

# The Argyll Coast & Islands Hope Spot

## What is a Hope Spot?

Thanks to the coastal communities around the Argyll coast who care passionately about the marine environment, we are able to celebrate the recognition of the first Mission Blue Hope Spot in Scotland and mainland UK. This new Hope Spot joins an impressive and growing number around the world. Collectively the Hope Spots can help protect and restore marine biodiversity on a local, regional, national and international scale.

We have the evidence, knowledge, tools and technology to ensure that our legacy includes a healthy and sustainable marine environment. Now we need to take responsibility for protecting and restoring the marine environment which, for generations, has sustained the lives of the coastal communities scattered across this beautiful and diverse landscape.

The Mission Blue Hope Spot is a catalyst to greater understanding, appreciation and protection of the marine environment. We want to make sure that our seas are a beacon, to show others here and around the world what is possible when the people who live by the sea prove that they care.

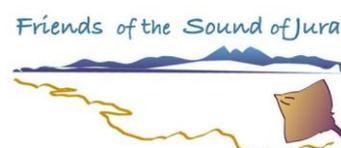


### The first Hope Spot in Scotland and the UK!



"The Argyll Coast is a place of great beauty, but also of great importance. Home, not only, to people with a love and appreciation for the sea, but to such a wonderful mix of creatures. Thank-you for doing what you're doing to ensure a healthy future for the Argyll Coast and for the rest of the world's oceans. Congratulations on the first Hope Spot in Scotland and mainland United Kingdom!

**Dr Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and Founder of Mission Blue**





## What is special about this area?

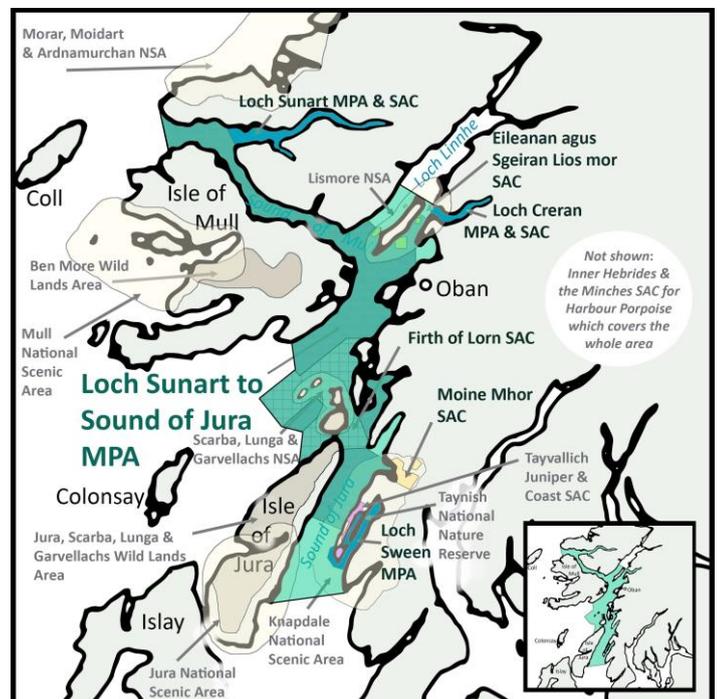
The Argyll and Islands Hope Spot is one of a few remaining areas in Scotland with such an outstanding abundance of marine biodiversity. The breath-taking scenery and rich biodiversity, that we are all familiar with on land, is surpassed underwater. The Hope Spot has an intricate coastline of sea lochs, peninsulas, deep water sounds, narrows and islands, encompassing existing Marine Protected Areas, Special Areas for Conservation and a host of Priority Marine Features.

This is one of the most marine biologically diverse environments in Scotland and the UK. Deep water species can find depths up to 200m just offshore, and the wider coastal environment supports an impressive range of birds and mammals.

It is no coincidence that this special environment provides one of the few remaining strongholds for the critically endangered flapper skate in the UK.

The combination of economic, cultural and environmental value represented in the Hope Spot demonstrate the vital connection between coastal communities and their local waters.

Raising awareness and developing understanding of the Argyll Coast and Islands marine environment will enable local communities and visitors alike to gain an enriched perspective on exactly why Argyll is such a special place for biodiversity.



Map detailing Hope Spot boundaries

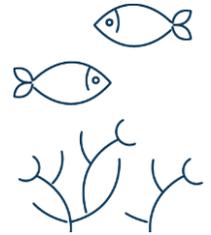


# WHAT ARE THE HOPE SPOT'S GOALS?



To bring together local sea users on issues affecting the marine wildlife and habitats in the Hope Spot and to engage the Scottish Government on these issues, influencing **policy and management**.

To engage and work with local fishers to promote **low impact, high value fisheries**, including scallop divers and creel fishermen - helping to protect the marine environment from environmental threats such as destructive forms of bottom-contacting fishing or environmentally damaging forms of aquaculture.



To promote **awareness** of the Hope Spot's local areas, providing marine environmental **education** talks in schools and to the general public, and engaging in online **outreach** with film and media - sharing why the natural environment in our area gives hope to us and others.

To seed innovative ideas, collaboration and funding for projects which bring **social and economic benefits** to neighbouring Hope Spot communities, enabling communities to make the Hope Spot their own.



To work with tourism operators and agencies to promote the Hope Spot area as a wonderful, world-renowned place for sustainable **eco-tourism**.

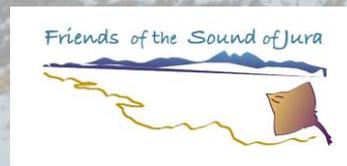
To survey marine biodiversity to better understand what the Hope Spot contains, set up baselines for repeated surveys to monitor change and to explore creative ways to involve communities, especially schools, in **citizen science and community-led surveys**.



To **restore biodiversity** and increase biodiversity protection of coastal and marine habitats as well as keystone and rare/endangered species. Exploring techniques such as no-take zones, whilst also focusing on biodiversity inside *and* outside Marine Protected Area boundaries.



THE ARGYLL COAST AND ISLANDS HOPE SPOT IS LED BY:



WORKING IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH:



WE WILL ALSO BE WORKING WITH A HOST OF SUPPORTERS. PLEASE VISIT [WWW.COMMUNITIESFORSEAS.SCOT/NETWORK-INITIATIVES/HOPE-SPOT/](http://WWW.COMMUNITIESFORSEAS.SCOT/NETWORK-INITIATIVES/HOPE-SPOT/) TO READ MORE AND GET IN TOUCH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED!