

News Release

Embargoed until: 00:00 Thursday 17th June 2010

VISIONARY REPORT CHARTS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR MARINE RENEWABLES

Today Scottish Environment LINK [1] launch a visionary report setting out recommendations for the responsible growth of the fledgling marine renewables energy industry.

The threat of climate change, the abundance of marine renewable energy sources (wind, wave and tide), and a combination of political and economic factors make a strong case for the urgent development of marine renewable energy in Scotland.

However, at the same time there is an equally strong case for a precautionary approach. This is due to the extraordinary value of the marine environment, the unknown impacts of some of these technologies, the poverty of knowledge about marine ecosystems, our poor history of rapid developments in coastal waters and the frailty of marine conservation measures.

As set out in the report, LINK believe that with industry, local communities and other interest groups, we can go forward amicably to help deliver a successful and responsible marine renewable energy industry in Scotland.

Convenor of Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force [2], Calum Duncan [3] said:

“Our report includes recommendations to safeguard the marine environment, thus helping the responsible development of the industry. Our vision is of a thriving industry that will help reduce the causes of climate change and bring secure long-term jobs whilst safeguarding a diverse, productive sea. By setting out clear environmental objectives along with simple, practical solutions, we set out our aims to avoid potential damage or conflict from the outset.”

Launch Event details

The report will be launched at **1300 on Thursday 17th June 2010** at the Scottish Book Trust, Sandeman House, Trunk's Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR. www.scottishbooktrust.com/contact#directions. Introducing the launch event will be Bill Wilson MSP (SNP). Speaking on behalf of LINK to launch the report will be Sarah Dolman (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society) and Duncan McLaren (Friends of the Earth Scotland). **Doors open 1230.**

‘Avoiding conflict in the marine environment: effective planning for marine renewable energy in Scotland’ will be available to download at www.scotlink.org on Thursday 17th June 2010.

Ends

Contact details

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Editors' Notes

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has over 30 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage and supported by around 500,000 people. Further information on LINK is available at www.scotlink.org

[2] The Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force is comprised of the following organisations: Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, Marine Conservation Society, National Trust for Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and WWF Scotland.

[3] Calum Duncan is Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society.