



January 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Long title of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill

The organisations listed above are closely engaged in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. We are members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Task Force¹, which has been campaigning for several years for improvements in marine conservation.

Background

The long title to an Act allows the court insight into Parliament's view of the essential function of the Act. In this regard, it is at least as important as Hansard. As currently drafted, the long title of the Bill makes no mention whatever of conservation or the sustainable regulation of fisheries. There is no need for great detail, but it is thought essential for the long title to make some reference to these concepts, to reflect the commitment to maintain and protect marine ecosystems and improve the management of our marine resources.

The above organisations would like to see the following specific reference to marine conservation inserted into the long title of the Bill:

to make provision for conserving marine flora and fauna, marine ecosystems and features of geological or geomorphological interest; to make provision to ensure any exploitation of sea fisheries is sustainable.

For further information please contact Danny Stone, Parliamentary Officer, RSPB, on 07989 502004 or danny.stone@rspb.org.uk, Eva Groeneveld, Public Affairs Officer, WWF-UK on 07766 150944 or egroeneveld@wwf.org.uk, or Hazel Phillips, Head of Public Affairs, The Wildlife Trusts on 020 7803 4293 or hphillips@wildlifetrusts.org, or Melissa Moore, Senior Policy Officer, Marine Conservation Society on 07793 118386 or melissa.moore@mcsuk.org

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.