

COAST LINES



Issue 37 Summer 2007



Full steam ahead?

Welcome

These are interesting times for coastal and marine matters. Since the turn of the year, in Scotland alone, we have seen a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Marine Environment, the publication of the report from a Ministerial Advisory Group on Marine & Coastal Strategy (AGMACS) and an announcement of a Scottish Marine Bill to streamline existing legislation. And all of this has happened against the background of the European Commission's Marine Strategy Directive and Defra's consultation on proposals for UK Marine Bill White Paper.

Even before the Scottish Election, coastal and marine matters were moving up the political agenda. A brief resume of events before and after May 2007 is contained within this newsletter. It is safe to say that we are entering uncharted waters with different political parties in power at Holyrood and Westminster for the first time but Richard Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment, has invited the Scottish Coastal Forum to meet with him, recognising that the help and support of stakeholders will be required in order to deliver sustainability for all.

The SCF intends to use its position as the only national stakeholder group to inform members and interested parties of what is going on. This newsletter sets out what has been going on recently and who is going to be involved in making future policy happen. 'Coastlines' should be making a more regular appearance in future to keep you up to speed on what is happening and how it might affect your interests.

If you are interested in what is going on around our coasts, then we want to hear from you. Email the SCF Officer or visit the revamped Coastal Forum website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Scottish-Coastal-Forum. **The SCF looks forward to hearing from you and keeping you up to speed on what's going on.**

Who's Who in SCF

Jim Simpson has been the SCF's Chairman since 2005 and brings a wealth of experience to the role. He was a founder member, bringing the pragmatic views of a Chief Harbour Master for the Forth to the early discussions and steered the development of the chapters for the SCF's 2004 'Strategy for Scotland's Coast & Inshore Waters'. Jim is a keen sailor and golfer, taking advantage of the sailing opportunities & links courses in the East Coast's coastal zone.

Rhona Fairgrieve took over from Stephen Midgley as SCF Officer in 2006, having become involved with the Forum whilst working for The Crown Estate. She has a decade of experience in managing the uses made of coastal resources by local authorities, the ports industry and for marine recreation.

SCF Steering Group

The SCF's Steering Group meets regularly to direct the work of the Officer and consider the role of the Forum. The SCF's Chair is assisted by officers from the Scottish Executive, SEPA, Scottish Natural Heritage, The Crown Estate, the National Trust for Scotland and a representative acting on behalf of Scotland's Local Coastal Partnerships.

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Executive Responsibilities

These are the people within the new Scottish Executive who will be involved with environmental matters in general and those affecting the coastal zone in particular. The SNP administration has pledged to govern around the five objectives of making Scotland **smarter, wealthier & fairer, healthier, safer & stronger** as well as **greener**.

Richard Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment, was a member of the last Parliament's Marine Environment Inquiry and now has direct responsibility for sea fisheries, freshwater fisheries and marine management, which will include developments on a Scottish Marine Bill and a Marine Management Organisation. Mike Russell, the Minister for the Environment, has responsibility for aquaculture.

John Swinney, as Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Sustainable Growth, has responsibility for several connected interests including ports, transport strategy, climate change, enterprise & industry and Scottish Water. The Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning, Fiona Hyslop, will also be responsible for raising awareness of environmental issues through formal and informal means.

In our evidence to the Marine Environment Inquiry in January, the SCF noted that we wished to see "integrated government in pursuit of integrated coastal management". We look forward to playing our part in helping to achieve this.

This link to the Executive's website - www.scotland.gov.uk/about/strategic-board/whoswho - will keep you abreast of any changes to the administrative structure.



Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment
Richard Lochhead



Minister for Environment
Michael Russell

greener
Scotland



Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Sustainable Growth
John Swinney



Minister for Enterprise, Energy & Tourism
Jim Mather



Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Climate Change
Stewart Stevenson

