

# Marine Legislation & Government Reviews

There have been a growing number of high level ‘Government’ reviews which may well have a direct impact upon the future management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.

The scale of this work was highlighted at the CF2004 conference and an EXCEL file entitled *Government reviews and consultations* with **web links to the reports** is attached.

The delegate note text expands on these developments and slides of the Earll CF2004 presentation undertaken in conjunction with Robert Canning follow

RE December 2004

# Marine Legislation

- Page 11 delegate notes

- Thanks to Robert Canning, Joan Edwards, Mike Elliott and Jan Brown

- Considerable interest – Why?**

- Review of Marine Nature Conservation reporting 2004
- Review of Development Regs. – the Penny Brooke Review
- Haskins review of rural delivery
- Inshore fisheries review / Cabinet office review fisheries
- EFRA Committee – Marine protection
- Government hints
- NGO investment The Wildlife Trusts, WWF-UK ORCA

# Marine Legislation Reports p12-13

RMNC Review of Marine Legislation - Irish Sea Pilot  
- IECS

Inshore Fisheries report TWT – Wildlife Link

ORCA Campaign – WWF-UK

- PricewaterhouseCoopers costs of current consents /unwieldy planning regime
- Fenner's Environmental Law Team – overarching framework for a Marine Act

**5 Reviews** to report in 2004 RMNC, Penny Brooke, EFRA, Cabinet office, Defra fisheries and environmental enforcement

# Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee -Review of Protection of the Marine Environment p16

**Terms of reference:** It decided that its terms of reference should be:

*" To examine the effectiveness and urgency with which the Government is pursuing policies for the protection of the marine environment, and what institutional or other barriers exist which might hinder the implementation of policies in this area. In particular the Committee will consider*

- the likely impact of designating Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas linked with the Habitats and Birds Directives; and the delay in doing so;*
- the likely impact of introducing Strategic Environmental Assessments; and*
- the delay in identifying Marine Environment High Risk Areas."*

# Lord Haskin's Review of Rural Delivery

page 15

Prompted by the foot & mouth crisis in 2002

*Aim: To assess the delivery of rural services with a view to streamlining the organisations responsible. Funds from Defra.*

One of the key recommendations is that a new organisation – **the Land Management Agency** would be established to do this.

This would merge English Nature, The Countryside Agency, Rural Development Service and some parts of British Waterways, Forestry Commission and Environment Agency

It would involve job losses, savings of £30m a year and 3 years of disruption

# Lord Haskin's Review – Food for thought

- Defra are taking it very seriously and will put out proposals in Spring 2004
- Loss of an independent voice for Nature Conservation
- No mention of coastal or marine issues ... English Nature's functions in this environment
- '*Coincidence*' of other reviews EFRA – Marine Protection, Inshore fisheries – enforcement
- Might a Marine Agency – usefully combine the functions of a number of organisations?????