

For the attention of:

**Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; and  
Members of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee**

14/09/2018

### **Wild Seaweed Harvesting, West Coast of Scotland**

The [Coastal Communities Network, Scotland](#) is a collaboration of locally-focused Scottish coastal community groups, guided by the belief that coastal communities across Scotland are well placed to harness long-term solutions to ensure healthy, well-managed seas. The Network provides the means to build the community voice within marine conservation and management in Scotland and is currently comprised of 13 community groups spanning the Scottish coastline, alongside supporters and associated organisations who share and support the aims of the Network.

The below named members of the Coastal Communities Network call for **no licenses to be granted under which kelp may be harvested in such a way as to inhibit the regrowth of individual plants.**

Kelp beds are known for their important carbon storage abilities, and protecting blue carbon features is essential for healthy seas and for action against climate change. Alongside this, kelp beds act as vital buffers against coastal erosion and the impacts of storm damage through absorption of wave action. The targeted removal of large, old-growth fronds from these kelp beds will substantially reduce the ability of the beds to provide these vital, free ecosystem services.

We call for Roseanna Cunningham and the ECCLR Committee to fully take on board the concerns of Scottish coastal communities regarding the protection of Scotland's marine environment and urge all MSPs from all parties to back the amendment lodged by Mark Ruskell MSP on this topic next Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **On behalf of the named Coastal Communities Network members:**

[Community Association of Lochs and Sounds \(CAOLAS\)](#)

[Community of Arran Seabed Trust \(COAST\)](#)

[Craignish Restoration of Marine and Coastal Habitat \(CROMACH\)](#)

[Fairlie Coastal Trust](#)

[Friends of Loch Etive](#)

[Friends of the Sound of Jura](#)

[Orkney Skate Trust](#)

[Save Seil Sound](#)

[Sea Change Wester Ross](#)

[South Skye Seas Initiative](#)

#### **Coastal Communities Network, Scotland**

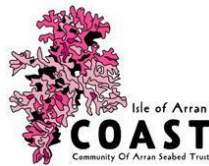
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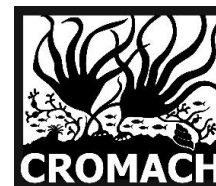
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