

## Media News

Monday 9 February 2009

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Comment from Scottish Environment LINK:**

### **Environment groups welcome announcement of new planning body for Scotland's seas**

Scottish Environment LINK, the coalition of Scotland's environment charities has welcomed today's announcement from the Scottish Government on a new organisation to deal with the planning and management of Scottish seas.

Calum Duncan, chair of Scottish Environment LINK's Marine Task Force and Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society, said:

*'We are delighted that Marine Scotland will become a reality. This new body must now develop and meet tough targets for the sustainable management, protection and recovery of Scotland's seas.'*

*We believe that improved protection for marine wildlife, a comprehensive network of marine protected areas and a statutory planning system that furthers the conservation of marine biodiversity are all essential for our seas protection and recovery.*

*Marine wildlife does not recognise political boundaries, so Marine Scotland must work closely with the proposed UK Marine Management Organisation and other administrations to deliver ecosystem-based marine planning and management. Since Marine Scotland will be part of Scottish Government, it is also vital that an independent and transparent appeals procedure is put in place.'*

**-ENDS-**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

(1) Calum Duncan, Scottish Conservation Manager for the Marine Conservation Society and Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force Convenor is available for comment on 0131 226 6360 or 07841 985 595.

(2) For more information, visit our website [www.savescottishseas.org](http://www.savescottishseas.org)

(3) Scottish Environment LINK's Save Scottish Seas campaign for a Scottish Marine Bill is a joint initiative by these members:

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust  
Marine Conservation Society  
National Trust for Scotland  
WWF Scotland

RSPB Scotland  
Scottish Wildlife Trust  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

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Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish charity under Scottish Charity No SC000296 and a Scottish company limited by guarantee and without share capital under Company No SC250899.

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(4) The LINK Marine Bill Campaign is asking for a Scottish Marine Bill that includes:

- Effective protection for our marine wildlife, including a robust network of marine protected areas for marine life important to Scotland, designated using scientific criteria alone.
- A marine planning system founded on sustainable development principles to protect and restore Scotland's marine environment, delivering enforceable local plans.
- A Scottish Marine Management Organisation to ensure Scotland meets tough targets for the sustainable management and recovery of our seas, protects wildlife and resources for future generations and works closely with UK and other governments.

(5) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has 32 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage, representing around 500.000 members. Further information on LINK is available at [www.scotlink.org](http://www.scotlink.org)

The campaign is funded by grants from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Tubney Charitable Trust.

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