



Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland



**2006 – 2026
Draft Strategy**



February 2006

About this public consultation

We would welcome responses to this consultation paper by 10th February 2006.

We guarantee that all responses received on or before this date will be considered, and the results of the consultation exercise should help the Department develop a framework which helps facilitate Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Northern Ireland. Please send any responses and general enquiries about this paper to:

Alan Hamilton
Sustainable Development Division
River House
48 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2AW
Tel: 028 90 257384
Fax: 028 90 257300
e-mail to: alan.hamilton@doeni.gov.uk

The consultation document is available on our website at www.doeni.gov.uk/epd.

Alternatively, paper copies can be obtained from the above contact.

Should you require a copy of this document in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, disc, Braille, audio cassette or textphone (028 9054 0642) for the hearing impaired. It may also be made available on request in minority languages for those who are not proficient in English.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations

Please note that the Department may in due course wish to publish responses to this consultation document. The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- o the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- o the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- o acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at:

Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland

Room 101

Regus House

33 Clarendon Dock

Laganside

Belfast

BT1 3BG

Tel. (028) 90511270

Email to ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

or see it's website at:

www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Foreword

The coast of Northern Ireland is highly valued for its scenic beauty, rich in wildlife and economic importance to local communities. However, there are increasing pressures being placed on this natural resource and a growing recognition within the European Commission that coastlines should be managed in a strategic, integrated and sustainable way.

This strategy is intended to set out long-term objectives for achieving sustainable coastal management, through improvements to existing management systems, the development of new management systems and identifying and dealing with potential areas of conflict. It is paramount that we ensure that the economic, social and environmental future of our coastal area is secured for both local communities and visitors alike.

In devising the aims and objectives for this strategy, there has been extensive consultation with a wide range of public and private organisations which have either a statutory or social responsibility for coastal issues. This consultation highlighted two specific points. Firstly, the coastal zone impinges on almost all of us; it is an area where many of us live, work or which we use for recreation. Secondly, while most statutory public bodies regulate or operate services in the coastal area, there is much more that could be achieved through a more strategic and integrated approach. Integration is the key aim of the strategy.

I hope that the vision and objectives contained in this document go some way in achieving real sustainability for the coastal area so that all appropriate interests can be accommodated and the needs of the modern society fully catered for.



Minister for the Environment

Contents

SECTION ONE – Vision for the sustainable management of the NI coast	1
1. Background to ICZM	1
2. The coast as a strategic resource – why an ICZM strategy is needed	2
3. A vision that promotes sustainable development principles	3
SECTION TWO – Principles of ICZM	6
4. Description of key principles of ICZM	6
5. International, Regional and EU approaches to ICZM	9
6. GB and Republic of Ireland approaches to ICZM	11
SECTION THREE – Key organisations and policies affecting the coast	13
7. Key organisations and policies affecting the coast	13
8. Examples of integrated approaches between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland	13
SECTION FOUR – Main issues to be considered	23
9. Assessment of main issues relating to the coastal zone:	23
(I). Overview	23
(II). Marine Spatial Planning	24
(III). Commercial fisheries	26
(IV). Climate change and coastal protection	28
(V). Water quality	29
(VI). Tourism and recreation	30
(VII). Renewable energy	30
(VIII). Ports and marine transportation	31
(IX). Extractive industries	31
(X). Natural heritage	32
(XI). Data, information and mapping	33
SECTION FIVE - Objectives for ICZM	34
10. Objectives relating to sustainable development principles	34
SECTION SIX – Implementation and review procedures	60
11. Ensuring that objective targets are achieved	60
12. Evaluation and revision of objectives and targets	68
Appendix 1 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	71
Appendix 2 Screening for Equality Impact Assessment	73
Appendix 3 Key organisations	75
Appendix 4 List of Consultees	86

Section One–Vision for the sustainable management of the NI coast

I. Background to ICZM

The objective of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.

During the 1990s, the European Commission funded a “Demonstration Programme” on ICZM. This included 35 projects around Europe (8 in the UK and Ireland, two of which are of interest to Northern Ireland - Integrated Management of Down coast (Down District Council); ‘Life’ Project on Irish Dunes (Co. Down and Co. Donegal)) which were examined to understand the pressures and problems facing coasts. The EU Demonstration Programme identified a wide range of environmental and social issues at the coast such as habitat destruction, loss of fish stocks and biodiversity, pollution, economic decline and social deprivation. Interrelated biological, physical and human issues facing European coastal zones were also investigated and the causes were traced to a number of underlying problems, namely:

- o A lack of vision related to management at the coast based on a very limited understanding of coastal processes and dynamics and with scientific research and data collection isolated from end-users;
- o Inadequate involvement of the stakeholders in formulating and implementing solutions to coastal problems;
- o Inappropriate and unco-ordinated sectoral legislation and policy, often working against the long-term interests of sustainable management of coastal zones;
- o Rigid bureaucratic systems and the lack of co-ordination between relevant administrative bodies limiting local creativity and adaptability;
- o Local initiatives in sustainable coastal management lacking adequate resources and political support from higher administrative levels.

The Demonstration Programme also identified eight key principles for ICZM:

1. A broad overall perspective
2. A long-term perspective
3. Adaptive management
4. Local specificity
5. Working with natural processes
6. Involving all parties concerned
7. Support of relevant administrative bodies
8. Using a combination of instruments

These results provided the basis for a European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning ICZM which was adopted by the then fifteen Member States of the EU in 2002. The Recommendation proposed that Member States should conduct a national stocktake to examine which actors, laws and institutions influence the planning and management of their coastal zones. Based on the evidence gathered by the stocktaking, Member States should then develop a national strategy to implement ICZM.

In March 2003, the UK Government commissioned Atkins to carry out a stocktake of the current framework for management of the coastal zone in the UK. The stocktake was completed in March 2004 and has assisted in developing the national strategies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The stocktake document can be accessed electronically through the following website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm

2. The coast as a strategic resource – why an ICZM strategy is needed

The Northern Ireland coast, at over 650km long, is an environment of considerable contrast, dynamism and inspiration. The coastal land, estuaries, and inshore waters are rich in natural resources and wildlife. They support a large proportion of the population and a great variety of economic activity as well as a range of leisure and recreational interests.

The special nature of the coast lies in the fact that it is the transition zone between land and sea. This interface where land, sea and air meet is a highly dynamic environment where the biological, chemical and physical attributes change continuously and sometimes dramatically, altering the profile of the shoreline. The NI coast also includes highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystems with features that serve as critical natural defences against storms, floods and erosion.

What and where is the coastal zone?

As yet there is no official definition by the European Commission of the coastal zone, particularly in identifying how far inland ICZM should address. In many countries the inland limit, for ICZM purposes, has been defined between 1 and 3km. In Northern Ireland it has been decided to use a 3km inland limit and include flexibility in instances where this limit needs to be increased to take account of factors outside the zone but have an impact on the coastal zone i.e. Water Framework Directive. The seaward boundary is more easily defined in that devolved administrations within the UK have responsibility for many issues relating to the offshore area out to 12 nautical miles. In the case of planning, it should be noted that, development plans, Planning Policy Statements and the regulation of development proposals currently do not extend beyond low water mark of the ordinary tides.

Question 1: Do you agree with this definition of the boundaries for the Northern Ireland Coastal Zone? If not, what do you consider the limit of the coastal zone should be?

Need for an ICZM strategy

To date, policies aimed at achieving coastal management in NI have principally focused on individual sectoral interests such as aquaculture, environment, waste management and tourism.

The present sectoral approach to managing coastal issues is not representative of the ICZM principles as set out by the European Commission. In addition these policies are almost exclusively driven in NI by central government Departments, as opposed to the rest of the UK where Local Authorities represent local interests and concerns.

To achieve integrated coastal management all stakeholders (local, regional and national) must be involved in and understand the importance of the ICZM process. It seeks to bring together all those involved in the development, management and use of the coast within a framework that facilitates the integration of their interests and responsibilities.

This is a much wider perspective and implies a focus on the interactions between the wide range of activities and resource demands that occur within the coastal zone. Operationally, this means that ICZM should seek to integrate the various objectives of environmental protection, economic development, pollution control, tourism development, shipping and port management, etc. provided these objectives are ecologically sustainable.

3. A vision that promotes sustainable development principles

The coastal zone is a maritime area where land and sea influence each other to a significant degree. The effects of wind, waves, currents and tides mean that the impacts of activities on the coast can be experienced over a considerable area.

Northern Ireland is noted for its beautiful and relatively unspoilt coast including such well-known features as the Giant's Causeway (World Heritage Site), Benone Strand, the Antrim Coast road, Strangford Lough and the Mourne coast. The coastline is a unique part of the natural heritage with many man-made coastal features.

The coastal zone is a diverse linear ecosystem comprising: the off-shore waters from just below low water, the beach and shoreline and an associated strip of land behind the shoreline. Northern Ireland's coastal waters contain about 50% of the region's biodiversity and the varied coastline is considered to be one of our greatest environmental, tourist and recreational assets.

Many of the important and diverse activities that make our coastline so important can also be a threat to its long-term health. Increasing demands for space and resources make it crucial to find a balance between the interests of people and commerce, and the protection of the natural heritage. The challenge now is to ensure that we secure this balance, maintaining and enhancing the coastal area by integrating the protection of the region's environmental quality with continued social progress and economic prosperity.

This Strategy seeks to identify the key factors affecting the NI coast and put in place a series of widely supported aims, objectives and actions which will promote a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to the future management of our coastal zone.

The Strategy Vision

To rise to the challenge the Strategy needs to have a vision which clearly states what is to be achieved for the future of the coastal zone and its inhabitants.

During the Strategy preparation the following vision has been used to guide progress:

A coastal zone which through an ecosystem approach and the sustainable management of natural resources supports a vibrant, viable and informed population, and which contributes strongly to the overall economy.

Where decisions about development and conservation of the coastline are taken with timely and accurate knowledge of their impacts within the context of the Precautionary Principle, and in an integrated way with all of these people, communities, organisations, and Government Departments with a responsibility or an interest engaged in decisions.

Where natural resources are protected, maintained, enhanced and promoted through, legislation, good practice mechanisms and through the concern and interest of the public, Government, and industry.

Question 2: Are you content with this vision?

The NI ICZM Strategy

The Strategy forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations.

The Strategy will improve the way the coast is managed by:

Promoting integrated management by encouraging bodies to work together and to consider management of the coastal zone as a whole.

Promoting a new approach to management that will bring users and regulators together to discuss and resolve issues at a local level.

However the ICZM Strategy is not:

- o A statutory document
- o A nature conservation plan
- o An economic development plan
- o A social regeneration plan
- o Biased towards any particular interest group

The greatest strength of the Strategy is the wide range and number of people and organisations which have been involved in its preparation.

The Non-Statutory approach

All bodies with statutory authority for the diverse range of activities undertaken in the coastal zone are responsible for administering the respective laws or regulations which relate to the control of these activities. In contrast, however, this Strategy is a non-statutory document and, while its aim is to promote a new approach to the management of the coastal zone, the duty and powers of regulating activities remain the responsibility of the statutory bodies.

The Strategy does not impose any new duties on Government Departments, public bodies, organisations or individuals. Instead it prompts all relevant bodies to take steps to implement those actions which they have committed to in the Strategy.

Section Two – Principles of ICZM

4. Description of the key principles of ICZM

ICZM at its best is also based on the following principles:

- o **Sustainable development** – the needs of future generations should not be compromised by the needs of people today.

The UK's approach to sustainable development is set out in its strategic framework "One future – different paths".

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

For the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment, and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

The UK Framework for SD established an agreed set principles which will form the basis for sustainable development policy in the UK. The principles are as follows:

- o Living Within Environmental Limits,
- o Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society,
- o Achieving a Sustainable Economy,
- o Promoting Good Governance, and
- o Using Sound Science Responsibly.

The priority areas for immediate action, shared across the UK, are:

- o Sustainable Consumption and Production
- o Climate Change and Energy
- o Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- o Sustainable Communities

The strategic framework will be supported by separate strategies for each administration. These will build on existing work and translate this framework's aims into action, based on our different responsibilities, needs and views. These strategies will include further priorities, and be supported by additional measures and indicators. The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy is due for publication in Summer 2006.

The emerging Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy adopts and extends the UK Framework principles and priority areas with the inclusion of an additional principle (Opportunity and Innovation) and two further priority areas for action (Learning & Communication and Governance for Sustainable Development).

Consistent with the principles of sustainable development the goal of integrated coastal zone management is to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment so that it can develop to its full potential and will be achieved within the Government's framework for sustainable development.

- o **Precautionary principle** - sensibly erring on the side of caution where scientific evidence or the balance of evidence is not conclusive.

In the 'Rio Declaration', adopted by the UK Government at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the precautionary principle was interpreted as follows:

"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Since Rio, the precautionary principle has been included in a number of international agreements signed by the UK in relation to its responsibilities for human, animal and plant health and the environment.

It is considered that the application of the principle should lead to action that is proportionate to the required level of protection. It should also be consistent with other forms of action and be targeted to the risk.

- o **Ecosystem approach** – a new strategic way of thinking which aims to better integrate conservation objectives with sustainable social and economic uses of the coast.

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The key elements include providing and working within clear environmental objectives, more strategic management developing more focused research and full stakeholder involvement. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of many ecosystems.

Ecosystem-based thinking facilitates an integrated approach towards coastal zone management because it already comprises the idea of integration with respect to the environment.

There is no single way to implement the ecosystem approach, as it depends on local, provincial, national, regional or global conditions.

The eight principles of ICZM identified in the Commission's Demonstration Programme are:

(i) Adopt a broad holistic perspective

This principle advocates the need to take a 'systems' approach to ICZM due to the complexity of the physical, biological, cultural and socio-economic factors shaping coastal

areas. The delineation of the coast according to administrative or jurisdictional boundaries does not facilitate effective ICZM. Therefore, it is important to take a more wide-ranging perspective, which traces coastal influences to the extent of their natural and/or social boundaries.

(ii) Local specificity

In addition to taking a wide-ranging perspective, it is necessary to complement the approach with a thorough understanding of specific issues in the coastal area of interest. The collection and analysis of data and information concerning local conditions is required to achieve this goal.

(iii) Use adaptive management

Using adaptive management means having the ability to respond to new information and conditions during a gradual process of developing and implementing ICZM programmes.

(iv) Work with natural processes

Working with natural processes is particularly relevant in the case of coastal engineering. In order to mitigate against negative impacts of hard engineering, alternative solutions which work with natural processes should be sought, including the use of soft engineering and/or 'setback and retreat' options where possible.

(v) Take a long-term view

Taking a long-term view means planning ahead for the future to ensure that current management plans will have long-term benefits for the coast. Consideration should be given to the life span of coastal management programmes to ensure sustainability.

(vi) Use participatory planning

Participatory planning involves the collaboration of all stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of ICZM plans. This inclusive process has many direct benefits and is essential if consensus is to be achieved.

(vii) Ensure the support and involvement of all relevant bodies

While participatory planning ensures the involvement of all stakeholders in the development and implementation of ICZM ('bottom up' approach), there is also a need to ensure equality of input to the process by responsible administrations. ICZM can only be effective if it is supported on an ongoing basis by all of the relevant administrative bodies ('horizontal integration' e.g. between Government Departments), and across all levels of government ('vertical integration' e.g. between local and central government).

(viii) Use a combination of instruments

Effective implementation of ICZM involves the utilisation of multiple instruments including

a mixture of legislative measures, policy programmes, economic incentives, technological solutions, research, voluntary agreements and education. The mix to be applied depends on the specific situation, which will differ according to: the geographic area, the nature of the issues to be addressed, the level of participation and co-operation among stakeholders, institutional structures, the legal basis of the initiative and the level of political and financial support available.

5. International, Regional Seas and EU approaches relating to ICZM.

International Policies

A number of international conventions exist which are of relevance to the coastal area. These conventions address issues such as biodiversity, marine pollution, fishing and maritime safety. The inclusion of ICZM as one of the principal recommendations of Agenda 21, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) gave the concept both international prominence and political legitimacy.

Other international conventions of significance include:

- o RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
- o International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1978)
- o Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- o Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- o United Nations International Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)
- o UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)

Regional Seas Policies

While some of the threats to ocean and coastal area environments can be approached most effectively on a global scale, their individual characteristics and relevance tend to vary from region to region, and from sea to sea. The regional seas approach to management allows for greater collaboration between signatory nations and for the transfer of technology, information and experience in ICZM.

There have been several regional seas policies developed including the Helsinki and Bucharest Conventions designed for the Baltic and Black Sea areas respectively. The UK is a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic – Oslo and Paris Convention. More commonly known as the OSPAR Convention, it is designed for the protection of the North Atlantic Ocean area.

EU Approaches to ICZM

While no EU legislative measure applies exclusively to the management of the coastal environment, there are various EU policies and Directives that have an immediate impact on the coastal zone such as:

- o EU Structural Funds
- o Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)
- o Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- o European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- o Trans-European Transport Network Policy (Ten- T)

EU sectoral legislation impacting on ICZM includes:

- o Bathing Water Directive
- o Shellfish Water Directive
- o Waste Water Treatment Directive
- o Nitrates Directive
- o Water Framework Directive
- o Birds Directive
- o Habitats Directive

Apart from the Birds and Habitats Directives, which relate to nature conservation, the above Directives are water-related legislation. While a number of these have an influence on coastal management, the Water Framework Directive is viewed as one of the most significant in facilitating ICZM.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The WFD came into force in December 2000 and is designed to take a holistic approach to water quality, addressing inland surface water, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. A co-ordinated approach will therefore be required for the implementation of the measures needed to ensure compliance over the 15-year period allowed for each Member State.

Objectives of the Directive include:

- o Protection and enhancement of the status of aquatic ecosystems (and terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly dependent on aquatic ecosystems)
- o Provision for enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment by reducing/phasing out of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances
- o Protection of marine and territorial waters

The WFD is based on the river basin as the natural unit for management, and will require the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). The WFD strives for ecological quality by incorporating within its environmental objectives biology, hydrology, morphology and chemistry. As well as maintaining water quality, the objectives specifically refer to protecting ecosystems. Measures being adopted include reviewing the impact which various activities have on the status of the waters.

The WFD is viewed by the Commission as part of the mechanism within which ICZM will be adopted. Its application to waters up to one nautical mile beyond the national baseline goes some way to minimise the current sectoral approach to water quality management. The WFD

uses biological communities as long-term indicators of health in the water and is seen as an important legal stimulus at EU level for integrated planning, both coastal and inland.

6. GB and Republic of Ireland approaches to ICZM.

Scottish Executive

On 12 September 2005 the SE published its “Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland’s coasts and Seas”. This document is the Executive’s response to the outcome of its consultation last year on “Developing a strategic framework for the marine environment”. It also takes into account the advice offered to Scottish Ministers in the Scottish Coastal Forum’s “Strategy for Scotland’s Coasts and inshore waters”. The marine and coastal strategy is founded on the five guiding principles of sustainable development in order to ensure that socio-economic, environmental and ecological factors are full integrated into decision making processes relevant to marine and coastal activity.

The Scottish marine and coastal strategy will:

- o allow us to understand better the cumulative impacts of inter-related activity in the marine and coastal environments;
- o provide the basis for action through a governing framework to manage those relationships, bringing better coherence to the range of policies and activities relevant to our coasts and seas;
- o provide a more holistic, ecosystem based approach to sustainable marine and coastal resource management and use; and
- o form the bond between sector specific strategies to ensure that cumulative and cross-sectoral impacts are better understood and addressed.

