



GREENPEACE



Marine
Conservation
Society



February 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

Update of powers to restrict fishing for marine environmental purposes (Clause 189)

The organisations listed above are all members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Task Force¹, 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

The Environmental Protection Act 1995 effected a very significant reform of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967: it allowed conservation measures to be used to protect more than simply quarry species – it was, in effect the first real power in fisheries legislation for the protection of the marine environment generally. This was achieved by the insertion of section 5A, which allowed the Minister to restrict fishing for *marine environmental purposes*, which are defined at section 5A(3).

We believe that this definition now requires some slight updating. The Bill represents a good opportunity for this, and a suggested amendment is shown in the Annex.

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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	New clause after clause 189 – Powers to restrict fishing for marine environmental purposes
Amendment	<p>Page 110: After clause 189 insert new clause:</p> <p>‘(1) Section 5A of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (c.) (powers to restrict fishing for marine environmental purposes) is amended as follows.</p> <p>(2) In subsection (3)(b) the words “promoting ecosystem recovery” shall be inserted after the words “of conserving or”.’</p>