



Marine and Coastal Access Bill Newsletter

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Marine and Coastal Access Bill completes latest stage in Parliamentary process

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill completed its latest stage in the Parliamentary process when the Commons Committee finished its consideration of the Bill on 14 July. The Committee had been expected to take 12 sessions but, due to the rapid progress made, the Committee was able to complete its deliberations in just 9 sessions. The Commons Committee particularly focused their deliberations on the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), marine planning, nature conservation, fisheries and coastal access provisions of the Bill. The Committee agreed to 14 amendments to the Bill in relation to the MMO, the Welsh Zone, marine planning and shellfisheries. The issues the Government agreed to reflect further upon include the delegation of IFCA functions, repealing section 22 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act and the "sea fishing defence" in nature conservation zones. The Bill continues to have wide support, as reflected by Richard Benyon MP, the Conservative spokesman on the Committee, in his closing remarks "this is really important legislation and I look forward to its getting Royal Assent as soon as possible", a comment which was echoed by Andrew George MP, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on the Committee.

The Bill, as amended by the Commons Committee, has been reprinted and details on how to obtain a

copy of the Bill are available at the end of this newsletter. The Bill will now be reported to the House after the summer Recess. Parliament returns on 12 October but a date has yet to be published for Report to the House of Commons. Further amendments may be made to the Bill at Report stage before the Bill receives a Third Reading. Amendments made to the Bill in the House of Commons go back to the House of Lords for consideration. Once both Houses agree to the content of the Bill it may proceed to Royal Assent.



IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

Chair Designate of the MMO announced



Christopher Parry has been appointed Chair Designate of the Marine Management Organisation, the independent body to be established by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill to regulate and manage the sea around England.

Mr Parry has had a distinguished naval career spanning 30 years, including active service in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf, and subsequently went on to hold director and then Director-General roles at the Ministry of Defence. On his appointment he said: "Dealing with the complex challenges facing our seas, and maximising our opportunities in the marine environment whilst protecting it, are vital to the future of our country and our coastal communities. I'll be drawing on my maritime knowledge and experience to help the Marine Management Organisation, with its wide range of functions and responsibilities, to take an integrated, balanced approach to managing our seas. I'm very much looking forward to working with everyone with an interest in our seas and coasts".

Mr Parry has a passionate personal interest in the coastal, maritime, historic and natural environments and extensive experience, as a professional seaman and aviator, of working at sea. In his early career he had experience of working in Fishery Protection and Search and Rescue and later he commanded a destroyer, an amphibious ship and an amphibious group.

With experience as a non-Executive Director and as the Chair of Departmental and international committees, Mr Parry was appointed for his long track record of successful strategic development and management of complex, multi-disciplinary maritime organisations and his experience of implementing two major multi-site and multi-disciplinary amalgamation programmes (the Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre and the Maritime Warfare Centre).

As the non-Executive Chair Designate of the MMO, Mr Parry will oversee the development and implementation of overall strategic direction of the MMO and will lead the appointed Board. One of the key responsibilities for the Chair Designate over the next few months is to work in conjunction with the Secretary of State to appoint the MMO Board.

He writes and lectures widely on strategic forecasting, leadership and maritime themes and is a keen long distance coastal path walker.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

Huw Irranca-Davies, Minister for Marine and Natural Environment announced on 8 July that Defra will establish 10 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation (IFC) districts. This decision was made following full public consultation on options to establish new districts through the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

The Bill will reform inshore fisheries management in England by replacing Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) with newly created IFC authorities. IFC authorities will be established in April 2011.

The preferred option for 10 IFC districts builds on the current SFC model that values local input to decision-making, provides an expert body to find practical solutions to complex inshore fisheries issues and delivers national policy at a local level. It also ensures fair representation of local authorities on their relevant committees, as well as representation from local commercial, recreational and environmental interests.

