

**Subject:** Marine Protected Areas consultation response - David Woodhouse

My biggest problem with MPA's has always been that most people outwith fishing do not really understand what it means. What the West Coast definitely but definitely needs is National Park Status for the Hebridean Islands and immediate West Coast. Why, because people recognise National Park status world over and with National Park status would come marine protected areas as a matter of course. Most important of all is that National Park status also benefits the whole west coast economy as it raises international awareness of these magical Islands and this helps the whole economy and not just the strictly marine economy. National Park status should be the promotional umbrella with MPA's under this as merely the protection tool. My suggestion is a win win situation for all, whereas marine protected areas really mean so very little to the ordinary man in the street. Imagine for instance the overwhelming support my idea would get in tourism destinations like Oban which all know is pretty soulless and could well have the world acclaimed 'Oceanic Centre' as Gateway to the National Park ?!!!!

Yours sincerely  
David Woodhouse