government to gather information on 23 different recreation and tourism activities taking place in the marine or coastal environment.

Scottish Natural Heritage: [Marine Wildlife Watching Code](#) and [Outdoor Access Code](#)

[The Green Blue](#) is a joint environment programme created by the Royal Yachting Association and British Marine.

Crown Estate Scotland operates a licensing system for moorings, read more about this process [here](#).

Clydeport, a Statutory Harbour Authority covering a large part of the Clyde Marine Region produce the '[Clyde leisure Navigation Guide](#)'; it is now in its 5th edition.

Long Distance Coastal walks within the Clyde Marine Region: [Arran Coastal Way](#), [Ayrshire Coastal Path](#), [Inverclyde Coastal Path](#), [West Island Way on the Isle of Bute](#), [Clyde Coastal Path](#), [Cowal Way](#), [Kintyre Way](#)