This approach aims to secure the long-term mutual sustainability of the environment, communities and industries and will be taken forward by a new ministerially chaired high level stakeholder group which will:

- o review the objectives, outputs and outcomes contained in the strategy;
- o consider the potential for marine spatial planning and how such a system might operate in practice;
- o identify indicators of process towards objectives, including identifying new research and science needs;
- o make input to the early stage assessment, by Scottish Natural Heritage, of potential candidate sites for the first coastal and marine national park;
- o identify the scale of any conflict between sector-based objectives;
- o develop a suite of measures for dispute settlement at the various scales;
- o identify whether any of the elements of the strategy might require underpinning by new legislation or new delivery mechanisms.

The strategy document can be accessed electronically through the following website:

England

Following the final report in March 2004 of “ICZM in the UK:A Stocktake”, Defra has been exploring options for ensuring that the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management can be fully implemented in planning activity undertaken throughout the coastal areas of England. Consideration is also being given to how policy development and planning activities on land and at sea can be brought together effectively.

Defra will co-ordinate the conclusions from coastal strategies in the different parts of the UK to provide a response to the EU's recommendation on ICZM.

Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government is also developing a similar ICZM strategy for Wales which will be linked to the new Wales Environment Strategy which will cover Welsh territorial and maritime interests. The ICZM strategy is being prepared in conjunction with the Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership, a partnership which contains representatives from the key coastal interests in Wales. Its contents are being informed by relevant research in Wales as well as through information gleaned via the Environment Group of the British/Irish Council, which has also been usefully engaging with this important topic. Through the British/Irish Council and other means, the aim is to ensure that the Welsh and related strategies mesh appropriately together key maritime areas like the Irish Sea.

Ireland

Ireland has not made significant headway in the context of a specific response to the EU Recommendation on ICZM.

Preliminary moves towards the development of ICZM in Ireland were made in 1997/1998, with the publication of a major consultancy report on coastal zone management (Brady Shipman Martin and others).

The focus in subsequent years has primarily been on specific aspects of coastal zone management, including planning and development, aquaculture regulation and local initiatives such as CLAMS (Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems).

A number of projects have been or are being undertaken by various institutions under the auspices of EU Interreg programmes. These projects deal with a variety of aspects of ICZM and have involved co-operation with institutions and agencies throughout North West Europe.

The intention at this stage is to complete the initial stocktake exercise, and through that identify key issues for a potential strategy.

Section Three – Key organisations and policies affecting the coast

7. Key organisations and policies affecting the coast

The UK Government is subject to a number of European and international obligations relevant to the sustainable management of the coastal zone and its resources. These include the management of fisheries (through the Common Fisheries Policy), nature conservation (e.g. EC Birds Directive and EC Habitats Directive), improving water quality (e.g. EC Water Framework Directive) and shipping, both in UK coastal waters and for UK registered vessels operating elsewhere in the world (through the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea). DEFRA is also considering the policy implications of issues for a proposed Marine Bill to be published in late 2006. Issues include legislation for Marine Spatial Planning [MSP] and ICZM. The Marine Bill website can be accessed electronically at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/policy/marine-bill/index.htm>

There is currently no coastal zone legislation for the UK as a whole or for Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, legislative powers and responsibilities are delivered through a number of central government departments. A range of different statutory and non-statutory instruments provide for either the terrestrial or the marine portions of the coastal zone.

A summary of the responsibilities of the various Departments is attached at Appendix 3.

The UK Coastal Zone Law Web Site

<http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/pbl/jgibson/iczm/home.htm>

contains legal materials and a commentary on coastal zone law in the United Kingdom, together with links to sources of national, European Union and international law on coastal management.

8. Examples of integrated Coastal policies between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Given the commonality of issues involved in sharing land and sea borders, Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) have been developing a common approach on many topics between the two EU partners. This approach is designed to assist generate practical and mutual benefits through co-operation.

Co-operation between government departments in NI and the ROI takes place both on a business activity basis and also within the framework of the institutions put in place on entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999.

North/South Ministerial Council

The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was established on 2 December 1999 on the entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999. The Agreement stipulates that the NSMC will bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland on matters of mutual interest and within the competence of each Administration, North and South.

The Agreement provided for at least 12 subject areas which would be identified for co-operation and implementation. Co-operation in these areas would be taken forward in two ways – in the case of at least six of them by means of new North/South Implementation Bodies and in the case of at least six others by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction operating at a cross-border or all-island level.

Following suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 14 October 2002, an agreement between the UK and Irish Governments was made and contained in an Exchange of Notes dated 19 November 2002. This agreement provided a mechanism for decisions to be taken on policies and actions relating to the Bodies and Tourism Ireland during the period of suspension of the Assembly. Interim procedures have been put in place by the NSMC Joint Secretariat for the processing of Ministerial decisions, while the arrangements set out in the Exchange of Notes between the two Governments apply.

Of the six areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by the new North/South Implementation Bodies the areas of Aquaculture and Marine Sectors and Special EU Programmes have links to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

Of the six areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately (known as the Areas for Co-operation) the tourism sector has relevance to ICZM.

Information on the functions of these three relevant areas is given below.

Aquaculture and Marine Sector

The NSMC meets in the Aquaculture and Marine Sector in order to take decisions on policies and actions to be implemented by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC).

The functions of the Commission in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are exercised through the Loughs Agency. The Agency aims to provide sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.

The Agency's main role to date has involved developing the resource through fisheries management, conservation and protection. This includes providing management information (e.g. habitat surveys, fish counters and environmental evaluation), developing conservation

mechanisms, catchment management and enforcing conservation and protection legislation. There have been a number of strategic and operational developments of the waterways undertaken by the Agency that impact on the promotion of the fisheries-based resource. Some examples include:

- o a website has been developed that provides information on the rivers and waterways; <http://www.loughs-agency.org>
- o an interpretive centre was opened to focus on the educational aspects of the waterways particularly to schools and the public;
- o an angling officer has been appointed to directly promote fishing in the waterways both at home and abroad;
- o publication in November 2003 of a five year development plan for the fisheries based recreation and leisure resource of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas
- o Public consultation on a Draft Implementation Plan for the regulation of aquaculture and shellfisheries in Lough Foyle in March 2005.

Special EU Programmes

The Special EU Programmes Body's (SEUPB) principal functions are to manage certain EU Structural Funds, such as the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE II), INTERREG IIIA Programme and other Community Initiatives and to support a range of development and regeneration programmes in both the North and South of Ireland.

The SEUPB is a North South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. SEUPB was established on 2nd December 1999 under the Belfast Agreement and reports to the NSMC.

Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative [CBAIT]

The Aquaculture Initiative is a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) set up to provide a range of support services for the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry throughout the target area of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

It was initially set up between four bodies including the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland Seafood, BIM [Irish Sea Fisheries Board] and the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources under the Peace and Reconciliation Scheme. The Aquaculture Initiative received further funding from the SEUPB under PEACE II programme.

The Initiative team will advise on financial, technical, strategic and environmental issues, in order to provide effective support to new and existing aquaculture operations.

The specific objectives of the Aquaculture Initiative are:

- o To significantly increase output and growth of new and existing aquaculture business in the target area.
- o To assist the sustainable growth of the industry taking into account issues such

as environmental accreditation, coastal zone management and Quality Assurance Schemes.

- o To liaise between funding organisations and fish farming producers in order to secure financial support for expansion within the aquaculture sector.
- o To promote and encourage the highest standards of farm husbandry, production and quality.
- o To promote investment in aquaculture from the private sector.
- o To encourage economic and technical support co-operation within the aquaculture sector.
- o To assist the industry and its governing bodies to allow rapid and effective processing of site licences and grant applications.

There is considerable potential for expansion of the aquaculture industry within the remit area. Through the full development of the natural resources available, aquaculture production can contribute significantly to the economy of the area as a whole and to rural areas in particular. The cross-border team provides advice and support to enable aquaculture producers to meet increasingly rigorous environmental and quality standards. The team also works to raise awareness concerning environmental responsibilities with respect to the sustainable use of natural resources.

The Aquaculture Initiative will also take forward work on implementing the Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (**CLAMS**) and Environmental Code of Practice for Aquaculture Companies and Traders (**ECOPACT**) Initiatives as launched in NI in November 2004.

CLAMS is based on a concept to develop, at local level, a management plan for individual sea loughs integrating marine aquaculture interests with government policies.

ECOPACT is a concept developed to bring about the widespread adoption of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) into the aquaculture industry. The ECOPACT document is designed to provide a strong basis for fish farmers and associated businesses to set up their own highly effective EMS, which will impact positively on their communities and the environment.

Tourism Sector

The NSMC oversees the work of Tourism Ireland, a publicly-owned limited company which is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a tourist destination. Following a strategic and comprehensive planning process consumer marketing is based on:

- o identifying and evaluating those markets that offer the best prospect for growth, then identifying and targeting the strategic and tactical segments within those markets – the ‘best prospect’ customers;
- o examining how best to communicate the benefits of a holiday on the island of Ireland to these potential customers; and

- o determining the appropriate marketing mix for each segment.

Using the marketing tools and funds available, Tourism Ireland’s 19 overseas market offices undertook a wide range of above and below the line marketing activities, tailored to suit each market, depending on whether it was advanced or emerging.

Above the line activity included a global advertising campaign, incorporating television, print and radio, while below the line activity included direct marketing campaigns and familiarisation trips for international tour operators. There was also an extensive publicity campaign, which brought journalists from all over the world to the island of Ireland, so they could sample the benefits of a holiday in Ireland for themselves.

Ferry companies, airlines, tour operators and accommodation providers worked with Tourism Ireland to encourage visitors to stay a little longer by offering hundreds of special offers.

Tourism Ireland published two major reports in 2003 setting out very significant targets for the growth and development of tourism over the coming decade.

Co-operation beyond the framework of the North South Ministerial Council

The table below contains information on those indicative areas of NI /ROI co-operation which fall beyond the framework of the North South Implementation Bodies and the six areas of North South co-operation as dealt with in the previous section.

Agriculture And Rural Development

ISSUE	Northern Ireland Bodies	Republic of Ireland Bodies
Drainage/Flood Defence Management of levels of Lough Erne and liaison on cross border drainage/ flood defence issues.	DARD (Rivers Agency)	Office of Public Works (OPW) Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
Fisheries Fisheries management policy – training, development of sustainable fisheries, co-operation on general aquaculture matters	DARD (in support of training initiatives arranged through local industry representatives) & Loughs Agency.	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) (BIM and Loughs Agency)
Renewable Energy The two Departments have been sharing the findings of their respective studies on renewable energy and exploring the potential for future co-operation on areas of mutual interest.	DARD	Sustainable Energy Ireland (an Agency of DCMNR)

Commercial Ports

ISSUE	Northern Ireland Bodies	Republic of Ireland Bodies
Discussions on matters of mutual interest on the commercial port services industry.	Department for Regional Development (Ports and Public Transport Division)	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Energy

<p>North/South Electricity Interconnector. An agreed key priority will be to strengthen the electricity infrastructure which supports the Interconnector, especially in ROI.</p> <p>An NI/ROI Steering Group has published a Development Framework that outlines the benefits and priorities for developing an all-Island Energy Market.</p>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment/NIAER	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
--	--	--

Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<p>A range of additional promotional and training events have been undertaken collaboratively. These include:</p> <p>Speciality and Fine Food Fair (7-9 Sept 2003 London)</p> <p>Retail Food Distribution Workshop (27 June 2003)</p> <p>Workshop on Niche Brand Marketing (6 Nov 2003 Belfast)</p>	Invest NI (Trade Division)	Bord Bia
Bord Bia and Invest NI have established the Taste Council to examine the strategic development of speciality food from Ireland.	Invest NI (Trade Division)	Bord Bia
The Joint Irish Small Business & Speciality Food Producers Directory (October 2004) was produced and launched in 2004.	Invest NI (Trade Division)	Bord Bia

Environmental Protection

ISSUE	Northern Ireland Bodies	Republic of Ireland Bodies
<p>Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI) has had contacts with relevant bodies in the South in several areas over a considerable period. Areas of co-operation have included radiological emergency planning issues and joint environmental monitoring with the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.</p>	<p>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</p>	<p>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</p>
<p>The Water Management Unit of the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) co-operates fully with the five councils that border NI in relation to water pollution response and have also met with the Regional Fisheries Boards to discuss matters of mutual interest.</p> <p>Meetings have also been held with the Irish Coast Guard to discuss marine pollution response.</p>	<p>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</p>	<p>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</p>
<p>Disposal of Clinical Waste: A Joint Waste Management Board has been created to take advantage of the benefits to be gained from co-operating in the disposal of clinical waste.</p>	<p>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</p>	<p>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</p>
<p>Under the EC Water Framework Directive, NI and the Republic of Ireland are designated within the same Ecoregions for both marine & freshwaters. Consequently ROI specialists have been involved in developing UK guidelines and vice versa.</p> <p>This co-operation has been extended into cross border participation on the EC Water Framework Directive and Lough Melvin Catchment Management Group.</p>	<p>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</p> <p>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Science Service, Loughs Agency, Fisheries Conservancy Board, Forest Service)</p> <p>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</p>	<p>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</p> <p>Northern Regional Fisheries Board, Central Fisheries Board, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Department of Agriculture.</p>

Natural Heritage

ISSUE	Northern Ireland Bodies	Republic of Ireland Bodies
International Designations Group: This meets regularly to discuss cross-border and all-Island nature conservation issues. It has been in operation for over 5 years.	Department of Environment, Environment and Heritage Service (EHS)	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
A collaborative seminar entitled "Ireland's Landscape North and South: "Looking Beyond the Boundaries"" took place on 16/17 September 2004. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss landscape matters of mutual interest.	Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)	The Heritage Council
Priority Species: Production of four all-Ireland Species Action Plans for wildlife species whose populations are vulnerable throughout the Ireland	Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government/ National Parks and Wildlife Service

Official Statistics

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Central Statistics Office (Dublin) maintain regular contact on matters of mutual interest and with respect to the exchange of information.	NI Statistics and Research Agency	Central Statistics Office
--	-----------------------------------	---------------------------

Fisheries Policy

Formalising discussions on Fisheries policy	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
---	--	--

Regional Development Strategy/National Spatial Strategies

During the preparation of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), DRD officials liaised with their counterparts in ROI on the details of the emerging Strategies.	Department for Regional Development (DRD) – Regional Planning Division	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
The then Director of Regional Planning Division, also served as an advisor to the ROI Government on the preparation of the NSS.		

Tourism

ISSUE	Northern Ireland Bodies	Republic of Ireland Bodies
<p>TIDINET The provision of information management and reservation services on behalf of NITB and Failte Ireland.</p> <p>Infrastructure – Air Access. North West Air Access Committee co-ordinates the development and marketing of access into the North West.</p> <p>NI Tourist Board work with Failte Ireland in the administration of International Fund for Ireland to support tourism in Northern Ireland and the six border counties.</p>	<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Tourist Board</p>	<p>Failte Ireland</p>

Work which takes place on the North South axis of the British Irish Council

The British-Irish Council was established under the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiations in Belfast on Good Friday, 10 April 1998 (“the Agreement”), with the aim of promoting the harmonious and mutually beneficial development of the totality of relationships among the peoples of these islands. The Members of the Council are the Irish and British Governments; together with representatives of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and representatives of the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

The British-Irish Council is a forum for members to consult and exchange information with a view to co-operating on issues of mutual interest within their respective competences. To date, Members have already agreed a range of practical co-operation where appropriate, on areas as diverse as the misuse of drugs; environmental issues; indigenous, minority and lesser-used languages; social inclusion; and knowledge economy issues with work continuing in other sectors including tourism, transport and telemedicine.

The British-Irish Council continues to provide an historic opportunity to build on the excellent working relationship which the Irish and British Governments and other Members have long enjoyed and to promote the development of relations in a number of practical and helpful ways.

The British-Irish Council has continued to meet despite the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2002. In the absence of Members from the Northern Ireland Executive, the interests of Northern Ireland are temporarily represented by the British Government.

The British Government leads the work of the Council on environmental issues. ICZM has recently been added to the Council's Environment Sectoral Group's work programme and was a main agenda item at the Group's April 2005 meeting.

An official level working group was established in 2004 under the chairmanship of the Welsh Assembly Government and with representation from DEFRA, the Devolved Administrations and the Irish Government to consider how the ICZM strategies developed by each region could be appropriately linked, not least in relation to the Irish Sea. The working group has met on a number of occasions to:

- o share information on the strategy development approaches being adopted;
- o exchange information on ICZM projects under way in the different countries;
- o consider common themes/issues relevant to the Irish Sea.

The Group has identified the following issues as potential areas for common focus within the developing country strategies:

- o funding for local ICZM networks/partnerships;
- o the integration of ICZM into policies/programmes and planning regimes for the coastal zone;
- o the need for improved public and institutional awareness of ICZM; and
- o the development of common indicators to assess, on a consistent basis, progress in moving down the ICZM 'road'.

The Group will continue its joint work and will make further reports on progress with the development of the ICZM strategies to the Environment Sectoral Group.

Section Four – Main issues to be considered

9. Assessment of main issues affecting the coastal area.

(i) Overview

There have been calls for a more integrated approach to coastal zone management in Northern Ireland since 1993 when the House of Commons Environment Committee reported on Coastal Zone Protection and Planning and the DoE subsequently issued a discussion document *Managing the Coast*. In 1994 the Department of the Environment's NI statutory advisory body the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC) produced its own advisory report to Government- *Coastal Zone Management Policy*. As the previous sections have highlighted, many organisations have worked towards the development on improved approaches to the management of the coastal zone, on both an all Ireland and UK wide basis. The Government's Regional Planning Policy *Shaping our Future* and the Regional Planning Strategy have addressed many of the issues in an integrated way across Northern Ireland with strategic policies on transportation, rural development, protection of the undeveloped coast and the sustainable development of coastal communities.

There remain, however, many areas where the integrated management of the coastline is incomplete. These are discussed, by topic, in the following pages.

A shared vision for the coastal zone

Northern Ireland has in the past benefited from the coastal zone in many ways in the past from shipbuilding, trade and fisheries, to tourism and leisure. The region stands to benefit in future from offshore renewable energy, an increase in marine tourism, new discoveries of potential medicines and pharmaceutical products extracted from marine organisms, aquaculture and, it is to be hoped, from regenerating fisheries. People enjoy living close to the sea, and place a high value on sea views and this has fuelled a demand for first and second home developments in coastal areas. Waste water from housing and industry will continue to be routed to the sea via rivers and direct outfalls. However the coastal zone does not have a finite ability to absorb discharges. Not every activity can be developed to its full potential without causing a negative effect on marine ecosystems or on other important activities or industries.

To date in Northern Ireland there has been little debate about priorities for the coastal zone or about the balances to be struck between conservation, industry and development. The development of a vision for how the coastal zone will be in 20 years is essential to sustainable development and to retaining an intact coastal zone ecosystem. At present there is no forum for such debate and no one Department with an overview of the coastal zone.

Since 1994 there have been calls from advisory bodies and non-governmental organisations for an organisation to be created to lead the development of a vision for Northern Ireland's

coastal zone and to develop a strategy and implementation framework. The Regional Development Strategy and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy also identified the need for a body to take forward ICZM.

In the rest of the UK, a range of local and regional ICZM, groups, partnerships and forums have developed. These have been beneficial in bringing together experts, stakeholders and statutory bodies to promote a more integrated approach. They have also increased awareness, facilitated cooperation and have contributed to resolving conflicts. The Scottish Coastal Forum produced its draft strategy to advise Government in 2004 and the Wales Coastal and Marine Partnership is currently developing a similar document.

