



MATTERS ARISING
JNCC 08 P08
September 2008

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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 minutes of the June 2008 meeting.

- 1.2 The officials' group that supports the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity met on 2 September and agreed action on a number of fronts to reinvigorate cross-departmental action. It is hoped that a ministerial meeting can be arranged in October to discuss biodiversity conservation in the Overseas Territories.
5. Staff from JNCC and the country conservation bodies have continued to share intelligence and experience on energy policy and nature conservation. Activity is currently focused on responding to the Government consultation on renewable energy.
7. Existing mechanisms and groups will be utilised to improve collaborative working on EU directives across the UK conservation bodies. A range of inter-agency groups will be involved, supported by information and intelligence from JNCC and the UK Nature and Landscape Office in Brussels.
9. The key messages contained in the paper on conferences and meetings of the parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements have been refined and updated, and a revised version of the paper will be circulated to Committee members shortly.
13. As agreed at the last meeting, Chairman signed off the report of the 2007-08 public consultation on seven Offshore SACs. The report was submitted to Government at the end of June accompanied by updated *SAC Selection Assessment* documents for each site. Government requested Cabinet Clearance to submit five of the seven sites to the European Commission by their deadline of 1st September 08. This cabinet clearance request was accompanied by updated socio-economic Impact Assessments for each of the five sites, signed off by the Managing Director Steer in mid July. The Secretary of State approved five of the sites for submission to the EC, and these, together with accompanying data forms etc. prepared by JNCC, were submitted formally to the European Commission by 1st September 2008.

Two of the seven sites consulted upon were not submitted to the European Commission by their 1st September deadline, pending resolution of issues brought up during the consultation. North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef pSAC has been delayed pending consideration of objections raised during the consultation process regarding the justification for such a large site and its context in relation to other sandbanks in the southern North Sea. Defra and JNCC are working to resolve these issues and a decision on whether to submit this site to the Commission for consideration as a site of Community importance will be made at the earliest opportunity by Defra. The Wyville Thomson Ridge pSAC has also been delayed pending consideration of legal issues regarding an area within the proposed boundary

that is subject to a delimitation agreement with the Kingdom of Denmark. Defra is working to resolve these issues and again will consider this site for submission to the Commission at the earliest opportunity.

Consultees have been notified of the outcome of the consultation and which sites have been submitted to Europe. The report and selection assessments for each site have been published on JNCC's website and press releases have been made.

Since the last meeting the following 2 information papers have been circulated to Members:

JNCC 08 NO5: Update on Marine (and Coastal Access) Bill

JNCC 08 NO6: The European Union and its overseas entities: Strategies to counter climate change and biodiversity loss¹ reunion island, 07-11 July 2008.

¹ <http://www.reunion2008.eu/>