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East Ayrshire
COUNCIL

Our Ref: ENV 1 (JT/MMM)

Date: 09 January 2007

Fiona Harrison
Head of Marine Management Division
Environmental and Rural Affairs Department Marine Group
Scottish Executive
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Dear Fiona

**SCOTLAND'S FIRST COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK:
A CONSULTATION**

I refer to your letter dated 11 October 2006 inviting our response on the document Scotland's First Coastal and Marine National Park: A Consultation and would respond as follows.

Notwithstanding the fact that East Ayrshire is a land-locked Local Authority we would fully support the principle of establishing a Marine National Park. It is considered that were such a park established, say, for the lower Clyde Estuary, it could potentially have a very positive influence on both nature conservation and tourism within Ayrshire and could assist in the ongoing regeneration of local communities within East Ayrshire. We would also see any Marine National Park as possibly linking into other nature conservation initiatives such as the proposed Ayrshire/Dumfries and Galloway Biosphere Reserve support of which the Council will shortly give formal consideration to.

We would also see a Marine National Park as creating the required strategic overview for implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management as proposed under Policy ENV10 of the Finalised Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan 2006.

Yours sincerely

Karl Doroszenko
POLICY AND PROJECTS MANAGER

Cc: Chief Executive

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