Teamwork in Government

So many Government agencies and departments are potentially involved in ICZM that co-ordination will be difficult to achieve within the present structure. Even maintaining an overview of each Department's activities in relation to the coast will be difficult to achieve. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) which has an oversight role for some aspects of Government, has developed a section on its PolicyLink webpage to help with information flows www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/policylink. DOE has also developed a series of ICZM web pages www.doeni.gov.uk/epd to improve awareness and understanding among coastal stakeholders. An ICZM Forum or Council structure has been proposed by many stakeholders as a way of co-ordinating Departmental efforts in a similar way to, the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group.

Some aspects of ICZM are dealt with on a UK basis (e.g. offshore oil and gas exploration) and some on a cross-border basis, as previously outlined. Therefore arrangements will need to be put in place to include this wider dimension in actions for enhanced teamwork within Northern Ireland

(ii) Marine Spatial Planning

Experts on coastal processes generally acknowledge that the coastline should be treated as an important interface area subject to influences from both land and sea, rather than as merely the edge of the land. The coastal zone is an area of concentrated energy with wave, tide and current all impacting on its shape and condition and with a considerable transfer of materials and nutrients in both directions across the coastal boundary. For this reason, many have made the case for a system of planning that combines both land and sea in the coastal zone and considers the interfaces between them in all decisions.

The development of Marine Spatial Planning is a significant proposal in the draft Marine Bill, announced in the recent Queen's Speech (May 2005), which will be considered by Parliament within the next few years. The Bill will outline a new integrated system, which would be used for planning and managing activities and developments in the coastal zone, and also to provide more scope to protect and restore marine biodiversity. The Bill may also propose certain powers to designate Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to set aside and protect parts of

the sea for wildlife or for the regeneration of fisheries.

These new arrangements will take some time to develop, and in the meantime a wide range of Departments remain involved in considering coastal and offshore development. Whilst inter-departmental and public consultation are routinely carried out, the current systems do not provide either the integration or the transparency provided by the current terrestrial planning system. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will require new approaches to gathering and presenting information about the coastal zone to ensure that all of the information required is available to those making or being consulted on decisions.

While some area development plans may contain specific references to countryside and the coast, and indeed address nature conservation and landscape amenity in areas of undeveloped coast they also deal with all material land use issues in both the developed and undeveloped coast. However, development plans and indeed the land use planning system as a whole does not have a management function. There may be a case for a specific development plan focusing on the coast which nevertheless considers all coastal activity on an integrated basis.

A layer of non-statutory integrated coastal management planning already operates in Northern Ireland. One example is the Strangford Lough Management Scheme. This scheme was developed on an integrated basis with all of the bodies represented on the Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee. It represents the government's commitment on the management of the Lough by virtue of its status as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive and Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive. Currently this level of management planning serves only to advise Departments and has no further role beyond this. Similar schemes may be appropriate for Lough Foyle, Carlingford Lough and Belfast Lough to provide locally relevant decision making within ICZM.

A further example of non-statutory management planning is the cross-border co-ordinated local aquaculture management scheme (CLAMS) in Carlingford Lough, designed to aid communication and consultation between the aquaculture industry and other local interests on Carlingford Lough. CLAMS assists participation in aquaculture planning, and helps information flows, but falls short of integrated planning for all marine and coastal interests.

Development

Northern Ireland has one of the fastest population growth rates in Europe and it is estimated that there will be a regional need for an additional 160,000 dwellings by 2015. These are expected to be concentrated in the Belfast Metropolitan area, around Londonderry, and to a lesser extent in the Antrim, Ards, Down, and Newry and Mourne areas. In addition to there is a significant demand for second homes and apartments around the coastline. On parts of the north coast second home development has reached levels that are causing concern both to residents and planners. One settlement, Portballintrae, has more than 50% of houses occupied on a second home basis.

(iii) Commercial Fisheries

The Northern Ireland fleet is largely dependent on fishing opportunities within the Irish Sea although some larger pelagic and whitefish vessels are involved in fisheries in other sea areas. The industry is now largely dependent on the Nephrops fishery which is currently being fished at sustainable levels. The small but highly profitable pelagic fleet and crab and lobster vessels are also generally considered to be operating in sustainable fisheries. Much of the decline in the fleet has been in the whitefish sector due to the decline in whitefish stocks, which has resulted in successive quota cuts and the introduction of the spring cod spawning closure in the Irish Sea in 2000. To date these measures, introduced as part of the Cod Recovery Plan for the Irish Sea, have failed to deliver cod recovery.

The problems experienced in NI are not unique and in 2004 Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report, Net Benefits, (www.strategy.gov.uk/downloads/su/fish/index.htm), was published. The UK Fisheries Administrations in their joint response to Net Benefits, "Securing the Benefits", (www.defra.gov.uk/fish/sea/sfp/index.htm) set out an overarching aim for future UK fisheries management, with supporting objectives to guide fisheries management and policy making in the years ahead. The Fisheries Administrations will be working closely together to achieve these objectives. In Northern Ireland there is a specific commitment to undertake a review of inshore fisheries management.

As part of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2002 the European Commission made provision for the establishment of Regional Advisory Councils to give stakeholders (both fishing and non –fishing) with a legitimate interest in marine fisheries a greater role in fisheries management. The Irish Sea falls within the area of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council and there is a specific Irish Sea working group, mainly involving UK and Republic of Ireland Irish stakeholders. The RACs would be expected to advise the Commission on fisheries management issues within their area.

The South Down Task Force was formed as a Government response to decline in the local fishing economy and a funded strategy for change is now in place involving diversification, retraining and the development of alternative employment opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is leading the development of a strategic plan for the fishing industry in Northern Ireland, whilst the UK Government is consulting on a linked proposal for a UK Strategy via the consultation document 'Net Benefits, www.strategy.gov.uk/downloads/su/fish/index.htm The fishing industry has had little formal dialogue with other marine sectors although its activities can have a major impact locally and regionally.

Atlantic salmon stocks are declining across their range and populations in many Northern Ireland's rivers are below conservation limits. Falling marine survival is a key factor in this decline and a cause for concern. Likewise, numbers of glass eel to the coast has declined in recent years. Coastal salmon fisheries have been significantly reduced to strike a balance between exploitation and conservation. Lough Neagh supports the largest remaining wild eel

fishery in Europe but its future too is dependant on actions to ensure the fishery remains sustainable. DCAL is leading on the ongoing development of local Salmon Management Plans and contributing EU Eel Action Plans.(Also covered in Part (x) Natural heritage below)

As in many areas of policy, radical change towards sustainable development has emerged out of crisis.The fishing industry has an important role to play in ICZM for ensuring its own future and adapting to the challenge of falling profits.

Aquaculture

Northern Ireland's coastline and loughs provide ideal opportunities for the farming of fish and shellfish and significant developments have already taken place.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development began work on an aquaculture strategy in March 2004, working with the industry to increase productivity, employment, sustainability, and the marketing of seafood and farmed fish.This follows a development plan by the industry itself in 1995.

The Northern Ireland aquaculture industry has a current value of around £5m first hand sales and directly employs some 180 people with a number of others employed in ancillary occupations.. Markets and costs are currently impacted by water quality issues within the loughs and require co-ordinated approaches to raise the quality of shellfish waters. In addition, the industry has concerns over development of the coastline, the regulatory frameworks around the sector and conflicts with other activities. Integrated planning will also be important in ensuring that aquaculture development does not restrict the functioning of ports and harbours, unduly impact recreational activity or impact negatively on the biodiversity of the coastal zone.

(iv) Climate change and coastal protection

Climate models predict that Northern Ireland will see warmer wetter winters, with drier summers. The frequency of extreme weather events, which lead to flooding may increase. The timing of natural events such as the blooming of daffodils may alter in response to a changing climate. The balance of species in our environment may change.

On the positive side, farmers may find they are able to grow new kinds of crops and domestic tourism may increase. Businesses may be able to take advantage of changing market conditions.

In Northern Ireland estimates of sea level change by the 2050s range between 13cm and 74cm, dependent upon scenario. Heightened sea levels are expected to exacerbate coastal erosion and compound the effects of storm surges. Storm surges, are temporary increases in tidal height caused by particular weather conditions in future their frequency or severity of may increase as climate change affects weather patterns.

Coastal erosion is a potential impact of rising sea levels with existing beaches and dunes being put under increased pressure.This will have implications for wildlife and habitat protection, as well as for coastal planning policy.

The Rivers Agency already maintains 26 kms of sea defences to help avoid the flooding of low-lying coastal lands, and it is likely that area plans may in future have to address the threat of flooding associated with sea level rise.

Coastal erosion is also an issue for parts of Northern Ireland such as the County Down and North coasts.

Responsibility for dealing with coastal erosion in Northern Ireland lies with several Departments as a result of a set of principles delineating responsibilities known as the “Bateman Formula”.

Under this formula coastal responsibilities are shared as follows:

Coastal defence, where it reduces the risk of flooding on extensive areas of farmland, residential or commercial areas, is the responsibility of Rivers Agency of DARD, which maintains 26 kms sea-defences designated under the Drainage Order 1973 by the Drainage Council.

Where infrastructure is vulnerable to coastal erosion, the relevant authority is responsible; therefore, for example, Roads Service is responsible for maintaining the sea defences that protect the road network adjacent to the sea shoreline including the A2 Antrim Coast Road and the A20 Portaferry Road and Translink protects the rail infrastructure.

Otherwise individual landowners are responsible for their own coastline, but depending on the circumstances, may require planning consent from DOE, or a licence under the Food and Environment Protection Act to place material on the shore; or a consent to carry out a notifiable operation if the site falls within an Area of Special Scientific interest (more than half of Northern Ireland’s coastline has been protected by ASSI declaration).

Coastal processes are not fully understood, for example there appears to be a relationship between the shape and size of the Tunes Plateau shoal and the rate of erosion of the Magilligan shoreline, and a relationship between coastal engineering work at Newcastle and the sandiness of the beach there.

Climate change and coastal erosion are complex issues and require decisions that take into account both the best research available, and information about public safety, sustainable communities, individual livelihoods, wildlife habitats, navigation and shipping routes, coastal recreation and landscape quality and the relative impacts of different approaches to coastal protection. Strategic issues for discussion include: priority areas for action; the relative merits of hard coastal defences versus managed retreat; the need for further research on coastal processes specific to Northern Ireland; and the case for applying the precautionary principle where the effects of a particular policy cannot accurately be predicted.

ICZM processes need to bring forward transparent policies on approaches to climate change and coastal protection.

(v) Water quality

The seas around Northern Ireland generally have good or excellent biological and chemical water quality. This is not the case in the estuaries and loughs where water quality can be impacted by pollutants and nutrients from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources. Plans for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive are in progress with the aim of securing at least good water quality standards for all waters by 2015. Water quality improvement measures will include investment in improved treatment methods at Waste Water Treatment Works [WWTWs].

The implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive in NI will also improve coastal water quality by reducing the surplus nutrients that run off farmland into waters which contribute to the enrichment of estuarine waters and may lead to algal blooms.

Water quality plays a key role in many nature conservation sites. Coastal zone areas protected by the Habitats Directive include the waters of Strangford Lough and around Rathlin Island as both Special Protection Areas (SPA for Birds) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for a range of habitats, Dundrum Bay, parts of the Causeway Coast and Benone Magilligan Coast are designated SACs and parts of the shores of Carlingford Lough, Larne Lough and Lough Foyle are SPAs.

Water quality also impacts on the tourism and leisure industries and on public enjoyment of beaches and watersports sites. Northern Ireland has 8 Blue Flag award beaches and three Blue Flag marinas, an award that is largely based on water quality standards. Northern Ireland also has failing beaches due to factors that include agricultural run-off and discharges from WWTWs.

Marine pollution has not been a major issue in Northern Ireland to date, except for long standing public concern about emissions from Sellafield Nuclear Power Station, but the potential for a major pollution incident remains. Current shipping routes bring tankers and other ships close to sensitive areas of the North Coast and Rathlin Island. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is charged with responding to marine pollution incidents and holds equipment such as booms and dispersant in Northern Ireland to deal with major issues, though it is not as well equipped in this regard as other UK regions. At present no protocols exist for working with the Republic of Ireland on pollution emergencies affecting both jurisdictions.

Given the important environmental features and the high level of risk of marine pollution incidents, DEFRA has been considering the designation of Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRA) around the UK including several sites in Northern Ireland. Rathlin Island, Isle of Muck and the Gobbins, Copeland Islands and the approaches to Strangford Lough have all been identified in the highest risk category.

(vi) Tourism and recreation

Much of Northern Ireland's tourism activity is focused around the coastline and several key resorts rely to some degree on seasonal tourism income. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has recognised the importance of the coastline and in particular the Giant's Causeway, to the Northern Ireland economy in its own strategy and in an advisory capacity assists to maintain the visual appeal of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in Northern Ireland, including their coastlines.

Marine activity tourism, special interest and wildlife tourism are all growth areas across the world which offer new alternatives to traditional beach holiday resorts. For example Benone Strand has developed as an activity beach and the north coast attracts large numbers of surfers, even on winter weekends. Marine tourism is forecast to grow steadily over the next five years and is now considered to account for 11% of the world market in tourism. Activities such as kite flying, kite surfing, surfing, waterskiing, jet skiing, surf kayaking, sea kayaking, snorkelling and sub aqua, are increasingly taking place around the coasts, and recreational boat ownership (particularly fast powered craft) is also growing. Maritime events are also popular, drawing large numbers of people and boats.

Some marine leisure planning has been undertaken around the coastline, for example, the Loughs Agency has developed marine leisure and tourism strategies for Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough, Tourism is also considered within the Strangford Lough Management Scheme, in relation to its potential impacts on the Lough's environmental features. To date however there has been no strategic planning for marine or coastal tourism on a Northern Ireland wide basis and little reference within tourism planning to the interface with other coastal zone sectors. Legislation for the control of marine leisure activities is generally weak, except where there is a harbour authority.

(vii) Renewable energy

Following the Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997 (the Kyoto Protocol), the UK Government set a target for 10% of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by the end of 2010, with the figure rising to 20% by 2020. The publication of 'Vision 2010– Energy Action Plan' indicated that Northern Ireland would be contributing to the UK targets. The target set for Northern Ireland is that by 2012, 12% of all electricity consumed should be generated from renewable sources.

Some of this contribution may come from offshore wind farms or tidal current turbines, with the majority of development likely to be focused within zones where depths are 20 m or less, due to technological constraints and construction costs. Examples of windfarm proposals include the Tunes Plateau at the mouth of Lough Foyle and an area off the South Down coast, whilst locations such as the Strangford Lough Narrows, the Copeland Island, Fair Head, Torr Head to Runabay Head, Carlingford Lough and Rathlin Island may prove attractive as locations for tidal turbines.

The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment foresees significant offshore windfarm, tidal stream and wave power energy projects being initiated within the next 10 to 15 years. The industry itself in NI and elsewhere has undertaken extensive consultation with stakeholders as sites have been proposed and has published a range of data on company websites to assist understanding of the environmental impacts and the benefits to the local community.

No strategic or spatial NI level planning for offshore renewables in the Northern Ireland coastal zone has been undertaken to date. The development of such a plan could be an important activity for the ICZM process.

(viii) Ports and marine transportation

Northern Ireland has five commercial ports, - Belfast, Londonderry, Warrenpoint, Larne and Coleraine. The Port of Larne is privately owned whilst the remainder are public trust ports. Over 80 international shipping lines operate from the five ports. Belfast Port handles around two thirds of all trade by sea to and from Northern Ireland with a throughput of 9000 boats and some 2 million passengers. 90% of NI's total trade, and almost 50% of the Republic of Ireland's freight traffic, leaves through NI's ports. The ports represent essential infrastructure to support the quality of life of Northern Ireland and underpin its economy.

All of the ports and harbours have development plans for the future, but some find their plans constrained by issues such as disposal of dredged material, restrictions on land reclamation, the proximity of nature conservation sites, designation and licensing of aquaculture, and the proximity of historic sites and monuments.

Londonderry and Belfast Ports are involved in initiatives to increase the numbers of cruise liners visiting Northern Ireland's ports each year, and Londonderry Port has developed a major visitor pontoon to encourage recreational boat visits to the City of Derry. Warrenpoint Port is developing as a major landing point and depuration centre for mariculture in Strangford Lough.

The activities of the ports affect other interests through their actions and vice versa, for example, the ports are also harbour authorities controlling navigation within their jurisdictions.

A number of smaller ports such as Bangor, Donaghadee and the fisheries harbours of Ardglass, Portavogie and Kilkeel also support both local industry and tourism.

(ix) Extractive industries

Northern Ireland's coastline is relatively free of active mineral workings and large scale extraction. Some localised removal of beach sands and gravels takes place around the coastline, particularly the north coast, and there is extensive sand and gravel extraction on parts of the South Down coast from glacial deposits.

Offshore oil and gas exploration is not active at present off the Northern Ireland coastline. The Department for Trade and Industry in London (DTI) is responsible for strategic planning and licensing below the high tide mark in Northern Ireland and has recently issued a series of strategic environmental assessments for its oil and gas licensing phases (www.offshore-sea.org.uk) including assessments for the Irish Sea and the north coast areas.

Should any of the extractive industries or proposals become more active in the NI coastal zone, methods of stakeholder involvement will need to be developed which are consistent with ICZM principles.

(x) Natural heritage

The coastline of Northern Ireland is rich in biodiversity with much of the coast protected under national and international designations. The state of the coastal zone and seas around the UK has been monitored for many years by Government Departments and NGOs, though many aspects are still not fully researched or understood. The report 'Charting Progress: An Integrated assessment of the State of the UK Seas' (2005) provides the first integrated assessment, across the entire UK Continental Shelf, of the various impacts of human activities in the marine environment and how the ecosystem elements are responding. Prepared jointly by DEFRA, SE, WAG and DOE, the report presents a mixed picture and proposes the adoption of a more holistic approach to management of the seas.

Terrestrial coastal sites and their associated species can be protected through designation and legislation and frequent observations are made to monitor their conservation status. However, marine species and habitats are arguably more difficult to protect and monitor and there are a range of activities that fall outside the direct influence of the Environment and Heritage Service.

The current state of the seas gives those charged with protecting natural heritage across the UK and Ireland some cause for concern. Whilst marine research and monitoring is more difficult at sea, it is now recognised that a number of species are declining in number. For example, the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* is under pressure from bycatch; Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* is declining for a number of reasons including netting at sea and the quality of inland waters for spawning; and Atlantic Cod *Gadus morhua* is at very low spawning stock levels, though experiencing a slight recovery. European eel stocks are also below safe biological limits. (Atlantic salmon and glass eels also covered in Part (iii) Commercial Fisheries above.)

Agencies in the UK, including those in Northern Ireland, have developed Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) that affect coastal and marine species and habitats. Species Action Plans (SAPs) include native oyster *Ostrea edulis*, basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* and common skate *Dipturus batis*. Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) include coastal saltmarsh, and horse mussel beds *Modiolus modiolus*. HAPs and SAPs are taken forward on an inter-agency basis with participation from a wide range of Government and other organisations, including industry. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group (NIBG) coordinates the process and has produced

an initial report on Government's progress towards meeting the 76 recommendations contained in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy. To date, the main focus has been on terrestrial species but NIBG plans to increase its focus on coastal biodiversity. A copy of the report can be accessed at:

www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/about_us

Local Authorities around the coast are in the process of developing Local Biodiversity Action plans (LBAPs). These will include plans for coastal biodiversity where relevant.

