

Wildlife and
Countryside

LINK



MPA provisions in the Marine Bill: perspectives from Wildlife and Countryside Link

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Overview

- WCL and Joint Links
- Marine Bill
- Positives
- Negatives
- Link recommendations
- Next Steps

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CONSULTATION ON THE MARINE BILL WHITE PAPER

A SEA CHANGE

Wildlife and Countryside Link Response

June 2007



www.wcl.org.uk



CAMPAIGNING FOR A SEA CHANGE

A joint NGO response
to the Marine Bill White Paper

Wildlife and Countryside Link Marine Task Force; Wales Environment Link Marine Working Group;
Scottish Environment Link Marine Task Force and the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force

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Marine Bill Now!

- pleased to see work so far
- concern about slow progress
- **Marine Bill in this year's Queen's Speech**

NEW LAW
NOW
PROTECT
OUR SEA LIFE



Safeguard our sea life

Pressure Gordon Brown for new marine laws

About the campaign

Support our campaign for comprehensive legislation to protect the marine environment. Pressures on our fragile marine environment are increasing - from pollution, exploitation and the damaging effects of poorly planned development - yet the laws protecting it remain woefully inadequate.

The Government recently published proposals for new legislation - these included the setting up of Marine Conservation Zones to protect important sites, and an overhaul of the system for planning at sea.

With your help and support, we now have our best chance of turning these proposals into law. To do this, we must ensure a UK Marine Bill is part of the Government's legislative agenda for 2007-8 by securing its inclusion in this autumn's Queen's Speech.

Sign the pledge to Gordon Brown, and support our campaign to Safeguard our sea life.

How to take part

To take part, please enter your details in the form below. All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory. The information you enter will be used to format your email.

Key points

- Recent Government proposals for marine legislation are not yet law
- If they are included in the Queen's speech this autumn, they will become part of the Government's agenda for 2007-8
- Help us make it happen by signing a pledge to Gordon Brown now

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Link's Bottom Line

The Marine Bill will have failed if it does not provide for the designation of a network of MPAs to protect our nationally important biodiversity, including some areas that are highly protected

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Positives

- recognition of need for new mechanism
- commitment to network
- inclusion of highly protected sites
- purposes for MCZs

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Negatives

- lack of ambition in tone
- lack of ambition in timetable
- “balancing” ecological, social and economic

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Negatives

- weak designation process
- piecemeal management framework
- could it achieve a highly protected site?

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Link recommends - designation

- duty on Government to designate network

- duty on SNCAs to designate sites

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Link recommends - management

- strong system of management
- including highly protected sites
- SNCA given the overview

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NEXT STEPS

☆ **Strengthen MCZ proposals**

☆ **Introduce Marine Bill**

☆ **Locate suitable areas**

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Further information

**For more information on Link's marine campaign
please log on to our website www.wcl.org.uk or
contact Joanna on 020 7820 8600 or
Joanna@wcl.org.uk**