

Oakbank
Lamlash
Isle of Arran
KA27 8LH
7th May 2008

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

Consultation on Proposed Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay

Dear Sir,

Our responses to the questions in your consultation exercise are as follows.

Question 1. We strongly agree with the proposal to establish a Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay.

Question 2. We do not believe there are any important negative implications from the proposal. The minor inconvenience of restriction in fishing rights imposed on individuals and fishing interests in the short term is likely to be outweighed by the long-term benefits which will accrue.

Question 3. The proposal to establish a No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay results from an excellent local grassroots campaign in which a small group of committed people have painstakingly monitored and recorded the impact of current fishing practices on the seabed over a 10-year period. By publicising their findings, they have mobilised widespread support in the community for the need for environmental protection in this respect.

To fail to support their commendable efforts would send out a disgraceful negative message to the community, especially the young, on the island, and in Scotland as a whole.

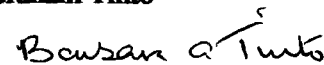
Projects such as the proposed No Take Zone are essential to gather evidence and experience in how to achieve sustainable fishing practices and deserve the full support of the Government.

It goes without saying that in our opinion, the decision to turn down the proposal to extend Fish Farm activity in the area was the correct one, and that the current appeal against this decision should be rejected.

Yours sincerely



R. Graham Tinto



Barbara A Tinto.