IFC district boundaries will extend inland, aligning themselves with local authority boundaries. The detail of seaward and landward boundaries and the constitutional make-up of IFCA committees will be set out in draft Orders establishing IFC districts. We plan to consult on these in January/February 2010 and would welcome stakeholder views.

The consultation response, along with further information on IFC authorities, can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/inshore-fisheries/index.htm>

Marine Nature Conservation

Work to identify Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) is now underway and Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee have set up four regional projects around the English coast. In each region, sea users will be able to apply to represent their sector on a stakeholder group. The process of creating these groups should begin later this year and be complete by March 2010. The Regional Project Teams being formed will gather data on the marine environment and the areas of sea which are important to different sea users. The stakeholder group will use this data to work together to recommend the location of sites and

what they should protect. The first stakeholder considerations of where MCZs might be located will be made in the Autumn of 2010 with final recommendations to the nature conservation agencies anticipated in the Summer of 2011. We'd like sea users to work with regional projects to identify marine conservation zones and their conservation objectives, and provide information for impact assessments. Selection of sites will be based on sound scientific evidence but proposals will also be able to take account of the impact on people's lives and livelihoods.



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You can contact regional project managers as follows:

Finding Sanctuary (South-west):

Tom Hooper – tom.hooper@southwestfoodanddrink.com

Irish Sea Project: Rowan Byrne – r.byrne@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

Eastern Channel Project: Sue Wells – susan.wells@kent.gov.uk

North Sea Project: Joanna Redhead – Joanna@yhsg.co.uk

You can find out more about marine protected areas at www.defra.gov.uk/marine/biodiversity/protected-areas.htm and www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/biodiversity/mpa-network.pdf and read about Finding Sanctuary at www.finding-sanctuary.org/

The network we create needs to protect the range of features that exist in UK waters including rare and threatened ones. It will include sites, already protected under European legislation – such as Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and MCZs, being created under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Public consultation on Defra's MPA Strategy recently closed (July 13) and to further the development of this Strategy, Defra provided an opportunity for a broad range of sea users to discuss and help develop both the Strategy and Defra's guidance note on selecting MCZs in late July.

Natura 2000

An informal dialogue on a package of new European Marine Sites commenced on July 16th 2009 led by Natural England and the Joint Nature

Conservation Committee. The package includes 6 inshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 2 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – one jointly with Wales and 1 offshore SAC. Further information on the informal dialogue may be found on: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/sacconsultation/default.aspx> It is planned to consult formally on the package and additional sites in November 2009 and put them forward to the European Commission for designation in August 2010. These sites



contribute to the completion of the Natura 2000 network as obliged under the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives.

Marine Licensing

A first consultation on the secondary legislation under Part 4 of the Bill was launched on 1 July with a closing date of 22 September. The consultation covers the process for applying for and determining a marine licence, appeals against licensing determinations and exemptions from the need for a marine licence. The documents can be found on Defra's website at the following address: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marine-bill/index.htm>.

We would very much welcome people's views on the issues raised in this consultation and responses will help shape the process so that it works for all users of the sea.

As part of our commitment to having a consultative approach on getting the new system right, we will engage further with key stakeholders in late summer/early autumn, either through workshops or bilateral meetings, as we look to develop our proposals and talk through issues raised by the consultation. We will be in touch with industry bodies, representational bodies, non-governmental organisations and others over the summer.



Marine Policy Statement and Marine Planning

The new system of marine planning provided for by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill now has its own dedicated page on Defra's website. The page can be accessed at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/planning.htm>

We intend to consult on proposed marine plan areas and the criteria for deciding where to plan first later this year. Following the recent stakeholder workshop on the Marine Policy

Statement, further workshops will be held later this year and details will be made available on the website.

