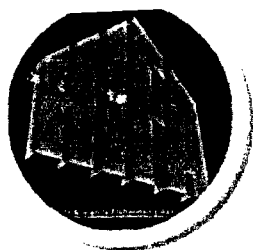


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Highlands & Islands Fishermen's Association

Secretary: Peter Davidson

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Response to CMNP consultation 10.01.07

04.01.2007

The views below represent the thoughts of our members but none are unanimous therefore it is the general view of HIFA that;

1. There is insufficient information available to fully support acceptance of a CMNP in any area at present.
2. Whilst we accept there will be variables in each area it should be possible to offer definite proposals regarding seaward limits, fisheries management structure and the ascendancy of that proposed fisheries management regime.
Our preference would be that the existing fisheries management system, within the 6 mile limit be sufficient without any new or existing body having superior overarching rights within a CMNP
3. Whilst HIFA have no proposals as to the landward boundary it was generally agreed this should be no greater than the fresh water catchment area of the surrounding coastland of a CMNP
4. We agree that a CMNP could offer considerable assistance to small traditional rural communities and accept that with correct implementation such a scheme would be an asset to Scotland.
5. HIFA is concerned that such a major proposal is being pursued for completion by Scottish Ministers with undue haste. We advise the process would benefit from a fuller, more conclusive planning and consultation process rather than see a quick political success which may reflect badly in the future and have detrimental effect on the chosen area.

Should satisfactory answers be available to the above points HIFA members would welcome the designation of the proposed CMNP in Wester Ross and North Skye. HIFA members are responsible for the MSC accreditation in Loch Torridon and see such a proposal as an extension of their beliefs in a long term sustainable future for the waters of the north west coast of the Highlands. Such a proposal would also be of great benefit to the local tourism economies, often left isolated by central government. A designation such as CMNP would be a fitting tribute to twenty years of major road upgrades for the west coast communities, encouraging tourism to spread from the existing centres of population.

We would endorse option 2 *take forward proposals to establish Scotland's first CMNP, with model 2, National park as planner, enabler & manager* in the first instance with the possibility of model 3 being adopted after designation and a settling in period of some years.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Davidson.
Secretary HIFA.
Enc.

MARINE NATIONAL PARK: A CONSULTATION

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: As above

Postal Address: As above

1. Are you responding: (please tick one)

(a) as an individual ☺ (go to Q2a/b and then Q4)

(b) on behalf of a group/organisation ☺ (go to Q3 and then Q4)

INDIVIDUALS:

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes ☺ (go to 2b below) Yes

No, not at all ☺ (we will treat your response as confidential)

2b. Where *confidentiality* is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☺ Yes

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address ☺

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☺

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation *will be* made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your response to be made available?

Yes ☺ Yes

No ☺ (We will treat your response as confidential)

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes ☺ Yes

No ☺