

WWF-UK's Marine Act campaign works on solutions to help protect and manage our seas. We want to make sure the UK Marine Bill is robust. WWF-UK will continue to work with the people responsible for managing, developing, using and protecting our seas to ensure effective implementation of Marine Acts across the UK.

Published November 2008 by WWF-UK. Any reproduction in full or in part of this publication must mention the title and credit WWF-UK as the copyright owner. © 2008 WWF-UK. All rights reserved.



UK Marine Bill

WWF's Top 10 Priorities

The mission of WWF is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption



wwf.org.uk/marineact

for a living planet®

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR
t: +44 (0)1483 426444
f: +44 (0)1483 426409

WWF-UK registered charity number 1081247 and registered in Scotland number SC039683. A company limited by guarantee number 4016225. © 1989 Panda symbol and WWF-UK logo. WWF-UK is a registered trademark of WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund). Printed on recycled paper / November 2008 Project no. 2020 COVER IMAGE: © Charles Hood / WWF-UK

Support our seas

WWF-UK has been campaigning for a Marine Act for 10 years. We are now close to achieving our target, as the UK government has promised that a Marine Bill will be introduced into the 2008–2009 session of Parliament. The Scottish Government intends to introduce a Marine Bill into Parliament in early 2009. This progress offers great potential for improving the management of our seas and protecting our valuable marine wildlife.

WWF-UK engaged with government, politicians, lawyers, industry, scientists and many others who value our seas, to assess the draft UK Bill published for consultation in April 2008. We believe that it needs to be improved to make sure this leading legislation is truly effective in safeguarding our seas, for the people and wildlife that depend on it.

1 Act now!

The UK's marine environment has long provided people with a livelihood, but it now faces increasing pressure from over-use. To ensure it thrives we must improve the management of our seas. We need new legislation that will ensure we use our seas sustainably, that will prevent further losses of marine wildlife and help us limit and adapt to climate change. WWF-UK is calling for the early introduction of the UK Marine Bill into Parliament following the Queen's Speech in December 2008. This is crucial if the Bill is to gain Royal Assent in summer 2009. Without this, key species and habitats will continue to decline.

2 Simplify the management of our seas

A new body – the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) – should be responsible for leading the delivery of sustainable development in UK waters, with equivalent and compatible bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A strong MMO with clear duties will be critical to the success of the UK Marine Act. The MMO must play a leading role in deciding where best to place big projects, such as large renewable energy developments, at sea.

3 Draw up plans for the whole sea

A planning system for the seas should create marine plans for all UK waters – not just selected areas – and be delivered by the UK government and the devolved administrations. Marine plans should be based on ecosystems – not administrative boundaries – to ensure an integrated approach to planning. Where there is more intensive use of the sea and greater potential for conflict, more detailed plans will be needed.



A plan for the Irish Sea would include more detailed, nested plans for inshore coastal waters such as the Solway Firth.

4 Respect the plans

The legislation should ensure that when licences for different activities are issued, they are granted in line with the relevant marine plan. The MMO and equivalent bodies in the devolved administrations should be told about all exemptions granted by any government body or agency. This will mean that the plans are used properly – to secure resource use and conservation aims which achieve sustainable management.

5 Work together across borders

The UK government must make sure that policies and plans work well across marine and coastal areas which are shared between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The MMO and devolved administrations must have a statutory duty to integrate plans and activities across borders. There should be a joint commitment from all four administrations to a UK-wide 'Marine Policy Statement' and a formal method for regional seas planning. This will make it simpler for developers to apply for licences and better for assessing their impacts on marine ecosystems.



The Severn Estuary is one ecosystem, but is divided between England and Wales – the UK Marine Bill must simplify, not complicate, the way we look after shared resources.

6 Connect the land and sea

Marine plans must fit with land use plans and take account of terrestrial activities. The many people that live in coastal areas – for example more than 60% of the Welsh population – must have a say in how their coastal and marine environment is used.



People should have a say in how we manage the sea – for example, coastal communities must be involved in coastal plans.

7 Protect marine wildlife

The UK government and devolved administrations must designate an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas by 2012 – including some highly protected areas. Outside these areas there must also be management tools to address threats to biodiversity throughout the whole sea.

8 Produce management plans for marine protected areas

Designation of marine protected areas must lead to the development and implementation of management plans to protect, assess and monitor the condition of habitats and species. Without management plans, protected areas risk being little more than lines on a map.



Marine protected areas or 'Marine Conservation Zones' in England and Wales are needed now to protect the health of our seas and prevent further damage.

9 Strengthen inshore fisheries management

Inshore fisheries management in the UK must be updated to include the strongest possible duties towards conservation and sustainability, with a clear objective of delivering ecosystem based management. This should apply to the UK government, devolved administrations and inshore fisheries management bodies. The likelihood of a viable and sustainable fishing industry for generations to come depends upon the strong cooperation of all involved.

10 Set an example

The UK Marine Bill could become a leading piece of legislation that we can share with other countries across Europe. It should help us meet European obligations to obtain 'Good Environmental Status' for our seas. WWF has a global network of staff with experience in looking after our seas. We will continue to work with the UK government and devolved administrations to make the UK Marine Bill work.