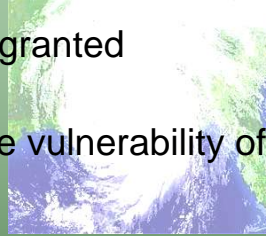


Why Marine Inquiry?

- Oceans were being taken for granted
- Major disasters highlighted the vulnerability of coastal regions
- Previous work of Committee
 - Space and Carbon Capture
- 20 year gap since House of Lords 1986 Report



Phil Willis MP



Terms of Reference

- Polar/Non Polar Region
- The UK and the international community
- Skills Base



Phil W

The Inquiry

- 45 pieces of evidence, 6 oral session

- Visited:

- Plymouth Marine Science Partnership
- National Aquarium in Plymouth
- the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton
- BAS
- MIT in Boston
- Wood's Hole
- the University of Rhode Island
- Washington DC
- the James Cook



Phil Willis MP



Main Findings

- UK Marine Science is struggling to remain world class
- Loss of UK marine scientists
- Lack of understanding in Policy terms of Marine environment
- Potential for exploitation of Marine environment
- Importance of long-term monitoring
- Need for significant investment, co-ordination and vision



Phil Willis MP



Investment

- NERC funding fell by £5.4m over the last three years
- Oceans 2025 limited to two years funding
- Lack of coordination to utilise other funds

- We recommended
 - Full review of funding by IACMST's successor
 - Review of mechanisms to improve the relationship between marine centres and fishing laboratories
 - RCUK monitor joint applications to councils
 - Overall increase in funding

Footnote added after the meeting: NERC are resubmitting their figures and stated at the meeting that the funding for marine science has risen.

Phil Willis MP



Coordination

IACMST has produced some excellent work

But

Limited in policy and co-ordination terms

Phil Willis MP



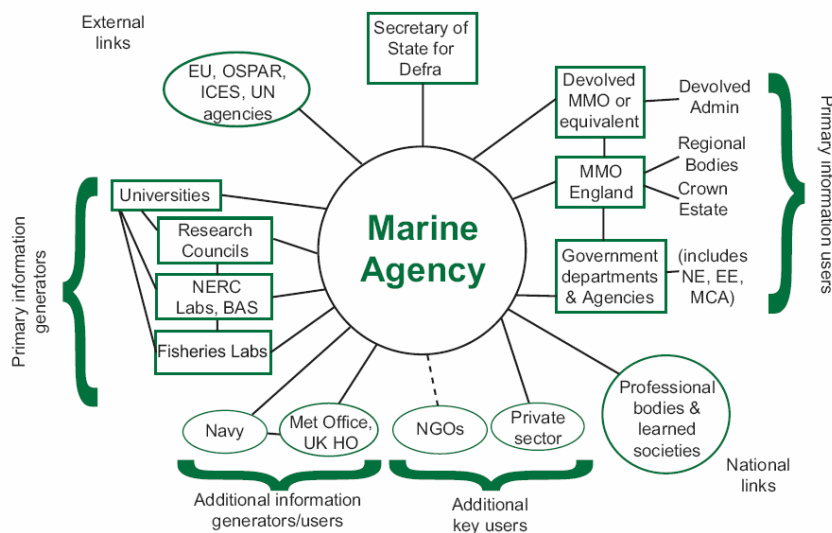
Marine Agency

- With Budget and powers
- Reports directly to DEFRA
- Defined role in Marine Bill
- Partner in BNSC

Phil Willis MP



Relation structure for the proposed agency



Phil Willis MP



Research Facilities

- Need for a replacement for the Discovery



- Utilise existing vessels for coastal research



Phil Willis MP



Marine Monitoring

- Importance of monitoring
- New Agency should be given control
- £22m deficit needs to be met in the UK Monitoring and Assessment Strategy

Phil Willis MP



Polar Regions

- British Antarctic Survey is world class
- BAS should play more central role in Oceans 2025
- British involvement in Arctic research needs better coordination and more resources

Marine Bill

- Needs rapid progress
- Draft Bill in the Queen's speech has a disappointingly slow timetable



Marine Strategy

- Other countries (US, Australia, Japan, Portugal etc.) have a clear strategy
- Defra to head the EU Green paper
- We need a Marine Champion

Phil Willis MP



John Beddington

Government's Chief Scientific Advisor

Phil Willis MP



Conclusion

- Radical Restructuring
- Comprehensive Strategy
- Clear leadership

Time for tinkering has passed!

Phil Willis MP

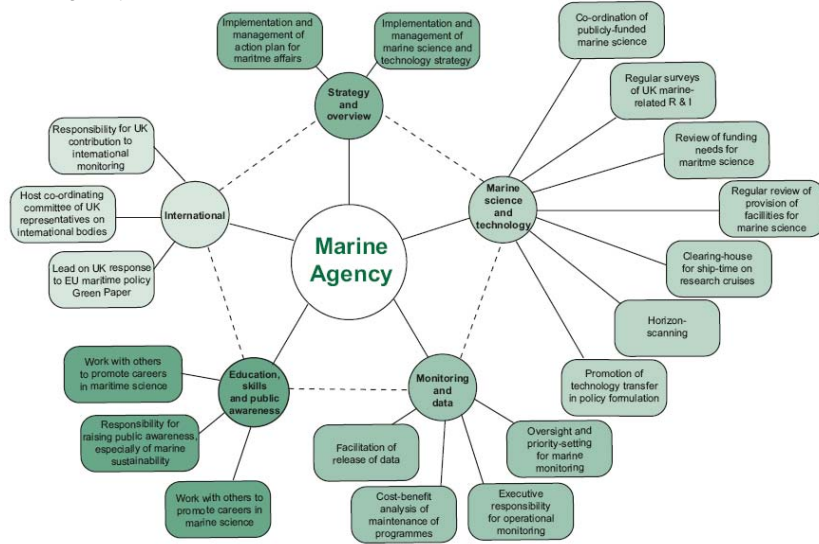


Thank You

Phil Willis MP



Responsibilities of the proposed agency



Phil Willis MP

