

The Marine and Coastal Access Act – What does it mean for biodiversity research?

**Special Session jointly hosted by the BES and the UK
Biodiversity Research Advisory Group**

Wednesday 8th September 2010.
University of Leeds, Great Woodhouse Room.
13:30 – 15:30.

To be followed by refreshments to allow informal discussion to continue.

This workshop will introduce delegates to the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act, and will discuss what the Act may mean for the conservation of biodiversity in UK seas. The aim is to facilitate discussion as to how the Act can be followed up to best identify research needs and promote conservation of biodiversity.

The BES and the UK BRAG have complimentary objectives, with the BES seeking to provide evidence and advice to UK policy makers, and the UK BRAG identifying and facilitating biodiversity research to support UK Biodiversity Action Plan commitments. The Marine Environment is one of the four major priorities for the BES's policy work and the Society was active in supporting the passage of the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act into legislation in 2009. Likewise, the remit of UK BRAG includes the marine environment, with BRAG producing a report in 2008 on 'Marine biodiversity and the provision of goods and services: identifying the research priorities'

We will hear from four speakers, with a panel discussion forum to conclude. The workshop will be chaired by **Dr John Gould**, Marine Director, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

The speakers are;

Alison Reeves (Defra) –

An introduction to the Marine and Coastal Access act;

Christopher Davis (Natural England) -

What does the act mean for conservation?;

Michel Kaiser (University of Wales - Bangor) –

Managing conflicts and conflict resolution;

Matthew Frost (Marine Biological Association.) –

Ecosystem services from the Marine and Coastal Environment.

Further information on the speakers can be found overleaf.

For more information about policy work at the BES, contact Ceri Margerison, Policy Officer, at Ceri@BritishEcologicalSociety.org. For further information about the UK BRAG please contact UKBRAG@jncc.gov.uk or go to the website www.ukbrag.org.uk.

About the speakers:

Dr John Goold has been Marine Director at JNCC since 2008. He has previously worked in Marine Consultancy and has a strong research background in his specialist field of marine mammals & bioacoustics. At the University of Wales, Bangor, he inspired many students as Director of the MSc course in Marine Mammal Science. He has coordinated activities for one of NERC's thematic programmes on the role of marine plankton in climate change. At JNCC he is now responsible for the organisation's entire marine programme, including Marine Protected Areas and Marine Habitats.

Alison Reeves is a Deputy Director in Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) with policy responsibility for taking forward provisions in the Marine and Coastal Access Act on marine planning and conservation. This includes the development of the first ever UK Marine Policy Statement which will provide the decision making framework for public bodies including the Marine Management Organisation, and creation of marine conservation zones as part of an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas. She heads the Defra Marine Stewardship Team which was created in May 2009.

Chris Davis is a senior specialist in marine conservation with Natural England. His work is focused on implementation of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, and on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in England. He has been with Natural England for nearly 10 years, starting out working at a local level, and his experience includes being the manager for Lundy Island Marine Nature reserve. He is now able to put that practical experience to good use at a national level.

Professor Michel Kaiser holds a personal Chair in Marine Conservation Biology at the University of Wales, Bangor, and is the Reviews Editor for the Journal of Fish Biology. He is lead author of the book, "Marine Ecology: Processes, Systems and Impacts." and is joint editor of, "The effects of trawling on non-target species and habitats: biological, conservation and socio-economic issues". His research interests are focussed on the effects of human activities on marine ecosystems and communities and how humans respond to the management measures used to restrain these activities.

Dr Matt Frost is the Coordinator of the Marine Environmental Change Network (MECN) and the Executive Secretary of the Marine Biological Association (MBA). He is a marine benthic ecologist who previously worked as a lecturer in Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Management at Plymouth University. Dr Frost provided written and oral evidence to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Draft Marine Bill on behalf of MBA, and most recently has been a lead author for the UK government's 2010 State of UK Seas report "Charting Progress 2" and the National Ecosystem Assessment report marine chapter.