wealthier & fairer
Scotland



Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning
Fiona Hyslop



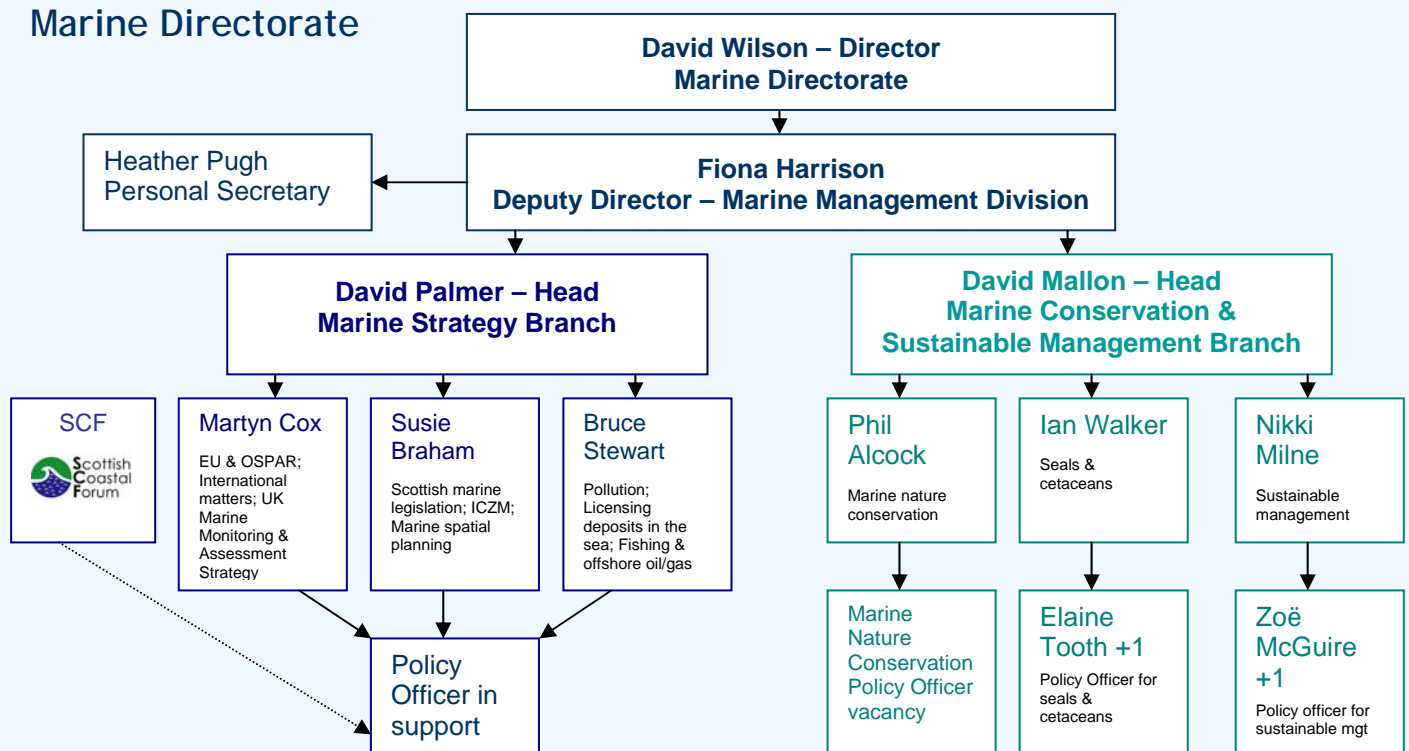
Minister for Children & Early Years
Adam Ingram



Minister for Schools and Skills
Maureen Watt

smarter
Scotland

Marine Directorate



Pre-election Policy developments...

Advisory Group on Marine & Coastal Strategy (AGMACS)

AGMACS was created in 2005 to be a Ministerial Advisory Group bringing together high-level representatives of those with an interest in coastal resources in a way that had not been done before, not even by the Scottish Coastal Forum. Over the course of its meetings, serious consideration was given to issues ranging from new science and research needs to what the emerging concept of marine spatial planning might actually mean in practice. The SCF reported on the role that ICZM can play in conflict resolution, highlighting the contribution of the Local Coastal Partnerships to date.

AGMACS reported its conclusions and recommendations in March 2007. The [final report](#) is on the Executive's website.

ERDC Marine Environment Inquiry

In late 2006, the Holyrood Parliament's Environment & Rural Development Committee (ERDC) called for evidence of the challenges facing Scotland's marine environment. In examining the uses made of coastal resources, considering how planning and cross-sectoral co-ordination might help and addressing the overarching issues of governance, the Inquiry was designed to open up some of the main issues for wider debate.

The Inquiry overlapped with the final weeks of AGMACS and its [report](#) made several recommendations along broadly similar lines. However, it went further than AGMACS in highlighting specific issues, such as the proposals for ship-to-ship transfer of oil in the Forth Estuary and the need to reassess the funding of Local Coastal Partnerships.

Common recommendations

- A Scottish Marine Management Organisation (SMMO) should be created and should simplify governance
- Scotland should have a statutory system of marine spatial planning, delivered by the SMMO
- Marine spatial planning and ICZM must function and integrate at the local, national & European levels
- Funding for Local Coastal Partnerships should be revisited
- Data requirements must be met but information must be presented in a manner which is useful
- Scotland's marine nature conservation interests should be properly recognised and protected

Post-election Policy Developments...

The new administration has made several announcements on coastal and marine matters in its first few weeks. Consideration is being given to the conclusions and recommendations made by AGMACS and the Marine Environment Inquiry and we can expect to see further developments emerging over the latter half of 2007 and into 2008. The Executive has indicated that a timetable for Scottish marine legislation may be independent from that pursued by Defra for its UK Marine Bill. Defra's priority, under its new Secretary of State Hilary Benn, appears to be the UK Climate Change Bill but discussions with Westminster continue and cover a wide range of topics, all closely related and inter-linked.

