

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED MARINE RESERVE IN LAMLASH BAY

Response from Arran Community Council

31st March 2008

Question 1

We agree unanimously with the proposal to establish a Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay.

Question 2

We feel there are no negative implications in relation to the proposed reserve, but there are strong positive ones.

Question 3

We would like to make the following points:

Establishing a No Take Zone (NTZ) will allow the dangerously depleted fish stocks to regenerate. Experience in other areas has shown that fishermen benefit in the long run from the effect of a Marine Reserve, and we are glad that West of Scotland fishermen, after initial doubts, have strongly backed the Lamlash proposal.

Rare species such as maerl can be monitored and protected in a way that would be impossible if commercial fishing were to continue.

Educationally, the NTZ will provide excellent study material and be of great use to Arran's schools and to marine biologists.

In terms of eco-tourism, the NTZ will be a strong attraction. Many of Arran's visitors come here in search of an unspoiled environment, and Lamlash Bay will constitute a valuable addition to the features the island has to offer.

As a pioneering project in Scotland, the NTZ may prove to be the start of a new policy of establishing sustainable fishing. It is vitally important for the Lamlash Bay proposal to go ahead as a test case and potential demonstration of feasibility.

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