

Regarding the proposal for the MPA in Lamlash Bay

1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a Marine reserve in Lamlash Bay?

I strongly agree

2.

a) Positive implications:

Primarily the positive implications would be that the area would be allowed to recover from over fishing and scallop dredging. Although the benefits would not be seen immediately, in the future fish and scallops allowed to mature and reproduce would then migrate out and replenish the surrounding area. Therefore making this a sustainable policy that is desperately needed in the management of our coasts and oceans.

Other positive implications would be increased biodiversity, opportunities for education, scientific research and tourism.

b) Negative implications:

Any fisherman using the bay will at first find the restrictions will impact on their business as they would need to relocate. This could put increased pressure on other areas. However the long term benefits I believe would outweigh this short term cost. The negative implications are largely short term economic ones which do not take into account environmental externalities such as the loss of biodiversity, loss of habitat for migratory species etc.

3. Other points

I believe we have become accustomed to using marine resources at a level which is unsustainable and which will lead to eventual collapse of complex food webs and ecosystems to the detriment of humanity, specifically local fishing communities. This MPA will provide scientific evidence to help determine whether or not Marine reserves can be an effective management tool to help manage our fisheries in a more sustainable way. Lamlash bay is a perfect location for the first Scottish MPA as it is contained and therefore easy to enforce the necessary fishing restrictions.

There will always be opposition to change that restricts use and access to a resource. However sometimes legislation is required so that the resource is not degraded to the point that no one can use

it, as there is simply nothing left.

Please make a stand. Protect this small area and see if the benefits we expect to occur will remove any doubt that this is a project that will in the long term, benefit all and that those who currently object will in the future support marine reserves.

I believe what COAST is suggesting should be the minimum level of protection. I would like to see the marine protected part of the bay to exclude mobile gear fishery as well.

Alison Murfitt