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JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

MATTERS ARISING

This paper deals with points not covered by substantive items on the agenda. Numbers relate to the December 2007 minutes.

- 6. *Progress in identification of offshore Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)***
 - i. Since the last meeting, the Chairman wrote to Members of Committee to advise of his intention to sign off the North-West Rockall proposed Special Area of Conservation, following resolution of outstanding technical issues out of session.

- 16. *Update on European and UK marine policy initiatives***
 - i. At the last meeting, Committee received a paper on three marine policy initiatives (the EU Marine Thematic Strategy and associated Directive, the EU Maritime Policy and the UK Marine Bill) including initial ideas on how JNCC might provide UK-level co-ordination for influencing future policy development and implementation.

 - ii. Since this the final text of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive was agreed by the Council and European Parliament and the Directive is expected to be adopted at the March meeting of the Environment Council. JNCC prepared a short paper on the directive and its potential implications for the Conservation Agencies.

 - iii. JNCC also organised an Inter Agency meeting to discuss European Marine Policy issues in February 2008. Both the new Directive and the European Maritime Strategy were discussed. It was agreed to continue to work collaboratively on both these topics. It was also agreed that the Agencies should try to influence Defra and the Devolved Administrations to use their proposed Marine Bill legislation as the primary implementing mechanism for the new Directive. CCW provided a short paper considering the overlap between the European and proposed National legislation.

 - iv. JNCC will continue to facilitate inter agency collaboration on both policy strands over the coming months.

Fourth Quinquennial Review

Progress has been made on the Fourth Quinquennial Review which has been discussed by Committee at previous meetings. Defra published their response to the Fourth Quinquennial Review on 26 February 2008 for England only (Wales and Scotland will respond separately); the Order will come into force on 6 April 2008. The outcome of this is as follows:

- i. Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris*. Now fully protected, adding prohibitions against intentional killing taking or injury (Section 9(1)), possession (Section 9(2)), and sale (Section 9(5a,b)).
- ii. Roman Snail, *Helix pomatia*. Protected against intentional killing taking or injury (Section 9(1)), possession (Section 9(2)), and sale (Section 9(5a, b)).
- iii. Spiny Seahorse *Hippocampus guttulatus* and Short-snouted Seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus*. Full protection under Section 9, prohibiting intentional killing taking or injury (Section 9(1)), possession (Section 9(2)), damage or disturbance in a place of shelter (Section 9(4a, b, c)) and sale (Section 9(5a, b)).
- iv. Angel Shark *Squatina squatina*. Protected against killing, taking and injuring (Section 9(1)) in England and within 0-6nm of English territorial waters.
- v. Protection not given to Common Skate, Norwegian Skate, Long-nosed Skate and White Skate. Proposed protection for the two Burnet Moths to await a decision by the Scottish Government (they only occur in Scotland).