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Beatrice Wishart MSP  
Deputy Convenor  
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment  
Committee c/o Clerk to the Committee

20 April 2022

Dear Deputy Convenor,

**Consideration of the Red Rocks and Longay Urgent Marine Conservation (No 2) Order 2021 (Urgent Continuation) Order 2022**

I refer to the above and to your letter of 28 March 2022, for which I am grateful.

NatureScot's latest Conservation and Management Advice for the Red Rocks and Longay MPA made the recommendation to consider reducing or limiting the intensity of creeling within the site. However no threshold could be provided by NatureScot for reducing or limiting creel numbers to allow the activity to be permitted in the site so as to meet the conservation objectives of the MPA. This, coupled with creel limits being very difficult for Marine Scotland Compliance to enforce, led to the prohibition on creeling remaining in the Continuation Order whilst the public consultation was undertaken.

The current public consultation is allowing further views to be gathered on the proposed prohibition of creeling for the permanent MPA and Marine Conservation Order (MCO), as well as, providing the opportunity for stakeholders to provide any proposals on reducing or limiting creel intensity within the permanent site.

All activities are managed in relation to the protected features of each MPA so that conservation objectives can be achieved. Therefore, depending on the MPA, the same activity may require different management.

Thank you for your consideration of this process.

**MÀIRI MCALLAN**

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