

Minister Peacock  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

April 2026

Dear Minister Peacock,

We write to you as a diverse mix of UK businesses, sports groups and athletes reliant on the ocean to express our collective concern about the marine impacts of oil and gas production, and to show our support for embedding an end to new fossil fuel licences and exploration into law.

As Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth, we hope you recognise the importance of this issue to your brief. Oil and gas developments in the UK put our futures at risk: the seas we use are polluted by spills, the ocean wildlife we love is bombarded with underwater noise and chemicals, and precious marine habitats are being destroyed.

Coastal sport and tourism are a vibrant and important part of the UK economy, especially to coastal towns and communities. Millions of domestic and international tourists visit UK coastal areas each year, and our industry generates billions for the economy and supports countless jobs. But we are also facing an increasingly challenging operating environment, compounded by the threats of extreme weather, climate change, and poor ocean health. We must act swiftly to address the root of these threats, and stop new oil and gas for good.

We commend your government's world-leading position to end new oil and gas licences, and we urge you to encourage and support your colleagues at DESNZ to urgently enshrine this commitment to issue no new licences into law through the upcoming Energy Independence Bill. This vital step would protect our ocean for generations to come and facilitate a prosperous and timely transition to a green energy system and thriving seas.

We hope that you will speak up on this issue in government, lending public and private support to the Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband. Please, take action to show your full support for a timely transition away from new oil and gas to an energy system that is fair for nature and all those who depend on or enjoy a healthy ocean.

Yours sincerely,

Aileen McCaan, Athlete and World's Toughest Row participant

Atlantic Adventures

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British Mountaineering Council  
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Cal Major, World-Record Stand-Up Paddleboarder  
Champions for Earth  
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David Haze, World-Record Paddleboarder  
DIVE Magazine  
Ecotribo  
Etienne Stott MBE, Olympic Slalom Canoeist  
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Hazel Findlay, Professional Climber  
Jack Eyers, Paralympic Canoeist  
James Ryan, Elite Paddler  
Katia Griffiths, Professional Sailor and Skier  
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Love SwimRun Ltd  
Marine Discovery Centre Whitby  
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Neil Gresham Climbing  
North Coast Watersports  
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Oxford University Surf Club

Paddle UK

Pippa Kenton-Page, Competitive Sailor

Royal Thames Yacht Club

Roz Savage MP

Sailors for the Sea

Samphire Sauna

Sarah Jackson, Professional Windsurfer

Scarborough Amateur Rowing Club

Seafull Charity

South Shields Surf CIC

Strong Mind Climbing

Surfers Against Sewage

SurfGirl Magazine

Surfing England

The Temple of Fringe Surf Shop

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