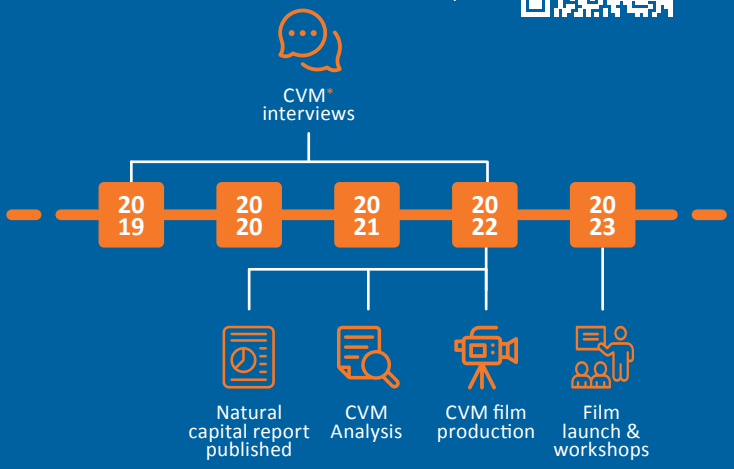
* CVM = Community Voice Method

Scan QR Code to read the full **Oceans of Value** report



What is Oceans of Value?

In a period of increasing demand for space and resources at sea, the Oceans of Value project combined natural capital assessments with local expertise to provide recommendations for regional and national marine planning.

Find out more about our work!

livingseas@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a Scottish registered charity (charity no. SC005792). It is also a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered no. SC040247).

Scottish Wildlife Trust

Oceans of Value

Comparing Natural Capital and Community Voices

Recommendations for Marine Planning and Community Engagement

CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION UK BRANCH
John Ellerman Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

What communities want

Here are some key points raised at public workshops held in 2023:

- Make consultations accessible
- Hold informal events
- Avoid exclusive language (like "stakeholders")
- Make responding easier
- Involve young people
- Incorporate key marine issues into the curriculum
- More public education
- Feedback how community opinions have influenced policy
- Listen to local people

15 workshops in **7** marine regions

Informing policy: our recommendations

FROM OUR NATURAL CAPITAL ASSESSMENT

- Further investment in data collection and monitoring to support planning decisions
- Quantify value of all natural capital assets including lesser researched blue carbon habitats (e.g. marine sediments)
- Develop methods for quantifying cultural and wellbeing services within natural capital assessments
- Ecosystem-based marine planning aimed at reversing the decline of nature whilst considering the importance of ecosystem services for marine users and future generations

FROM COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD RESEARCH

- Place more importance on local expertise
- Use innovative social research methods to collect information on social and cultural significance of the marine environment
- Ensure communities are involved early in the decision making processes and ensure that views are heard and acted on
- Prioritise regional marine plans alongside the NMP2 process, recognising that all marine regions are valued differently by their local marine users

Area of Orkney Marine Region

9,258 km²

Number of Islands

68+

Number of inhabited islands

19

Population of Orkney

22,190

Number of ports and harbours

30

"The film helped me think – having a medium that is visual with music and beautiful photography, it inspires and opens minds. It gives energy to the discussions afterwards."

Stromness workshop participant

Priority Marine Feature: Maerl

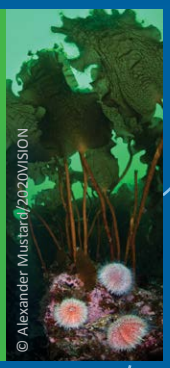
Key Ecosystem Service: Carbon storage

Size: 3,646 ha = 14 times the size of Holyrood park

Priority Marine Feature: Seagrass (*Zostera marina*)

Key Ecosystem Service: Nursery areas for fish

Size: 1,243 ha = 9 times the size of Pollok Park



Priority Marine Feature: Kelp

Key Ecosystem Service: Coastal protection

Size: 48,710 ha = bigger than the whole of North Lanarkshire

Interview location: Papa Westray

Interview location: North Ronaldsay

Interview location: Sanday

Interview location: Kirkwall

Interview location: Stromness

Orkney waters - limited to 12 nautical miles (nm)

Total length of coastline at Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)

>1,024 km²

Area of marine waters within 3nm

3,030 km²

Area of marine waters within 6nm

4,925 km²

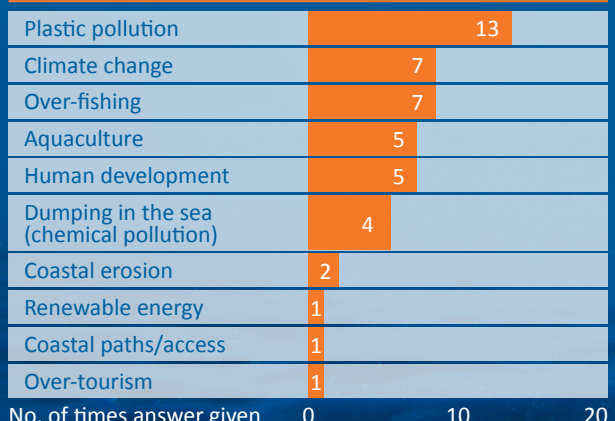
Area of marine waters within 12nm

9,258 km²

Area of Orkney islands (land mass)

990 km²

In your opinion what are the key issues facing Orkney's marine environment?



NATURAL CAPITAL

Provides an understanding of the natural assests that provide social, environmental and economic benefits to humans.

COMMUNITY VOICE METHOD

Local users of the sea can sometimes become detached from the decision making process. This research approach shares what people value and their vision for the future. By analysing interviews using software, key themes are conveyed through a film. This is used as a springboard for further discussion in innovative participatory workshops.

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