

PE1431/I

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Public Petitions Committee
C/O Clerk to the Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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Your ref: PE1431

Dear Public Petitions Committee

Public Petitions Committee – Consideration of Petition PE1431

Thank you for your letter of the 5th June inviting the Scottish Government to give evidence at the Public Petitions Committee on 17 September 2013.

We have been requesting further supporting information from the third parties who submitted Demonstration & Research Third Party Proposals, and there is a need for there to be meetings between the third parties and other marine users before the proposal can be assessed. These meetings have yet to take place as many of the stakeholders, scientists and officials who would need to be involved have been working with us on the development of the Nature Conservation MPA network.

The aim in the last letter of the 9 April to the Public Petitions Committee was to complete the assessments of the Demonstration & Research proposals in time for the consultation on the Nature Conservation MPAs in Summer 2013. However in order for the necessary meetings to take place the assessment will now be conducted in 2014.

We would be happy to accept your kind invitation, and request the Committee note we propose to continue working with FIMETI to seek views and agreements with the relevant stakeholders.

I hope this is useful and grateful if you could please let me know the details of the Committee meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Sebastian Howell