

## What you can do

### Write to your MP

Without Highly Protected Marine Reserves, there will be very little left in the seas for our children, but you can change this. Write to your MP **now** at:

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

and tell them that you want Highly Protected Marine Reserves included in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

MARINET will make sure that there is an amendment to the Bill to create HPMRs which your MP can vote for.

### Sign up to the mailing list

You can keep up to date with the progress of our campaign by joining the Marine Reserves mailing list. Sign up by visiting:

<http://www.marinereserves.org.uk/maillinglist>

### Visit our website

We will keep everyone posted on progress via our website and include copies of draft letters and suggestions for individual action.

For more information, please contact Bill Rigby on 07785 572713 or [bill.rigby@marinereserves.org.uk](mailto:bill.rigby@marinereserves.org.uk)



<http://www.marinet.org.uk/>

MARINET is the Marine Network of  
Friends of the Earth Local Groups



<http://www.foe.co.uk/>

**[www.marinereserves.org.uk](http://www.marinereserves.org.uk)**

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The MARINET UK Marine Reserves Campaign

**UK marine wildlife  
is threatened with  
extinction.**

**Ask your MP for  
Highly Protected  
Marine Reserves  
now!**

**[www.marinereserves.org.uk](http://www.marinereserves.org.uk)**

# Highly Protected Marine Reserves

Marine scientists and experts in marine conservation urge us to create Highly Protected Marine Reserves (HPMRs) as the only way to halt the severe collapse in fish stocks and marine biodiversity. They are tested and proven, and exist in all major maritime countries except the UK.

## What are Highly Protected Marine Reserves?

HPMRs can be thought of as National Parks in the sea. They prevent *all* extractive and exploitative activity, such as fishing, dredging for marine aggregates and drilling for oil. They are agreed globally to be the best way to get our seas back into shape.

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended HPMRs to Government way back in 2004 but now we have the Bill nearly to completion, where is the necessary measure?

## ***Nowhere in the Bill!***

The MARINET Marine Reserves Campaign has been trying throughout the passage of the Marine Bill to get HPMRs included *on the face of the bill*.

## So, where are we now?

In our view, Government has frustrated the very reasonable and responsible ambitions of those moving the amendments. Government has refused to include 'on the face of the Bill':

- ▶ highly protected marine reserves
- ▶ scientific criteria as the primary means for identifying and designating marine conservation zones (MCZs<sup>1</sup>)
- ▶ establishing reserves covering a sufficient area of the sea to enable economic and social uses of the seas to be environmentally sustainable.

**In other words the Marine Bill has *lost its way*.**

These sticking points confirm some of the more depressing conclusions we have drawn from the experience so far, namely that in government there is:

- ▶ a failure to appreciate the seriousness of the problem
- ▶ a reluctance to prejudice short term financial and other vested interests, and
- ▶ a general lack of vision as to what is possible in terms of ecosystem restoration in UK territorial waters.

As things stand, a marine conservation zone is little more than a museum whose job is to exhibit interesting habitats or species. We want it to be clear that Highly Protected Marine Reserves can also be an engine of ecosystem recovery. Without them, the new law will lead to a continuation of the collapse of fish stocks and the ecosystem which supports them.

The Marine Reserves campaign is promoting an amendment at the Report stage which is intended to remedy some of the problems caused by the omissions. This amendment will be promoted by a whole range of organisations and campaigning groups, but we need to make sure that MPs know that their constituents want them to support it too.

## Who else is supporting this measure?

- ▶ The President of France - Nicolas Sarkozy - who, in July of this year, made a commitment to setting up a network of Highly Protected Marine Reserves in French waters
- ▶ The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution
- ▶ The Marine Scientists – over 300 have signed a public declaration in support
- ▶ Also, a total of 225 MPs, who signed an Early Day Motion in the last Parliament calling for a “widespread network of highly protected marine reserves throughout all UK seas ... in order to rebuild UK commercial fish stocks and to halt the serious damage being caused to marine ecosystems”.

1. “Marine Conservation Zone” is the term used in the Bill for a Marine Reserve