



**ocean
conservation**
all-party parliamentary group

World Environment Day

5th June 2019

The Churchill Room, House of Commons

7pm – 9pm

MINUTES

- **Introduction by the Chair – Steve Double MP**

Steve welcomed the attendees and provided a history of the group, with its initial formation as the Protect our Waves APPG. He highlighted the recent progress that has been made, particularly around plastics, and the achievements of the group and measures introduced by the Government. Praise was given to those who have been involved, including the work by the group's secretariat Surfers Against Sewage. Attention was then drawn to the work that is still to come, and the Chair introduced the draft three year strategy for the Ocean Conservation APPG.

- **Vice Chair, Geraint Davies MP**

Thanks Surfers Against Sewage. Speaks on the role of the Ocean Conservation APPG and its achievements, the growing public demand for action including within his constituency, and proposed legislation such as the Plastics Bill. Such legislation focuses on producer responsibility – currently businesses only contribute 10% of the end-of-life costs of disposal and recycling of plastic pollution. Links to the new Environment Bill and an independent environmental watchdog.

- **CEO of Surfers Against Sewage, Hugo Tagholm**

Thanks Steve Double, welcomes attendees and introduces the Ocean Conservation APPG.

Summary of the days actions, including the display of 'The Creature' from SAS's recent campaign film, and the reason behind it.

Outlines the Governments responsibility for our oceans, rivers, mountains and beaches. Gives examples of successful past policy interventions; 5p bag charge and water quality legislation. SAS

welcomes the announcement of 41 new Marine Conservation Zones and congratulates Marine Conservation Society and Blue Marine Foundation on their work.

However, the latest UK Marine Strategy shows we still have a great deal to do. The UK has met just four out of 15 indicators required for healthy oceans. This is a wake-up call. Urges Parliament to use its powers to prevent further environmental damage. This is why SAS has been asking MPs to pledge support for GenerationSea.

The Ocean Conservation APPG strategy launches today. Outlines the APPGs aims for collaboration, innovation and progressing policy.

“The climate emergency is upon us. The plastic pollution crisis is real. The pressures on marine life are unprecedented. We must protect and restore our ocean. The time for action is now.”

- **Dr. Alice Roberts**

Thanks attendees and for her invite. Explains that she started beach cleaning as a child with her relative, before there was any recognition of a ‘plastic pollution’ problem. Talks about her experiences on plastic pollution as both an individual and a BBC presenter, growing public awareness and solutions.

- **Surfers Against Sewage rep, Jaz Strzelecki**

Jaz is 13 years old and is an SAS rep. Explains she’s here to ask for faster action to truly protect the ocean from plastic, climate change and exploitation.

Has been surfing since she was six and became an SAS rep 4 years ago. Her local beaches are ruined by plastic and she’s never seen a beach without plastic in her life. Jaz called for the politicians to step up and ban single use plastic and you need to stop making excuses and just get on with it, not in 25 years, right now!

Jaz referenced the scale and impacts that plastic pollution is already having on marine life, and how current projections show the problem is getting exponentially worse.

“You might not be here to see plastic take over the ocean but my generation and future generations are. It's OUR future and we want change and we want it now and we will stop at nothing to get it. This is an emergency and you have the power to make changes that will save our seas.”

- Screening of 'The Creature' short film by Surfers Against Sewage
- Pledges

MP's were then asked to make a pledge to:

- Stop plastic pollution
- Act fast to tackle the climate crisis
- Don't let sewage back in the sea
- Fully protect areas for sea life to flourish

The following MP's signed the pledge either in person at the event, or by email contact:

Steve Double MP	Alison Thewliss MP	Kate Green MP	Lesley Laird MP
Scott Mann MP	Thangam Debbonaire MP	Tim Loughton MP	Paul Farrelly
Kerry McCarthy MP	Alex Chalk MP	Rosie Duffield MP	Liz Saville Roberts MP
Geraint Davies MP	Sir David Crausby MP	Peter Kyle MP	Catherine West MP
Stephen Crabb MP	Jonathan Edwards MP	Jo Swinson MP	Jo Platt MP
Peter Bottomley MP	Anna McMorrin MP	Ian Murray MP	Tommy Sheppard MP
Sarah Newton MP	Martin Whitfield MP	Tim Farron MP	Dan Jarvis MP
David Drew MP	Rt Hon George Howarth MP	John Grogan MP	Dr Phillip Lee MP
Sandy Martin MP	Ruth Jones MP	Caroline Lucas MP	Ben Lake MP
Steve Brine MP	Wera Hobhouse MP	Madeline Moon MP	Holly Lynch MP
Ross Thomson MP	Maria Caulfield MP	Tom Pursglove MP	Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP
David Duguid MP	Sue Hayman MP	Stewart McDonald MP	Dame Caroline Spelman MP
Simon Hart MP	Ben Bradshaw MP	Derek Thomas MP	Stephen Kerr MP
Pauline Latham MP	Albert Owen MP	Carol Monaghan MP	Darren Jones MP
Luke Pollard MP	Stephen Metcalfe MP	Stephen Lloyd MP	Ronnie Cowan MP
Sir David Amess MP	James Gray MP	Chris Elmore MP	Valerie Vaz MP
Alex Sobel MP	Simon Hoare MP	Toby Perkins MP	Robin Walker MP
	Douglas Chapman MP	Laura Smith MP	David Drew MP