

# HEALTHY SEAS

## Problem

Marine wildlife and their habitats are under threat from overfishing and the use of heavy bottom-towed mobile fishing gear.

Even though over 30% of the Scottish Marine Area is protected, this is not enough to protect these areas from damaging industrial activity.



## Importance

Scotland has incredible sea life and special habitats that support us, like whales, dolphins, seabirds and kelp forests, but they are under pressure. Kittiwake populations have declined by 69% because their food source is affected by climate change and overfishing.

Some marine habitats can act as 'blue carbon' habitats which means they store carbon from the atmosphere and help solve the problems of climate change. When marine habitats are adequately protected, fish and shellfish populations grow and support commercial fishing.

## Solution

We need a shift in the way we manage fisheries to restore the marine environment.

A good first step is to promise to effectively protect at least 30% of our seas. This would support the diverse marine ecosystems, fisheries that help supply our food, and the climate.

