

**Newsletter No. 31, July 2009.  
Marine Information Network,  
Friends of the Earth Local Groups**

**Future Plans : MARINET's AGM**

MARINET is holding its **AGM** at the Local Groups Conference on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**. The venue is the University of Nottingham, 11.30 am. This is a key date in the calendar, and it is your opportunity to meet with other MARINET members to shape our future. This year you have to book your attendance at the FOE Conference by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August at the latest**. FOE is **not** accepting Conference bookings after this date, see <http://www.foe.co.uk/events/conference.html>

Our previous Newsletter advised you that national FOE had told us that they were withdrawing their administrative and financial support from MARINET because of their internal problems. We asked you to write to Andrew Atkins, FOE Executive Director, to express your support for MARINET and the **good news is that your letters have had a beneficial effect**. National FOE has now told us that they have decided to reverse these decisions. They will continue to give us administrative support with two members on our Steering Group and access to other facilities and, most importantly, they will continue to assist financially. We can now plan our future with some certainty at the AGM. Thanks go out to all members who responded and conveyed their support for MARINET to national FOE.

This means that we will be able to continue our work on **Marine Reserves**. Also because the UK Marine Bill excludes any action on the serious crisis facing our commercial fish stocks (82% are over-fished) and because the EU Common Fisheries Policy allows this insanity to exist, we plan to engage with the EU's proposal **to reform the CFP**. We also want to be involved with **OSPAR**, which protects the NE Atlantic seas, by accepting an invitation to be involved in a **European Ministerial Conference in 2010** which will shape future marine conservation policy at European level.

As a result, we have taken National FOE at its word when it says it is committed to continued support for MARINET and we have submitted a Business Plan and Funding Application for our work during 2009-10, and you can see full details on the reverse side of this newsletter. *Please understand that this is an application, and we have yet to secure agreement from national FOE.* However this will be the basis of our plans and discussions at the AGM, and we are asking members to become involved.

Of particular importance is the decision of the UK Government to develop the UK network of marine reserves (known as marine conservation zones or MCZs) by holding regional stakeholder groups for the Irish Sea, the South West seas, the East English Channel, and the North Sea. These stakeholder groups **will select the MCZs**, and we have been asked by **Natural England** to be involved in these regional stakeholder groups. Therefore, we need you – or some of you – to join these stakeholder groups (i.e. the one nearest you) and to represent MARINET. To enable you to do this work which you will find both hugely interesting and important, we are going to provide **full training and full expenses**. Please either nominate yourself and/or discuss it with someone who may be interested in your Local Group. We, MARINET, have to reverse the serious condition that affects our seas and fisheries, and the task rests with all of you. **We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.**

**MARINET Business Plan : September 2009 to August 2010, submitted to national FOE.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Steering Group	Travelling expenses	£900	£900
Marine Reserves Campaign	Campaign Team meetings	£500	£4250
	Lobbying at UK Parliament level and related travel expenses	£1200	
	Printing and publicity	£1200	
	Attendance at Natural England regional committees designed to establish UK marine reserve network and related travelling expenses	£1250	
	Marine Reserves Campaign website	£100	
CFP Reform	Lobbying at UK and EU Parliament level and related travelling expenses	£2200	£3200
	Printing and publicity	£800	
	Conference fees (2 representatives at 2 meetings)	£200	
OSPAR	Delegation to Bergen Ministerial Conference, September 2010	£3000	£3250
	Attendance at OSPAR preparatory meetings and related travelling expenses	£250	
Other Campaigns	Marine Aggregate Campaign, including attendance at East Channel Association meetings	£250	£950
	Support for Local Group campaigners	£200	
	“Stern Report” and travelling costs	£200	
	Conference fees and travelling costs	£300	
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>£12,500</b>