



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Minister for Environment & Rural Development
Ross Finnie MSP

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY

Mr Nick Turnbull
Secretary
Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association
Penmore
DERVAIG
Isle of Mull
PA75 6QS

Telephone: 0845 774 1741
scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Our ref: 2006/0000983

3 February 2006

Dear Mr Turnbull,

Thank you for your letter of 23 December regarding the possibility of a coastal and marine national park being established in Mull.

I note your views and will make sure Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) considers them as part of the advice they have been asked to provide to Ministers by the end of March. I would like to reassure you that any decision to establish a coastal and marine national park will be subject to full and thorough local scrutiny. Following SNH's advice in March, there will be a full Scottish Executive consultation which will include local community groups who have expressed an interest in the proposal. There will also be a further two stages of consultation as part of the statutory process for designation of the Park. SNH's work is therefore an early stage in the process, and there will be several other opportunities to enter the debate and provide comments.

Scotland's national parks are not about the fossilisation of areas, but about managing them better to deliver sustainable development. The four aims of a National Park in Scotland therefore cover conservation and enjoyment of the area, but also sustainable use and social and economic development. Existing activities such as fishing and aquaculture will continue and the new inshore fisheries management groups will play a key role in developing a sustainable approach to this sector within the Park area.