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4 June 2008

Dear Sir

### **Consultation on a proposed Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay**

There are 47 local Wildlife Trusts across the whole of the UK, the Isle of Man and Alderney. We are working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone. With 765,000 members, we are the largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to conserving the full range of the UK's habitats and species whether they be in the countryside, in cities or at sea. We manage 2,200 nature reserves, including 126 coastal reserves and 5 voluntary marine conservation areas.

We support the consultation response submitted by Scottish Wildlife Trust, which complements this response.

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

The Wildlife Trusts strongly agree with the proposal.

#### **Question 2: Do you think there would be any a) positive and b) negative implications should a Marine Reserve be established in Lamlash Bay?**

The Wildlife Trusts believe that the Marine Reserve proposal has multiple positive implications for biodiversity and ecosystem health, as well as benefiting science, marine environmental managers, the local community, commercial interests and the wider public:

- The Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve would make an important contribution to marine biodiversity conservation in Scottish waters. In the Reserve, the natural habitats and wildlife could recover from the impacts of past exploitation. Natural recovery in Marine Reserves has been shown to be faster and fuller than in other types of marine protected area, aiding marine biodiversity conservation both within and beyond the Reserve boundaries. For more information on Marine Reserves, please see the attached report *Marine Reserves – TLC for our seas and sea life*, which we published last year.
- The Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve would be a window on natural marine processes and ecology, providing a valuable benchmark against which to measure and understand human impacts on the marine ecosystem.



#### **The Wildlife Trusts**

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*Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
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- As Scotland's first Marine Reserve and the UK's second, Lamlash Bay would play an important role in helping marine environmental managers demonstrate to stakeholders the benefits of marine protected areas.
- As the UK's first community-driven marine protected area, the Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve would reward the outstanding efforts of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust and build a strong sense of ownership of the local marine environment. The Reserve would also inspire other coastal communities to develop their own proposals for protected areas.
- In concert with the proposed Fisheries Management Area, the Marine Reserve would help boost the biodiversity, resilience and productivity of the marine ecosystem. This would not only contribute to the sustainable management of Scottish seas, but could also potentially bring benefits for commercial interests, including fisheries and leisure industries (e.g. sea angling, scuba diving and ecotourism).

We do not believe that there would be any significant negative implications from this proposal.

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

The Wildlife Trusts' Marine Bill Campaign has recently highlighted historic changes in the UK's marine environment, particularly the dramatic declines in the marine megafauna (whales, dolphins and sharks) and the formerly vast populations of 'forage fish' (herring, for example) on which they depended. We emphasise the important role that protected areas – especially Marine Reserves – could play in the recovery of marine wildlife, large and small. We believe that the UK and Scottish Marine Bills must require the creation of networks of marine protected areas, including Marine Reserves. Please see the attached leaflet, *Seas of Plenty*, for more information.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Chilton  
Marine Development Manager  
The Wildlife Trusts

**RESPONDER INFORMATION**

- Lisa Chilton
- The Wildlife Trusts, The Kiln, Mather Road, Newark NG24 1WT
- [lichilton@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:lichilton@wildlifetrusts.org)
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation.
- I agree to this response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website).
- I agree that the Scottish Government may contact The Wildlife Trusts in the future in relation to this consultation response.



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