

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

BES – UK BRAG workshop at the BES Annual Meeting
8th September 2010, Leeds.

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.

We will hear from four speakers, with a panel discussion forum to conclude. The speakers' topics are provisionally;

- What does the act mean for conservation?;
- Managing conflicts and conflict resolution;
- Marine ecosystem services.

The UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (UK BRAG) and the British Ecological Society (BES) will be working together to hold an afternoon workshop on 8th September at the BES annual meeting, to be held at Leeds University. 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'