

**22 July 2008**  
***Immediate Release***

## **MARINE SECTOR & ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UNITE TO LAUNCH JOINT STATEMENT ON DRAFT MARINE BILL**

The Seabed User and Developer Group (SUDG) and Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) will today (22 July 2008) come together to launch a joint statement on areas of agreement on the draft Marine Bill.

The statement is a prime example of industry and environmental groups working together to ensure the sustainable development of the marine environment.

Jonathan Shaw, Marine and Fisheries Minister, welcomed the statement. He said:

“Our seas are important. We use the seas for many resources on which jobs and livelihoods depend. Damage to marine life, habitats and ecosystems has serious knock-on effects for all of us, so protecting our marine environment is a high priority.

“This joint statement between industry and environmentalists is a great example of how we can all work together to get the Marine Bill right and ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas for future generations.”

Peter Barham, chairman of the SUDG, said: “SUDG’s commitment to working with others is evident in the joint statement which serves as a good example of the benefits of co-operation between marine industries and environmental NGOs. It sets out the importance of joined-up thinking and an integrated approach to planning, managing and protecting our seas.”

Lisa Chilton of The Wildlife Trusts, on behalf of Link commented: “In launching this joint statement with the SUDG, we are highlighting the significant areas of agreement between the environmental NGOs and the marine industries in relation to the draft Marine Bill. We are delighted that we can stand together with the SUDG in support of Marine Conservation Zones, marine planning and other key elements of the Bill that are essential for sustainable management of UK seas.”

The SUDG will also publish its new sustainability brochure, produced by industries sharing a common interest in sustainable development of the UK's marine environment. It offers their perspectives on the draft Marine Bill and sustainable development of the UK's marine environment.

Commenting on the SUDG's brochure, Peter Barham added, "This brochure highlights how a Marine Bill that provides better regulation and marine management that benefits both business and the environment will help ensure the sustainable development of our seas. We are both proud and pleased to have set out our aims and objectives in the SUDG brochure."

ENDS

**For further sector specific information:**

**Oil & Gas UK**

Sally Fraser  
Tel: 020 7802 2404  
Email: [sfraser@oilandgasuk.co.uk](mailto:sfraser@oilandgasuk.co.uk)

**Renewable Energy Association**

Jemma Robinson  
Tel: 020 7747 1834  
Email: [jrobinson@r-e-a.net](mailto:jrobinson@r-e-a.net)

**Associated British Ports**

James Champness  
Tel: 0207 430 1177

**British Ports Association**

David Whitehead  
Tel: 020 7242 1200

**British Marine Aggregate Producers Association**

Mark Russell  
Tel: 023 8045 8710

**British Marine Federation**

Rebecca Jackson - PR Manager  
Tel: 01784 223627

**British Wind Energy Association**

Nick Medic  
Tel: 0207 689 1935

**The Crown Estate**

Katie King  
Tel: 020 7851 5009

**United Kingdom Cable Protection Committee**

Alasdair Wilkie  
Tel: 07958 215474

**Notes to Editor:**

- The Seabed User & Developer Group (SUDG) is an informal grouping whose participants have a common interest in sustainable development within the UK's marine environment. The SUDG believes that sustainable, win-win solutions are possible from what are sometimes seen as competing needs. [www.sudg.org.uk](http://www.sudg.org.uk)
- Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link) brings together environmental voluntary organisations in the UK united by their common interest in the conservation and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment. [www.wcl.org.uk](http://www.wcl.org.uk)

- This press release is supported by the following organisations:
  - **Seabed User & Developer Group:**
    - Associated British Ports
    - British Ports Association
    - British Marine Aggregate Producers Association
    - British Marine Federation
    - British Wind Energy Association
    - Oil & Gas UK
    - Renewable Energy Association
    - The Crown Estate
    - United Kingdom Cable Protection Committee
  - **Wildlife and Countryside Link:**
    - Marine Conservation Society
    - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
    - The Wildlife Trusts
    - Wildfowl and Wetland Trust
    - WWF – UK