

7/20/11

**SCOTLAND'S FIRST COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK -
CONSULTATION BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE:
COMMENTS BY FIFE COUNCIL**

1.0 General

The assessment process and conclusions reached by Scottish Natural Heritage are noted, including the identification of the two areas- Argyle Islands and Coast, and Ardnamurchan, Small Isles and the South Skye Coast as possible strongest all round candidates, and the possible combination of these two areas.

2.0 Comments in relation to Fife

2.1 In relation to Fife, the exclusion of the Fife coastline and Forth and Tay Estuary areas from the list of candidate areas is considered appropriate. In view of the small-scale diversity of the Fife coastline, its strong links and many complex interrelationships with the Fife hinterland, and notably the current Fife Structure Plan coastal regeneration zone proposal, it is considered appropriate that it continues to be planned and managed as an integral part of Fife as a whole. For this reason a scenario would be considered inappropriate in which a Coastal and Marine National Park Authority assumed separate responsibility for a range of local authority powers and functions in relation to the landward area of the Fife coast.

2.2 It should also be noted that the Scottish Executive is currently investigating a range of other measures to achieve integrated coastal and marine planning and management outwith the Coastal and Marine National Park investigation, and including issues such as marine spatial planning. It is considered that these investigations may produce other options of more relevance and suitability to the circumstances in Fife.

**Keith Winter
Head of Development Services
Fife Council**

**Ref: D6/a1
30:01:07**