(xi) Data, information and mapping

Marine Spatial Planning and wider ICZM activity will require new approaches to gathering and presenting integrated information about the coastal zone. Currently data from marine and coastal research is held by a wide variety of individuals, universities, businesses, Government agencies and departments and non governmental organisations. The information is also held in many different formats such as GIS¹ and paper records. The CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) database at the Ulster Museum has increasingly played a role in co-ordinating data from a range of agencies on marine and terrestrial species and habitats but ICZM requirements for data are much wider. Quercus, a data and research initiative between EHS and Queens University Belfast, will play a role in biodiversity research. However, there is a need for one integrated database rather than for a profusion of sectoral databases.

The Irish Sea Pilot – one of a series of pilot projects to inform the process of ICZM across the EU, investigated the information required and available across the range of coastal zone activity. This information ranged from the location, flows and contents of sewage outfalls to the sea; to oil and gas fields, marine habitats and coastal land use. The pilot study recommended that digital map bases combining sea and land areas would be required for ICZM as would new electronic databases combining data sources, and an approach that makes data more easily available to all potential decision makers and the public.

Presenting the information in one place will permit the study of trends and relationships between different aspects of the coastal zone. The Ordnance Survey and UK Hydrographic office have together produced pilot maps to combine onshore and offshore information www.iczmap.com and are engaged in developing a geographical information system (GIS) strategy called Mosaic, designed to provide a forum for GIS data sharing www.mosaic-ni.com

SECTION FIVE – Objectives for ICZM

10 Objectives relating to sustainable development principles.

A proposed strategy

One of the most important tasks for ICZM is the development of a shared vision about the coastal zone.

This strategy proposes a vision for:

A coastal zone which through an ecosystem approach and the sustainable management of natural resources supports a vibrant, viable and informed population, and which contributes strongly to the overall economy,

Where decisions about development and conservation of the coastline are taken with timely and accurate knowledge of their impacts, within the context of the Precautionary Principle, and in an integrated way with all of those people, communities, organisations, and Government Departments with a responsibility or an interest engaged in decisions.

Where natural resources are protected, maintained, enhanced and promoted through, legislation, good practice mechanisms and through the concern and interest of the public, Government, and industry.

Consistent with the principles of sustainable development the proposed strategy is organised around three priority themes of:

- o **Sustainable communities** in the coastal zone
- o **Safeguarding and improving the environment** within the coastal zone and
- o **maintaining and enhancing the economy** of the coastal zone;

In order to achieve these:

- o integration of planning and effort will be required and this is the fourth main theme of the strategy.

Strategy aims have been developed as follows under each of these themes:

Sustainable communities (SC)

1. To establish and maintain a sustainable quality of life for coastal communities in NI.
2. To develop and maintain new opportunities for coastal communities, and to encourage coastal communities to learn from their counterparts in Europe.
3. To maintain and enhance coastal infrastructure and services and reduce the detrimental effects of isolation associated with coastal communities.
4. To maintain the distinct cultural identities, traditions and skills of coastal communities and protect and present important aspects of their history.

¹ Geographical Information Systems

5. To foster understanding of ICZM and its priorities and developing strategies amongst communities and interest groups in NI.

Environment (ENV)

1. To maintain and enhance Northern Ireland's critical natural resources within the coastal zone and protect, maintain and enhance the condition of designated nature conservation sites.
2. To maintain and improve coastal water quality.

Economy (ECON)

1. To secure a vibrant economic future for NI coastal communities and to contribute to the NI and UK economies through the sustainable exploitation of the resources of the coastal zone.
2. To maintain the visual appeal and environmental quality of NI's coastal landscapes and seascapes as an underpinning asset of tourism and business development.
3. To maintain and enhance safe passage to ports and harbours in NI for commercial shipping and recreational navigation and support the sustainable economic development of ports and harbours and their hinterlands.

Integration (INT)

1. To provide statutory mechanisms to develop and implement integrated planning for the coastal zone including the area below the low tide mark, and to control inappropriate development and activity on land and sea within the zone.
2. To establish a lead agency and structures to assist the delivery of ICZM priorities in NI. To co-ordinate efforts and facilitate participation in the structures at national, regional and local level.
3. To provide co-ordinated services to support ICZM including research, databases and mapping; and to facilitate access by ICZM partners and the public to an integrated set of information.

Objectives, actions and indicators

In the following tables a set of objectives, actions and indicators have been set out for each aim. Where possible targets have been suggested against objectives to assist in motivation, standard setting and monitoring. Indicators are aspects of the coastal zone that should show change if the policies and objectives suggested in the table for each aim are implemented and monitored. Some are derived directly from the proposed EU ICZM indicators, some from UK indicators of sustainable development, and some have been developed to match the Northern Ireland ICZM strategy elements.

Timescales

EU guidance for ICZM strategies is that they should set out objectives for 20 years, in effect, they should plan for major change to the way that the coastal zone is managed to be

achieved within a generation. This strategy proposes three main stages, each with a different focus:

In Years 1-3 it is suggested that the focus is on:

- o Providing information to all groups who will need to contribute to the strategy and be engaged in the actions.
- o Identification and co-ordination of existing activities moving towards integration in future.
- o Setting up structures to achieve ICZM.
- o Rolling out existing commitments and programmes with increasing reference to an engagement with other bodies.
- o Development of integrated planning between Government Departments, industry, local authority and community interests.
- o The development of spatial planning approaches to the marine area.
- o Engagement of industry and communities in current approaches and developing capacity for new approaches.
- o Changing agency, industry and community behaviour towards the coastal zone.
- o Initiating research programmes to provide knowledge and techniques on which to base spatial planning.

At the end of year 3 **a review of the strategy is proposed** to allow for new participants to be involved fully.

In Years 4-7 the focus should be on:

- o Implementing integrated spatial planning for the marine and coastal zone.
- o Joint planning and implementation of new coastal programmes.
- o Making a significant difference to the protection of critical capital of the coastal zone.
- o Effective sharing of research and information.

In Years 8-20 integration will now be complete and attention is now focused on maintaining:

- o Fully effective integrated coastal zone planning and management systems.
- o Systems to respond to new challenges and opportunities.
- o Significant improvements in water quality, marine species diversity and economic performance of marine industries.

Explanation of terms used in the tables and the strategy:

Themes

The strategy is based on the broad themes of sustainable development, i.e. coastal zone society and culture, environment, economy and integration.

Aims

Each theme has a set of aims for the delivery of integrated coastal zone management.

Objectives and actions

A set of objectives and actions are set out for each aim. There has been an attempt to make the objectives SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound) but some work still needs to be done in this area, particularly because challenging objectives require consensus across the board. Where possible, targets have been suggested against objectives to assist in motivation, standard setting and monitoring.

Indicators

These are aspects of the coastal zone that should show change if the policies and objectives suggested in the table for each aim are implemented and monitored. Some are derived directly from the proposed EU ICZM indicators, some from UK indicators of sustainable development, and some designed to match the strategy elements.

Priority Period

This 20-year strategy is divided into three main stages:
Years 1-3; Years 4-7; and Years 8-20.

Targets

The desired situation at the end of the priority period indicated against each target – (i.e 1-3).

Question 3:- **The strategy is based on the broad themes of sustainable development, i.e. coastal communities, environment, economy and integration.**

Do you consider this to be an appropriate approach?

Question 4:- **The Northern Ireland Strategy has been divided into 3 main stages each with a different focus: Years 1-3; Years 4-7 and Years 8-20.**

Do you agree with this approach? Please comment.

Priority – Social and Cultural		To establish and maintain a sustainable quality of life for coastal communities in northern Ireland		Key Indicators to the Aim Degree of social exclusion Relative household prosperity Employment levels and types Access to services Physical safety of coastal communities		
AIM SC I						
No	Objectives	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
SC I.1	The sustainable development and management of coastal livelihoods such as fishing, aquaculture, tourism, recreation and port operations	Develop a more integrated approach to the administration of existing policies promoting access to employment in the coast. Identify diversification opportunities, which have a potential for job creation	DARD DETI DCAL NITB EHS	Harbour Authorities MCA Loughs Agency Fisheries Conservancy Board District Councils Invest NI	Levels of employment in marine and coastal zone industries remain the same or rise.	1,2,3
SC I.2	To identify and monitor the socio-economic status of coastal zone communities, highlighting issues specific to those regions and taking action where appropriate	Data search – 2001 and other small area statistics	DARD	South Down Task Force District Councils Invest NI	Knowledge of socio economic status of coastal communities in comparison to urban and rural inland areas	1
SC I.3	To take account of and seek to meet the needs of coastal communities in the formulation and implementation of planning policies/ proposals for their areas.	Increase public participation in the development of Area development plans.	Planning Service DRD Regional Planning	Local community groups Invest NI	Coastal and island communities influence future shape of own settlements recognising the importance of natural coastal processes and working with these	1,2,3

AIM SCI						
No	Objectives	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
SC I.4	To encourage a range of housing which meets the accommodation needs of coastal communities, supports local economies and maintains /enhances local character and sense of place.	Consider research into the identification of housing policy mechanisms which can promote/ facilitate the provision of a range of housing stock to meet the needs of coastal communities. Develop area-based strategies that promote social cohesion and retaining the vitality of coastal communities.		Planning Service DRD Regional Planning DSD NIHE	The indigenous coastal zone communities feel able to remain within their home area Increase the ratio of first to second and holiday homes	1,2,3
SC I.5	To identify potential threats to coastal zones posed by climate change and consider appropriate actions for the safety, well-being and economic interests of coastal zone communities	To undertake research into Flood and Coastal Defence, as part of a wider Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Study. To develop spatial planning approaches to the coastal zone that takes predicted sea level rise into account	EPG EHS Planning Service DRD (PPS20)	Rivers Agency EHS DRD District Councils MCA National Trust Rivers Agency	Research to be completed by end of 2006. Spatial planning for coastal issues	1
SC I.6	To create a safer environment for the community by providing an effective marine rescue service	Provide and co-ordinate effective emergency responses- e.g. provision of rescue co-ordination centre, coastguard S&R and cliff rescue teams, helicopter responses, RNLI co-ordination	MCA	Emergency services RNLI	95% of incidents response initiated within 5 minutes of alert	1

Priority – Social /Cultural		To maintain enhance and develop coastal infrastructure and services and reduce the effects of isolation associated with coastal communities		Key Indicators to the Aim Full and part time jobs in coastal/ island communities Occupancy rates of coastal tourist accommodation			
AIM SC2							
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority	
SC 2.1	To maintain, enhance and develop appropriate sustainable transport and communication infrastructure: to facilitate access to jobs and services, social inclusion, and tourism.	Support and maximise the potential of existing ferry services at Magilligan, Strangford and Rathlin to deliver on social, economic and tourism objectives.	DRD (Ports and Public Transport Division, Roads Service) DETI	MCA Planning Service	Cost effective and socially effective ferry services	1	
		Consider renewed proposals for Carlingford Lough Ferry	DRD NITB DETI District Councils		1 feasibility study and Environmental Statement	2	
		Maintain coastal roads and coastal bus services					
		Develop policy proposals aimed at providing a legislative base within which NI ports can modernise and improve	DRD		Standard service is maintained or improved	2	
		Improve tourist signage of Causeway Coast and other relevant routes	DETI DRD Roads Service	NITB	Signed coastal tourist routes with associated services	1	
	Maximise the potential of the possible renewed Ballycastle to Campbelltown ferry route to contribute to the sustainable development of coastal communities	Moyle Council DETI		Viable ferry route delivering specific benefits to NI society and coastal economy.	1		

AIM SC2						
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
SC 2.2	To support and maintain sustainable coastal and island communities with appropriate access to essential services.	To bring forward a sustainable development plan to arrest critical population decline on Rathlin Island. Identify and consider sustainable development plans for other vulnerable/ endangered coastal communities.	DRD DE DETI Invest NI	Moyle District Council Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust Ports and Public Transport Division, Planning Service	Arrest of population decline and increased number of families with young children living on Rathlin Island	1
SC 2.3	Increase the number and distance of coastal walks cycling routes	Negotiate new access and provide infrastructure to Mourne Coast and North Antrim Coast	District Councils CAAN* AONB Partnerships Roads Service	EHS MCA Mourne Heritage Trust Sustrans National Trust	1 Mourne Coastal Walk 1 extended Causeway Coast Waymarked Path	2

*The Countryside Access and Activities Network

Priority – Social/ Cultural		To maintain the distinct cultural identities, traditions and skills of coastal communities and to protect and present important aspects of their history			Key Indicators to the Aim Maritime heritage site integrity and access No of people with maritime skills Marine related employment	
Aim – SC3						
No	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
SC 3.1	Complete an integrated and up to date inventory of heritage (built and marine – incl. Wrecks) within coastal zones mapping	Inventory of archaeological heritage below the high tide mark	EHS		Maritime archaeology inventory	1,2,3
SC 3.2	Celebrate NI maritime heritage and environment and provide access and interpretation at important maritime heritage sites	Consider maritime heritage trail for NI or for regional areas. Inventory of maritime archaeological heritage	EHS	NITB MCA DCAL National Trust	1 maritime heritage trail Major maritime events	1,2,3

Priority – Environment		To maintain and enhance northern Ireland's critical natural resources within the coastal zone and protect, maintain and enhance the condition of designated nature conservation sites.		Key Indicators to the Aim To arise from objective ENV I.3 below No of red listed coastal and marine species Rate of loss of or damage to protected areas		
Aim– ENV I						
No	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV I.1	Consider a suite of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for Northern Ireland	Create an initial list of pilot MPAs Consider new legislation for MPAs.	EPG EHS DARD Fisheries	Fishing Industry Shipping interests MCA NGOs	Rationale and set of implementation proposals for consultation in 2006 Include OSPAR and other targets.	1
ENV I.2	To monitor and report on the condition of the coastal zone to provide feedback on condition and progress in coastal processes and sea level change.	Develop a set of indicators for the condition of the coastal zone.	EHS DARD (Potential for ICZM Council)	NGOs DARD MCA Rivers Agency	Agreed Monitoring programme with reports accessible to the public Effective action taken where results are of concern	1,2,3
ENV I.3	To monitor and report on the biomass and status of individual species within the NI coastal zone.	Reports on individual fish species biomass and spawning data	DARD EHS DCAL	NGOs Fishermen's organisations Loughs Agency Fisheries Conservancy Board	Regular objective monitoring and reporting system, accessible to the public Effective action taken where results are of concern	1,2,3

Aim– ENV I						
No	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV I.4	Protect, enhance and restore key sites for marine and coastal biodiversity and geodiversity as natural processes permit.	Complete the designation of coastal zone ASSI, SPA SAC and RAMSAR sites.	EHS	All agencies	All qualifying potential sites designated by 2010	1,2
		Prepare conservation objectives for management of designated sites, as appropriate, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.	EHS	All agencies	Maintain or improve the conservation condition of 95% of the features underlying the designation of internationally important wildlife areas and ASSIs by 2013 (DOE SDA).	1,2
		Prohibit significant adverse activities within ASSIs and Natura 2000 sites.	EHS	All agencies	Consultation with all agencies with an interest.	1, 2, 3
					All sites maintained in a favourable condition Consultation with all agencies with an interest	

Aim– ENV I						
No	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV I.5	Protect key coastal and marine biodiversity species and habitats	Progress coastal and marine Biodiversity Action Plans at national and local levels.	EHS		Deliver targets of Northern Ireland coastal and marine Habitat and Species Action Plans.	1,2
		Establish a marine and coastal group to coordinate the delivery of relevant habitat and species action plan targets with major stakeholders.	EHS		Group in existence by 2006	1
		To include marine and coastal biodiversity in all local biodiversity action plans	District Councils		Local biodiversity action plans have coastal and marine content where relevant	
		To consider the Convention on Biological Diversity target of halting biodiversity loss.	All Departments		By 2010	
ENV I.6	Promote an appreciation of coastal and marine environments and the role of EHS in coastal zone management. [Develop an EHS Coastal and Marine Communications Strategy	EHS		Relevant publications and website material.	1

Priority - Environment		To maintain and improve water quality.		Key Indicators to the Aim Quality of coastal and inland waters Amount of all water pollution Amount of coastal, estuarine and marine litter Quality of bathing waters		
Aim- ENV2						
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV 2.1	To continue to implement Regional Development Strategy Policy (SPG-ENV 2.2) within all coastal area development plans	Area development plans. Environmental Impact Assessment for significant projects.	DRD	District Councils Planning Service Water Service EHS	Effective measures to implement Env 2.2 within all new area plans Effective implementation through Development control.	1,2,3
ENV 2.2	To secure a reduction in nutrient discharge into Northern Ireland's coastal zone and implement fully the UWWT directive.	N/P removal at all WWTWs over 10,000 PE discharging to areas designated Sensitive (eutrophic) under UWWTD. Nitrates action plan Water Framework Directive Implementation Plan	DARD EPG EHS	EHS UFU Water Service	All waters at least or Good Ecological Status under the Water Framework Directive by 2015. No loss of water quality	1,2
ENV 2.3	To secure a reduction in chemical pollution of NI coastal zone	Industrial discharge consenting, monitoring and enforcement	EHS		As above	1,2

Aim- ENV2						
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV 2.4	To improve the biological and chemical status of NI coastal waters.	To cease untreated direct discharge of sewage to the sea through the provision new WWTWs. To provide appropriate treatment (as required by the UWWT Directive) at all other WWTWs. To upgrade sewerage systems to limit pollution of receiving waters due to storm discharges. To complete the implementation of the UWWT directive in NI	EHS – standards Water Service - implementation		New infrastructure in operation (1-3 years)	1
ENV 2.5	All surface waters to achieve at least good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive by 2015.	EU WFD Nitrates Action Plan Industry initiatives	EHS EPG	Water Service Planning Service DARD MCA UFU NIAPA	Good ecological water quality in all rivers by 2015 Good ecological water quality in coastal waters by 2015	1,2,3
ENV 2.6	To endeavour to meet guideline standards of the EC Shellfish Waters Directive at all designated Shellfish Waters in Northern Ireland.	Improved water quality arising from ENV 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 above	EHS EPG Water Service Invest NI		No target agreed as yet.	2,3
ENV 2.7	To meet minimum standards under the EU Bathing Water Directive.	Implementation of ENV 2.1, to 2.5 above	EHS Water Service EPG		All identified (designated) bathing waters (beaches) meet at least minimum BWD standards.	
ENV 2.8	To establish regular reporting of water quality to the public	Report detailed water quality results and BWD compliance at all monitored bathing waters.	EHS		Baseline report 2005 Report 2010 Report 2015	1,2,3

Aim- ENV2						
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV 2.9	To protect the quality of coastal waters that are currently of the highest quality	<p>Planning Policies for the undeveloped coastline to be in general conformity with the RDS.</p> <p>Development control mechanisms Control on discharge consenting</p> <p>Education role in prevention of water pollution and reporting of water pollution incidents</p>	<p>DRD DOE (Planning Service)</p> <p>EHS</p> <p>EHS</p>		No loss in coastal water quality in any location during the strategy period	1,2,3

