EUROPEAN PARKS: INSPIRED BY THE NEXT GENERATION

An Island Community
Marine Protected Area

EUROPARC
Conference 2018
Cairngorms National Park
Scotland
Forward to effective ongoing management

COAST
Established 1995

Until 2011 run by volunteers

Now has 3 full time staff and dozens of volunteers

The main issue
Scotland's seas have been & continue to be managed by Government for the benefit of just a few vested interests.

Coastal communities in general are excluded or sidelined from its management.

As islanders we have been excluded from having a say on our most Important resource.

Howard Wood, Don MacNeish
CLYDE SEA AREA
3650 Sq Km.
Now known as the Newfoundland of Europe, due to the collapse of fish stocks.

Chart courtesy of Clyde SSMEI
THE CLYDE IS NOW A FISHERY OF LAST RESORT

- Reduction in diversity and abundance of catch

Commercial catches of **fin fish ceased in 2003**

*Nephrops* and scallop, at the bottom of the food chain account for over **99% of commercial catch** in the Clyde today

The removal of the **3 nautical mile exclusion zone to trawling** coincides with the **decline** in landings

The landings of the principle demersal fish, and of Nephrops, from the Clyde since 1960
Our community’s use of Lamlash Bay & Arran seas
Children & adults involved in lots of water sports
Recreational Sea Angling has, due to lack of fish, decreased by 90% over past 25 years.
The Benefits of Angling for Rural Communities
Recreational Angling can contribute to rural communities in diverse ways; in addition to the direct impacts on local economies generated by angling tourism, there is a range of more nuanced impacts, such as reducing seasonality economic effects and sustaining cultural heritage.

Angling’s Contribution to Tackling Youth Social Exclusion
- Provide personal and social development opportunities
- Improve achievement in education and employment
- Divert young people from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Diversion From Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- The most effective angling diversionary programmes establish exit routes into clubs and wider angling opportunities.
- “By the time I was really starting into fishing I was hanging around with the wrong sort of people. I had two choices, it was either fishing or go out and start taking drugs. I chose fishing” (Interview with 18 youth)

Angling is particularly suited to helping young people with additional welfare needs and behavioural or learning difficulties, especially ADHD.
- Young people suffering behavioural or learning difficulties, experiencing bullying, or bereavement, who have difficult family circumstances, low school attendance, or are experiencing difficulties making friends, can benefit from the additional personal support provided by dedicated angling programmes.
- Angling also appears to have a very particular benefit for young people with hyperkinetic disorders, such as ADHD.

So where's the Scottish Governments RSA policy?
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION
We engage with Government & politicians

Over 24 years COAST has gained the support of a wide range of MSPs MPs MEPs & members of the House of Lords
INSIDE THE NO TAKE ZONE...

Scallops (2015)
Larger and more plentiful
More individuals and a wider variety of species

Seafloor (2015)
Animals and plants that attach to seafloor twice as abundant

Lobsters (2017)
12% larger + 39% reproductive output X2 lobsters/creel
COAST’s experience

• Must be a real desire and rationale to campaign for change
• Strength is in community roots - broad based and inclusive
• Single objective/ clear agenda
• Tenacity and resilience over the long-term
• Requires political awareness and campaigning zeal
• Government will only implement progressive change with strong support from local communities
Bottom-up approach

Creation of the Lamlash Bay NoTakeZone

• COAST is a grassroots community initiative.
• Observed deterioration of the marine environment inspired its creation.
• Strong community support on Arran and around Scotland won the day.
• First NTZ (2.67sq km) in Scotland declared in 2008.

• Meant we were well prepared for the campaign for effective MPA between 2012 to 2016.

COAST’s success is now being emulated by 12 other Scottish Coastal communities.
Scottish MPA network = 20% of our seas

Real protection from damaging activity is patchy

Arran Marine Protected Area
For successful well managed MPAs

1. Need to implement sensible baseline management at the start.
2. Scientifically monitor bio-diversity & targeted fish & shell fish species.
4. Effective compliance of law/rules.
5. Discuss with all stakeholders results of ongoing monitoring then implement changes to the original baseline management if necessary.