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MPA Network Consultation  
Scottish Government  
Marine Planning and Policy Division  
Area 1-A South  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH66QQ

Dear Sir,

Further to our conversations with the MPA consultation team in Oban and Craignure, and with Mr David Mallon from Marine Scotland, Tobermory Harbour Association (THA) recommends and asks that Tobermory Bay and the near approaches be excluded from the MPA area in line with other harbours including Oban. (See attached plan)

There is no historic evidence of Common Skate within the Port area. Brian Swinbanks, Chair of the THA was instrumental in the historic tagging programme for Skate which has underpinned this MPA. Brian spent 21 years catching, monitoring, recording and returning this endangered species alive to the sea. He confirms that he has no record of the Common Skate being caught in Tobermory Bay.

The THA manages the moorings, the fairway and the pontoons and are currently in discussion with Transport Scotland and the Community about becoming the Harbour Authority for the Port of Tobermory and its approaches.

Managing the Port within an MPA would put a considerable burden on our community Management and Governance of the Port, especially as we have new and long- term infrastructure proposals for the Port which will bring benefits to other more remote communities up and down the west coast.

Yours Faithfully

Jim Traynor  
Marine Manager  
On behalf of the Tobermory Harbour Association

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