



**THE BAY & CAUGHT IN TIME**  
**Produced by Doug Anderson**  
 for COAST  
 (Community Of Arran Seabed Trust)  
 The Bay £7 plus P&P  
 Caught in Time £10 plus P&P  
 You can order them from  
[www.arrancoast.co.uk](http://www.arrancoast.co.uk)

FOR THE past 10 years or so COAST have been trying to have Lamlash Bay declared a marine no-take zone. In July 2006 after a decade of campaigning the group were no nearer success but had learned a lot on the way. Eventually they decided to gather as much information as they could and produce *Caught in Time*.

In this DVD they outline the case for marine no-take zones and then interview everyone they can who has an interest in the subject. The resulting film is worthy of the BBC at its best with telling interviews with fishermen past and present who talk frankly about how they have ruined the Clyde as a fishery.

Some of the older fishermen can recall the fact there were up to a 100 boats all fishing for cod and how better nets and more efficient methods had done for the cod by the late 1960s. At present there are only two species being fished in the Clyde; scallops and nethrops (prawns). And how long will it be before they are fished out?

There are interviews with scientists including Bill Ballantyne from New Zealand who was the first to successfully persuade his government to establish no-take zones with great success.

Finally they managed to get someone from SNH to explain why they were not interested in making Lamlash Bay a no-take zone. The SNH view is that no-take zones should be part of a marine protection strategy that covers the whole country and it would be wrong to allow small groups to set up their own

areas that might not fit into the bigger plan. When asked how long it might take to prepare and implement such a strategy he said five to 10 years.

Patrick Stewart spokesman for the Clyde fisherman's association was in complete agreement with this strategy but with a smile his estimate of how long it might take was 20 years.

This is a wonderful insight into what a small group of dedicated conservationists have had to deal with to try to protect their local heritage. It is a superb piece of balanced and even handed work. By simply allowing those involved to talk openly about the subject they have shown the complete disregard for the environment shown by the fishermen and those who are charged with protecting that environment on our behalf.

I would urge everyone with a concern for the future of the marine environment to buy this DVD and once they have watched it send it to their MSP. Only if we keep up the pressure on politicians do we have any hope of preserving what is left of the marine environment.

'The Bay' is an evocative and lyrical journey through the seasons and the life of a typical bay on the west coast of Scotland.

The story is told through a narrator who started snorkelling in the bay when he was eight and there is some early 8mm footage shot probably in the 1960s that reminded me of my own first adventures in the Clyde. The story he tells covers the changes that have occurred in and around the bay over the years.

A well written script beautifully filmed by Doug Anderson, well known for his work on the Blue Planet and other BBC productions. There is a brilliant use of time-lapse photography, early morning mist swirling over the Holy Isle and then clearing to a bright sunny day.

However this is not a nostalgic look at times gone by more a positive affirmation of the natural beauty of the marine environment and its resilience in the face of what we humans are capable of doing to it. The film also highlights the work done by local divers carrying out Seasearch surveys giving data to monitor any changes in the future.

The underwater footage is superb with a perfect soundtrack mixing the relaxed commentary with sympathetic music. This is the sort of film that makes you realise why you go diving, the sort of film that would inspire and enthuse new divers.

I found it relaxing and stimulating at the same time. At £7 plus £1 P&P it is remarkable value with the added advantage that you will be helping COAST in their effort to get proper protection for the bay.



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