

DEAR FIRST MINISTER

We are seeing the wonders of our seas and seabeds – puffins and kittiwakes, tuna and dolphins, seagrass and maerl – threatened by inattention, suffocating plastic, waste, ignorance, greed.

The waters are full of indispensable lives, from the barnacle beards of whales to the salty drift of plankton. We want the silence that comes when night descends and the gulls fall quiet; we fear the silence of absence. Of extinction.

We are powerful waves in the shape of human beings. We yearn for sewage-free seas, long for plastic-free seas.

We want to stand with you on the beach, in the shallows, in silt. Who knows – maybe one day we will feel the seagrass, cool and green, as it feathers the waters of the Forth and brings life.

We want to stand with you in the intertidal zone, vapour trails overhead, listening to the oystercatcher's wild call.

In dreams we lie, unsilenced, on the seabed and whisper the ocean's truth. Vital as our voices, the heartbeat of whales.

Mr Swinney, hear us. Hear them.

Protect the Oceans. Save the Seas.

We are concerned citizens who participated in the 'There is a Tide' creative writing workshop at the Push The Boat Out Poetry Festival, Edinburgh on 23rd November 2024, facilitated by Seawilding and Paperboats.

SEAWILDING
Community-led Marine Habitat Restoration

**PUSH
THE BOAT
OUT**


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