

**Newsletter No. 29, January 2009.
Marine Information Network,
Friends of the Earth Local Groups**

**Marine Reserves and the Marine Bill:
Parliamentary Campaign is Launched.**

MARINET has launched this January its Parliamentary Campaign for highly protected marine reserves now that the Marine Bill has been introduced into Parliament.

We are seeking the amendment of the Marine Bill so that it includes the recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in their 25th Report that the Government should legislate to allow the Secretary of State to create highly protected marine reserves which cover at least 30% of UK seas out to 200 nautical miles by 2020 in order to rebuild commercial fish stocks and restore our severely damage marine biodiversity. Highly protected marine reserves are the key management tool of the ecosystem-based approach to marine management, which is widely recommended by marine scientists around the world as the way in which we can restore health back to our seas.

At present, the Marine Bill contains no provisions which mention highly protected marine reserves or the ecosystem-based approach to marine management, and without these two key features the poor management and decline in the health of our seas will continue. This is clearly unacceptable. We have therefore proposed specific amendments to the Bill to include these key features, and we have developed a parliamentary campaign which lobbys hard for their inclusion. We want you, colleagues, local organisations who support the environment and the public in general, to be part of this parliamentary campaign. **Together, we can all bring about this urgently needed amendment of the Marine Bill. We are therefore asking you to do two things.**

Firstly, we want you, colleagues and the public to subscribe to the Campaign by going to our specially established website and sign- up. You will then receive a regular newsletter telling you of developments and actions you can take, and you can access a large amount of information about the campaign and the condition of our seas. This website is www.marinereserves.org.uk

Secondly, we have launched an Early Day Motion, known as EDM 337. This is a parliamentary device which informs the Government of back-bench and Opposition front-bench opinion on key issues. EDM 337 calls for the Government to introduce the Royal Commission Recommendation on highly protected marine reserves and the ecosystem-based approach into the Marine Bill. If a majority of MPs in Parliament sign this EDM, then the Government will be persuaded to act. We want you to visit your MP (or write a letter if you cannot visit) and ask them to support the Royal Commission recommendation on Marine Reserves and sign EDM 337. You can arrange a visit to your MP by telephoning their constituency office, and you can find all the details you need at <http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hciolists/alms.cfm> . Each MP who signs EDM 337 brings us closer to the point when there is a majority in Parliament for highly protected marine conservation zones. Therefore, both your action and *your MP's decision to sign counts.*

Other News:

Annual Membership Renewal.

January is the month when every member is required by our constitution to renew their membership for the next twelve months. A membership renewal form is enclosed.

Membership is still free of charge, both for Full Members (FOE Local Groups) and Affiliate Members (non-FOE groups and individuals). We do ask you however to consider making a donation, according to your means. There is no obligation in this regard, but these donations are vital to help us with our administrative and campaigning costs.

Membership also entitles to a free DVD about our Marine Aggregate Dredging Campaign, and to join our free email network (known as the Reflector). Tick boxes on the form.

Please try to renew your membership promptly.

MARINET AGM.

We successfully held our AGM in September at the FOE Local Groups Conference, and the following were elected as officers:

Chair: Max Wallis (Barry and Vale FOE)

Vice-Chair: David Levy (N. Wiltshire FOE)

Secretary: Bill Rigby (Beverley FOE)

Treasurer: Malcolm Scott (N. Tyneside FOE)

Coordinator: Stephen Eades (N. Wiltshire FOE)

The elected officers serve, as mandated by our constitution, on the MARINET Steering Group which runs the Network between AGMs, and the following represent Underwood Street at the present time on the Steering Group:

Ed Matthew : Senior Campaigns Officer.

Nicole Barton: Local Groups Officer.

If you require a copy of the MARINET constitution, please tick the appropriate box on the membership form.

All FOE Local Groups/individuals, whether on the coast or inland, are welcome as MARINET Members. We recognise the fact that although you may not live by the sea, you still consider the future of our seas as really important to you

Marine Aggregate Dredging.

