



To: Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment

Date: 2 June  
2015

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**Ministerial and agency feedback on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) draft consultation document**

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**Purpose**

1. On 3 June 2015 at the BGA-NRS meeting you are scheduled to lead a discussion on:
  - the progress of the MPA work to date
  - whether MPAs will be excluded within exploration and prospecting permit areas
  - the proposed next steps towards public release.

**Main feedback on the consultation document**

2. In response to the reframed MPA consultation document we believe that your colleagues may raise the following issues.

S9(2)(g)(i)

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**Other matters raised by agencies**

11. Overall agencies were pleased with the flow of the consultation document and felt that it had improved considerably. Agencies did however suggest changes to correct factual inaccuracies and amend matters of policy.
12. Where agencies seek to amend factual inaccuracies, these changes need to be made, and we will advise you on these proposed changes shortly. However, changes that seek to amend matters of policy will need to occur with your direction and wider Ministerial input.
13. MfE now endeavours to work with agencies to progress their detailed feedback on the current version of the MPA consultation document.