



WWF and BWEA Joint Statement on Marine Bill White Paper

Thursday 15th March 2007

1. WWF and BWEA today welcomed the Government's publication of the Marine Bill White Paper which is needed to reform how our seas are managed.
2. Both organisations recognise the need for marine spatial planning to provide a clear long-term framework for informing planning decisions at sea. Wildlife will benefit through a more comprehensive understanding of what activities are going on at sea and where protected areas can be established. Renewable energy will benefit through a clear framework that provides certainty in the planning process and gives confidence to developers.
3. WWF and BWEA believe there is a clear need for a Marine Bill to streamline the consents process. If the new Marine Management Organisation can bring all the stakeholders together, this should speed up authorisations for offshore renewables and so facilitate more renewable energy projects.
4. Both believe a Marine Bill is needed in the next Queen's Speech. A Marine Bill is required to meet the UK's biodiversity 2010 targets¹ and could help the 2010 renewable electricity 10% target². Furthermore, a Marine Act would help meet the long-term targets in the recently published Climate Bill.

¹ There are two biodiversity targets. By 2010 the UK, as part of the EU, has committed itself to halt biodiversity loss. As a signatory to the Oslo-Paris Convention, the UK is also committed to establishing an 'ecologically coherent' network of marine protected areas.

² By 2010, the UK must generate 10% of its electricity from renewable sources.