

# A Scottish Marine Bill

## with the environment at its heart



"The case for integrated legislation for Scotland's marine environment has been made. It's time to rise to the challenge of managing our seas in a manner fit for the 21st Century, for the benefit of Scotland's people, Scotland's communities, and for Scotland's generations to come." Richard Lochhead, June 2007

### Scotland's seas are in urgent need of legislation that will protect our marine environment and its resources, now and in the future.

In his announcement on a Scottish Marine Bill in June 2007, Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, promised a Bill that would deliver a simpler regulatory system for the marine environment, more action on marine nature conservation, a strategic national approach and greater local control over marine and coastal areas.

Scottish Environment LINK is campaigning for a Scottish Marine Bill that would ensure all of the above *and* place nature conservation at the very heart of the Bill.

#### **We urge the government to introduce a Scottish Marine Bill that includes:**

- **Better protection for Scotland's marine wildlife, including identification, protection and management of nationally important marine areas**
- **An effective new planning system for Scotland's seas**
- **A Marine Management Organisation to take charge of planning, licensing and enforcement at sea**
- **Clear targets to measure the recovery of our seas**

It is vital that the Scottish Government works closely with the UK Government to ensure that a Scottish Marine Bill for Scottish waters complements the UK Marine Bill, delivering overarching policy.

**'All of the sea's uses depend fundamentally, and in an essentially inter-connected way, on the quality of the marine environment.'** Scottish Parliamentary Marine Inquiry



Forth Rail Bridge, SWT



Puffin, RSPB Images



Isle of Mull, MCS

## Better protection for Scotland's wildlife

### *Species protection*

To ensure the protection of marine wildlife from 12 to 200 nautical miles, much of which is currently unprotected. This may include an amendment of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, including addition of new species

### *Site protection*

A network of marine protected areas including urgently needed Nationally Important Marine Areas (NIMAs) for sites with particular importance to Scotland

- ❑ To help prevent the continued loss of wildlife
- ❑ To ensure that Scotland meets its international commitments of an 'ecologically coherent network of well managed marine protected areas' by 2010

### *Public Policy*

Wider policy measures and plans, including marine planning, should be underpinned by the importance of and potential impact on marine biodiversity



## An effective new planning system for Scotland's seas – *Marine Spatial Planning*

To further the protection, restoration, enhancement and sustainable use of our seas and its resources

- ❑ Ensuring effective resource management, coordination between sectors, less red tape and planning powers on UK, Scottish and local levels
- ❑ Enhancing local power, allowing local stakeholders to influence the planning process

## Marine Management Organisation

In charge of planning, licensing and enforcement at sea

- ❑ A national decision-making body overseeing planning of devolved activities in Scottish waters
- ❑ Central point of expertise, responsible to Scottish ministers



Islay, Marine Conservation Society. Above: Dolphin, RSPB

Scottish Environment LINK is the umbrella body for Scotland's voluntary environmental organisations, representing around 500,000 members.

Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Task Force and its campaign for a Scottish Marine Bill is supported by

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust  
Marine Conservation Society  
National Trust for Scotland  
RSPB Scotland  
Scottish Wildlife Trust  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society  
WWF Scotland

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[www.savescottishseas.org](http://www.savescottishseas.org)

## Clear targets to measure the recovery of our seas – *Marine Ecosystem Objectives*

The success of the marine planning system should be measured by monitoring the health of Scotland's seas, through a set of Scottish Marine Ecosystem Objectives.

- ❑ Adjusting the marine strategy according to how well objectives have been met
- ❑ Making sure that planning and management decisions do not adversely affect the function and productivity of the marine ecosystem

Scottish Environment **LINK**