



proposed site at Wee Pier

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## RESPONSE ON MARINE PARK PROPOSALS.

Comann na Mara was formed in 2000 to try and establish a Marine Education and Research Centre in Lochmaddy based on the fine work that was done in drawing up a management plan for Lochmaddy Bay and the submission for SAC status. From 2000, we have regarded Lochmaddy Bay as being a European SAC although the formal status was only granted in March 2005. Of the seven Scottish marine SACs, Lochmaddy is the only one that has an ongoing local organisation based on it.

Linked to the SAC status, there is a management group which meets annually and at the meeting in November 2006 it was recommended that a positive management structure would be an advantage even though the meeting felt that one of the good things was that there had been no interference with traditional activities. A review of the management plan, for the Bay, is under way.

Comann na Mara would support the submission from the Scottish Crofting Foundation and add to it that "Cultural Heritage" should have an equal place with "Natural Heritage".

Like so many other organisations, Comann na Mara are disturbed at the manner in which consultation has taken place and, in addition, feel that it is ridiculous that there was no North Uist visit by the "Road Show".

It is hoped that, once the current responses have been analysed, there will be a further and more appropriate round of consultation.

Dr. John A.J.Macleod, chair of CNM. 9.1.2007