

# Scottish Environment LINK

## Media Release

7th September 2005

### Marine Reserves in Scotland? Useful Examples from New Zealand

#### ***An evening with Bill Ballantine hosted by Scottish Environment LINK***



Tonight in Edinburgh, LINK welcomes Bill Ballantine to share his experience of pioneering Marine Reserves in New Zealand, demonstrating their value to fisheries, tourism and marine wildlife alike.

Whilst Scotland has its own set of marine management issues to grapple with, a growing recognition that a sustainable future for our coastal communities and industries relies on healthy seas means we can learn from other temperate countries such as New Zealand.

This event will be Chaired by Maureen Macmillan MSP who has been actively involved in this area, hosting an oversubscribed event in the Scottish Parliament last year.

Calum Duncan, Convener of the Scottish Environment LINK Marine Task Force said:

*"Marine Protected Areas can be established for many reasons, from multiple use areas to strict no-take zones. In June, we welcomed the process for establishing Scotland's first Coastal and Marine National Park. This is more likely to be a zoned, multiple-use area with an agreed management framework, rather than a stricter form of MPA.*

However, in Scotland we also need a network of areas of restricted activity similar to those in New Zealand to provide regeneration havens for fish and other marine species, a win-win scenario for both coastal communities and sealife.

We have been encouraging the Minister to identify trial marine protected areas for important habitats and species, delivered through a Marine (Scotland) Act, that could be closely monitored to prove their worth. Results from New Zealand suggest that the results of such a trial would be favourable."

New Zealand has 27 highly-protected marine reserves, the first of which was established 30 years ago. Plans are also underway to create a fully representative network of marine reserves throughout NZ.

Bill Ballantine was instrumental in establishing this network, including the world's first No-Take Marine Reserve at Cape Rodney to Okakari Point near Leigh in New Zealand's North Island.