



c/o The RSPB  
Belvoir Park Forest  
Belfast  
BT8 4QT

Sean McCann  
Committee for the Environment  
Room 247,  
Parliament Buildings, Stormont,  
Belfast,  
BT4 3XX

22 January 2010

Dear Mr McCann,

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**Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill**

Thank you for your invitation on behalf of the Committee to provide evidence and our views on the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill. While we are very supportive of this proposed legislative development, we will not be submitting a detailed response, as it mainly falls outside of our remit. In fact, adequate protection and conservation of marine habitats, species and ecosystems in Northern Ireland's waters, will not be deliverable until there is a Northern Ireland Marine Bill in place.

Our member organisations (listed below) are working on detailed submissions with regard to the proposed Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill, and I presume you are working with them to ascertain their views. If you need more information from the NIMTF, please contact Melanie Gomes, on 028 44830282.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddy Mayhew".

Eddy Mayhew

Eddy Mayhew  
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Northern Ireland Marine Task Force  
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The Northern Ireland Marine Task Force is a coalition of eight environmental non-governmental organisations campaigning for new, integrated and comprehensive marine legislation for Northern Ireland through a Northern Ireland Marine Bill. The coalition includes Northern Ireland Environmental Link, Ulster Wildlife Trust, WWF Northern Ireland, The National Trust, the RSPB, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Irish Whale & Dolphin Group, and Friends of the Earth, and has a combined membership of over 100,000 people.