

Make the Marine Bill fit for Porpoise

Over two thirds of the UK's commercial fish population are seriously over-fished and face commercial extinction, including:

**Cod – Mackerel – Herring – Whiting
Plaice – Sole – Spiny Dogfish**

www.marinereserves.org.uk



Dogfish/Rock Salmon © D Gilby



**Friends of
the Earth
Manchester**



Dear MP,

I am writing to you to express concern about the Marine and Coastal Access Bill (“the Bill”), particularly its sections aiming to restore the marine ecology and its economic viability.

Presently, the Bill lacks an undertaking to commit to implement the recommendations of the 25th Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (2004). The Report recommended a total ban on all commercial fishing and other environmentally damaging activities covering a minimum of 30% of UK waters out to 200 nautical miles as the only way to ensure a sustainable future for both the UK fishing industry and the marine ecosystem as a whole.

The marine environment around the UK is amongst the most degraded in the world and most fish stocks are in a parlous state, with many species on the brink of commercial or even actual extinction, for instance:

- Cod populations, once the mainstay of the UK fishing industry, are in a state of collapse; and
- The North Sea mackerel population was over-fished, collapsed in the 1970s, and has never recovered.

The Bill provides a unique opportunity to do something before it is too late.

As your constituent, I would please urge you to help strengthen the Bill by signing Early Day Motion 337 which supports the Royal Commission’s recommendation for a network of Highly Protected Marine Reserves, if you haven’t already done so.

In addition, please write to the Minister for the Natural & Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies, to ask him to strengthen the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Name

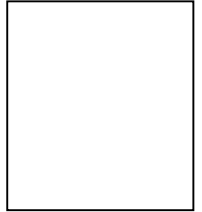
Address

.....

..... Postcode

Please keep me updated by email on Manchester Friends of the Earth’s campaigns.

Email address



..... **MP**

c/o
Manchester Friends of the Earth
Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

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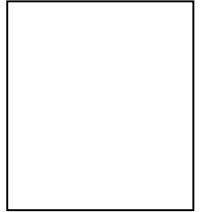
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