



As a small ship cruising company working in the Hebrides for 30 years, we think MachairWind would be an ecological disaster.

The idea of such a huge area being used to install so many turbines would not only be disruptive at the installation phase but the long-term effect after they are all online would without doubt cause ecological damage to the migratory birds, marine life and the established bio marine ecosystems.

We as a company have been involved for many years with research of the marine infrastructure on the West Coast of Scotland alongside the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. We've seen an increase in sightings of many cetaceans and in the last two years it's been incredibly positive to see the increase in sightings of Humpback Whales, these were very rare, but we are seeing them further South and closer inshore than ever before. Very recently a pod of 6 Orca was seen South of Oban where we captured incredible footage of them hunting common dolphins. This pod had not been seen this far south before - just more evidence of the increase in marine wildlife so important to the West Coast.

This planned wind farm would be totally disastrous and a step backwards to what we see as marine and ocean life making a slow but forward moving recovery from man's previous years of reckless exploitation.

On a further point of disruption that would be caused - it's not only the turbines themselves that would be installed but the 'heavy duty' cables as well. Each turbine would need to be joined to an undersea hub then taken to shore. This would involve excavating many hundreds of thousands of tons of seabed to install them. Causing more untold/unseen damage to our marine ecosystems.

There are many other points to be raised against this development. We as a company are against MachairWind totally.

Rob Barlow

Skipper and Owner

Hebrides Cruises

www.hebridescruises.co.uk

info@hebridescruises.co.uk