

## Media News

Tuesday 2nd December      **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Comment from Scottish Environment LINK:**

### **Environment groups welcome historic course charted for UK seas**

Scottish Environment LINK, the coalition of Scotland's environment charities, today welcomed the inclusion of a UK Marine Bill in the Queen's speech.

Calum Duncan, chair of umbrella group Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Task Force and Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society, said:

"We are very pleased that this historic piece of legislation will finally become a reality. The UK Marine Bill is very important for Scotland as many activities in Scottish waters are still reserved to Westminster.

We must now ensure that the forthcoming Scottish Marine Bill and the UK Marine Bill fit seamlessly together. The resulting Marine Acts must establish clear duties to enable protection, restoration and recovery of Scotland's seas, and the marine wildlife and coastal communities that depend on them."

-ENDS-

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

(1) Calum Duncan, Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society and Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force Convenor is available for comment on 0131 226 6360 or 07841 985 595.

(2) For more information, visit our website [www.savescottishseas.org](http://www.savescottishseas.org)

(3) Scottish Environment LINK's Save Scottish Seas campaign for a Scottish Marine Bill is a joint initiative by the following members:

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust RSPB Scotland

Marine Conservation Society

Scottish Wildlife Trust

National Trust for Scotland

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

WWF Scotland

(4) The LINK Marine Bill Campaign is asking for a Scottish Marine Bill that includes:

- Effective protection for our marine wildlife, including a robust network of marine protected areas for marine life important to Scotland, designated using scientific criteria alone.

Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish charity under Scottish Charity No SC000296 and a Scottish company limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company No SC250899.

**Registered office:** 2 Grosvenor House, Shore Road, Perth PH2 8BD  
Tel 01738 630804, Email [enquiries@scotlink.org](mailto:enquiries@scotlink.org)

**Parliamentary office:** 3rd Floor, Gladstone's Land, 483 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2NT  
Tel 0131 225 4345 Email [parliamentary@scotlink.org](mailto:parliamentary@scotlink.org)

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- A marine planning system founded on sustainable development principles to protect and restore Scotland's marine environment, delivering enforceable local plans.
- A Scottish Marine Management Organisation to ensure Scotland meets tough targets for the sustainable management and recovery of our seas, protects wildlife and resources for future generations and works closely with UK and other governments.

(5) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has 32 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage, representing around 500,000 members. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

The campaign is funded by grants from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Tubney Charitable Trust.

### Editors' Notes

1. Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has 34 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage and supported by around 500,000 people. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

3. Media Contact: Calum Duncan, Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society and Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force Convenor is available for comment on 0131 226 6360 or 07841 985 595.

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