

PE1431/K

Marine Scotland Email of 30 October 2014

F.A.O. The Public Petitions Committee

The assessment of the 2 Demonstration and Research MPAs has now been contracted to ABPmer with Marine Scotland as the client. ABPmer have been tasked to undertake an independent assessment of both proposals, as well as to identify the potential costs and benefits of the proposals. Part of their remit is to identify gaps in the proposals and where possible we are working with the proposers to clarify any uncertainties that may not have been addressed in the proposals.

In the case of Fair Isle we have accepted an updated revised proposal that provides more detail and understanding than the original, and will include further clarifications in the assessment following the informative and productive discussions on the isle yesterday. The meeting was held with representatives from every household on the isle. The meeting was attended by me, a representative from the contractor ABPmer and the area officer from SNH who has had significant involvement in Fair Isle community matters. This evening and tomorrow we are meeting with those on Shetland who may be impacted by, or have further interest in, the Fair Isle proposal.

All being well, we will receive the advice from our independent assessors on both proposals in mid-January. Any proposal that is successful following the external assessment would be consulted on in the first half of 2015.

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