

## What you can do

First - lobby MPs, write to or email your local MP, next the environment secretary - Hilary Benn, next the fisheries minister - Jonathan Shaw, next labours angling spokesman - Martin Salter, then the shadow environment secretary - Peter Ainsworth, then the shadow fisheries minister - Bill Wiggin, then Peer Shadow Minister for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Lord Taylor of Holbeach.

Second - if you are a member of an angling club or organisation then get in touch with them and let your feelings be known.

Third - write to Defra and express your concerns about the licence.

Fourth - download this leaflet from <http://anglers.50webs.com/downloads.html> and distribute it, place copies in your local tackle shop or your library.

Finally - tell everybody you know about this proposal and what they can do about it.

It is time to stand up and say NO.

## Contacts

Hilary Benn - [www.hilarybenn.org](http://www.hilarybenn.org)

Jonathan Shaw - [www.jonathanshaw.org.uk](http://www.jonathanshaw.org.uk)

Martin Salter - [www.martinsalter.com](http://www.martinsalter.com)

Peter Ainsworth - [www.peterainsworth.com](http://www.peterainsworth.com)

Bill Wiggin - [www.billwiggin.com](http://www.billwiggin.com)

Lord Taylor of Holbeach

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0PW

For more details visit

<http://anglers.50webs.com>

**SAY NO TO A SEA ROD LICENCE**



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## Proposed Sea Rod Licence

Will it create better fish stocks?

Will it help the marine environment?

Will it benefit Sea Anglers?

Or is it just another TAX?



If you are a sea angler then the contents of this leaflet affect you.

## Facts about the rod licence

The government is proposing to introduce a sea rod licence on environmental grounds.

The government says a rod licence will help improve our marine environment, will help improve fish stocks, will help pay for car park improvements, will help pay for new launch facilities and will give anglers a greater say.

To accompany the licence the government will extend the relevant sections of the sea fish (conservation) act 1967 to recreational sea anglers and unregulated fishermen (i.e. fishermen not covered by the commercial fishing vessel licensing system), including the power to place limits on the number of fish which can be retained (for example, through the introduction of bag limits).

The government says licence holders may be required to give information on their activities; this could be voluntarily or could be lawfully requested by Defra, SFC's, the EA or the new MMO.

The government expects to implement the new licensing regimes 2 years after the marine act becomes law, it expects a national network of marine protected areas around 10 to 15 years after that and it expects to have all the marine plans adopted around 5 to 10 years after that, that's around 20 years after a rod licence is introduced.

The government says the charge would also cover the costs of administration, monitoring and inspection.

## Things to consider

Recreational sea anglers contribute a very small percentage towards the decline in fish stocks each year, in fact it could be said that without recreational sea angling, fish stock declines would be greater solely because of the environmental work and lobbying that is already carried out within the recreational sea angling industry.

The main contributors to the decline in fish stocks and the damage to the marine environment are poor fisheries policies, dredging and mineral extraction.

There is approximately 2,700 miles of coastline around England and Wales as well as tens of thousands of square miles of ocean, all of which will need to be policed to enforce a rod licence scheme.

The licence is to help with the protection and improvement of shore access and parking, these will also be used by millions of day trippers and holiday makers.

The licence is to help with the provision of more small boat launching facilities, these will also be used by pleasure boat owners.

The licence is to help with the creation of artificial inshore and offshore reefs, these will also be used by divers.

The recreational sea angling industry already contributes an estimated £1.3 billion to the UK economy annually.

The licence could damage the recreational sea angling industry and the holiday industry if anglers decide to holiday or take fishing trips to Northern Ireland or Scotland where there are no plans for a sea rod licence.

## The governments track record

Defra was established in 2001 and since then both they and the government have produced at least one significant document relating to fisheries each year including their Five Year Strategy, Safeguarding Our Seas, Net Benefits and Seas of Change and yet there has been no improvement to fish stocks or our marine environment, in fact fish stocks have continued to decline and our marine environment is slowly being destroyed by mineral extraction, aggregate dredging and bottom trawling.

Defra have managed to acquire a budget deficit of £200 million through careless budgeting because the department had made budgeting commitments based on irresponsible assumptions about the attitude of HM Treasury. As a result of that carelessness they have had to cut the Environment Agencies budget by £28 million for the 2006-07 year.

The government has wasted billions of pounds setting up numerous new agencies, bodies and organisations and yet they want you to trust them to set up a new body namely the MMO (marine management organisation acting as an expert and delivery agent to all relevant UK departments which will deal with a range of functions including marine planning, licensing and enforcement. This organisation is expected to take 20 + years to achieve the marine plans outlined in the marine bill

Would you trust the government with your money?