

**Newsletter No. 42, January 2013.
Marine Information Network,
Friends of the Earth Local Groups.**

**Membership Renewal 2013:
*Broadening the Campaign Agenda.***

We are now at the point in the year when **all members** are required to renew their membership for the next twelve months – 1st January to 31st December. Membership is available **free of charge**. However, as you know, we do have administration costs (c. £1000 per year) and we do inevitably need campaigning funds, so any donation you can make will be most gratefully received. A membership **renewal form** is enclosed. Please return by post, and please try to complete it **without a reminder** as this saves us a huge amount of time and administrative effort !

Our Campaigns in 2013.

As you are aware, we are campaigning strongly at the moment to ensure a strong **Reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy**, and we are most grateful for all the lobbying which members have undertaken of MEPs and Ministers. The outcome of the reform process still remains uncertain, and will do so for awhile, so we will almost certainly be asking you to exert further lobbying pressure during the coming year. We will keep you advised, and if you have any queries do not hesitate to ask for help.

One thing is clear from the Common Fisheries Policy : there is a strong case to argue that fisheries management in the United Kingdom, and throughout EU seas generally, has been woefully delivered over many years and, significantly, we believe that there is strong evidence to argue that this management has been negligent and neglectful under UK and international law (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - UNCLOS) and therefore is **essentially illegal**.

We are therefore planning a **seminar/conference for early summer** at which we will be setting out our belief and evidence of this illegality to experts, government and other NGOs with a view to assembling a case that demonstrates this illegality. We will **not** be going down the route of litigation, but if we can demonstrate the evidence of this illegality through academic legal papers, research and the collection of data then we will have assembled a strong case to demonstrate that governments, and the fisheries management which they deliver, require to be **urgently and fundamentally changed** – and this will be regardless of what the Common Fisheries Policy Reform process delivers. By this means, we can develop a **legal imperative** which requires the re-establishment of food security as a cardinal principle of management policy, with this principle being delivered by a rebuilding of fish stocks to the maximum levels the seas will support, aided by marine reserves protecting the spawning and nursery grounds of fish stocks. Most importantly, fishermen will be given financial compensation and a new role as managers of the stocks whilst they are restored to health. That way, fishermen are protected as the management of fisheries shifts from endless (unsustainable) extraction to a new conservation-based set of principles, and the fishing industry is restored to long-term economic health.

All the while, we will be developing a **new set of legal principles** for fisheries management. These will reverse the underlying paradigm so that the management of seas and oceans shifts from exploitation to protection, and their health will always take precedence over commercial interests. In turn, UNCLOS will receive policing and enforcement powers to implement this paradigm, and the UN law on Crimes Against Humanity (genocide) will include Crimes Against the Environment (ecocide).

Message to the Membership of Marinet by David Levy, Chair.

The aims and the integrity of the research, ambitions and campaigning of Marinet are essentially aspirational. What does this mean? Basically it means we look at the problems that are being faced by the marine world, and we seek the solutions and aim to influence the outcomes at ministerial, NGO and social levels.

We are often accused of punching above our weight, tackling too many aspects of the problems that exist, and to this I say guilty as charged. I believe we live in a world where most are frightened by the complexity of the issues and stay focused on single issues especially if they are sexy to the press.

To each their own. I believe the problems are linked, and where NGOs can function as a whole for the marine environment then we should not be precious but speak with one voice. The leadership of Marinet will seek these alliances, and will always pursue the solutions in the round and not piecemeal.

The hydra element of Marinet is broken down by these people taking Steering Group responsibility for the following:

Tom Appleby – legal	Tim Atkinson – media development / FOE liaison
John Bassendine – secretarial	Stephen Eades – coordinator / strategic development
Pat Gowen – aggregate / coastal erosion	David Levy – chair / strategic development
Hugh Rout – website development	John Stansfield – European liaison and development
Malcolm Scott – finance	Deborah Wright – research data gathering and interpretation
Tim Watson - MCZ / English marine development	Paul de Zylva – FOE liaison / biodiversity leadership.

The more resources we have, the more we can focus on the issues and the more enterprising ideas we have. Waiting in the wings are volunteers who require a small budget to look at questions around subsidies, and those things that drive greed and poor marine management decisions. These things have to have the illumination of accountability. At present they are jealously guarded by the industries that exploit the marine environment.

Marinet led by Deborah Wright has been looking at the marine ecosystem in a completely unique way. Namely, that all seas and oceans are sovereign. That they are completely protected in law, and industry has to demonstrate through its practice that it is not harmful to the ecosystem and, where industry currently cannot demonstrate this, is required to produce strategies for improving practice. In our view this is the way forward. It is certainly behind the amendments which we are putting forward for CFP Reform. It is aspirational in a world where destruction of fish species seems to be tolerated. We can only pressure and campaign for a change in thinking, because lowest common denominator decisions can only deliver poor solutions and that will never be enough in these times of urgency.

The concept of ecocide and the involvement of the UNCLOS/United Nations is one of our goals for 2013. It is aspirational but achievable with support. Your continued oversight can help deliver what we wish to achieve. Our role is to continue to push the envelope, and we have a network which is growing internationally and they too could put together a presentation for world action that must revolve around marine law enforcement and the courts, like a Court of Justice in the Hague for ecocide crimes.

These issues have a wider network of concern than governments give credit for. People are concerned about global fish stocks, and believe there are far more protected areas than actually exist. When our government was given the opportunity to protect and provide marine reserves they shied away and reduced habitat protection by four times what was being recommended. This was because the fishing industry has been given quotas, and the MCZ identification had nothing to do with fish stocks and ways of improving them.

Fishing quotas have historically often exceeded scientific advice, and on this matter Tom Appleby will fire a range of letters to Defra, the Marine Management Organisation and Government Agencies to challenge the legal status of these decisions. Again Tom's time is valuable and sometimes has to be bought. Again support is needed. We aim to seek this by running a meeting or series of meetings where we challenge the legal status with a room full of invited guests and funders.

2013 promises to be a challenging year. We hope you stay engaged with us and follow our progress.

Regards, David.

MARINET Membership Form: 1st January to 31st December 2013.

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 2013.

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 on the page overleaf. If you are **already using this facility, please update your details.**

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 a short description or longer article about a particular issue of local importance. We can also place this on the website.

Coordinator: Stephen Eades, tel. 01249 653972, email: stephen.marinet@btinternet.com
Use the MARINET website for your campaigning: www.marinet.org.uk