Aim- ENV2						
	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ENV 2.10	<p>To work to prevent marine and coastal pollution incidents.</p> <p>To provide an effective response to marine and coastal pollution incidents</p>	<p>Major marine and coastal incident exercises.</p> <p>To take part in the EU funded Emergency Responses to Oil, Chemicals and Inert Pollution from Shipping Project (EROCIPS). To ensure OPRC plans are in place for all ports and harbours that require them.</p> <p>To undertake two booming deployments per annum.</p> <p>To determine the risk posed to the NI coastline from shipping in the Irish Sea.</p> <p>Consider designation of parts of the coastline as Marine Environment High Risk Area (MEHRA).</p> <p>To ensure adequate counter pollution and response equipment is in place to deal with marine pollution incidents.</p>	<p>MCA EHS</p> <p>EHS</p> <p>MCA</p> <p>EHS</p> <p>EHS</p> <p>MCA</p> <p>MCA/EHS</p>	<p>District Councils</p> <p>Other EROCIPS partners</p>	<p>Reduction in number of marine pollution incidents and in seriousness of incidents.</p> <p>Effective response to emergencies arising</p>	I

Priority – ECONOMY		To secure a vibrant economic future for ni coastal communities, and to contribute to the northern ireland and uk economies through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone		Key Indicators to the Aim 1. Jobs in the industries that depend on the coastal zone 2. Contribution to the economy of the sector		
Aim - ECON I						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON I.1	To develop a strategic approach towards the sustainable extraction of marine and coastal aggregates and minerals in NI and of other products as they become relevant	Sustainable Marine Aggregates and Minerals Spatial and Development strategy for NI Development of consenting regime.	DETI EPG EHS	Industry NGOs MCA Planning Service GSNI Crown Estate DARD	Strategy brought forward through ICZM process Successful implementation and monitoring	1,2
ECON I.2	To develop a strategic approach towards renewable energy production in NI marine and coastal zones	Sustainable Energy development strategy for NI	DETI	EHS MCA Planning Service DARD	I strategy brought forward through ICZM process Successful implementation and monitoring	1,2
ECON I.3	To develop a strategy to support the long term sustainable development of the aquaculture industry in NI.	Sustainable Aquaculture and development strategy for NI Develop and implement a NI Aquaculture Strategy Manage the implementation of PEACE II Programme measures (Aquaculture Initiative)	DARD Loughs Agency	EHS Invest NI MCA	I strategy developed with participation from other ICZM partners Successful implementation and monitoring	1

Aim - ECON I						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON I.4	To develop and implement a strategic approach to the sustainable development of fisheries in NI within the developing UK Fisheries Strategy. (following the 'Net Benefits' report and consultation)	<p>Develop a sustainable fisheries strategy for NI within framework of UK strategy</p> <p>Further develop co-operative approaches to fisheries research between Government and the fishing industry.</p> <p>Participate in North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council and its Irish Sea sub group.</p> <p>Manage the implementation of PEACE II Programme measures (CLAMS, ECOPACT)</p>	DARD	<p>EHS Fisheries Conservancy Board DCAL</p> <p>MCA Loughs Agency</p>	<p>1 strategy developed with participation from other ICZM partners</p> <p>Successful implementation and monitoring</p> <p>Accessible and uncontested fisheries research</p>	1
ECON I.5	To develop a strategic approach to marine and coastal tourism, hospitality and leisure development in NI	<p>Sustainable marine and coastal tourism and leisure strategy (poss. as an all Island approach)</p> <p>Recognition of the rural economy on the coast</p> <p>Improvement of landscape quality through visitor payback.</p>	<p>DETI NITB Loughs Agency DARD</p> <p>EHS</p>	<p>Industry EHS Planning Service NGOs MCA Possible Marine Institute and Tourism Ireland if on a cross-border basis.</p>	<p>1 strategy brought forward through ICZM process Successful implementation and monitoring</p> <p>Create scheme (say on model of NRRTI) by 2008.</p>	1,2
ECON I.6	To promote the products of the marine and coastal industry sectors in Northern Ireland	<p>Seafood marketing plan (sustainable catches message)</p> <p>Marine industries marketing plan</p> <p>Major promotional campaigns for sustainable products</p>	DARD	Invest NI	<p>2 major promotional campaigns 2007 and 2012.</p> <p>Increase in the number and value of sales of local products</p>	2

Priority - Economy		To maintain the visual appeal and environmental quality of Northern Ireland's coastal landscapes and seascapes as an underpinning asset of economic development		Key Indicators to the Aim Evidence of coastal landscape/ seascape protection mechanisms within spatial planning		
Aim-ECON 2						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON 2.1	Define, identify and assess seascapes around NI Review Coastal land not currently in AONBs for possible designation under current criteria	Commission seascape assessment for NI Undertake systematic review of coastal lands against current criteria	EHS EHS	Planning Service	Assessment by 2007 Review by 2008	1,2
ECON 2.2	To develop and adopt management measures that protect the quality of coastal landscapes and seascapes	Continue programme to complete production of AONB management plans and secure funding for their implementation. Consider the introduction of an 'Areas of Outstanding Seascape' designation. Review current policy to concentrate resources on improvements to landscape quality to designated landscapes	EHS EHS EHS	CCGHT MHT MCA SLMAC DETI NITB District Councils Planning Service	All coastal AONBs to have management plans by 2012 All AOS to be designated by 2012 and management plans in place. Review by 2008	1,2

Priority - Economy		To maintain and enhance safe passage to Ports and Harbours in NI for commercial shipping, fishing and recreational navigation, and support the sustainable economic development of ports or harbours and their hinterlands		Key Indicators to the Aim No of outgoing and incoming passengers Volume and value of goods handled Collisions, marine accidents and marine rescues No of recreational boat berths and moorings in NI		
Aim – ECON 3						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON 3.1	To assist safe passage for commercial shipping, fishing and recreational navigation	To maintain the existing navigation infrastructure to assist safe passage and respond to new navigational hazards and needs	Irish Lights All Port and Harbour authorities MCA	DRD	Retain baseline provision at 2005 levels	1
		To consider the need for a navigation authority for Strangford Lough to assist in recreational management	MCA	SLMAC	Options report and consultation completed	2
		To consider the need for additional recreational buoyage and lights to assist recreational development and management	District Councils MCA Port and Harbour authorities	RYA RNLI DRD	Options report and consultation completed	2

Aim – ECON 3						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON 3.2	To support the sustainable economic development of ports and harbours and their hinterlands	<p>To zone lands for further port and harbour development</p> <p>To develop and introduce legislation up-dating and further extending the commercial powers of Trust Ports.</p> <p>To review future dredging and disposal requirements strategically, and bring forward simplified consents procedures for sustainable dredging and disposal practices.</p> <p>To examine access to ports serving as regional gateways with an emphasis on improving connections from the Regional Strategic Transport Network.</p>	<p>DRD</p> <p>EHS</p> <p>Roads Service</p>	<p>Planning Service DARD/ NIFHA</p> <p>MCA Trust Ports DARD/ NIFHA</p> <p>All Port and Harbour authorities Inc. NIFHA</p>	<p>Introduce legislation by 2008 to help Trust Ports realise their full potential and contribution to local economy.</p> <p>Forward programme for sustainable dredging and disposal</p>	1,2,3

Aim – ECON 3						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
ECON 3.3	To bring forward arrangements for integrated planning and for the management of conflicting uses within all of Northern Ireland's loughs and estuaries	<p>To consider the development of permanent integrated management structures for all of the loughs and estuaries</p> <p>To bring forward sustainable integrated management plans for all of the loughs</p> <p>To review the capacity to manage all types of uses on Northern Ireland's loughs and make recommendations on new powers that may be required to support ICZM.</p>	Loughs Agency EHS DRD Rivers Agency	Trust Ports MCA NIFHA	<p>3 integrated management plans for NI loughs by 2008</p> <p>4 integrated management groups by 2008</p>	1,2,3
ECON 3.4	To promote maritime and coastal safety in the recreational and commercial contexts	Standard setting, information, inspection and prosecution services in relation to commercial shipping Information and inspection in relation to recreational boating e.g. Seasmart Training and competence testing in relation to recreational and commercial skippers and crew.	MCA		Reduction in no and severity of incidents at baseline 2005	1

Priority - INTEGRATION		To provide statutory mechanisms to develop and implement integrated planning for the coastal zone including the area below the low tide mark, and to control inappropriate development and activity on land and sea within the zone		Key Indicators to the Aim Effective planning policies specific to the coast and including below the low tide mark Effective legislation Effective community involvement in decisions		
Aim – INT 1						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
INT I.1	To develop and implement integrated marine and coastal spatial planning policies, legislation and planning mechanisms to support ICZM, capable of regulating development below the low tide level, and providing adaptation to climate change Within this framework to consider adopting a zoned approach to sustainable development of the NI coastline.	To bring forward PPS20 as an immediate statutory planning mechanism for the coastal area	DRD Regional Planning Division	DARD	PPS20	1
		To develop a set of proposals for statutory marine spatial planning and integration with terrestrial planning and bring forward for consultation (including zoned approaches)	EPG (Potential for ICZM Council)	Planning Service	Consultation document by 2007	1
		To consider implementing marine spatial planning	EPG	All relevant Departments	Implementation by 2010	2
INT I.2	To review marine and coastal legislation in the light of ICZM requirements and identify opportunities for new legislation	Commission review paper in co-operation with other UK areas and recommend legislative changes via a new possible Marine Bill.	EPG	MCA DARD	Review paper by 2008 Implementation of changes by 2010	1 2
INT I.3	To bring forward proposals for public participation in marine spatial planning which provide meaningful involvement to coastal communities	Proposal paper to inform INT I.1 above	EPG	Planning Service DARD	Proposals by early 2007	1

Aim – INT 2						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
INT 2.3	To secure additional resources for the implementation of new ICZM activities in Northern Ireland	Identify and cost new activities arising from ICZM approach	EPG		Adequate resources	1
INT 2.4	To raise awareness of integrated coastal zone management issues, what ICZM means and why it is important.	<p>Target key stakeholders (incl. decision makers), statutory bodies, and public.</p> <p>Organise Roadshow (including Agencies involved in delivery) to find out what people not only want but need.</p> <p>Hold surgeries for implementation.</p> <p>Consider role of education and the national curriculum</p> <p>Strategic press campaign Exhibitions- e.g. RUAS, Aquarium, Holiday resorts, Port reception areas, on ferries, in District Council offices, Loughs Agency Riverwatch Centre, Crawfordsburn CP, Carnfunnock CP, Delamont CP</p> <p>Councillor, MLA, MP information pack on ICZM</p> <p>ICZM website</p> <p>To provide CPD programmes /talks to relevant industries on ICZM</p> <p>Work with IoD, CEFNI, ICE, Transport Industry etc. to offer ICZM talks at conferences and industry events</p> <p>ICZM DVD - To provide an easily used presentation on ICZM aimed at all coastal community groups in NI and other interested parties</p>	<p>EPG</p> <p>(Potential for ICZM Council)</p>	All Government Bodies MCA Loughs Agency	<p>Develop initial awareness baseline on a number of key awareness priorities (household survey)</p> <p>Repeat survey after 3 years to track changes in awareness</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>

Priority - INTEGRATION		To provide co-ordinated services to support ICZM including research, databases, and mapping; and to facilitate access by ICZM partners and the public to an integrated set of information		Key Indicators to the Aim Integrated maps and database available to support ICZM Additional targeted research		
Aim – INT 3						
No.	Objective	Key mechanisms and actions	Responsible organisation(s)	Partner(s)	Targets	Priority
INT 3.1	To implement co-ordinated mapping of the onshore and offshore elements of the NI Coastal Zone Mapping of all NI Coastal flood risk areas.	Prepare special ICZM maps to support marine spatial planning (INT 1.1)	OSNI GSNI DETI	All agencies holding relevant data	Mapping fully in place by 2010	1,2
		Develop GIS database of all marine data to work in relation to ICZM digital mapping	EHS		Database in place by 2010	1.2
		Prepare maps and develop GIS database	Rivers Agency		Mapping fully in place by 2010	1.2
INT 3.2	To encourage sharing of marine and coastal data to form integrated database at 3.1 above	Information and co-ordination officer time. Development of an accessible research database	EPG	All agencies	1 officer 1 database with public and agency access	1
INT 3.3	To review the need for and commission additional social, economic and environmental research and monitoring to support the implementation of ICZM	Identify gaps in research to support ICZM Commission, implement and disseminate research New and co-ordinated research programmes between NGOs, EHS, DARD e.g. ICZM research group to meet and review quarterly	DOE (potential for ICZM Council) EHS	All agencies NGOs and research bodies	1 research requirements review by 2007 New suite of ICZM related research Research summaries available to the public	1,2,3

Question 5:- There are 53 objectives in total. Do you consider these to be a good reflection of what needs to be undertaken to progress ICZM in Northern Ireland?

Question 6:- Are there any other objectives which you consider relevant?

SECTION SIX – Implementation and review procedures

11. Ensuring that objective targets are achieved.

ICZM- Options for implementation

One of the key purposes of integrated coastal zone management is to improve the way that different bodies, both within and outside Government, work together and share information. It is also intended that the public, in particular those who live and work within the coastal zones, should be engaged in ICZM management and should be able to influence the process.

There is currently no effective forum in Northern Ireland through which this integration can take place. ICZM will require the development of a way of co-ordinating views and developing joint programmes. The Government is already committed to this and as part of this consultation four options have been developed as a starting point for discussion and comment. They are all based on bringing bodies together within a formal structure to drive and inform ICZM, with each taking a different form.

Options 1 and 2 – A Coastal Council

The first two options are that there should be a single **Coastal Council or Coastal Forum**² with a remit to lead the co-ordinated management of the coastal zone. The Council would include representation from all Government Departments and Agencies with responsibilities for aspects of the coastal zone, joined by representatives of local authorities, regional bodies and of the industries that depend on the coastal zone such as shipping, aquaculture and fishing. Environmental groups would also be represented on the Coastal Council to provide expert advice. The complexity of the Coastal Zone would lead to the need for an estimated representation of some 40 bodies, and would require it to establish formal consultation links with others.

The Coastal Council's main remits would be to:

1. Drive the ICZM strategy forward and secure its widespread implementation
2. Take forward the vision for Northern Ireland's Coastal Zone and to establish and maintain priorities
3. Encourage participation by all relevant stakeholders
4. Progress Report to the Government on ICZM every 3 Years.
5. Provide or secure relevant and timely research and advice to guide ICZM
6. Implement the EU ICZM principles in Northern Ireland.
7. Liaise with other UK and Ireland interests on aspects of the Coastal Zone.

In addition it is thought that the Coastal Council should strive to become a Statutory Consultee on planning issues within the Coastal Zone both terrestrial and marine.

The proposed single body Coastal Council can be represented in figure 1 which identifies stakeholder groups and the approximate number of organisational subdivisions that need to be represented:

Option 2 (figure 2) is also presented as a single body Coastal Council but with a smaller membership, nominated from stakeholder sectors. It is suggested that the stakeholders should be grouped into three sectors - each nominating five members to the ICZM Council. As in option 1 the chair would be independent. The proposed sectors are:

- (i) Environment and Society to include regional, community and environmental stakeholders
- (ii) Governance to include Government Departments, Statutory Agencies and Local Government
- (iii) Industry- to include industry sectors dependent on the coastal zone such as fishing, aquaculture, renewable energy, ports and shipping, marine tourism and leisure

Option 3 – A Coastal Council and ICZM Implementation Group (2 linked bodies)

In this option the implementation bodies – i.e. Government Departments, statutory agencies and the industries that depend on the coastal zone sit together within the ICZM Implementation Group to co-ordinate and integrate their actions towards achieving the ICZM strategy objectives. It is proposed that this group is chaired by a Senior Government Official.

In parallel, a Coastal Council provides stakeholder involvement, public information and education on ICZM. It also provides expert advice, co-ordinates research, and provides support towards the achievement of the strategy objectives. The Coastal Council would also be responsible for monitoring progress and reporting against the targets of the strategy. The Coastal Council would have a strong, independent chair, who would also be a member of the implementation group. The two bodies would work together on periodic reviews of the strategy. The chair of the implementation group would be a member of the Coastal Council. Proposed membership and remits are set out in figure 3.

Option 4- ICZM Council, Coastal Task Force, Coastal Advisory Group or Forum

A single coastal zone body has the disadvantage of unwieldy size with 40 or more stakeholder groups, whilst the two-body model presented in option 3 may lack a defined hierarchy of responsibility for the delivery of ICZM. In order to address both these issues option 4 presents a 3 part structure with each part of manageable size:

1. A Coastal Council at the apex consisting of 8 members - with an independent chair appointed by the Minister
2. A Coastal Task Force comprising the implementing Departments and Agencies with

² These names are working titles at present and comments on possible names are welcome

industry, similar to the Implementation Group presented in option 3. It is proposed that this group is chaired by a Senior Government Official.

3. A Coastal Advisory Group or Forum comprising wider stakeholder interests and with a similar membership to the Coastal Council proposed in option 2. This body appoints its own chair from amongst its membership.

The Coastal Task Force and Coastal Advisory Group or Forum would each nominate 3 members to the upper Coastal Council, whilst the chair of each is also a member.

Responsibilities and roles would be as follows:

- The Coastal Council would be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the ICZM strategy, for monitoring and periodic review of the strategy, for formal reporting to the Government every 3 years, for liaison within the UK and Ireland on ICZM issues and programmes, and for commissioning research to support the process. The Coastal Council would also provide or commission advice to Government on ICZM and would be responsible for arrangements to inform the public on progress through e.g. state of the coast reports.
- The Coastal Advisory Group or Forum would provide a mechanism for streamlined stakeholder involvement, and public participation in the ICZM process and would advise the Coastal Council and co-ordinate progress on regional delivery, and local specificity within the strategy. This forum would also bring forward ICZM implementation issues for solution within the Council.
- The Coastal Task Force would concentrate on ensuring that the activities of Departments, Local authorities and industry benefit the coastal zone and its people, through developing new strategic and sustainable approaches to their work. The Task Force would also be responsible for co-operation, integration and adaptive management between agencies on delivery of ICZM and on engaging industry in ICZM. The task force would ensure that there is integration between local and regional Government effort and that good practice measures such as SEA are applied to forward programmes. A diagrammatic representation of option 4 is set out in figure 4 below

The four options presented in the diagrams below are being put forward as example proposals of interim implementation methods to focus attention in the consultation exercise. The make up and role of these bodies are also subject to change dependent on views received during the consultation exercise. As you will appreciate it is not possible to include all potential bodies and organisations (over 200) who have a specific role or responsibility for coastal matters. It is the intention to keep these bodies informed of all developments or decisions on ICZM through an electronic database maintained by the DOE.

Q **uestion 7:- The names of the various groups are working titles at present and suggestions on alternative names would be welcomed?**

Question 8:- Which, if any, of these options do you consider reflects the most balanced approach to drive and implement ICZM in Northern Ireland?

Question 9:- Do you agree with the composition of the groups?

Question 10:- Please provide any additional comments you may wish to make with regard to representation.

Question 11:- Is the suggested remit of the Coastal Council appropriate? Please comment.

Question 12:- Do you agree that the Implementation Group (Option 3)/Coastal Task Force 9 Option 4) should be chaired by a Senior Government Official? If so, which Government Department should this official be part of i.e. DOE, OFMDFM or other.

Question 13:- It is suggested that the Coastal Council should meet quarterly. Do you consider quarterly meetings appropriate?

Future Developments

It is felt that any long term commitment to implementation bodies would have to take account of national and local developments. For instance, DEFRA is developing a Marine Bill in 2006 which may include proposals for a separate marine management authority. This authority's role would include the wide range of consents, enforcement and protection of the marine environment in an holistic and integrated approach. It could also be responsible for the operational work on any system of marine spatial planning. At a local level, the current Review of Public Administration and the Review of Environmental Governance may also have an impact on the future role, responsibility and composition of an ICZM implementation group.

