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**Response to: Scotland's First Coastal and Marine National Park – A Consultation**

We welcome the efforts to progress sustainable development and balance socio and economic development opportunities with environmental considerations. It is in every diver's interest to support sustainable management of the marine environment so that our industry continues to thrive in a responsible manner. Degradation of that environment jeopardises our future industry, which is dependent upon good biodiversity, safe access and shared resource. We believe local stakeholder consultation at each step in the development of the national park is crucial, as local diving centres are dependent on access to the marine resource.

At the same time, the issues of marine spatial planning, coastal zone management and Marine Protected Areas are being discussed at the UK wide level via the Marine Bill, and synergy with this process would be beneficial.

Kind regards

Suzanne Pleydell  
Group Manager, Education and Instructor Development