



GREENPEACE



February 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

The definition of “marine flora and fauna” (Clause 143)

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

This term is not defined in this Part of the Bill, yet on any reading a primary function of this Part is the protection of marine flora and fauna. It is therefore important that there is no uncertainty as to what is meant. Grey areas that could currently cause confusion include: species that use the marine environment only part of the time or only when on migration, transitional or brackish environments and sea cliffs. Some dictionary definitions of “fauna” are not clear as to whether birds are included. The Annex to this briefing contains a suggested amendment to clause 143.

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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	Clause 143 Interpretation of this Chapter
Amendment	Page 87, line 10: Insert “marine flora and fauna” includes flora and fauna (including birds) which are dependant on, or associated with a marine or coastal environment for part or all of their lives or whilst migrating;’