



June 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

IFCA duty to manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources (Clause 153)

The organisations listed above have been closely engaged in the Marine & Coastal Access Bill process from the outset. We are also members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Task Force¹, which has been campaigning for several years for the legislative tools to deliver improvements in marine conservation and management.

Background

Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) believes that it is of vital importance to get the wording of this duty right. Together with Clause 151 and its prescriptions for IFCA Committee membership, the duty in 153 will be of key importance in shaping the new IFCAs. The creation of the IFCAs represents a real opportunity to set up management organisations with a new, clearly-defined and updated core purpose that ensures the integration of environmental considerations into fishery management. Link is therefore keen to see the duty in Clause 153 strengthened by the inclusion of a requirement to further conservation of the marine environment. This would encourage the necessary and fundamental change in culture from the SFCs to the new IFCAs.

The strengthening of the duty in this way would bring the duty into line with the recommendations made by the Joint Committee on the draft Marine Bill. Furthering the conservation of the marine environment would benefit both the fisheries and the conservation interests, as a healthy marine environment is essential to safeguard the future of any fishery. It is therefore still Link's position that Clause 153 should be amended as shown in the annex below.

For further information please contact:

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¹ Wildlife and Countryside Link is a coalition of the UK's major environmental organisations working together for the conservation and protection of wildlife, the countryside and the marine environment.

Annex – Amendments

Marine & Coastal Access Bill

House of Commons Committee Stage, June 2009

Clause	Clause 153 Management of inshore fisheries
Amendment	Page 103, line 13: Insert '(c) seek to further the conservation and recovery of marine flora and fauna in the district,'