



January 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

Composition of the MMO Board

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

Background

This purpose of this amendment is to ensure that, when appointing members to the Board of the MMO, the Secretary of State has a requirement to ensure that there is sufficient scientific representation on the Board.

The organisations listed above believe that, in order to exercise the functions outlined by the general objective in Clause 2, knowledge of and experience in marine science must be represented on the MMO's Board.

Schedule 1(3) of the Climate Change Act 2008 lists a set of nine criteria of necessary skills and experience for appointing members of the Committee on Climate Change (see Annex 2). This sets a positive precedence, and we seek a similar criteria listing for membership of the MMO Board.

We acknowledge that this amendment may also need to include reference to other sectors and other areas of expertise. However, we believe that in order to create a climate of certainty for stakeholders, these should be listed in the schedule.

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

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 1– Amendments

Marine & Coastal Access Bill
House of Lords Committee Stage, January 2009

Clause	Schedule 1 Considerations in making appointments
Amendment	Page 213, line 8: Insert (c) 'of experience in or knowledge of marine science or marine conservation'

Annex 2 - Climate Change Act 2008

Schedule 1 1(3) Membership

In appointing a member, the national authorities must have regard to the desirability of securing that the Committee (taken as a whole) has experience in or knowledge of the following—

- (a) business competitiveness;
- (b) climate change policy at national and international level, and in particular the social impacts of such policy;
- (c) climate science, and other branches of environmental science;
- (d) differences in circumstances between England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the capacity of national authorities to take action in relation to climate change;
- (e) economic analysis and forecasting;
- (f) emissions trading;
- (g) energy production and supply;
- (h) financial investment;
- (i) technology development and diffusion.