

The Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Monday 30 July 2012

Dear Fergus Ewing, Minister for Tourism,

Protect marine wildlife to help protect tourism

We are proud to be part of Scotland's highly successful wildlife tourism sector. Around £100 million is spent in Scotland by coastal wildlife tourists annually, and £63 million by marine wildlife tourists. This creates vital jobs, income and opportunities for many of Scotland's most fragile rural communities. Visitors travel from all around the world to enjoy our spectacular wildlife, including our globally important seabirds, whales and dolphins. We want to ensure this continues.

Our businesses rely on Scotland's reputation as a spectacular wildlife watching destination, which in turn depends on the protection you provide to our iconic marine life.

We are therefore asking that you, as Minister for Tourism, support Scotland's tourism sector by supporting a network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas to protect and restore our precious marine environment, including our whales, dolphins and seabirds.

Yours sincerely,

*Warwick Lister-Kaye*  
Aigas Field Centre  
Beauly, Inverness-shire

*Susan Phillips*  
Aurorabearealis, The Studio  
North Kessock, Inverness

*Iain Wilson*  
Calanna boat charters  
Knoydart, Inverness-shire

*Chris Jackson*  
Chalice Charters  
Oban, Argyll and Bute

*Wendy Mattingley*  
Cluny House Gardens  
Aberfeldy, Perthshire

*Elizabeth Riddiford*  
Exclusively Fair Isle traditional knitwear  
Fair Isle, Shetland

*James and Florence Stout*  
The Fair Isle Marine Environment and  
Tourism Initiative  
Fair Isle, Shetland

*Nick Riddiford*  
Freelance ecologist and tour leader  
Fair Isle, Shetland

*Philip Price*  
Loch Visions - Freelance wildlife  
photographer and tour guide  
Kilchrenan, Argyll

*Jon and Angela Mercer*  
Glenloy Wildlife  
Fort William, Inverness-shire

*Peter Cairns*  
Northshots  
Glenfeshie, Kingussie

*Russell and Elspeth Cheshire*  
Ocean Breeze Rib Tours  
Isle of Arran, Argyll and Bute

*Steve Sankey*  
Orcadian Wildlife  
South Ronaldsay, Orkney

*Eric Wardlaw*  
Phoenix Boat Trips  
Inverness

*John Clarke*  
Puffin Cruises  
Moray Firth, Aberdeenshire

*Tom Brock OBE, Chief Executive,*  
Scottish Seabird Centre  
North Berwick, East Lothian

*Dr Jonathan Wills*  
Seabirds-and-Seals  
Bressay, Shetland

*Neil Corstorphine*  
Sea Eagle Adventures  
St Andrews, Fife

*Scott Aston*  
Sea.fari Adventures Forth  
Forth, Lothian

*Tony Hill*  
Sea.fari Adventures Oban  
Oban, Argyll

*David Ainsley*  
Sealife Adventures  
Easdale, By Oban

*Richard Fairbairns*  
Sea Life Surveys  
Isle of Mull, Argyll

*Nigel Smith*  
Seaprobe Atlantis  
Isle of Skye

*Colette Dubois and Michael Marshall*  
St Hilda Sea Adventures  
Dunoon, Argyll and Bute

*David Brackenbury*  
South Lighthouse guesthouse  
Fair Isle, Shetland

*Bob Richmond*  
Tay Maritime Action  
Dundee city, Dundee