

A Marine Bill

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Overview

- Feedback on White Paper consultation
 - Licensing
 - Nature Conservation
 - Fisheries
- What happens next?

Licensing

- Broad support for proposals
- Welcome for regulating better initiatives
- Some concerns about lack of detail - secondary legislation and guidance will address this
- Concerns about coordination with planning reform
- Some very helpful input in specific areas

Nature Conservation

- General support for White Paper proposals
- Some differences on:
 - detail of protected area site designation
 - use of socio-economic factors in site selection
 - role of conservation agencies in site selection and monitoring/management

Fisheries

- Strong support for modernisation of SFCs
- Cautious support for recreational sea angling licence - concerns about enforcement and impact
- Many felt any restrictions on anglers (e.g. bag limits) should also apply to commercial fishermen
- Support for proposals to strengthen enforcement powers, including those to tackle IUU fishing

What happens next?

- Consultation on White Paper closed 8 June
- Today – look forward to implementation
- Taking account of other initiatives
- Drafting a Bill during remainder of 2007
- Passage through Parliament in 2008?

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