



Building public support for MPAs

MPA conference, Scarborough, Oct 07

Lisa Chilton, The Wildlife Trusts



Saving our Seas



Saving our Seas

make WAVES!



Supportive of MPAs in general



Passive

Active



Supportive of specific MPA/s

Saving our Seas

A graphic with the text "make WAVES!" in a red, hand-drawn style font. The word "make" is in a simple sans-serif font, while "WAVES!" is in a larger, bolder font with a wavy underline. The entire graphic is enclosed in a red rectangular border with a white background.

make
WAVES!



The Wildlife Trusts 2007 poll (ICM)

- Day at the seaside = no. 1 activity
- 78% said sea is important to personal quality of life
- 94% said sea is important as habitat for wildlife
- 94% said health of marine environment is important



make
WAVES!



- 76% said fewer fish in sea than 20 years ago
 - 90% said nature conservation should take priority
 - 50% had heard of Marine Reserves
 - On average thought that 27% sea area in Marine Reserves
 - Thought that 62% *should be* in Marine Reserves
-
- UK and country/regional summaries on website
 - Anyone for data?





Fishing industry and related views on No Take MPA proposals in SW England, *Dr Peter Jones, UCL*

“Where No Take MPAs are concerned, I think it is the height of bloody arrogance!”

“Both fish stocks and marine biodiversity are in a good condition.”

“Fish stocks are essentially there to be harvested, to provide livings and food, so it is wrong that we should close areas to fishing.”





Developing new approaches

- Thanet
- Finding Sanctuary
- C.O.A.S.T.
- Lundy & Skomer
- And others...



The Wildlife Trusts' Conference, Jan 05

- Greater communication between practitioners
E.g. conferences, workshops, web portal
- CoastNet regional workshops & 'Dive Straight In'
- SW Marine Education Exchange,
- MPA Centre
- Evaluation of initiatives

Also:

- Browning, L. J. *et al* (2006). Education as a tool for coral reef conservation: lessons from MPAs. Pages 419-447 in *Coral Reef Conservation*, eds. Isabelle M. Cote and John D Reynolds. CUP 2006.

- Scuttlebutt US network





Lessons from down under

- General awareness-raising
- Neutral groups
- ‘Trusted messengers’
- Interstate rivalry
- ‘Crash through or crash’
- Persistence



Westcott, G (2006) The long and winding road: the development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of highly protected MPAs in Victoria, Australia. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 49 (905-922).



Key steps:

- Greater communication
- Promotion of MPA successes
- Evaluation
- Ambition
- Dogged persistence



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WAVES!



Saving our Seas



Three little requests:

- Respond to the Lyme Bay consultation
- Sign a *Petition Fish* scale
- Forward [Bernard the Gurnard](#)



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