

# Sea change: securing a future for Europe's seas

International Marine Protected Areas conference  
8th and 9th December 2009,  
Park Plaza Riverbank, London

## James Marsden: 10 key actions

- Accelerate the process, act on best available evidence (rather than wait for perfect science), be bold in establishing MPA networks, then adapt as we learn more;
- Ensure openness and transparency, be inclusive and take all stakeholders' views into account – otherwise we risk lose/lose outcomes;
- Integrate policy and delivery, using all available tools and measures within a clear legal framework from local to EU levels;
- Establish processes for engaging stakeholders in design of management measures, as well as site selection;
- Establish effective baseline monitoring of ecosystems and pressures (human activities), with common standards, wide acceptance and clear governance;
- Remember MPAs are not a panacea – we must apply the right measure and protection to specific features within MPAs, whilst ensuring that the wider marine environment is in good health;
- Address difficult problems together across Europe (e.g. transboundary issues, the management of the high seas, and integration with fisheries management);
- Use the opportunity of Common Fisheries Policy reform to establish greater clarity about competence between EU Parliament, European Commission and Member States – i.e. 'regionalisation' of management decisions and better integration (as at 3 above);
- Cooperate more between Member States by sharing evidence, monitoring protocols, guidance, costs of new research, and staff experience – e.g. staff secondment between MPA agencies;
- Finally, echoing Frank Pope's message of hope in his after dinner speech, it was proposed we should work together to bring back the oyster beds (biogenic reefs) to the North Sea.