



WWF-UK
Registered office
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR

Tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
Fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

Amendment **60c**: Public Bodies Bill

Deleted: 2

April 4th

Page 4, line 18, at end insert “, and

- **() achieving the aims and objectives of the body where these are specified in legislation”**

Deleted: 2

Impact of Amendment **60c on the Marine Management Organisation**

Clause 8 of the Public Bodies Bill, to which this amendment refers, lays down the conditions on which the minister must be satisfied before they can use the powers laid out earlier in the bill to modify arrangements in bodies listed in the schedules. This amendment would add the provision that no such changes should be made which would have the effect of changing the purpose and function of the body, where these are laid out in legislation.

Why is WWF-UK supporting this amendment?

In Schedule 4 of the Public Bodies Bill is listed the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) which was established under the provisions of the Marine Act 2009. This organisation is responsible for the sustainable development of our seas, including marine planning, licencing and management. This new system is required to integrate the needs of all sectors, including the protection and recovery of environmentally sensitive coastal and marine areas. The MMO will have a critical role in the designation and enforcement of Marine Protected Areas. WWF were strong supporters of this legislation which created the MMO as collapse of precious bio-diversity in many areas of our coastal & marine waters is a real and imminent danger. Schedule 4 listed bodies can have their funding arrangements changed by secondary legislation by the Minister.

WWF-UK has no objection in principle to the MMO being listed in this schedule, as there are potentially some beneficial changes which could be made (e.g. additional funding to support MMO services). However we would like to ensure that there are sufficient safeguards in place to ensure that funding could not be taken over or dominated by, for example, one sector such as an offshore drilling company. This could have implications for the strength of the MMO’s recommendations which must integrate the needs of all sectors and not be subject to bias or pressure from any one sector that could arise from funding agreements.

WWF-UK considers this amendment would safeguard against this, and urges support.

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

Contact	Owen Gibbons
Email/Tel	ogibbons@wwf.org.uk ; 01483 412374
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