



Scottish Council for National Parks

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Mr. Bob Elliot
Senior Operations Manager (Recreation)
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Dear Mr. Elliot

LOCH LOMOND BYELAW REVIEW

The Scottish Council for National Parks (SCNP) was formed originally in 1943 and operated until 1967, when it was stood down as a result of the setting up of the Countryside Commission for Scotland. It was reconstituted in 1990 following the publication of the CCS's report on the 'Mountain Areas of Scotland' for Government, which recommended the creation of National Parks in Scotland. The SCNP's primary aim is to promote the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of nationally outstanding areas that are National Parks, or are appropriate to be designated as such, or are of sufficient merit to warrant special protection. This is manifest in our support for good stewardship of the country's best environmental assets and encouragement of sustainable methods of development, particularly within areas of national park potential. SCNP is a recognised Scottish Charity.

SCNP welcomes the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the review of the byelaws for Loch Lomond. The form supplied is very much designed for individuals rather than bodies such as SCNP and therefore, I hope you will take this letter as being the Council's response. For our part, we would wish to concentrate on problems arising from the use of the water area, in particular, the problems thrown up by potential conflicts between different users such as jet skis, high powered speed boats, water skiing, seaplanes, yachts, canoes and rowing boats.

Speed is an issue highlighted by the recent events on Windermere in the Lake District National Park. It is particularly unfortunate that the Lake District National Park gave power boat users the message that once their new speed limit of 10mph was introduced, they could carry on with their activities on Loch Lomond as if the very problems that their speed limit addressed were acceptable here. That is not the case and we consider that the maximum speed on Loch Lomond should be in the range of 25-30mph. This would allow water skiing to continue but for reasons of safety, the Park should have the powers to zone the loch to avoid potential clashes with other users.

The use of powerboats at night, sometimes without lights, is also something that needs to be brought under control and the penalty for breaching the byelaws should be at least doubled to £1000 for the worst cases.

Finally, we wish to see jet skis removed from the Loch. They are a noisy intrusion, which spoil the enjoyment of the Loch for many people over a wide area. Numerous surveys have shown that the most important reasons



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for visiting Scotland include the wonderful landscapes, wildlife, peace and tranquillity and culture. Loch Lomond is internationally recognised as one of our finest environmental assets and as such is not compatible with Jet ski activity. A byelaw prohibiting jet skis is required.

Yours sincerely

Robert Maund
Chairman