



the National Trust
for Scotland
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Dear Mr Brown,

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED MARINE RESERVE IN LAMLASH BAY

Thank you for inviting the National Trust for Scotland (the Trust) to respond to the consultation on the proposed Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay.

The National Trust for Scotland owns properties on Arran at Brodick Castle and Goatfell. We have been supporting the work of COAST locally on Arran and nationally through the work of the Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force. The National Trust for Scotland is therefore delighted with the proposals to establish a Marine Reserve within Lamlash Bay both because it is clearly in line with the wishes of the local community and because it will bring benefits to the biodiversity of the proposed reserve and, ultimately, to the commercial fishermen using the surrounding areas. There is ample evidence to demonstrate that certain forms of fishing, notably scallop dredging, are detrimental to sessile marine life and that marine no-take zones can result in the recovery of target and non-target species alike. There is therefore good reason to believe that the proposed reserve will be of benefit to all sectors of interest.

The only reservation is that the area proposed for protection is very small and the benefits to commercial fisheries are therefore likely to be limited. It would probably be beneficial to establish a larger no-take zone. Experience from elsewhere in the world suggests that 10-30% of the sea should be protected in order to achieve maximum benefit to fisheries.

The National Trust for Scotland is fully supportive of the rights of coastal communities, as stakeholders in nearby marine resources, to play a role in their conservation and sustainable use. We would like to see the model proposed for Lamlash Bay applied more widely and would suggest that Fair Isle, which has been calling for similar measures for nearly 15 years, would provide a prime candidate.

If you require any further detail please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy for our response to be made public.

Yours sincerely,



Dee McIntosh
The National Trust for Scotland
June 2008



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The conservation charity which protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations to enjoy

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- by engaging with all sections of society to make our heritage more socially inclusive
- by campaigning on behalf of the whole of Scotland's heritage

We are supported in this by our 305,000 members and a team of 2,500 dedicated volunteers. Our 129 properties include 76,000 hectares of Scotland's finest countryside and wild landscapes as well as castles, country houses and gardens. Each year we welcome around 3 million visitors to these very special places, and well over 100,000 young people benefit from specially arranged educational visits.

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