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LUING COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Secretary: Morag Watson, 32 Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Argyll PA34 4UB

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7 January 2007

Nikki Milne
Scottish Executive Environment and
Rural Affairs Department
Marine Management Division
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Victoria Quay
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Dear Ms Milne

COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK CONSULTATION

I write on behalf of the community of the Isle of Luing regarding the above consultation. The Community Council have carefully considered the documentation provided as part of this consultation. In addition the Chairman of the Community Council recently attended a meeting held in Oban to discuss the implications of the marine national park.

We wish to state that we are opposed to the development of a marine national park within the Argyll Islands and Coast area. Annex A of the consultation document B47606 09/06 describes two options that have been identified. Our considered opinion Argyll Islands and Coast area is to opt for Option 1 – the do nothing approach. The following reasons are given in support of this:

- Option 2 describes three models of regulation for the proposed park. Each of these models includes a degree of planning control by the Park Authority. Within the Isle of Luing we already have two residential areas that are controlled conservation areas. Planning within these areas is already restricted. We do not wish to see another statutory consultee introduced.
- Within the sectors and groups potentially affected section of annex A reference is made to the fact that inshore fishing is likely to be affected. Many of the families resident on the island depend on inshore fishing for their livelihood. We feel that the possible threat of restriction for our fishermen could devastate our already fragile community. The effect of

this restriction is not only to the present residents but also to future generations of families.

- Although the document does not outline any benefits of opting for Option 1 we feel that there are benefits within this option for our community. Fishing employment would be allowed to continue within the local area, businesses will be more likely to come to the area because they would not be restricted by national park governance and planning issues would be dealt by our local council who understand the nature of the housing and needs of an island community.
- The benefits given for Option 2 are that the National Park Authority would create local employment opportunities. Whilst this may be true we feel that these jobs would not replace the loss of current activities such as fishing. In fact we feel that Option 2 would create unemployment for our immediate community.
- The costs associated with a Marine National Park will be huge. In order to further promote tourism the road infrastructure to any Marine Park within the Argyll Islands and Coast area would need to be greatly improved. At present the road to the Oban area can be closed due to accidents. As there is no other through route this leaves people stranded. An increase in traffic to the area on unfamiliar roads can only compound this problem. The answer to this would be to build new roads. Not only would this be expensive in monetary terms but it would also cause the loss of rural land. We do not feel that rural areas should pay the price of facilitating access to a Marine Park.

We would be grateful if you would take our comments into consideration during the process to decide where the proposed Marine National Park should be situated.

Yours sincerely



Morag Watson
Secretary to Luing Community Council