



Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Scoping Consultation Report

Rev No	Comments	Checked by	Approved by	Date
3	Final	FL	FL	03 Dec 2014

9th Floor, The Clarence West Building, 2 Clarence Street West, Belfast, BT2 7GP
Telephone: 028 9060 7200 Website: <http://www.aecom.com>

This document is confidential and the copyright of AECOM Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Table of Contents

1	Overview	1
2	Consultation Summary	4
	Appendix A – Original Technical Note Produced in Response to the SA Scoping Workshop.....	16
	Appendix B – SA Scoping Report Responses	21
	Table 1 : SA Scoping Workshop Comments	4
	Table 2 : List of SA Scoping Report Baseline Data Sections and Sub-sections Updated	7
	Table 3 : Responses to Questions asked in Chapter 6 of the SA Scoping Report	8
	Table 4 : Comments received on SA Scoping Report as part of Formal Consultation on Scope	12
	Table 5 : General Comments Received as part of the Consultation on the Scope.....	14
	Table 6 : Non Statutory Consultation Responses	15

1 Overview

1.1 Introduction

This report has been prepared to summarise and respond to the received comments on the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (“the Plan”). The Northern Ireland marine area comprises the Northern Ireland Inshore Region (Territorial Waters within 12 nautical miles), Offshore Region (Contiguous Zone within 24 nautical miles) and Shared Waters.

The Northern Ireland Department of Environment (DOE), Marine Division is currently developing the Plan and has appointed AECOM and APBmer to undertake a SA. The SA will be used to inform the development of the Plan and to assess the environmental, social and economic effects arising from the Plan’s implementation.

The consultations to date have been on the environmental, economic and social scope of the SA. Consultation was undertaken in three parts:

- An SA Scoping Workshop during the drafting of the Scoping Report;
- Liaison and data collection following the SA Scoping Workshop; and,
- Formal stakeholder consultation on the SA Scoping Report.

Where information was provided during the drafting stage it was fully considered and, where appropriate, integrated into the SA Scoping Report.

Prior to the finalisation of the SA Scoping Report, the Marine Plan Team clarified the description of the Plan. The SA Scoping Report was published for statutory consultation on 11th August 2014. The comments received are summarised in this document.

1.2 SA Scoping Workshop

The SA Scoping Workshop took place on 6th May 2014. There were 19 attendees from government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (all identified in Appendix A).

The event was planned in advance of publication of the SA Scoping Report to allow stakeholders the opportunity to inform the preparation and remit of the SA Scoping Report. The workshop was designed to gain stakeholder opinions on the following:

- Environmental, economic and social topics to be covered in the SA;
- Baseline information to be included in the Scoping Report (level of detail, accuracy, gaps etc);
- Summary of the relevant plans and policies;
- Method proposed to undertake the SA on the Plan;
- Approach to consultation; and,
- Approach to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The received comments were collated (see Table 1) and circulated in the form of a technical note (copy provided in Appendix A). In relation to the SA Scoping Report, the comments were actioned where appropriate.

1.3 Post SA Scoping Workshop Consultation

After the SA Scoping Workshop, additional baseline information was received from local government departments and organisations. These include:

- Northern Ireland Water (NIW);
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI);
- Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- DOE Environment and Marine Group;
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD);
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI);
- Department of Regional Development (DRD); and,
- DOE Analytical Statistics Branch.

Belfast Harbour also provided comments and baseline information. The comments were reiterations of those collected as part of the SA Scoping Workshop.

1.4 - Stakeholder Consultation

A formal opinion on the SA Scoping Report was sought from statutory consultation bodies in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. Comments were received from:

- NIEA SEA Team;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Natural Resources Wales;
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) (response coordinated by Scottish Government : Directorate for Local Government and Communities);
- Scottish Natural Heritage (response coordinated by Scottish Government : Directorate for Local Government and Communities);
- Historic Scotland (response coordinated by Scottish Government : Directorate for Local Government and Communities);
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO);
- Environment Agency (England and Wales);
- Natural England; and,
- English Heritage.

