

Please find below my response to the consultation on the proposed No-Take-Zone and Marine Protected Area in Lamlash Bay.

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

Agree wholeheartedly!

Question 2. Do you think there would be any (a) positive or (b) negative implications should a Marine Reserve be established in Lamlash Bay?

I think that the implications will be almost entirely positive:

For scallop fisheries- because of the potential for regeneration of the fisheries by protecting maerl beds where scallops can reseed and then spread out from.

For the community: By becoming Scotlands first NTZ the area will attract diving tourism and scientific research and will have a positive impact on the local economy.

For conservation: By protecting a small but highly significant area of seabed that will contribute to conservation of several threatened species, including maerl itself.

For science: By becoming a trial project, which will allow science to study the value of NTZs and learn how they may benefit and protect Scotlands fisheries and wildlife.

Question 3. Are there any other points which you would like to make in relation to the proposed Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve?

Yes- I would like to see the marine protected area in the west and south of the bay become not just a no-go area for scallop dredging, but for *all* commercial fishing.

I also hope that Marine Harvest will see sense and drop their appeal against the refusal of planning for a giant fish farm at the north entrance to the bay. This farm is close to the critical maerl beds in question, and above an important area for the Scallop Fisheries.