



Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd

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Nikki Milne
Marine Biodiversity Policy and
Sustainable Management Branch
Area GH93
Victoria Quay
EH6 6QQ

Date: 17th November 2006
Ref: MCB/FJC

Dear Ms Milne

Proposals for a Coastal and Marine National Park

I am writing, as the Director of Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Limited, to object to the above proposal in the Lochaber and South Skye location.

Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Limited is sited at the pier in Corpach, we are also in a joint venture with Clydeport and own and manage the pier trading under the name of ClydeBoyd (Fort William) Limited.

We are fortunate in being situated at Corpach, on the banks of Loch Linnhe, having the unique position with regard to sea access to both the Irish Sea on the West and the North Sea on the East, through the Caledonian Canal. We export woodchips and timber to various ports within the United Kingdom, and also to Eire, Germany, Norway, Finland and Sweden and others. We also import salt from Northern Ireland, which is used by the Highland Council and Transerv Scotland to grit roads.

We fear that turning this area into a 'Coastal and Marine National Park', causing the cessation of current shipping activities, would have devastating irreversible effects not only on local employment but also upon the environment or to quote a modern phrase on our 'carbon footprint'. By using sea transport great reductions are made in the number of lorries travelling on the road network. For example one small 500 ton cargo of timber (equivalent to 21 lorry loads) leaving Corpach for Workington by sea will save over 10,500 road miles.

Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Limited directly employ 10 people full time on shore and each operation can also utilise a further 10 crew on board ship. This does not take into account the manufacturers of the freight such as, BSW Sawmill in Corpach who are a major employer in the area and produce woodchips for export. Since the closure of Arjo Wiggins Paper Mill last year, Fort William simply cannot suffer the loss of another local major employer.

I urge you to seriously reconsider your proposal for this area, as inappropriate and not conducive for the environment or the local population.

Yours Sincerely

Malcolm C Boyd
Director