Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

Power to restrict fishing (Clause 189)

The organisations listed above are all members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Task Force[1], which has been campaigning for several years for improvements in marine conservation and better management of the marine area. We have been closely engaged in the Marine & Coastal Access Bill process from the outset.

Background

An important amendment is needed to clause 189 (2) 1C, which appears to condone the concept of continuing to fish once quota has been reached, by de-criminalising the return to the sea of recently caught (but dead or dying) fish.

As it stands, this clause would appear to allow, or even sanction, the practice of continuing to fish once quota has been reached in the hope of catching some larger, more valuable, fish and thereby allowing smaller fish caught earlier to be thrown back – whilst giving the impression of remaining within quota.

This clause has been altered since it first appeared in the draft Bill, but Link still finds it impossible to see anything but harm resulting from it and its deletion in total is sought.

> **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.

Annex – Amendments

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

Clause	Clause 189 Power to restrict fishing for sea fish
Amendment	Page 109, line 35: Leave out subclause 1C