Figure 1 Single Coastal Council (40 member)

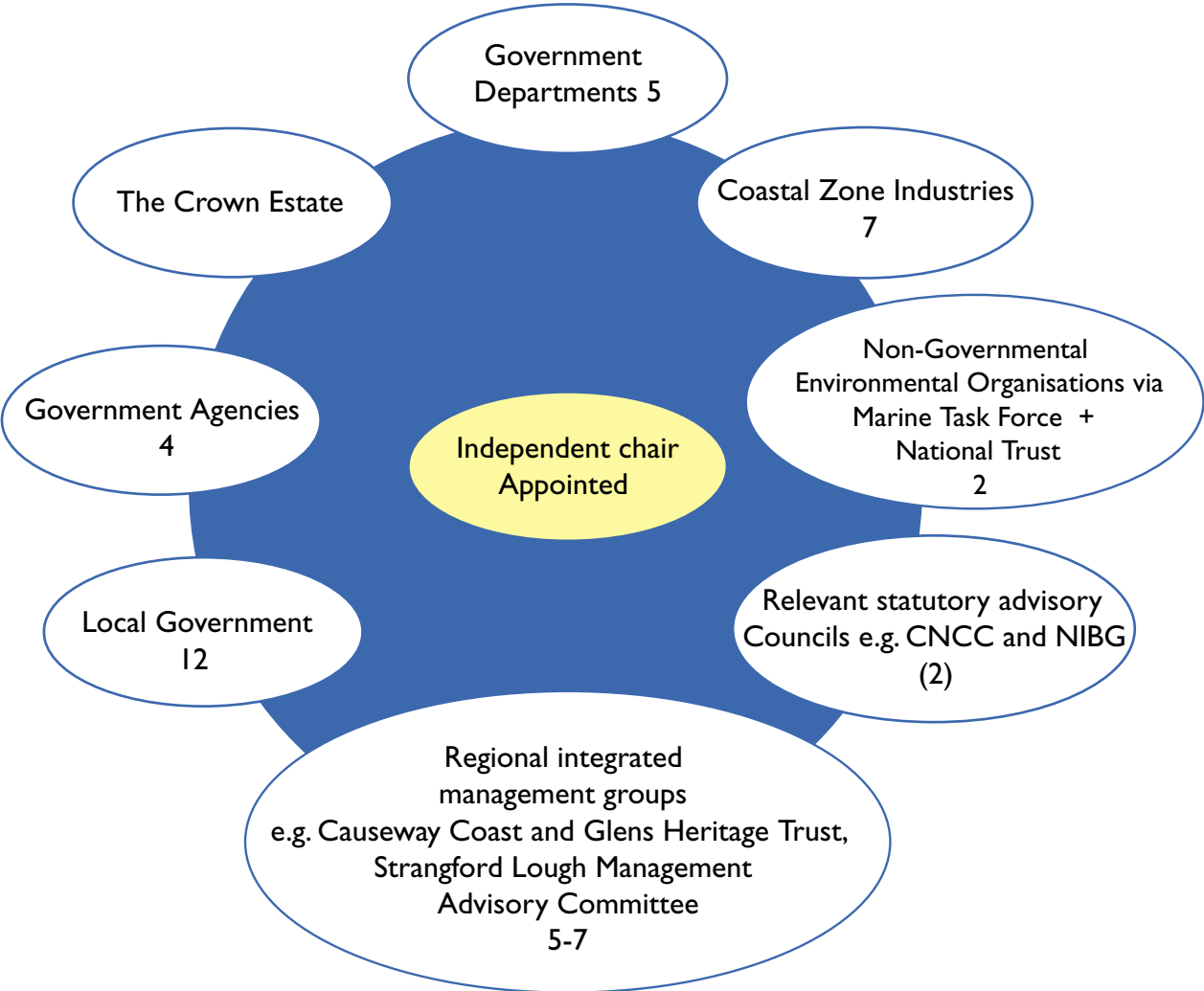


Figure 2 Coastal Council (15 members)

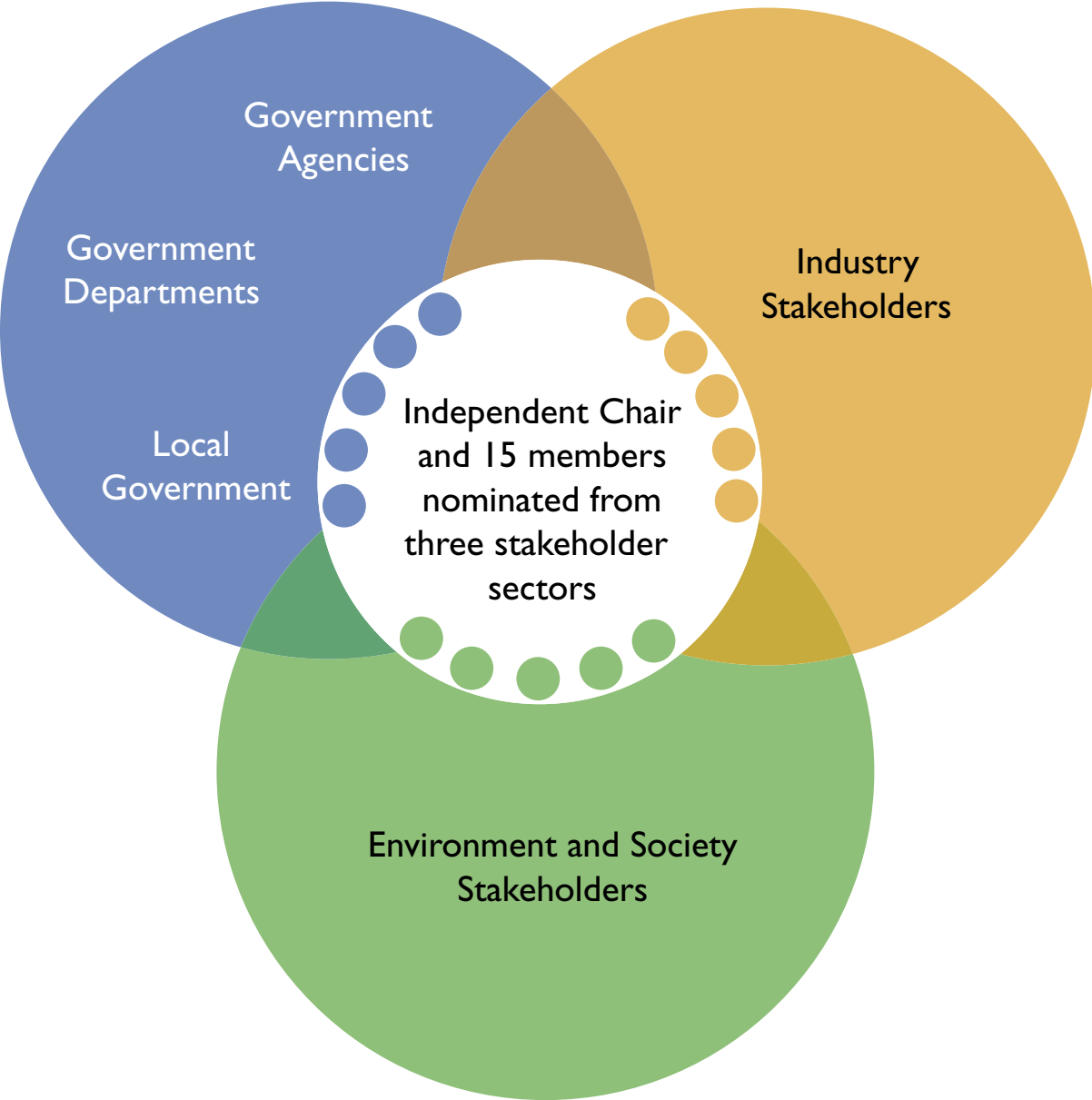


Figure 3 – Two part structure – Coastal Implementation Group and Coastal Council in parallel

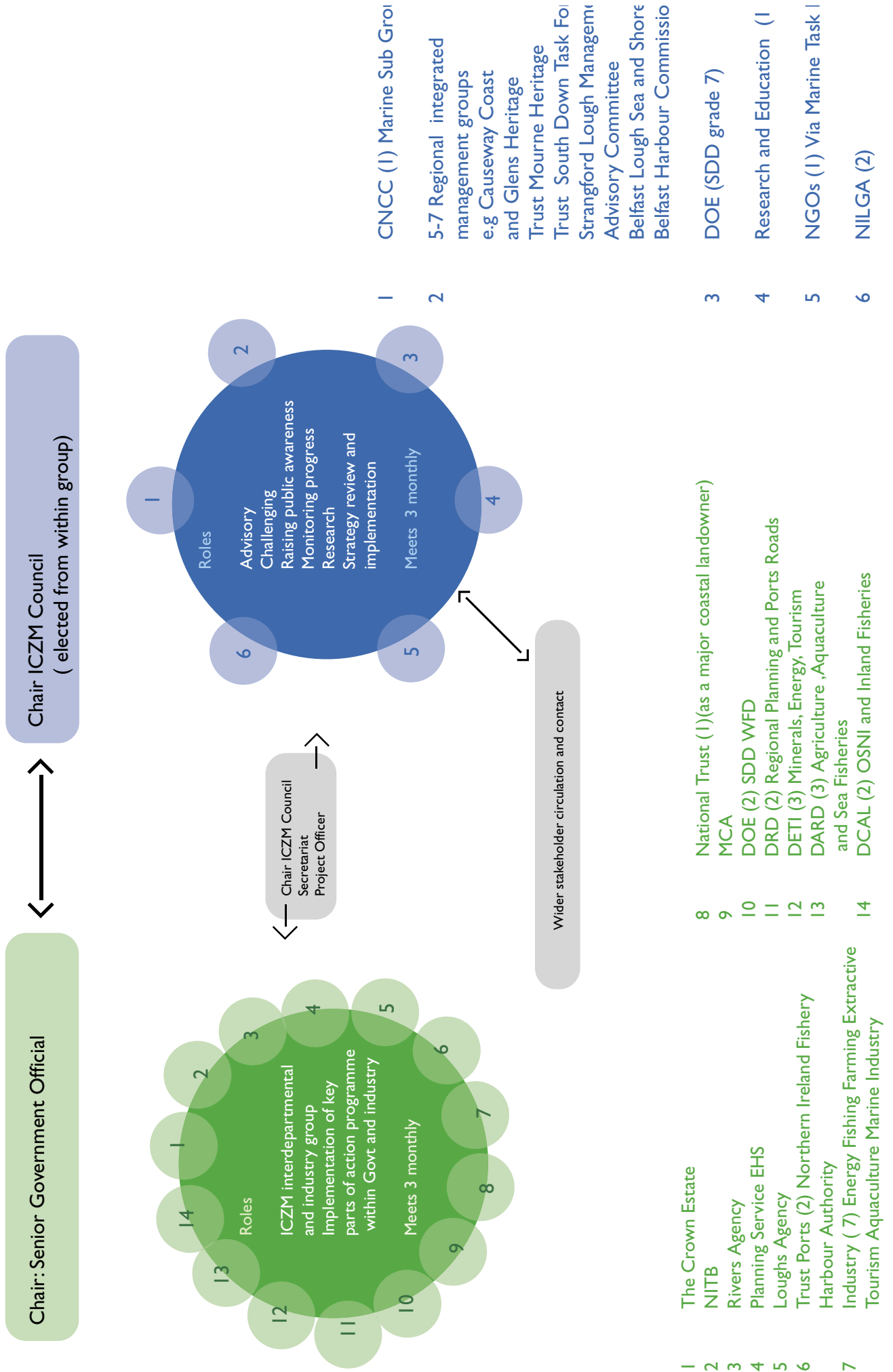
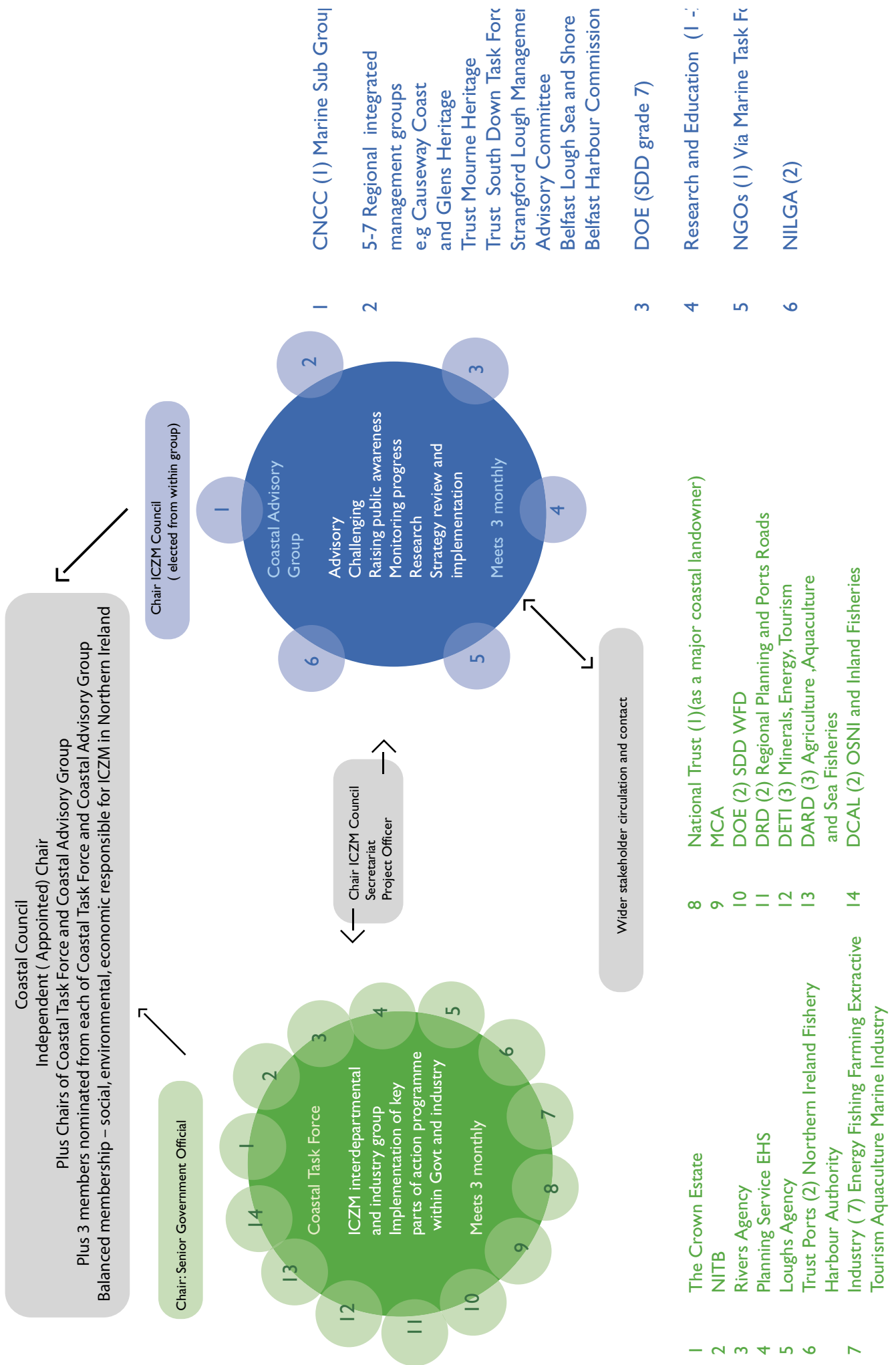


Figure 4 – Three part structure



12. Evaluation and revision of objectives and targets.

Review

The ICZM strategy is a non-statutory document and its successful implementation will depend upon effective cooperation, co-ordination and communication between those involved in delivering the objectives. However, the long-term success of this strategy will depend on its ability to respond to new issues and activities, accommodating changes as they occur. This suggests the need for a process of regular review as highlighted in the role of the ICZM council in the previous chapter. It is anticipated that this review should be carried out within three years of the introduction of the strategy. Thereafter a review should be undertaken every five years.

Question 14:- Do you agree that the first review of the strategy should be carried out within 3 years and thereafter every 5 years? Please comment.

Evaluation

The strategy document is not an end point in the ICZM process, but the beginning of a long-term process. Implementation of many of the objectives will take some time and there will be a need to assess both the strategy's effectiveness and, ultimately, the health of the coastal zone (environmentally and economically). The degree to which NI's coastal zone is being maintained and developed in a sustainable way, is crucial to the success of ICZM. To assist in measuring this success use could be made of the set of indicators, established by a EU ICZM Expert Group, for the sustainable development of the coastal zone. These indicators are listed as follows:

Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone

GOALS	No.	INDICATORS	MEASUREMENTS
To control as appropriate further development of the undeveloped coast	1	Demand for property on the coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Size and proportion of the population living in the coastal zoneValue of residential property
	2	Area of built-up land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Percent of built-up land by distance from the coastline
	3	Rate of development of previously undeveloped land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Area converted from non-developed to developed land use
	4	Demand for road travel on the coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Volume of traffic on coastal motorways and major roads
	5	Pressure for coastal and marine recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of berths and moorings for recreational boating
	6	Land take by intensive agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proportion of agricultural land farmed intensively

To protect, enhance and celebrate natural and cultural diversity	7	Area of semi-natural habitat	· Area of semi-natural habitat
	8	Area of land and sea protected by statutory designation	· Area protected for nature conservation, landscape or heritage
	9	Effective management of designated sites	· Rate of loss of, or damage to, protected areas
	10	Change to significant coastal and marine habitats & species	· Status and trend of specified habitats and species · Number of species per habitat type · Number of Red list coastal area species
	11	Loss of cultural distinctiveness	· Number and value of sales of local products with regional quality labels or European PDO/PGI/TSG
	12	Patterns of sectoral employment	· Full time, part time and seasonal employment per sector · Value added per sector
To promote and support a dynamic and sustainable coastal economy	13	Volume of port traffic	· Number of incoming and outgoing passengers per port · Total volume of goods handled per port · Proportion of goods carried by short sea routes
	14	Intensity of tourism	· Number of overnight stays in tourist accommodation · Occupancy rate of bed places
	15	Sustainable tourism	· Number of tourist accommodations holding EU Eco-label
To ensure that beaches are clean and that coastal waters are unpolluted	16	Quality of bathing water	· Percent of coastal bathing waters compliant with the guide value of the European Bathing Water Directive
	17	Amount of coastal, estuarine and marine litter	· Volume of litter collected per given length of shoreline
	18	Concentration of nutrients in coastal waters	· Riverine and direct inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous to inshore waters
	19	Amount of oil pollution	· Volume of accidental oil spills · Number of observed oil slicks from aerial surveillance
To reduce social exclusion and promote social cohesion in coastal communities	20	Degree of social exclusion	· Indices of multiple deprivation by area
	21	Relative Household prosperity	· Average household income · Percent of population with a higher education qualification
	22	Number of second homes	· Ratio of first to second homes
To use natural resources wisely	23	Fish stocks and fish landings	· State of the main fish stocks by species and sea area · Recruitment and spawning stock biomass by species · Landings and fish mortality by species · Value of landings by port and species
	24	Water consumption	· Number of days of reduced supply
To recognise the threat to coastal zones posed by climate change and to ensure appropriate and ecologically responsible coastal protection	25	Sea level rise and extreme weather conditions	· Number of 'stormy days' · Rise in sea level relative to land
	26	Coastal erosion and accretion	· Length of protected and defended coastline · Length of dynamic coastline · Area and volume of sand nourishment
	27	Natural, human and economic assets at risk	· Number of people living within 'at risk' zone · Area of protected sites within 'at risk' zone · Value of economic assets within 'at risk' zone

The Next Steps

ICZM is about finding better ways forward from where we are now. If the coastal zone is to prosper then there is a need to invest in more sustainable products, processes and social and environmental strategies. There is no doubt that the objectives of this strategy will lead to more sustainable practices in the coastal zone. It is also understood that their progression will have financial implications for many organisations.

