

Daniel Brown
Sea Fisheries Management
Fishing Communities and Inshore Management Team
Marine Directorate
DG Environment
Room 511
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY

Dear Daniel Brown,

I write in support of the proposed Community Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay

Question 1: - agree/disagree. I agree with the proposal to establish a Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay

Question 2 :- Positive implications?

The decline in fish in the area is a great sadness for anyone who remembers youngsters being able in summer to fish precisely for what your mother wanted for tea from the bay. Sea angling events were regular and houses next to the shore were able with the Estates permission to renew their garden path each year from the large volume of white Maerl thrown up on the shore. See back numbers, Scots Magazine, Scottish Field.

This well researched proposal to restore a natural balance on the sea bed can only be of long term benefit. Lamlash Bay is particularly suited for this proposal being a combination of deep and shallow water and enclosed by land over approximately two thirds of the area. Discovering it appears to be the only surviving Clyde location for Maerl, the British Isles near equivalent of Coral, makes it more so.

While line fishing will not be possible in the No Take zone, the same areas in New Zealand have become a haven for snorkeling enthusiasts wanting to watch an enhanced range of wild life in a pristine underwater environment. This would be an ideal tourist activity and opportunity to encourage visitors to Arran and Lamlash Bay. Since fish and shellfish cannot be confined within a No Take Zone, they travel out as they grow to inhabit Take Zones beyond.

Question 2: - Negative or detrimental potential to the Marine Reserve Project.

The proposal for a fish farm at Clachlands beyond Hamilton Rock, recently rejected, is I understand to be appealed. The proposed fish farm is of concern because of its proximity and size with its potential to have a detrimental impact on the success of the No Take Zone. There is potential to skew results the Marine Reserve if the new Fish Farm Goes ahead in the proposed location.

This years outbreak of disease in the fish farm in Lamlash Bay does not inspire confidence, and increase in disease throughout Scotland.

The original fish farm was carefully researched and went ahead after it was discovered the tidal flow at the present site was strong enough to remove debris from Farmed fish from the sea bed.

The introduction of products for disease treatments could compromise the marine environment.

18/08/2008

Question 3: - Points to make /suggest

Potential educational benefits :- The proximity of Arran High School and the Ayrshire and Arran Out Door Centre both opened this Year in Lamlash with excellent study facilities. They would combine to provide a location for a wide spectrum of children and young people and adults, lay and academic to study this regeneration project at first hand and learn about wild life habitat in a potentially improving marine environment.

The proximity of Arran to the mainland makes it infinitely more accessible and cost effective for serious researchers engaging in a Pilot Project to share their expertise, than for example the Western Isles might be. Fishermen and Tourism would combine to benefit the whole of Scotland and the UK in the long term.

It would be interesting to know more about the different ways the project will be monitored over time, so that local and national interests can be served well and lessons learned for other marine sites.

I very much hope the Scottish Executive will look favourably on this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Crissie White

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