



ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS HOLDINGS PLC



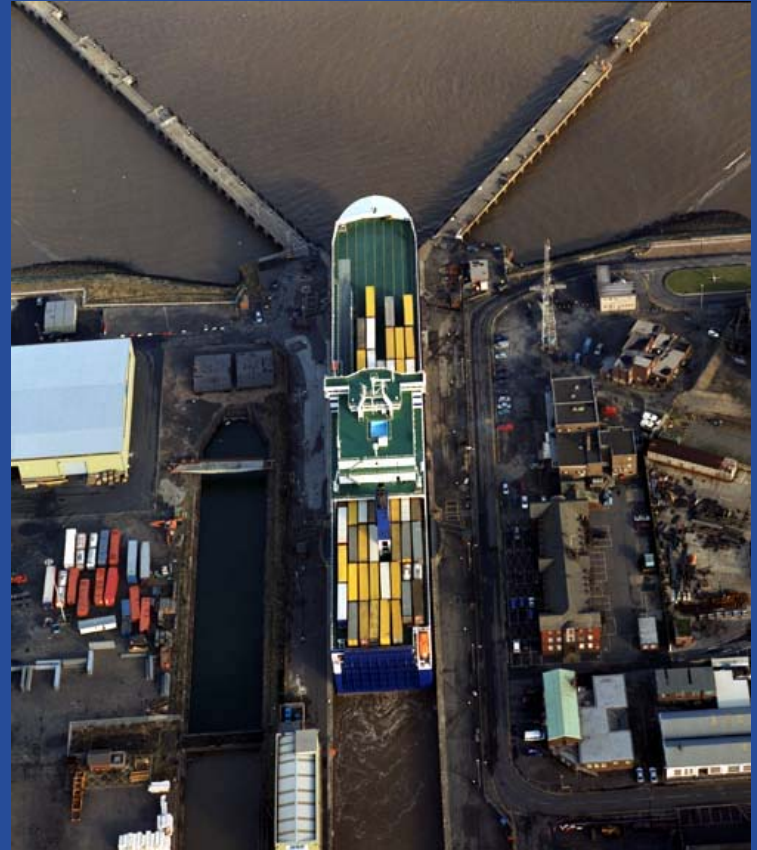
The Marine Bill: A view on marine consents

**Peter Barham Environment Manager,
Associated British Ports
London**

The Story so far.....

- Legislation is here to stay and it will continue to grow
 - Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Water Framework Directive
- No-one is against protection of the environment
 - more protection is needed
- Increasing recognition of the principles of sustainability in legislation

Consequently we muddle through
- but at a cost!!



But.....

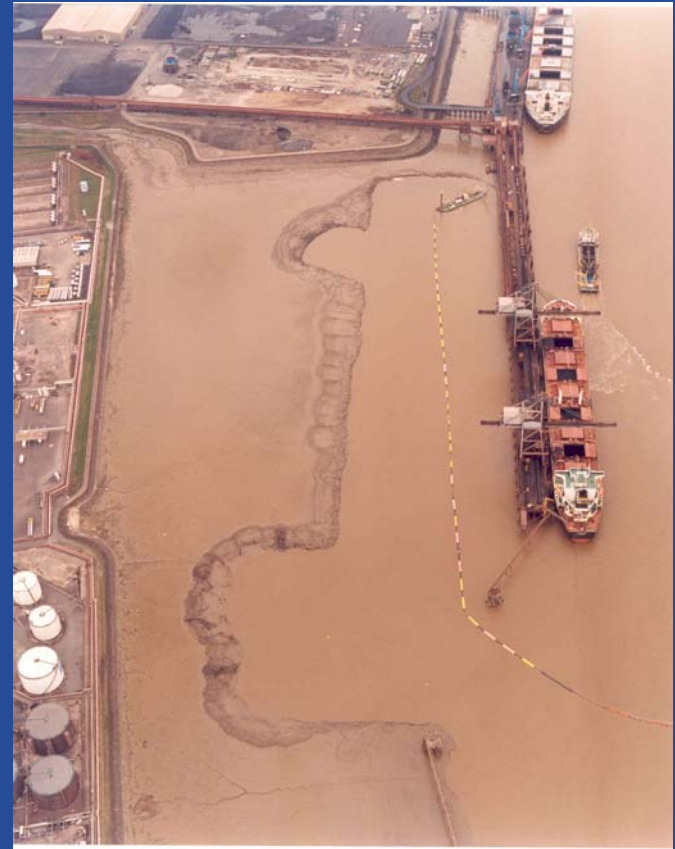
- No-one is happy with the current situation
 - over complex
 - not enough clarity or consistency
 - no clear responsibilities, often overlapping
 - no clear overall objectives
- Too much time and too much money

Leading to:-

- Frustration, confusion, delays

and does this always give us:-

- Environmental protection or improvement?



So.....

Marine Bill represents an opportunity to provide legislation



- which meets all the principles of sustainable development
- which gives clarity and creates consistency
- which sets out overall aims and objectives to assist and guide
 - environment protection
 - planning
 - development

And.....

Also integrates fully with:-

- Environmental Policies
- Economic Policies
- Transport Policies



The view from developers and sea users

There are real opportunities to see:-

- Holistic planning approach to marine environment
- Overall improvements to consenting system

But...

- If it isn't broke - don't mend it!

What needs to happen.....

- The role of the MMO must be clearly defined
- Developers and users need to work closely with regulators
 - on drafting the regulations
 - on implementing the regulations
- Managed approach to regulations
 - consistency in environmental scoping, assessment, regulation etc
 - greater guidance
 - use existing good practice as models
 - maintenance dredge protocol
 - MoU with EN

What else needs to happen...

- Proportionality
 - scale of development or operation
 - environmental risks
 - fit for purpose approach
- Need to define processes and time scales
 - clarity on the decision making processes of regulators
- Need for clear targets on sustainability
 - in planning
 - in environmental assessments

Finally...



60 hectares of new intertidal habitat on the Humber Estuary

- Developers and regulators must work closely together
- There have been successes, there could be lots more
- Outcome - better developments, better environment

AND....

- A useful and practical Marine Bill



ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS HOLDINGS PLC



Multi-deck car terminal, Southampton