

How Communities have engaged with Marine Planning in Shetland



Regatta © Christina Kelly

Formal Recreation

Formal recreation includes organised sports, other skill-based activities, and clubs, groups and organisations.

For the 4th edition of the Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan (2015), the marine planning team contacted clubs and groups who use the marine environment. They provided information on areas they most value for recreation. This information was presented in a map which helped reinforce policies within the Plan. As the plan developed towards a Regional Marine Plan, more groups have come forward to add new data to give a wider representation of the areas used.

Informal Recreation

Informal recreation activities are less structured and can often be more spontaneous. These activities include things like walking, hiking, fishing, swimming, wildlife watching, social activities and creative pursuits.

To inform the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan 2021, a short questionnaire was devised to gather information on informal recreational use of Shetland's marine environment. The questionnaire was distributed to schools, community councils and the general public at community events. The questionnaire asked people to map the areas they value and use the most around the Shetland coast.

The policies and maps relating to community use and recreation can be found on pages 93-98 of the Shetland Islands Regional Marine Plan 2021.