Coastal Access

Natural England have recently completed an audit of existing coastal access paths, working with the 53 English access authorities with a coastline. Natural England will publish the results of this audit on 31 July. It will be available on their website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>



OTHER NEWS

Low Carbon Transition Plan

Renewable energy is a vital component of the UK's diverse energy mix. In offshore wind, we have one of the best natural resources in Europe and the UK already leads the world in offshore wind farms. We are also leading the way in several developing technology areas like wave and tidal energy, where we also have the best natural resources in Europe.

Following a major consultation in 2008, the Department of Energy and Climate Change published its Renewable Energy Strategy on 15 July 2009. The Strategy sets out how we can increase our use of renewable energy to help tackle climate change and help secure our future energy supplies. The Government's target is to source 15 percent of our energy (electricity, heat and transport) from renewable sources by 2020.

The Renewable Energy Strategy is a key part of the Government's UK Low Carbon Transition Plan which was also published on 15 July. The Plan sets out how the UK will meet the cut in emissions set out in the budget of 34% on 1990 levels by 2020 and a comprehensive plan to move the UK onto a permanent low carbon footing and to maximise economic opportunities, growth and jobs. Around 10% of the annual emissions cuts between now and 2020 will be achieved through greater efficiencies in our workplaces. By 2050, our offices, factories, schools and hospitals need to reduce emissions to almost zero. Jobs and business opportunities will be created in new sectors outside the energy sector and help will be needed to support all businesses be more energy efficient. The Government has announced that this includes:

- up to £120m from low carbon investment funding to significantly advance the offshore wind industry in the UK;



- up to £60m from low carbon investment funding announced in the Budget to cement the UK's position as a global leader in wave and tidal energy including:
- up to £9.5m investment in the Wave Hub sub-sea socket off Cornwall and up to a further £10m funding to make the South West the UK's first Low Carbon Economic Area, a world centre for wave and tidal energy, building on business opportunities and skills;
- Up to £10m for testing facilities at the National Renewable Energy Centre in Northumberland and up to £8m for the European Marine Energy Centre in the Orkneys;
- Up to £22m for a new Marine Renewables Proving Fund for testing and demonstration of wave and tidal technologies.

More detailed information on the Renewable Energy Strategy and the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan can be found on DECC's website. See: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

Marine (Scotland) Bill

The Marine (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 29 April 2009. The Bill introduces a framework for the sustainable management of the seas around Scotland. It introduces a new statutory marine planning system to sustainably manage the increasing and often conflicting demands on our seas; a simpler licensing system, minimising the number of licenses required for development in the marine environment to cut bureaucracy and encourage economic investment; improved marine nature and historic conservation with new powers to protect and manage areas of importance for marine wildlife, habitats and historic monuments; much improved protection for seals and a new comprehensive licence system to ensure appropriate management when necessary; a range of enhanced powers of marine conservation and licensing.

The Bill is currently at Stage 1 in the Scottish Parliamentary process and has been referred to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee for consideration as well as the Finance Committee and the Subordinate Legislation Committee. The Scottish Parliament is now in Recess until 30 August. The deadline for completion of Stage 1 is 30 October 2009 and the intention is to complete the Parliamentary process by January 2010.

As the UK Marine and Coastal Access Bill and the Marine (Scotland) Bill have been progressing

through their respective Parliamentary processes, we have worked, and will continue to work, closely with the Scottish Executive to ensure compatibility across the two Bills. You can continue to follow the progress of the Scottish Bill at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/25-MarineScot/index.htm>



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Where can you get more information?

After summer Recess you can continue to follow the progress of the Bill at: www.parliament.uk/business/bills_and_legislation.cfm

We will be keeping our website up to date with details of our current and planned policy work to ensure that everyone with an interest in the Bill has access to the most up to date information, including the text of the Bill, as amended by Commons Committee, and the transcripts of all of the Parliamentary debates. See: www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm

You can email questions to the Bill Team at: MarineBillTeam@defra.gsi.gov.uk or write to the Marine and Coastal Access Bill Team, Defra, Area 2C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.