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Richard Lochhead
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
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11th September 2013

Dear Mr Lochhead,

The Scottish Government's *Planning Scotland's Seas* consultation is a welcome, commendable and comprehensive package. The publication of supporting documentation for a large number of Marine Protected Area (MPAs) proposals is no mean feat, particularly when considering it has been produced in parallel to the National Marine Plan and marine renewable energy consultations.

Following previous discussion, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight work that Scottish Environment LINK has been doing to raise awareness of the consultation. To help engage the many communities of place and of interest that have a stake in the future health of our marine environment, LINK has developed an online webmap to help promote the consultation and facilitate further public engagement with the Scottish Government proposals, most specifically with MPAs. Using the geographic data for the proposed MPA network, the LINK webmap draws together the inshore and offshore MPA proposals and highlights where the official consultation information events are taking place. We reference the official supporting documentation and provide links to the relevant pages for each MPA proposal. The webpages can be viewed here:

<http://www.savescottishseas.org/scottish-marine-protected-area-network/>

<http://www.savescottishseas.org/get-involved/events/>

<http://www.savescottishseas.org/scottish-marine-protected-area-network/firth-of-forth-banks-complex-mpa/>

We look forward to continued engagement on this important work.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Duncan

LINK Marine Taskforce Convener
On behalf of:

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust
Marine Conservation Society
National Trust for Scotland
RSPB Scotland

Scottish Ornithologists' Club
Scottish Wildlife Trust
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
WWF Scotland

cc: David Mallon, Marine Scotland

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