The SA Scoping Report invited any comments that consultees may have but also asked 12 specific questions across five key areas (Chapter 6 of the report) to help structure any responses. The received comments have been collated into answers to these questions and other general comments (see Chapter 2 of this report). The 12 specific questions and the five key areas are listed below:

- Introduction
 - o Q1a: Do you agree with the main objectives and deliverables of the SA?
 - o Q1b: If not, please suggest alternative or additional objectives and deliverables.
- Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies
 - o Q2a: Do you consider that all appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted?
 - o Q2b: If not, please highlight any omissions.
- SA Approach and Method
 - o Q3a: Do you agree with the overall approach and method for the SA set out in Chapter 4?
 - o Q3b: Do you agree with the assessment method (Part 1 Policy Assessment, Part 2: Cumulative Assessment, including ecosystems services assessment) that will be applied to the assessment of environmental effects (Stage B)?
- Baseline
 - o Q4a: Do you agree with the baseline data sources?
 - o Q4b: Please provide relevant data from other additional datasets that informs the description of the baseline environment of relevance to this SA.
 - o Q4c: Do you agree the range of baseline data sources presented is robust enough to allow for a thorough assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Plan?
 - o Q4d: Please suggest any updates/amendments to the baseline description as necessary.
- Consultations
 - o Q5a: Do you agree with the approach to the SA consultation?
 - o Q5b: Do you agree with the duration of the SA consultation?

In addition to responses derived from the questions asked, consultees also provided opinions on each of the five key areas. Both the question responses and opinions provided can be broadly summarised as follows:

- Structure of the SA Scoping Report;
- Suggested data sources for use at the next stage of the SA;
- Information on natural heritage in the Republic of Ireland and Scottish territorial waters; and
- Climate change information in Northern Ireland and marine policy in Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

In addition to comments from statutory consultation bodies (as outlined in Table 5) associated with SA, other stakeholders also commented. The other stakeholders included:

- The Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG); and
- Subsea Cables UK.

The majority of stakeholder comments received related to additional baseline information sources. The comments received have been included in Appendix B of this report.

1.5 Responses to Received Comments

This report has been structured to provide an overview of how the comments received have influenced the SA Scoping Report and the approach to the SA. The information provided in Table 1 and Section 2.3 of this report was used to influence the SA Scoping Report prior to its publication in August 2014. The consultee responses in Table 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been based on the SA Scoping Report issued in August 2014. The information in these tables will be used to influence the Sustainability Appraisal which will be the main output of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

2 Consultation Summary

2.1 Introduction

The following tables have been compiled to summarise the consultations to date:

- Table 1 summarises and responds to the SA Scoping Workshop comments;
- Table 2 identified the SA Scoping Report chapters which were amended as a result of liaison and data collection following the SA Scoping Workshop;
- Table 3 summarises the responses to the specific questions asked in the SA Scoping Report (Chapter 6 of the SA Scoping Report) and provides a response;
- Table 4 summarises the other parts of the formal consultation on scope responses and provides a response;
- Table 5 summarises the general comments received as part of the formal consultation on the scope; and,
- Table 6 summarises the non-statutory consultations and provides a response.

2.2 The SA Scoping Workshop – Consultation Response Summary

Table 1 summarises the comments received at the SA Scoping Workshop. The main points made, in relation to the SA Scoping Report, as part of the workshop have been summarised along with a response, outlining how the comments were actioned.

Table 1 : SA Scoping Workshop Comments

SA Scoping Report Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SA scoping report should include the correct material for each topic and be of appropriate quality. - The HRA should contain information about European protected species (Atlantic salmon and lamprey) and concentrate on the coastal zone. - The HRA will be dependent on the policies which result from the Marine Plan. - The timetable will depend on the feedback from the Plan. 	<p>As a result of the comments received, the “Introduction” chapter has information about the types of information to be collected, the HRA and information about the Plan has been added.</p>
Overview of Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SA Scoping Report should acknowledge there is no current marine planning regime and the regime for renewable energy landing should be considered. - The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will not have an end date and will therefore be under continuous review. - Future engagement of other marine planning bodies will be important. - The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland should acknowledge other plans have different timescales. - The description of the plan should include information about the scale of influence for the Plan (i.e. It is not anticipated the Plan will address localised issues and the SA will mimic the Plan). However the plan may provide an opportunity for the creation of local plans. 	<p>As a result of the comments received, the “Overview of Marine Plan for Northern Ireland” chapter in the SA Scoping Report was amended to include information about the timescales associated with the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, information was included about how the plan making process in Northern Ireland integrates with other marine plans in other jurisdictions and existing plans within Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In addition to inclusions for the SA Scoping Report, the workshop also provided information to the Marine Plan team regarding the types of process and information which should be included and recognised as part of the plan making process.</p>

