

PE1431/F

Petition PE1431 to Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee: Marine Protected Area for Fair Isle waters

I am writing to inform the Petitions Committee of two developments which are pertinent to, and which the Petitions Committee will wish to take into account, in its consideration of the Fair Isle petition (PE1431) at Stornoway on 15th March next. They are summarised as follows:

- 1) ***Engagement and progress with the Scottish stakeholder Fishing Organisations in seeking consensus over our application.*** An invitation was lodged by the Fair Isle community to the Scottish Fishing Federation and its affiliated members to visit Fair Isle and discuss with the community ways forward. This invitation was discussed at the SFF Sustainable Fisheries meeting in early March. This prompted a message from SFF to myself, Nick Riddiford, received by email today 7th March, proposing a meeting where we would have the opportunity to outline our proposals to a group that would consist of representatives of those SFF Associations with significant interests in the area covered by our proposal.

The community will wish to take this forward, and has begun the process of studying the means and mechanisms for doing so.

- 2) ***Engagement with the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan process.*** Following a meeting of the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan advisory group in February 2013, the Chair of the Advisory Group, Mr Martin Holmes, wrote to Ms Fiona Mitchell, Chair of the Fair Isle Community Association, to make it known that, as the SMSP and Fair Isle proposal share the same aim of promoting sustainable use of marine resources around Shetland, the Advisory Group offered its broad support for the Fair Isle community aspirations as set out in the proposals for a Research and Demonstration MPA.

Nick Riddiford
Coordinator, *Fair Isle Marine Environment & Tourism Initiative* (on behalf of Fair Isle Community)

7th March 2013