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The Letters Editor  
Eastern Daily Press  
Prospect House  
Rouen Road  
Norwich  
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**Re. The Article in Eastern Daily Press Sunday Supplement Saturday August 4 2007  
“The Coastal Defender”**

Dear Editor

I agree with Mr. Steve Snelling (the authors) comments that “While towns like Sheringham, Cromer, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Lowestoft would be guaranteed safety coastal villages would be surrendered to the sea.” Indeed under the current Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan Final Report November 2006 (SMP) these areas and Bacton Natural Gas Site (which will have a government approved privately funded defence scheme) will become peninsulas whilst the rest of the Norfolk coastline is allowed to erode.

I can not understand this short-sightedness by the Environment Agency and DEFRA (the government agencies now responsible) as the UK is a small land mass island with a large population and increasing demands for housing and recreational land?

I do hoverer contradict Mr. Steve Selling’s statement “Its nonsensical we don’t have a Marine Bill which extends into the marine environment, the same kind of planning controls we have...in the countryside.”

Obviously Mr. Snelling has not heard of the UK Government “Marine Bill” which dose exactly that.

This bill was published in March 2007 and circulated for comment, the deadline for responses to DEFRA was 8 June 2007, so he has missed his chance to comment on this important Bill now in White Paper form to set before parliament and become law.

The Marine Bill will cover UK coastal waters from the high water mark to 200 nautical miles from the shoreline and will regulate the following in this area:

Planning, licensing, management of all activities including offshore aggregate dredging, marine nature conservation and fisheries management – all the items mentioned as requiring planning control in Mr. Selling’s article.

I can not understand why the author did not research his subject regarding pending legislation and government proposals before submitting such a detailed article on a local subject with keen interest by coastal communities and action groups.

The Marine Bill White Paper can be downloaded from Defra website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marinebill-whitepaper07/index.htm>

Comments on the White Paper can be viewed on Marinet website:

<http://www.marinet.org.uk/marinebill1.html>

Yours sincerely

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