



# Current perspectives on the White Paper and Marine Bill

Peter Barham,

Sustainable Development Manager, ABP  
and  
Chairman, Sea Users Developers Group



# Sea User Developer Group

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## PARTICIPANTS:-

- Associated British Ports
- British Ports Association
- British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
- British Wind Energy Association
- The Crown Estate
- British Marine Federation
- Oil and Gas UK
- United Kingdom Cable Protection Committee

# Sea User Developer Group

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- Commercial marine activities - 3.4% UK GDP, 350,000 jobs
- Promote and deliver sustainable development and management of marine resources
- High level of corporate responsibility
- Promote better regulation, increased efficiency
- Encourage effective environmental protection based on good decision making and good science
- Recognise the need for change – taking a constructive and proactive role in achieving it

# Industry, Legislation and Licensing

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- 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
- Industry increasingly showing it can work hand in hand with the environment
- Increasing recognition of the principles of sustainability in legislation

# A reminder..

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- **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?

# Where are we now?

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- Background
  - RMNC
  - Penny Brooks Review
  - Other legislation
- Process
  - Consultation
  - White Paper
  - Interim
  - Future??
- Proposals
  - The Bill

# Industry Views on the Marine Bill White Paper

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- Still welcoming the Bill!!
- Still welcoming the consultation process
- Still welcoming the commitment to better regulation etc
- Still welcoming the commitment to sustainable development

AND

- Welcoming the evidence that consultation is effective

# **Marine Bill Proposals: - MMO**

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- **MMO role must be clearly defined**
  - Objectives for sustainability
  - Objectives for environment/conservation
  - Reducing overlap of regulatory bodies
  - Providing advice on consenting issues
  - Common role for information and science
- **MMO must be able to deliver advice on consents etc**
- **MMO must link consistently with IPC**

# Marine Bill Proposals:- Legislation

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- Better regulation
  - eg One project, one licence

## **But we also need:-**

- Better implementation of regulation
  - Implementation of ‘lighter touch, ‘risk based’ etc

# What needs to happen.....

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- **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

# Marine Bill Proposals:- Marine Planning

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- Statutory Plans welcome

## **But dependent on:-**

- Good consultation
- Linkage with policies on environment, transport and economy
- Mechanisms for delivery of economic and environmental targets
- Delivery of objectives of plans through decisions on activities

# Marine Bill Proposals: Improving Nature Conservation

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- Welcome the application of the principles of SD to designation process

But:-

- Should be identified in conjunction with work on marine plans
- MMO should take lead role to ensure socio-economic aspects met

# Overall

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- Welcome proposals

## **BUT:-**

- More detail required
- Need for clear objectives for Marine Bill, MMO etc
- Need for evidence based decision making
- Need for emphasis on implementation
- Need for continued close consultation

## **Finally...**

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- 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



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