Review of Marine Legislation leading to a Scottish Marine Bill

Richard Lochhead told delegates to the Oceans '07 conference in Aberdeen that a [Scottish Marine Bill](#) would deliver integrated legislation, a simpler regulatory system for the marine environment and a strategic national approach to the issues needing to be addressed in order to promote the sustainable use of Scotland's coasts and seas. The streamlined approach would enable more action on marine nature conservation and greater local control over marine & coastal areas.

Review of Inshore Fisheries Groups

Fishing communities throughout Scotland are being invited to help review the process of setting up Inshore Fisheries Groups. The new administration feels that progress with the IFGs has not been as fast or as straightforward as it might have been and it wants to know why. A series of meetings will take place in fishing communities during July to encourage local fishermen to give their views to the Executive. Further details are available on the [Executive's website](#).

Scottish Climate Change Bill

John Swinney announced consultations on a [Scottish Climate Change Bill](#) that is intended to cut emissions by 80% by 2050. This means there will have to be an emphasis on energy generation from renewable sources, including marine renewables, over traditional sources of power but further details are currently vague.

Streamlining multiple agencies into a single rural & environmental service

The nine organisations involved in terrestrial environmental issues have been directed [to streamline their operations and work together](#) in a more co-ordinated way. This initiative, building on the existing 'On the Ground' programme, is ideally to be achieved within 12 months and without new legislation. It will set the terrestrial context that any new Marine Management Organisation will work alongside, although it has not yet been clarified where consideration of issues within the sensitive inter-tidal zone would sit.

Amendments made to Habitats Regulations in Scotland

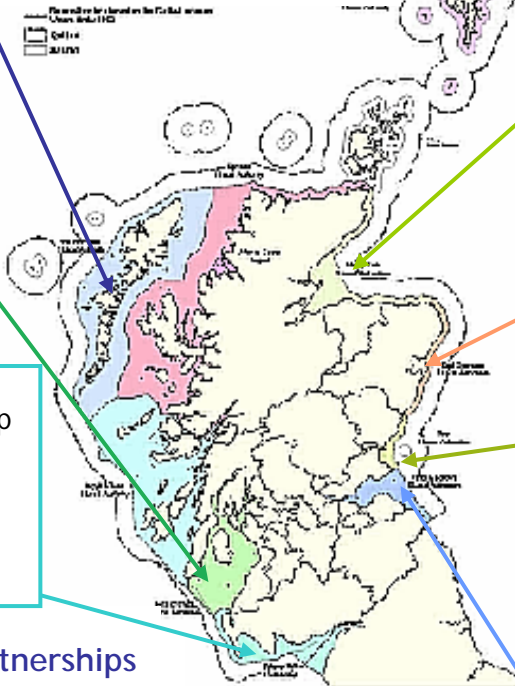
MSPs backed changes to the Habitats Regulations in Scotland that bring many more operations and developments within the scope of its requirements. New powers have been given to the Executive to 'call in' proposals for further consideration of environmental impacts.

CoastHebrides

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Local Coastal Partnership areas & Local Authority boundaries

(out to 3 nautical miles)



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Scotland's Local Coastal Partnerships

The seven Local Coastal Partnerships (LCPs) vary greatly in the areas they cover and the initiatives they undertake but all share the same commitment to bringing together those involved in the use, management, protection and development of coastal resources in a defined geographic area. The SCF is working with the LCPs to consider how they might evolve and work with a Scottish Marine Management Organisation, as consideration is given to making marine spatial planning work alongside ICZM.

Please contact the LCP Officers directly if you would like further information about their programmes and areas of interest.

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Heritage Protection for the 21st Century - a post election update

In 2004-5, the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and the devolved administrations undertook a public consultation 'Protecting the marine historic environment; Making the system work better.' Responses to this, and subsequent input by two sector working groups on salvage and reform of designations, reinforced the need for new legislation to safeguard the marine historic environment. On March 8 2007, DCMS published a White Paper, 'Heritage Protection for the 21st Century'. This is mostly concerned with proposals for new terrestrial heritage legislation to cover England and Wales, but a marine chapter is proposing new legislation that would be UK-wide and would, therefore, affect Scotland.

The proposals would allow Scottish Ministers, through Historic Scotland, to designate a wider range of marine historic assets on the basis of special historic or archaeological interest. There would be mechanisms for interim protection and the new legislation would incorporate a more flexible consenting regime. This would allow visits, on a 'look but don't touch' basis, to robust sites without the need for a licence. The proposals place emphasis on the importance of consultation with the key stakeholders during the designation process and on the availability of information and guidance about designated marine historic assets.

The DCMS consultation closed on 1 June 2007, since when the Department and its new Secretary of State, James Purnell, has been working with the devolved administrations on the drafting of instructions for Parliamentary Counsel. Parliamentary time at Westminster is envisaged for 2009. For further information on the current proposals, contact [Philip Robertson](mailto:Philip.Robertson@HistoricScotland.gov.uk) at Historic Scotland or log on to the DCMS website at: www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_closed_consultations/hpr_whitepaper07.htm

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