Currently, there are no specific resources set aside for the implementation of the objectives. The majority of these will need to be taken forward as part of the day –to-day activities and programmes of responsible organisations and partner(s).

Question 15:- **Do you have any further comments you wish to make concerning the strategy?**

Appendix I

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASSI – Area of Special Scientific Interest
AONBs – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AOS – Area of Outstanding Seascape
BIC – British Irish Council
BIM – Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Seas Fisheries Board)
CAAN – Countryside and Activities Network
CAP – Common Agricultural Policy
CBAIT – Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative
CCGHT – Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
CEDaR – Centre for Environmental Data and Recording
CEFNI – Construction Employers Federation Northern Ireland
CFP – Common Fisheries Policy
CLAMS – Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems
CNCC – Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
DARD – Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCAL – Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DCMNR – Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
DEFRA – Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEL – Department for Employment and Learning
DETI – Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DOE – Department of the Environment
DRD - Department for Regional Development
DSD – Department for Social Development
EC – European Council
ECOPACT – Environmental Code of Practice for Aquaculture Companies and Traders
EEIG – European Economic Interest Grouping
EHS – Environment and Heritage Service
EMS – Environmental Management Systems
EPG – Environmental Policy Group
EROCIPS – Emergency Responses to Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping
ESB – Electricity Supply Board
ESDP – European Spatial Development Perspective
EU – European Union
EUBWD - European Union Bathing Water Directive
FCILC – Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
GIS – Geographical Information Systems
HAP – Habitat Action Plan
HWM – High Water Mark
ICE – Institute of Civil Engineers
IOD – Institute of Directors
ICZM – Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan

LWM – Low Water Mark
MCA – Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MEHRA – Marine Environment High Risk Areas
MHT – Mourne Heritage Trust
MNR – Marine Nature Reserve
MPA – Marine Protected Area
MSP – Marine Spatial Planning
NDPB – Non Departmental Public Body
NGO – Non Government Organisation
NIAPA – Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association
NIBG – Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
NIBS – Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy
NIFHA – Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority
NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NILGA – Northern Ireland Local Government Association
NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board
NPWS – National Park and Wildlife Service
NSMC – North/South Ministerial Council
NSS – National Spatial Strategy
OFMDFM – Office of the First and Deputy First Minister
OSNI – Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland
OSPAR – Oslo and Paris Convention
OPW – Office of Public Works
PPS – Planning Policy Statement
RBMP – River Basin Management Plans
RDS – Regional Development Strategy
RNLI – Royal National Lifeboat Institution
RTP – Regional Tourist Partnership
RYA – Royal Yachting Association
SAC – Special Area of Conservation
SAP – Species Action Plan
SDD – Sustainable Development Division
SEUPB – Special European Union Programmes Body
SLMAC – Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee
SPA – Special Protection Area
TEN-T – Trans-European Transport Network Policy
UFU – Ulster Farmers' Union
UWWTD – Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WFD – Water Framework Directive
WWTWs – Waste Water Treatment Works

Appendix 2

Screening for Equality Impact Assessment

Proposals for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Section 75) Statutory Equality Obligations

I. Background

1.1 The objective of ICZM is to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity on our coastal areas while protecting the environment. The strategy is aimed to facilitate the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the coast.

1.2 The key principles are:

- To provide a broad overall perspective
- A long term overview
- Adapt management
- Work with natural processes
- Take a long term view
- Use participatory planning
- Ensure the support and involvement of all relevant bodies
- Use a combination of instruments

2. Screening Analysis

2.1 The purpose of this appraisal is to assess whether or not the policy proposals for an ICZM strategy will promote equality of opportunity in accordance with Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act.

2.2 The appraisal has been performed in accordance with the Department's Equality Scheme, approved on 8th February 2001. It is based upon the criteria contained in the guidance for performing the 'first sift or screening' to identify which, if any, of the nine category of groups identified in Section 75 might be affected by the policy proposals (i.e. religion; political opinion; race; age; marital status; sexual orientation; gender; disability; dependants).

2.3 The groups affected by the proposals will be those individuals who live, work or visit coastal or marine locations.

2.4 The 'screening' appraisal is summarised in the following table.

Question Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?

Answer There is no evidence that any of the particular groups is, or will be, more affected by these proposals than any other or that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the policy proposals.

Question Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy?

Answer There is no evidence of this and no reason to suspect that any of the particular groups would gain any advantage, or be disadvantaged, by these policy proposals in terms of their particular needs or priorities. The strategy is intended to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of coastal communities and there is no evidence to suggest that such groups are in any way representative of any of groupings identified in Section 75.

Question Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy or working with others in government or the community at large?

Answer The strategy's objectives should promote better community relations in coastal communities as it is intended that they will be more closely involved in decision making

Question Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems that are specific to them?

Answer The Department will consult widely about the policy proposals, but the results of the consultation exercise are not expected to indicate that the policy proposals would particularly disadvantage any of the groups identified in Section 75, therefore the Department considers that equality issues do not arise.

2.5 As a result of the 'screening' analysis, the Department considers that there are no equality issues arising from these policy proposals.

2.6 The Department therefore does not consider that a second sift (scoping) or full impact assessment is required in this instance.

Appendix 3

Key organisations

o Department of the Environment [DOE]

The overall aim of the Department is “to work in partnership to promote sustainable development and to secure a better and safer environment”.

In pursuing this aim the key objective of the department is:

“To protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment and built heritage and support the adoption of the principles of sustainable development; to plan and manage development in a sustainable way which will contribute to a better environment and which is modern and responsive to the community; to work with statutory and voluntary partners to reduce road deaths and serious injuries; and to support a system of effective local government which meets the needs of residents and tax payers”.

o Environment and Heritage Service

Within the Department, the Environment and Heritage Service takes the lead in advising on, implementing and responding to the Government’s environmental policies and strategies in Northern Ireland. The Agency is engaged in a diverse range of activities, which together promote the Government’s key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change. The overall aims are to protect and conserve Northern Ireland’s natural heritage and built environment, to control and regulate pollution and to promote a wider appreciation of the environment and best environmental practices.

In working to conserve the natural heritage of Northern Ireland, the **Natural Heritage Directorate** of Environment and Heritage Service is concerned with both wildlife species and their habitats and with rural landscapes on a broader scale. Activities include the development of Biodiversity Action Plans, a programme for protecting habitats and species, protection of rare and endangered species, protecting landscapes, monitoring areas designated for their scientific interest and providing advice to other statutory authorities.

The **Environmental Protection Directorate** of the Environment and Heritage Service seeks to safeguard the quality of air, water and land. This involves the enforcement of legislation and a range of supporting activities to monitor and report discharges and emissions, to establish the impacts of pollution, to set standards and issue consent licenses and authorisations.

Finally, the **Built Heritage Directorate** of the Environment and Heritage Service exists to identify, record and protect the built, buried and underwater remains of human activity, from prehistoric times to the present. It manages the Protection

of Monuments in Northern Ireland and maintains the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), holding information on approximately 15,000 sites. The schedule means that nothing, which would alter or damage a monument or its curtilage (area around the Monument or Building), as defined on a legal map, can be done without Scheduled Monument Consent.

o **Planning Service**

In Northern Ireland, the Planning Service is responsible for planning applications. Terrestrial planning is managed through the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, as amended by the Planning (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, which introduced new and revised powers and penalties.

Planning Service is responsible for developing and implementing, Government planning policies and development plans in Northern Ireland. The Agency carries out a range of activities, which promote the Government's key themes of sustainable development and creating a better environment. Its aim is to plan and manage development in ways which will contribute to a quality environment and seek to meet the economic and social aspirations of present and future generations.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS), 'Shaping our Future', is a strategy for the development of Northern Ireland up to 2025. It contains a Spatial Development Strategy and related Strategic Planning Guidelines. As a strategic planning document the RDS has set the long-term direction for development plans and the Department must also take its content into account in making decisions on individual planning applications. Confirming the importance of the RDS all planning policy and plans made by the Department must now be "in general conformity" with the Strategy.

Detailed planning policy is contained in a series of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), which are gradually replacing the policies contained in "A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland" (PSRNI) published in 1993. PPSs set out the main planning considerations that the Department takes into account in assessing proposals for the various forms of development and are also often relevant to the preparation of development plans. Development plans may be in the form of area plans, local plans or subject plans. They apply the regional policies of the Department at the appropriate local level. Development plans inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to guide development decisions within their local area. The Department also prepares planning guidance to supplement, clarify or illustrate by example its policy statements and plans.

Current coastal planning policy is contained in the PSRNI but Regional Planning and Transportation Division within the Department for Regional Development is currently preparing PPS 20 – The Coast, which on publication will supersede the existing coastal

policies and will provide land use planning policy which will be administered by Planning Service. In addition to PPS 20, PPS 1 - General Principles, PPS 2 - Planning and Nature Conservation, and PPS 8 – Planning and Open Space, Sport and Recreation are all relevant to the management of coastal areas.

o **Department for Regional Development [DRD]**

The overall aim of the Department is “to improve the quality of life for everyone in Northern Ireland by maintaining and enhancing a range of essential infrastructure services and by shaping the region’s long-term strategic development”.

In pursuing this aim, the key objectives of the Department are:

- o Supporting the economy by maintaining and developing safe transportation networks, promoting airport and harbour services, shaping the long-term development of the region and providing other services to the public and other Departments; and
- o Contributing to the health and well being of the community and the protection of the environment through the provision of modern, high quality water and sewage services, at the lowest possible cost.

o **Ports and Harbours**

In Northern Ireland, the Ports and Public Transport Division of the Department for Regional Development is the Department’s sponsor division for Northern Ireland’s commercial ports (Belfast, Coleraine, Larne, Londonderry and Warrenpoint) and airports, and is responsible for policy and legislation in both areas. It also contributes to the development of policy at national level and makes sure that reviews are conducted on the regulatory framework that ports and airports operate in.

The Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority was established under the powers of the Harbour Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 and the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority Order (Northern Ireland) 1973. There are in total 8 members of the Authority. It is responsible for the maintenance, improvement and management of the harbours of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie.

o **Regional Planning and Transportation Division**

Responsibility for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 lies with the Regional Planning and Transportation Division within the Department for Regional Development. The Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 requires that all departments in exercising their functions shall have regard to the Regional Development Strategy. The Planning (Amendment) Northern Ireland Order 2003 requires all policies, development plans and development schemes to be in general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy.

- o **PPS20 – The Coast**

Regional Planning and Transportation Division is currently preparing PPS 20 The Coast, which on publication will supersede the existing coastal policies.

- o **Water Service**

The Water Service, an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development has responsibility for the supply and distribution of drinking water and the provision of sewage services to domestic, agricultural and business customers throughout Northern Ireland. The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 requires the DOE to promote the conservation of the water resources of Northern Ireland and to promote the cleanliness of water in waterways and underground strata.

- o **Roads Service**

Roads Service is an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development.

It is the sole road authority in Northern Ireland, responsible for just over 24,900 kilometres of public roads together with about 8,300 kilometres of footways, 5,800 bridges, 250,000 street lights and 370 public car parks.

Roads Service is responsible for implementing the Regional Transportation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 and the public road network is managed, maintained and developed.

Roads Service encourages good environmental design and management of the public road network, respecting the special character of each location. Roads Service is also responsible for the Strangford Lough Ferry Service.

- o **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure [DCAL]**

DCAL is responsible in Northern Ireland for developing policy, service delivery, administration and monitoring of arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport and leisure, visitor amenities, inland waterways and inland fisheries, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, language diversity and the Northern Ireland Events Company.

The Department also advises on the distribution of National Lottery money.

- o **Salmon and Inland Fisheries**

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, DCAL has overall responsibility for the supervision and protection of salmon and inland fisheries and for the development and establishment of fisheries. The Department exercises the functions conferred on it by the 1966 Act to meet those responsibilities. Under

Section 25 of the 1966 Act, the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland (a Non Departmental Public Body) is responsible for the conservation and protection of salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland, other than those in the Foyle and Carlingford areas which are the responsibility of the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission.

o **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development [DARD]**

The overall aim of the Department is “to promote sustainable economic growth and development of the countryside in Northern Ireland by assisting the competitive development of the agri-food, fishing and forestry sectors, being both pro-active and responsive to the needs of consumers for safe and wholesome food, the welfare of animals and the conservation and enhancement of the environment”.

In pursuing this aim the key objective of the Department is “To promote sustainable development of the agri-food industry and the countryside and stimulate the economic and social revitalisation of disadvantaged rural areas; reduce the risk of loss of life and property from flooding; promote sustainable development of the sea fishing industry; and maintain, protect and expand forests in a sustainable way”.

o **Sea Fisheries**

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the supervision and protection of sea fisheries. Under the Sea Fish Conservation Act 1967 as amended by the Sea Fisheries (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 the Department may regulate the commercial use of fishing for and landing of sea fish. It has, along with the other UK Fisheries Administrations, responsibility for implementing the Common Fisheries policy.

o **Aquaculture**

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the licensing of all fish farms including marine fish and shellfish farms and land based fish farms using either an enclosed water re-circulation system, a pump ashore system, abstracting from a bore hole or fish farms on inland waters.

The shellfish aquaculture sector in Northern Ireland has developed rapidly in recent years and a Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan produced by DARD and the Queen’s University of Belfast was published in 2001. The Plan contains a number of strategic recommendations to promote a sustainable aquaculture industry including the development of an Environmental Risk Assessment package to assist with the assessment of aquaculture licence applications, a shellfish carrying capacity model and a Code of Best Practice for shellfish farmers.

o **Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority**

The Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA) is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by DARD whose main role is to improve, manage and maintain the fishing harbours of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie.

o **Rivers Agency**

The Rivers Agency, an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development acts as the statutory drainage and flood defence authority. The Agency is not charged with responsibility for preventing flooding and its powers are limited to providing free-flowing watercourses to alleviate flooding.

o **The Loughs Agency**

The Loughs Agency is an agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC), established under the 1998 Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland. The FCILC is legislated for by the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Acts 1999 and 2002. The Board of the FCILC, in exercising the functions of the Body, is required to act in accordance with any directions given by the North/South Ministerial Council, to which it also reports. The FCILC's sponsoring Departments are the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the North and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland.

The functions of the Loughs Agency are set out in North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (NI) Order 1999, the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999, the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952 (as amended) and the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 (as amended).

The FCILC was given responsibility, which it exercises through the Loughs Agency, for:

- o the promotion of development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in respect of marine, fishery and aquaculture matters;
- o the management, conservation, protection, improvement and development of the inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas;
- o the development and licensing of aquaculture; and
- o the development of marine tourism.

o **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment [DETI]**

DETI is responsible for economic policy development, energy, tourism, mineral development, health and safety at work, Companies Registry, Insolvency Service, consumer affairs, and labour market and economic statistics services. It also has a role in ensuring the provision of the infrastructure for a modern economy. Economics,

financial and personnel management services are provided centrally within the Department. DETI has four agencies, established as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), to assist in strategy implementation: **Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI)**, which supports business growth and inward investment, promotes innovation, research and development and in-company training, encourages exports and supports local economic development and company start up; **The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)**, which is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland as a tourist destination; **The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)**, which is responsible for health, safety and welfare at work; and **The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (GCCNI)**, which is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the interests of consumers and campaigning for the best possible standards of service and protection.

o **Energy**

In Northern Ireland offshore development consents and the regulatory control of marine activities are matters for the DETI.

Leases are granted under the three Acts (Foreshore Act, 1933, Foreshore (Amendment) Act, 1992 and the Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act, 1998) for the erection of long-term structures (e.g. piers, marinas, bridges, roads, carparks). Licences are also required for other works (e.g. laying of submarine pipelines and cables) and purposes.

o **Northern Ireland Tourist Board**

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland as a tourist destination. NITB's overall aim is to ensure that tourism contributes to the creation of a dynamic, competitive economy and to ensure the development of a long-term sustainable tourism industry in Northern Ireland.

NITB is currently implementing its Strategic Framework for Action. Part of the delivery of this strategy is the regional development of tourism partnerships or RTP's (Regional Tourism Partnerships). Geographically there will be 4/5 partnerships covering all of NI. These bodies will have a local tourism remit and be representative of tourism stakeholders in that area.

Currently there are three which cover a 'coastal' area:

- o NE - which includes the council areas from Newtownabbey to Limavady. Signature Project is the Giant's Causeway
- o Belfast - which includes the Belfast City Council and other peripheral councils eg. Antrim, Lisburn etc. Signature Project is Titanic
- o SE - which includes most of Co. Down & Co Armagh. Signature Projects are Mourne National Park & Saint Patrick

It is likely that a fourth Regional Tourism Partnership will be formed in the West. This may geographically include Derry City and extend along the County Londonderry coast.

The structure of the RTPs may offer a local sounding board/consultation forum for ICZM developments which would affect tourism in that area. This could be investigated when the RTPs are fully functional, after April 2006.

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Framework for Action there are also a number of “Winning Themes” which NITB has identified for tourism development. These include Activity Tourism, Culture Arts and Heritage and Short Breaks. Some of these may have implications for coastal management.

o Local Government

In Northern Ireland, local government is comprised of Borough, City and District Councils. The main responsibilities of local authorities are refuse collection and disposal, building control, environmental health, registration services and recreation facilities. Twelve of Northern Ireland’s twenty-six councils have responsibility for coastal areas. Beaches are also included in the public health responsibility of District Councils. Bye-laws for beaches can be made under various legislation including public health Acts. Local authority jurisdiction coincides with the council’s seaward administrative boundary, which is usually the mean low water mark.

o Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was formed in 1998 when the Coastguard Agency (TCA) and the Marine Safety Agency (MSA) were merged (both previously created as separate executive agencies in 1994). The MCA is an executive agency within the Department for Transport

The MCA Belfast office covers the whole of the Northern Irish coastline from Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough and two inland waterways – Lough Neagh and Lough Erne.

The MCA Vision is:-

SAFER LIVES, SAFER SHIPS, CLEANER SEAS.