SA Scoping Report Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The reform to NI terrestrial planning has to be considered and included. - The Regional Development Strategy (2035) is being updated and the publication of the single policy document (SPPS) and this should be included as these documents reflect the change in the terrestrial planning system to the local councils. - A sustainable development plan is due for publication and should be included. - The documents should acknowledge the local government reforms and Republic of Ireland spatial strategy reforms. - European directives pertaining to renewable energy, shipping, ports and clean fuel should be included. - Clarification regarding all the organisations with marine interests regarding decision making structures and sustainable development versus the use of natural resources. 	<p>The comments received from the workshop were integrated into the "Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies" of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>Where legislation and plans were identified, they were included.</p>
Sustainability Appraisal : Approach and Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism should be included as part of the recreation subheading. - The approach to the scoping document should be less static and engage with issues which straddle a number of SA topics e.g. in order to consider ecosystem services which requires an understanding of the relationships between topics. - More explanation is required as to why SA objectives will not be used. - The cumulative effects approach needs to deal with uncertainty and identify the limitation of the assessment. - Another tier of assessment should be investigated to integrate ecosystem assessment into the assessment. - The approach to mitigation has to be flexible. - It should be stated where a policy has been removed or clarified, what the rationale has been for this action. - Wider consultation should be considered in the Republic of Ireland, included adjoining county councils, fisheries organisations and government departments. - A 12 week consultation period seems appropriate for SA report consultation. - Invasive Species Ireland was suggested as an additional consultee. - Where mitigation is undertaken, it should be presented as part of the SA report assessment. Plan maker should be cognisant of the policy mitigation limitations in relation to existing policy. 	<p>Further clarification was added to the Sustainability Appraisal Approach and Method.</p> <p>This was in relation to the role of ecosystems services assessment and its role in relation to cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>There was further clarification why as to SA objectives were not used and how mitigation would be integrated into the Sustainability Appraisal Report.</p>

SA Scoping Report Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Baseline Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The recreation heading should be expanded to include other topics, like tourism and wildfowling. - A more extensive list of material assets is required. - The headings of population and human health should be separated in the baseline. - Recognition that timescales for existing physical, social and economic environments differ. - Socio economic data about ports and Marine Protection Areas (MPAs) should be included and sectorial socio economic data should be used. - Acknowledgement of uncertainties and data gaps should be included and economic importance drawn out. - Acknowledgement the understanding of coastal processes is not consistent. - Coastal resilience should be acknowledged. - All shipping routes in Northern Ireland should be included. - Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) area of search should be acknowledged. - Condition status of all protected sites should be included and if not available, at least signposted to where this information is. - The DARD inshore fisheries consultation document should be in cited and included in recreation. - Noise from urban centres and transport infrastructure should be acknowledged along with noise from ports/shipping and turbines. - On and offshore lighting should be acknowledged in relation to seascape. - The onshore study area is considered too deep 30km. - The geographic context of the landscape and seascape should be considered. - Mobile marine species (salmon and eels) should be addressed. - Information should be included about the protection of wrecks, State of the Seas Report and submerged archaeology. - Common baseline considered for Plan and SEA. - Waterlines project information should be included. - Include information about military waste and update Ministry of Defence base information. - Include transboundary data. - The Crown Estate marine aggregate licensing round should be included. - Marine litter should be included as a sub topic. - Dumping grounds for spoil should be included as a sub topic. - Provision should be made for non Annex 2 (of the Habitats Directive) species as part of the assessment. 	<p>Baseline inclusions where made based on the comments received and where information was identified as out of date, it was updated.</p> <p>There was further acknowledgement of uncertainties associated with the information presented as part of the “Key Issues, Problems and Future Trends” parts of each section in the Baseline chapter.</p> <p>An additional appendix was also included to identify relationships between each of the SA topic baseline information.</p> <p>Further explanation of why a 30km onshore study area is used has been included.</p> <p>The approach to wrecks and marine cultural heritage was updated.</p> <p>The fisheries section was updated to reflect changes to the Common Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>Where available MOD base data was updated but information on military waste information was provided for Beaufort Dyke.</p> <p>Seascape information has been included.</p> <p>Transboundary data was included in relation to fisheries and transport linkages.</p> <p>The introduction to the Baseline Data chapter (chapter 5) was updated to include information about why the Plan and the SA would use different resolutions of baseline data.</p>

