

Mr Dave Bench
Marine Legislation Division, Area 2E
Department of Environment, Fisheries & Rural Affairs
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Email: MarineLegislationDivision@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Date:

Dear Mr Bench

MARINE BILL CONSULTATION

I am writing to support the government in its commitment to a Marine Bill. Management of the seas is currently lacking particularly for the protection of marine wildlife and we welcome opportunity to address this. We are keen that the Marine Bill will introduce new laws to better protect our marine wildlife and habitats and ensure the sustainable management of seas and resources.

In order to achieve this, the Marine Bill must include:

- **A mechanism for the designation and management of marine protected areas, from areas with minimal restriction to activities through to highly protected marine reserves to:**
 - Protect areas of threatened species and habitats such as our native corals the pink sea fan.
 - Protect areas of representative species and habitats such as the sands banks with sabellaria (honeycomb worm) reefs in the outer Thames Estuary.
 - Provide relatively unaffected areas of high biodiversity value such as our deep sea coral reefs.

- **Species protection measures to minimise disturbance to rare and vulnerable species from harmful activities** such as noise pollution or reckless disturbance:
 - Extending the area of coverage to 200nm to ensure the protection of long ranging species such as the basking shark.
 - Better control of unlicensed activities for greater protection of species. For example, implementing Marine Wildlife Watching Codes or Biodiversity Stop Orders to stop or activities that have an unacceptable impact on species or habitat.

We also ask for:

- **A planning system that will allow strategic and integrated planning of activities at sea.**

- **A new system for managing inshore fisheries that will provide a viable future for fish stocks and fishers.**

Yours sincerely

Name:

Town:

Postcode:

Member of the Zoological Society of London