The MCA is statutorily responsible for:

- o The initiation and co-ordination of civil maritime search and rescue within the United Kingdom Maritime search and Rescue Region - responding to maritime emergencies 24 hours a day.
- o Developing, setting, promoting and enforcing high standards of marine safety
- o Minimising the risk and impact of pollution of the marine environment from ships – to 200 nm limit

MCA activities which impact upon Northern Ireland include:

- o Responding to marine incidents and emergencies
- o Ensuring that United Kingdom registered vessels are designed, constructed and maintained to the highest current safety standards, including seagoing vessels, inland waterway vessels and chain ferries.
- o Setting appropriate standards for inspections and surveys of fishing vessels to ensure high safety standards (both of vessel and safety equipment)
- o Registration, measurement and marking of fishing vessels
- o Targeted inspection of foreign flag vessels calling at Northern Irish ports.
- o Educating the maritime community and public in accident prevention
- o Examination of seafarers prior to the issue of international STCW convention certificates of competency and national Boatmaster's Licenses
- o Holding negligent seafarers accountable for illegal actions through the MCA Prosecution Unit
- o Negotiating international standards for seafarers and applying these to the UK maritime community
- o Statutory consultees for FEPA 85 licensing of Works in Tidal Waters for navigational safety issues .
- o Consultees on fish farm applications for navigational safety issues in association with DARD (Fisheries Division)
- o Approval and implementation monitoring of Port waste Management Plans around the coast.
- o Facilitate and chair local District Marine Safety Committees, local Search and Rescue Committees and associated working groups in Northern Ireland.
- o Involvement with 'Resilience' Forums throughout Northern Ireland in respect of contingency and continuity planning following major incidents
- o Reporting marine incidents and casualties to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB).
- o Assessing reports of marine pollution and informing MCA Counter Pollution Response Branch. Providing support during counter pollution and salvage operations.
- o Assistance to the Ministry of Defence and Local Authorities with the identification, guarding and disposal of explosive ordnance and hazardous objects washed ashore.
- o Duties in respect of wreck, salvage and Royal fish.
- o Environmental quality issues including, but not limited to, dangerous goods and the IMDG code, ballast water, air pollution from ships, ship recycling, antifouling/ TBT, oil tagging, sewage from ships and marine litter.

o **The Crown Estate**

The Crown Estate manages one of the largest property portfolios in the United Kingdom, valued in excess of £4 billion. Its properties include offices and shops, agricultural and common land, foreshore and seabed, forestry and minerals. The Crown Estate returns its net profit to the Treasury, generating around £180 Million each year for the benefit of the taxpayer.

The Crown Estate's operations are guided by its core values of Commercialism, Integrity and Stewardship. The organisation strives to maintain a suitable balance between these values. It is run on a commercial basis but significant emphasis is placed on maintaining the heritage of the estate and conserving its environment.

The Marine Estate is the largest and most diverse portfolio within The Crown Estate, including around 55% of the UK foreshore, approximately half of all estuary beds and tidal rivers, and almost the entire seabed out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit.

o **The National Trust**

With over 200 kilometres (approximately 30%) of the NI coastline in its care the National Trust owns and manages a very high proportion of the total Northern Ireland resource of coastal habitats. Maritime cliffs and slopes stretch along the north coast at such sites as the Giant's Causeway, White Park Bay, Larrybane, Fair Head and Murlough Bay while extensive sand dune complexes can be found at Murlough NNR, Portstewart Strand, Grangemore and White Park Bay. Some of the best examples of coastal saltmarsh occur on Strangford Lough, the Bann Estuary, Ballymacormick Point and along the Dundrum coastal path while vegetated shingle, a particularly scarce habitat in Northern Ireland, can be found at the Giant's Causeway, Mourne Coastal Path, Strangford Lough and Kearney.

The National Trust's holdings within the NI coastal zone provide a significant contribution to the protection of landscapes, seascapes, history, archaeology, culture, habitats and wildlife, and the provision of coastal access. They also number among the major tourist attractions in Northern Ireland, including four of the region's top twenty visitor attractions (Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-rede, Portstewart Strand. Mount Stewart). The Trust's holdings are concentrated in eastern and north Derry, north and north east Antrim coastlines, Strangford Lough and South Down, with a few outliers on Islandmagee, Belfast Lough and the Lecale coast. On the shores of Strangford Lough, the Trust owns two mansion properties, namely Castle Ward set in a parkland estate, and Mount Stewart whose gardens are internationally renowned. On the North Derry Coast, the Trust owns the remains of the 18th Downhill estate including Mussenden Temple. The Trust's coastal properties also include, two coastal villages, Cushendun and Kearney, and number of small vernacular buildings and scheduled monuments. The landscape quality of many of the Trust properties is exceptional, a significant proportion falling within designated AONBs, including the majority of the Giant's Causeway World

Heritage Site. Most of the countryside properties are of high nature conservation value with several of international importance designated under international or national legislation. Of particular importance in this respect is Strangford Lough, the UK's largest Marine Nature Reserve, having SAC, SPA, Ramsar and ASSI designations, and where the Trust is the largest single private (ie non-government) landowner. Many of the Trust's coastal properties are also of high archaeological importance.

All the Trust's extensive coastal properties are open to public access and are thus highly important for the provision of access to the coast in Northern Ireland.

National Trust Coastal Properties in Northern Ireland 2005

Property	Approx. Area in Hectares	Grid Reference
Avish	168.22	C715345
Ballymacormick	13.67	J525837
Barmouth and Grangemore	144.95	C782365
Carrick-a-Rede & Larrybane	70.15	D055447
Castle Ward	332.93	J573494
Cushendun	25.47	D248327
Downhill	49.25	C758363
Dundrum Coastal Path	11.152	J415382
Dunseverick	38.43	C987445
Fairhead and Murlough Bay	337.19	D185430
Giants Causeway	118.74	C952452
Green and Blockhouse Islands	10.91	J254097
Islandmagee	66.46	J465993
Kearney	23.8	J650517
Lighthouse Island	17.51	J596858
Loughan Bay and Portaleen Bay	12.91	D233396
McCUTCHEONS Field	3.71	J542833
Mournes Coastal Path	28.63	J390269
Murlough Nature Reserve	283.53	J410350
Orlock	11.2	J539838
Portstewart	91.38	C800365
Rathlin	72.52	D146520
Strangford Lough	3984.9	J565590
White Park Bay	79.4	D023440
TOTAL	5997.012	----

Appendix 4

List of Consultees

Lord Alderdice
Lord Ballyedmond
Baroness Blood
Lord Cooke
Lord Eames
Lord Kilclooney
Lord Laird
Lord Maginnis
Lord Molyneux
Baroness O'Neill
Lord Rana
Lord Rogan
Lord Steinberg

Viscount Brookeborough
Baroness Farrington
Lord Glentoran CBE DL
Lord Shutt of Greetland
Lord Smith Of Clifton

Mr A Carmichael MP
Mr D Lidington MP
Mr L Öpik MP
Mr L Robertson MP

Cllr Roy Beggs MP
Lady S Hermon MP
Mr E McGrady MP

Mr Jim Allister MEP
Ms B Debrun MEP
Mr J Nicholson MEP

Mr Gregory Campbell MP MLA
Mr N Dodds MP MLA
Mr P Doherty MP MLA
Mr J Donaldson MP MLA
Mrs M Gildernew MP MLA
Mr Conor Murphy MP MLA
Rev William McCrea MP MLA
Mr A McDonnell MP MLA
Mr M McGuinness MP MLA
Mrs I Robinson MP MLA

Mr P Robinson MP MLA
Mr David Simpson MP MLA
Mr Sammy Wilson MP MLA

Mr G Adams MP MLA

Mr M Durkan MLA
Sir R Empey MLA
Mr D Ervine MLA
Mr D Ford MLA
Mr R McCartney QC MLA
Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP MLA

112 Copies For MLAs to Parliament Buildings

NI Conservative Associations
Green Party
NI Women's Coalition
The Worker's Party
Tina Dick
M Curran

The Printed Papers Office House of Lords
The Vote Office House of Commons
Machinery Of Government Division
Machinery Of Government
The Librarian - NI Assembly
Legislation Progress Unit
Official Publications Department, Main Library, QUB
NIPR, Belfast Central Library
TSO Bibliographic Department
Clerk to the Committee, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
Clerk to the sub-committees, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
Agent for Copyright Libraries
Legal Deposit Office, The British Library
Business Office, Parliament Buildings
Legislation & Parliamentary Unit, NIO
The Library, Clarence Court
HM Council of County Court Judges
Belfast Solicitors Association
The Head Of School, School Of Law (QUB)
The Head Of School, School Of Law (University of Ulster – Jordanstown Campus)
Institute Of Professional Legal Studies (QUB)
Clerk Of Petty Sessions
Northern Ireland Court Service
The Office Of Law Reform
NI Resident Magistrates' Association
The Executive Council Of The Inn Of Court Of NI

The NI Council For Voluntary Action
The General Consumer Council For NI

NI Association Of Citizens' Advice Bureau
 NI Chamber Of Trade
 Northern Ireland Officer - NIC/ICTU
 Northern Ireland Local Government
 Association
 Society Of Local Authority Chief Executives
 Northern Ireland Ombudsman
 Human Rights Commission
 Confederation Of British Industry Northern
 Ireland Branch
 Federation Of Small Businesses
 Equality Commission For NI
 Parliamentary Clerk Ministry Of Defence
 Law Reform Advisory Committee
 Inland Revenue Head Of Regulatory Impact
 Unit
 The Law Society Of NI
 Law Centre (NI)
 Northern Ireland Office Devolution &
 Legislation Division

 Action Renewables
 AES Kilroot Power Ltd
 Age Concern NI
 Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation
 Apostolic Church Of Northern Ireland
 Aquaculture Initiative
 ARC21 Joint Committee
 Ards Borough Council
 Ards Local Strategy Partnership
 Arena Network

 BAHl Council for Ireland
 Bangor Marina
 Baptist Union Of Ireland
 Barnardos
 BASC Northern Ireland
 BBC
 BP
 BT
 Belfast City Airport
 Belfast City Council
 Belfast Education and Library Board
 Belfast Harbour Commissioners
 Belfast Hills Partnership Trust
 Belfast Islamic Centre
 Belfast Local Strategy Partnership
 BIM
 British Trust for Ornithology
 Brown McConnell Clark Ltd.
 Bryson House
 Built Heritage, Environment & Heritage Service
 Bushmills Trust

Camac Engineering
 Canoe Association of NI
 Carbon Trust
 Carlingford Lough Commission
 Carlingford Lough Shellfishermen's Association.
 Carrickfergus Borough Council
 Carrickfergus Local Strategy Partnership
 Causeway Coast and Antrim Glens Ltd
 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust
 Causeway Coast Communities Consortium
 Community Transport Association
 Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group
 Centre for Marine Resources & Mariculture
 Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of
 Ulster
 Children's Project (Northern Ireland) Ltd
 Church Of Ireland (Diocesan Office For The
 Dioceses Of
 Connor, Down And Dromore)
 Church Of Ireland (Diocese Of Armagh)
 Church Of Ireland (Diocese Of Derry And
 Raphoe)
 City of Derry Airport
 Coleraine Anglers
 Coleraine Borough Council
 Coleraine Borough Strategic Partnership
 Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
 Coleraine Marina
 Coleraine Marina Berth Holders Association
 Coleraine Yacht Club
 Commissioner for Children and Young People
 Commissioner of Irish Lights
 Community Relations Council
 Community Technical Aid
 Conservation Volunteers NI
 Construction Employers Association
 Coolkeeragh Power Ltd
 Council for Nature Conservation & the
 Countryside
 Countryside Access and Activities Network
 Countryside Alliance NI

 Department for Regional Development
 Department for Social Development
 Department of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Department of Communications, Marine and
 Natural Resources
 Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
 Department of Education
 Department of Employment and Learning
 Department of Enterprise, Trade and

Camac Engineering
 Canoe Association of NI
 Carbon Trust
 Carlingford Lough Commission
 Carlingford Lough Shellfishermen's Association.
 Carrickfergus Borough Council
 Carrickfergus Local Strategy Partnership
 Causeway Coast and Antrim Glens Ltd
 Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust
 Causeway Coast Communities Consortium
 Community Transport Association
 Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group
 Centre for Marine Resources & Mariculture
 Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of
 Ulster
 Children's Project (Northern Ireland) Ltd
 Church Of Ireland (Diocesan Office For The
 Dioceses Of
 Connor, Down And Dromore)
 Church Of Ireland (Diocese Of Armagh)
 Church Of Ireland (Diocese Of Derry And
 Raphoe)
 City of Derry Airport
 Coleraine Anglers
 Coleraine Borough Council
 Coleraine Borough Strategic Partnership
 Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
 Coleraine Marina
 Coleraine Marina Berth Holders Association
 Coleraine Yacht Club
 Commissioner for Children and Young People
 Commissioner of Irish Lights
 Community Relations Council
 Community Technical Aid
 Conservation Volunteers NI
 Construction Employers Association
 Coolkeeragh Power Ltd
 Council for Nature Conservation & the
 Countryside
 Countryside Access and Activities Network
 Countryside Alliance NI

Department for Regional Development
 Department for Social Development
 Department of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Department of Communications, Marine and
 Natural Resources
 Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
 Department of Education
 Department of Employment and Learning
 Department of Enterprise, Trade and

Investment
 Department of Environmental Science,
 University of Ulster
 Department of the Environment
 Department of Finance and Personnel
 Department of Health, Social Services and
 Public Safety
 Derry City Council
 Disability Action NI
 Donaghadee Harbour Commissioners
 Down District Council
 Down Local Strategy Partnership
 Drainage Council for Northern Ireland
 Dupont UK Ltd

 Eastern Health and Social Services Board
 Ecoscope
 Ecoseeds
 Environment & Heritage Service
 Environmental Policy Division, DARD
 Environmental Policy Group, DOE
 Environmental Protection, Environment &
 Heritage Service
 Enviros Consulting Limited
 Exus Energy Ltd

 Fire Authority for Northern Ireland
 Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern
 Ireland
 Fisheries Division, DARD
 First Division Association
 Forest Service, DARD
 Foyle, Carlingford & Irish Lights Commission.
 Friends of Larne Lough
 Friends of the Earth

 Gay and Lesbian Youth Northern Ireland
 Geological Survey of NI
 Groundwork NI

 Help the Aged, Northern Ireland
 Historic Buildings Council
 Historic Houses Association
 Historic Monuments Council
 HM Coastguard
 HM Customs and Excise
 Housing Division, DSD

 Inland Fisheries Inland Waterways Branch,
 DCAL
 Inland Waterways Association
 Inland Waterways Association of Ireland
 Institute of Civil Engineers

Institute of Directors
 Institute of Ecology and Environmental
 Management
 Invest Northern Ireland
 Irish Amateur Rowing Union
 Irish Waterski Federation
 Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. Ltd

 Joint Marine Partnership, Ulster Wildlife Trust &
 WWF NI

 Kilroot Power Station

 Laganside Corporation
 Larne Borough Council
 Larne Harbour Ltd
 Larne Local Strategy Partnership
 Limavady Borough Council
 Limavady Local Strategy Partnership
 Local Strategy Partnership for Derry City
 Council
 Londonderry Port
 Londonderry Port & Harbour Commission.
 Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory
 Committee

 Management Services Group
 Marengo
 Marine Task Force
 Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Northern
 Ireland
 Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Scotland &
 Northern Ireland
 Minerals Division, DETI
 MOD/BFPO/Defence Estates
 Mourne Heritage Trust
 Moyle District Council
 Moyle Local Strategy Partnership

 National Association of Estate Agents
 National Federation Of Gateway Clubs
 Natural Heritage, Environment & Heritage
 Service
 Newcastle Harbour Maritime Association.
 Newry & Mourne District Council
 Newry & Mourne Local Strategy Partnership
 Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Newtownabbey Local Strategy Partnership
 Norse Irish Ferries Ltd
 North Antrim Community Network
 North Antrim Dalriada Group
 North Antrim Youth Association
 North Coast Member's Association of the

National Trust
 North Down Borough Council
 North Down Local Strategy Partnership
 North Eastern Education and Library Board
 Northern Health and Social Services
 Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers
 Association
 Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health
 Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
 Northern Ireland Electricity
 Northern Ireland Environment Link
 Northern Ireland Independent Coach
 Operators Association
 Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation
 Ltd
 Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority
 Northern Ireland Policing Board
 Northern Ireland Seafoods Ltd
 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research
 Agency
 Northern Ireland Tourist Board
 Northern Ireland Tourist Industry
 Confederation
 Northern Ireland Water Council
 NIHE
 NIGEN
 NIPSA

 Office of the First and Deputy First Minister
 Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

 PHAB (Northern Ireland) Limited
 Phoenix Natural Gas
 Planning Service, DOE
 Playboard
 Police Federation For Northern Ireland
 Police Service Of Northern Ireland
 Portrush Chamber of Commerce
 Portrush Regeneration Trust
 Ports & Public Transport Division, DRD
 Portstewart Chamber of Commerce
 Praxis 42 for Cable and Wireless
 Premier Power

 Quarry Products Association

 Regional Planning & Transportation Division,
 DRD
 Regional Planning Division, DRD
 Renewables Divison, DETI
 Richardsons Fertilisers
 River Bush Salmon Station
 Rivers Agency

National Trust
 North Down Borough Council
 North Down Local Strategy Partnership
 North Eastern Education and Library Board
 Northern Health and Social Services
 Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association
 Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health
 Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
 Northern Ireland Electricity
 Northern Ireland Environment Link
 Northern Ireland Independent Coach Operators Association
 Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
 Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority
 Northern Ireland Policing Board
 Northern Ireland Seafoods Ltd
 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
 Northern Ireland Tourist Board
 Northern Ireland Tourist Industry Confederation
 Northern Ireland Water Council
 NIHE
 NIGEN
 NIPSA

 Office of the First and Deputy First Minister
 Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland

 PHAB (Northern Ireland) Limited
 Phoenix Natural Gas
 Planning Service, DOE
 Playboard
 Police Federation For Northern Ireland
 Police Service Of Northern Ireland
 Portrush Chamber of Commerce
 Portrush Regeneration Trust
 Ports & Public Transport Division, DRD
 Portstewart Chamber of Commerce
 Praxis 42 for Cable and Wireless
 Premier Power

 Quarry Products Association

 Regional Planning & Transportation Division, DRD
 Regional Planning Division, DRD
 Renewables Division, DETI
 Richardsons Fertilisers
 River Bush Salmon Station
 Rivers Agency

 RMC Aggregates (Northern) Ltd
 Road Haulage Association Ltd.
 Roads Service, DRD
 Royal County Down Golf Club
 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in NI
 Royal National Institute for the Blind (NI)
 Royal National Institute for the Deaf (NI)
 Royal National Lifeboat Association
 Royal Portrush Golf Club
 Royal Yachting Association
 RSPB
 Rural Community Network
 Rural Development Council
 RUAS

 School of Biology and Biochemistry, Queen's University Belfast
 School Of The Built Environment University Of Ulster
 School Of Environmental Planning Queen's University Belfast
 School of Geography, Queen's University Belfast
 Sea Anglers
 Sea Cat
 Seagate Technology (Ireland)
 Seasearch Northern Ireland
 Seaton's Marina
 Shell
 Sinn Fein Environment Committee
 Speleological Union of Ireland
 Sperrins Tourism
 Sports Council for Northern Ireland
 Sports, Museums and Recreation Division, DCAL
 South Down Task Force
 South Eastern Education and Library Board
 Southern Education and Library Board
 Southern Health and Social Services
 St. Marys University College
 Stena
 Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee.
 Strangford Lough Shellfishermen's Co-op
 Stranmillis College
 Superintendents Association For NI
 SUSTRANS
 Sustainable NI

 The Air Training Corps
 The Boys' Brigade In Northern Ireland
 The Corrymeela Community
 The Crown Estate

The Extern Organisation
The Guide Association
The Honourable the Irish Society
The Loughs Agency
The Methodist Church In Ireland
The National Trust
The Presbyterian Church In Ireland
The Royal Society For Mentally Handicapped
Children And
Adults (MENCAP)
The Salvation Army
The Scout Association In Northern Ireland
The Ulster federation of Rambling Clubs
The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
The Woodlands Trust
Tidy Northern Ireland
Tony's Marine Service
Tourism Division
Translink

Ulster Anglers Federation
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
Ulster Farmer's Union
Ulster Museum
Ulster Society for the Preservation of the
Countryside
Ulster Wildlife Trust
UTV

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority
Water Service, DRD
West Bann Development Group
West Bann Development Ltd
Western Education and Library Board
Western Health and Social Services
WWF (NI)

Valuation and Lands Agency

YMCA - Ireland
Youth Action Northern Ireland
Youth Hostel Association Of Northern Ireland
Youthnet