Despite the determination of government to grant new licences in places that cause us great concern, we continue to ensure that our expertise and reasoned criticism of the industry is strong and noticed. For full details: www.marinet.org.uk/mad.html In particular, we are involved in the Regional Environmental Assessment of the E. Anglian block of licences, and the 5 year study of the new E. Channel block of licences. Other areas include Liverpool Bay and the Bristol Channel.

Issues raised by Members.

Of particular note here are the issues raised by Robert Latimer, an affiliate member, who lives in Tyne and Wear. He has campaigned steadfastly on the issue of the dumping at sea, along with its suspect capping, of contaminated dredged sediment from disused docks in the Port of Tyne, on the issue of sewage discharges onto the beaches at Whitburn, and other issues involving the River Tyne.

Similarly, Hartlepool FOE has campaigned steadfastly on the "Ghost Ships" issue, and other members have raised a number of key issues involving pollution, the implications of climate change and ocean acidification, bathing water quality analysis, and many other issues which are all reported on our website under Latest News www.marinet.org.uk/latestnews.html

We believe MARINET offers the best marine Latest News service in the UK, and over 500 visits are made to our website on some days.

Renewable Energy.

National FOE will be launching a national campaign this year to promote renewable energy in the UK and, of course, our seas have the potential to provide a huge volume of renewable electricity through tidal current and wave schemes, and offshore wind turbine sites. We report fully on the facts and issues around marine renewables, including tidal barrages, on our website: www.marinet.org.uk/refts.html

Join us in 2009 in our marine reserves and other campaigns to safeguard our seas.

MARINET

MEMBERSHIP FORM: 1st January to 31st December 2009.

Full Membership (FOE Local Groups)
Affiliate Membership (Non-FOE Organisations and Individuals)

Please provide the following information (in BLOCK CAPITALS or, in the case of email, write legibly).

I/We wish to be a Full Member or Affiliate Member Please tick box.

Name:

Address:

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Tel. No:

Email:

I/We would like a copy of the MARINET Marine Aggregate Dredging DVD Tick box.

I/We would like a copy of the MARINET Constitution Tick box.

I/We would like to join the MARINET Reflector (Email Discussion Group) Tick box.

There is no charge for membership during 2009.

However, I/We would like to make a donation of £ (please make your cheque payable to MARINET and enclose it with this membership form).

If you are a Full Member (FOE Local Group) and you have appointed a specific person within your Local Group to deal with MARINET matters, please provide this person's name, address, tel no. and email below (please write legibly):

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Please return this completed membership form, and any donation to Stephen Eades, MARINET Coordinator, Allington House, Allington, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 6LN.

If you have any queries, please tel. 01249 653972 or email: stephen.marinet@btinternet.com

Regional Page on MARINET website: www.marinet.org.uk

We are providing a **free listing** of your Local Group (also available to Affiliate Members) on the Regional Page of the MARINET website. This will inform members of the public about the work and issues which your Local Group is interested in, and will enable the public to get in touch with you. If you would like to use this free listing, please fill in your details over the page. If you are **already using this facility, please also update your details overleaf.**

Listing on Regional Page.

The exact nature of the Listing depends on you. We will only list the details that you want to see there. The purpose is to inform the public about your Local Group/organisation, your work on marine issues, and how the public can get in touch with you.

Therefore, please fill in the sections below where you would be happy to see information provided on the website. If you are not certain, leave blank. Material can always be added later.

In the case of email, we will encrypt any address you provide in order to try to prevent its use by spammers. This encryption cannot however be guaranteed as one hundred percent infallible.

This Listing is available to both Full Members and Affiliate Members of MARINET.

Name of Local Group/Affiliate:

Address:

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Tel. Email.

Special Contact Details (e.g. name, address and tel. of a specific contact person)

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In this section will you please list the areas in which your Local Group is active on marine issues, and which you feel it would be valuable to inform members of the public – such issues can cover: fisheries, protection of cetaceans and marine mammals, quality of bathing waters, sewage pollution, industrial pollution, radioactive pollution, aggregate extraction, beach clean-ups, nature conservation surveys, marine reserves, or whatever particularly concerns you.

You may provide too (preferably separately – give the coordinator a call/email) a short description or longer article about a particular issue of local importance. We can also place this on the website.