2.3 Responses Received After the SA Scoping Workshop

Table 2 shows the baseline section and sub subsections which were amended as a result of liaison and data collection consultations following the SA Scoping Workshop.

Table 2 : List of SA Scoping Report Baseline Data Sections and Sub-sections Updated

SA Baseline Data Section	SA Baseline Data Sub-section
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Protected Sites (International, European and National Conservation Sites) Benthic and Intertidal Ecology Fish and Shellfish Marine Mammals Marine Reptiles Birds Marine Noise
Water and Soils	Bathymetry and hydrography (including circulation and tides). Sediment and Water Quality
Climate Factors	Climate Factors, including, greenhouse gas releases and vessel fuel emissions.
Socio-Demographics	General Demography
Uses and Activities	Commercial Fisheries Aquaculture Recreation and Tourism Noise Lighting Ports, Shipping, Navigation, Dredging and Disposal
Material Assets	Cables and Pipelines Terrestrial Transport Network Aggregates Underground Offshore Energy Storage Petroleum Exploration Licensing Offshore Renewable Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Compressed Air Energy Storage Waste Water Treatment and Industrial Discharges
Cultural Heritage	Cultural Heritage Wrecks Submerged Prehistory Coastal and Intertidal Archaeology Landscape and Seascape
Landscape and Seascape	Landscape and Seascape

2.4 The Formal Consultation of the Scope

The responses for the formal consultation of the Scope were split into two types, those consultations which responded using the specific questions presented in Chapter 6 of the SA Scoping Report (and have been repeated along with their responses in Table 3) and general comments regarding the Scope relating to different parts of the SA Scoping Report. Table 3 contains the question responses and Table 4 contains the other comments in relation to sections of the SA Scoping Report.

Table 3 : Responses to Questions asked in Chapter 6 of the SA Scoping Report

SA Scoping Report Chapter Specific Question (Chapter 6)	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Question 1a: Do you agree with the main objectives and deliverables of the SA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team, SEPA and Natural England are content with the main objectives and deliverables. - EPA stated there was merit in distinguishing between the respective roles and outputs of the SA and SEA processes in the development of and informing the Plan and in the consideration of transboundary aspects. 	Noted.
Question 1b: If not, please suggest alternative or additional objectives and deliverables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None of the consultees suggested alternative or additional objectives and deliverables. 	
Question 2a: Do you consider that all appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team provided comments about legislation which has been updated since the publication of the SA Scoping Report. - SEPA considered all appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted. 	AECOM to review relevant parts of the legislation and include in the appropriate sections of the Sustainability Appraisal.
Question 2b: If not, please highlight any omissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural England noted there was no reference to the Isle of Man or Ireland's marine plans and suggested they are also relevant. Natural England also noted one of the main objectives of the SA relates to renewable energy production and recommended reference was made to the strategic, marine renewable energy plans which cover English and Scottish waters to assess the potential for cumulative impacts on the environment. - EPA noted policies, plans and programmes which should be included. 	AECOM to review relevant parts of the suggested data sources and include in the appropriate sections of the Sustainability Appraisal.
Question 3a: Do you agree with the overall approach and method for the SA set out in Chapter 4?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team, SEPA and Natural England all agreed with the broad approach and method of the SA. - NIEA SEA Team specifically noted though strategic alternatives did not exist, policy alternatives may exist and should be assessed. - SEPA specifically noted that environmental effects are clearly recorded and not amalgamated with socio-economic issues. 	<p>Noted, The possibility for alternative policies has been addressed in the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>The methodology proposed does not propose to amalgamate policy assessments.</p>

