



MEDIA RELEASE

### **The Deep places Net Gain on the international stage**

Representatives from Net Gain, part of a nationwide project to establish a network of marine protected areas around the English coast, will be travelling to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress in Victoria, Canada next week thanks to sponsorship from The Deep. Project Manager, Joanna Redhead, will be presenting at the conference, placing the work that has been carried out through Net Gain in the international spotlight.

Since 2009, Net Gain has been working with sea users up and down the English North Sea coastline to develop recommendations on where MCZs can best be located. The project was set up to contribute to the UK government's vision for establishing a network of Marine Protected Areas that is well understood and supported by 2012.

Joanna will be presenting on the success of the Net Gain project and the unprecedented levels of stakeholder engagement and support that have been achieved.

Joanna Redhead said:

"We are so grateful to The Deep for making it possible to showcase not only the Net Gain project, but the UK MCZ project as a whole. The establishment of Marine Protected Areas is a global issue and the UK has made great progress towards achieving its objectives. This is an invaluable opportunity to share this progress with our international colleagues and celebrate the great steps that have been taken to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for our seas"

The Deep's Chief Executive Colin Brown commented:

"This is a really important conference for both Net Gain and the UK, so as a marine conservation charity, we are delighted to sponsor their participation in this international event. One of our long term objectives at The Deep has been to encourage the re-establishment of a thriving fishing industry in our region and by actively getting behind this initiative we are helping to bring this about."

The conference is being held in Victoria, Canada 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May. Keep up to date with the latest news from the Net Gain Project: [www.netgainmcz.org](http://www.netgainmcz.org).

**ENDS**

**Photo: Net Gain Project Manager Joanna Redhead with The Deep's Chief Executive Colin Brown**

**Interview opportunity:** To arrange interviews with Joanna Redhead or Colin Brown, please contact Dani Sewell or Linda Martin – contacts below

**For more information on this media release please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors**

- **The UK Government is committed to establishing by 2012 a strong, ecologically coherent and well managed network of MPAs that is well understood and supported by sea users**
- By protecting natural habitats and wildlife, MCZs will ensure a healthy and productive future for the region's seas.
- Net Gain's project partners include **The Deep** and the **Humber Industry Nature Conservation Association**
- The final North Sea MCZs will have been carefully, transparently and collaboratively planned by those who use the sea. This will ensure that those stakeholders that live and work in and around MCZs will accept and value them.
- By the end of 2011, this project will identify and recommend Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the North Sea.
- Net Gain is a partnership project, which aims to secure a healthy and productive future for the North Sea and its coast line.
- Net Gain is fundamentally about shared decision making. From the earliest planning stages, we are working closely with stakeholders to explore where MCZs could be best located, identifying possible areas of conflict and finding ways to work around them.
- Finding MCZ sites, which provide maximum benefits to nature and minimise the impact to stakeholders is central to the success of Net Gain.
- The Marine Conservation Zone Project has been established by Defra, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to identify and recommend Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) to Government. The Marine Conservation Zone Project will be delivered through four regional MCZ projects covering the south-west (Fishing Sanctuary), Irish Sea (Irish Sea Conservation Zones), North Sea (Net Gain) and south-east (Balanced Seas). These regional MCZ projects will work with sea users and interest groups to identify MCZs and provide recommendations for sites within their regions to Government.