

# Marine Protected Area Suspicious Activity Reporting - Guidelines

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These are recommendations for members of the public wishing to report a suspected breach of Marine Protected Area regulations and /or management plans.

1. Note the time and approximate location of the vessel, including its position in relation to known landmarks which would indicate its presence within the MPA.
2. If binoculars are to hand take a closer look at the vessel and its apparent location; please take down a description of the vessel including any markings visible.
3. Take a note of the vehicle's behaviour and any indication of its speed. Are there indications that the vessel is actively fishing (e.g. slow speed, repeated passes, no other reason to be there – *ie* not commuting to a fishing ground or sheltering).
4. If possible, take a photograph – if possible showing the name of the vessel, and where possible with landmarks in the frame to help verify its location. If your camera has a date function it would be useful to turn this on.
5. Take a note of your location when observing the boat and/or taking the photograph, and if possible note a compass bearing to the vessel and take your GPS coordinates/grid reference.
6. Phone Marine Scotland Compliance immediately (numbers below) and report a suspected infringement. If possible provide as specific a location as possible for the vessel. The relevant phone number (for your area) is given below.
7. Complete the form below with the relevant information. Send a signed copy to your local Compliance Officer (details below) and a second copy to Marine Scotland Compliance HQ (also below).
8. Marine Scotland Compliance should have VMS data for all larger boats in the area and should be able to use these records to identify the boat involved, and the data may also give further insights into the boats behaviour which might indicate fishing activity. If/when checking on progress you could ask:
  - Has the report been investigated?
  - Has VMS data been examined?
  - Has the boat been identified?
  - Has the skipper been contacted?
  - What further action is planned?

However please do note that MS Compliance may not be in a position to reveal all/any information to you.

Key contact details:

To report any kind of fisheries-related activity you think might be suspicious call 0131 271 9700 (24 hours a day) or email: [UKFMC@gov.scot](mailto:UKFMC@gov.scot)

*source of above info:*

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Compliance/contact>

Simon Dryden , Marine Superintendent,  
Marine Compliance, Marine Scotland, Area 1A North,  
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ  
Tel: 0131 244 4196

Marine Compliance Operations Director:

## Marine Protected Area Suspicious Activity Reporting - Form

Name of person reporting the suspected infringement (please state Anon. if you wish to remain anonymous):	Date of suspected infringement:
Address of person reporting infringement (optional):	Time infringement first noted:  Time boat left area (if known):
Would you like to be contacted as a follow-up to this reported infringement? Y/N	
Contact telephone number:	Contact email:
Names of any other witnesses present:	
Description of the vessel, including any visible markings:	
Description of location of vessel, relative to known landmarks (if possible give GPS coordinates or an approx grid ref.)	
Description of the behaviour of the vessel, including speed and direction:	
What made you concerned that the vessel was infringing regulations?	
Your specific location when observing the vessel:	If available a compass bearing from your location:
What kind of designation does the area fall under? (SAC/MPA/SPA/Voluntary)	If you are aware of the protected feature(s) please list:
Was a photograph taken? Y/N	Is a copy of the photograph included with this report? Y/N
Have you reported an infringement before?	
If so, when and where did the infringement take place?	