SA Scoping Report Chapter Specific Question (Chapter 6)	Summary of Comments Received	Response
<p>Question 3b: Do you agree with the assessment method (Part 1: Policy Assessment, Part 2: Cumulative Assessment, including ecosystem services assessment) that will be applied to the assessment of environmental effects (Stage B)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEIA SEA Team was generally content, however recommended that significant positive impacts were also identified where possible; and suggested that reference be given to the ecosystem services classification/categorisation utilised. - SEPA was content with this aspect of the assessment and supported the use of an ecosystems services approach to look at cumulative and interrelated effects. However, SEPA stressed the need to ensure that for SEA purposes the relevant environmental issues are reported in a transparent manner and the detail of the findings is not lost through a combined presentation of environmental, social and economic issues which is only able to reach general conclusions. - Natural England noted the two stage approach of the SA is appropriate but will not assess the potential benefits/impacts of the plan in combination with the other plans and programmes identified within the Scoping Report. Such a broader assessment will take place within the Habitat Regulations Assessment. Natural England suggests the SA team consider the benefits of analysing the combination effect of the Plan. - EPA suggested detailed information on the approach to landscape including coastscape and seascape and ecosystem services in the transboundary context. The EPA also suggested that the potential implications of noise in the marine environment be included and consideration of the potential of land based development associated with the marine sector. The EPA also suggested transboundary perspectives should be considered for relevant environmental topics and the use of GIS in transboundary environmental sensitivity mapping. 	<p>Noted. However the method includes both the identification and assessment of positive effects and in combination effects in a transparent manner.</p> <p>Transboundary assessments have been identified as part of the baseline report and the methodology will be developed further for the SA.</p>

SA Scoping Report Chapter Specific Question (Chapter 6)	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Question 4a: Do you agree with the baseline data sources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team, SEPA and Natural England were generally content with the baseline data sources. - NIEA SEA Team also identified that a suite of potential UK marine SPAs may emerge during the drafting of the Marine Plan. - Natural England noted biodiversity action plan habitats and species or protected species should be included as part of the important factors for the Biodiversity, flora and fauna SA topic. - EPA provided a list of other information for inclusion. 	<p>Noted, AECOM and ABPmer will remain cognisant of potential UK marine SPA introduction and review.</p> <p>Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species have been included as part of the baseline (Sections 5.8.3 and 5.8.7 respectively).</p> <p>Protected species have been identified at their most rigorous level of protection, which is European and where a species has been explicitly referenced it is a European protected species.</p> <p>AECOM and APBmer will review the transboundary information provided and include where appropriate.</p>
Question 4b: Please provide relevant data from other additional datasets that informs the description of the baseline environment of relevance to this SA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None of the consultees provided a specific response. 	
Question 4c: Do you agree the range of baseline data sources presented is robust enough to allow for a thorough assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team and SEPA were content that the range of baseline data presented is robust enough to allow a thorough assessment of cumulative effects arising from the plan. 	Noted.
Question 4d: Please suggest any updates/amendments to the baseline description as necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None of the consultees provided a specific response 	.
Question 5a: Do you agree with the approach to the SA consultation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NIEA SEA Team and SEPA were content with the approach to the SA Consultation. - EPA considers that other organisations should be consulted along with the EPA. 	Noted. Some of the organisations referenced by the EPA have already been consulted and AECOM will review the rest of the consultation list.

SA Scoping Report Chapter Specific Question (Chapter 6)	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Question 5b: Do you agree with the duration of the SA consultation?	- NIEA SEA Team and SEPA were content with the duration of the SA consultation.	Noted.

Table 4 : Comments received on SA Scoping Report as part of Formal Consultation on Scope

