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Gillian Martin MSP
Convenor
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Committee

24 December 2018

Dear Gillian

I am writing to inform you that a report on progress to implement a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network has been laid in Parliament today. This report is a statutory requirement under Section 103 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and Section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

In summary, the report shows that considerable progress has been made with implementation of the MPA network over the last six years. The network has almost doubled in size, and is now much more representative of the range of habitats and species found in our seas. The report also acknowledges that further sites are required to improve the network, and further management measures are required to improve individual sites. A considerable work programme is ongoing to deliver this.

I am grateful to the many stakeholders who have dedicated so much time and effort to help shape the MPA network, and also to the Committee for their scrutiny and support over the last six years. I look forward to working with you all to continue progress over the next 6 years.



MAIRI GOUGEON