



MPAS (MARINE PROTECTED AREAS) - ANSWERS

1. What is a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

- **An MPA is a legally protected area of sea designed to conserve important marine habitats, species, and ecosystems.**

2. Approximately how many MPAs are there in Scotland, and what percentage of Scottish seas do they cover?

- **Scotland has over 230 MPAs, covering around 37% of Scottish seas.**

3. Why are MPAs important for marine ecosystems?

- **MPAs are important because they protect biodiversity, allow ecosystems to recover, and help maintain healthy, resilient seas.**

4. Give two examples of habitats or species protected by MPAs.

- **Examples include seagrass beds, cold-water coral reefs, seabird feeding areas, and fish spawning grounds.**

5. How do MPAs help fish populations?

- **MPAs allow fish to grow larger and reproduce more successfully, helping replenish fish stocks outside the protected areas.**

6. Explain how MPAs can help tackle climate change

- **MPAs protect blue carbon habitats like seagrass and saltmarsh, which store carbon and help reduce climate change impacts.**

7. Why are nursery areas important for marine life?

- **Nursery areas give young marine animals safe places to grow, increasing their chances of survival.**

8. Name two human activities that MPAs help manage or reduce.

- **Bottom trawling and overfishing are two activities MPAs help manage by setting rules or restrictions.**

9. Are all MPAs no-fishing zones? Explain your answer

- **No, many MPAs allow fishing and other activities, but with rules to reduce damage to marine life.**

10. What actions can young people or local communities take to support MPAs?

- **Young people and communities can learn about MPAs, reduce pollution, share knowledge, and take part in consultations or campaigns to support marine protection.**