SA Scoping Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish Natural Heritage noted the intention to carry out a HRA but stated further clarification of the HRA process should be included. 	<p>ABPmer has already produced a pre-screening HRA and where necessary, further clarification regarding HRA will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>
Overview of Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht noted the draft vision and objectives of the Marine Plan. - Historic Scotland is content with the 12 week period proposed for consultation. 	<p>No Action.</p>
Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scottish Natural Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Natural Resources Wales and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the EPA identified additional plans, programmes and strategies which broadly relate to the SA. - Scottish Natural Heritage stated the Clyde region regional marine planning partnership will form in 2015 and it will be relevant for this group to liaise with DOE Marine Plan Team. 	<p>AECOM and ABPmer to update the chapter and associated appendix with plans, programmes and strategies to inform the SA, which are appropriate in relation to the plan.</p> <p>DOE Marine Plan Team to review requirements for liaison with Clyde region regional marine planning partnership.</p>
Sustainability Appraisal : Approach and Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments were received from Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the MMO. - Comments received generally related to the ecosystems assessment, cumulative assessment, the transboundary assessment and consultation proposed. - Scottish Natural Heritage was generally satisfied with the approach in the chapter, but noted that environmental effects should be identified and not aggregated with social and economic effects to produce a more favourable policy assessment outcome. - Scottish Natural Heritage also queried part of the significance criteria presented. - Historic Scotland was content with the scope and level of assessment proposed, Historic Scotland were also satisfied with the proposed duration of the consultation period (12 weeks). - The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht suggested consultees for the SA report phase. - The MMO stated its marine planning role and that it should be consulted. 	<p>AECOM to be cognisant of the comments regarding assessment criteria and aggregation of effects during the SA.</p> <p>AECOM will review the consultee list suggested by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to identify the members of the list who have already been contacted. Where appropriate, additional consultees will be asked for opinions regarding the Sustainability Appraisal and draft Plan.</p>

SA Scoping Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments Received	Response
Baseline Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline data suggestions and queries were provided by NIEA SEA Team (specifically in relation to climate change), Scottish Natural Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the EPA. - The NIEA SEA Team provided information regarding the Air and Climate Factors sections of the baseline report. - The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provided information on ecological receptors in the Republic of Ireland that may be affected by the NI Marine Plan. - The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine provided details to fisheries and shellfish in the Republic of Ireland marine area. - The EPA provided a list of the related transboundary environmental topics which could be addressed in the baseline section. 	<p>The published climate factors section of the SA Scoping Report was updated in light of consultation with the DOE Environment and Marine Group.</p> <p>The further NIEA SEA Team update will be included in the baseline part of the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>AECOM and ABPmer to update the Baseline Data chapter, as appropriate for inclusion within the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>

2.5 General Comments generated from the Formal Consultation of the Scope

In addition the responses to the Scoping Questions and Chapters within the Scoping Report, general comments were also provided by the following organisations:

- Environment Agency (Planning, Housing and Environmental Assessment);
- English Heritage;
- Scottish Government: Directorate for Local Government and Communities;
- Scottish Natural Heritage;
- Historic Scotland;
- Natural Resources Wales;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and,
- EPA.

Table 5 : General Comments Received as part of the Consultation on the Scope

Organisation	Comment
Environment Agency (Planning, Housing and Environmental Assessment)	The Environment Agency had no issue with the SA Scoping Report.
English Heritage	English Heritage stated their limit of responsibility in relation to the UK Territorial Sea and that any advice offered is given without prejudice.
Scottish Government: Directorate for Local Government and Communities	The Scottish Government: Directorate for Local Government and Communities; noted legislative "next steps" for SA.
Scottish Natural Heritage	Scottish Natural Heritage reiterated the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will not bring forward new policies or zone new development or designation areas. It was satisfied with the level of detail in the assessment proposed. This view was reiterated by Historic Scotland and Natural Resources Wales.
Historic Scotland	Historic Scotland noted the SA Scoping Report provided a clear outline to the proposed approach to the environmental assessment of the Plan and that the SEA would form part of the SA.
Natural Resources Wales	Natural Resources Wales noted the strategic nature of the Plan and were satisfied that the level of detail in the proposed assessment will be appropriate to the nature of the proposed Plan. Natural Resources Wales were also satisfied with the topics identified in the SA process will address SEA interests and that they have been scoped into the SA process.
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	<p>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht noted the requirement of a HRA and that there should be transparency in the methods employed in the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht also recommended that the monitoring indicators should include ecological indicators that can clearly identify the effects of the programme and should be both quantitative and qualitative in nature. This is particularly the case for those elements of the programme that may have an impact on biodiversity.</p>
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine provided information about issues to be considered at the sustainability appraisal phase in relation to aquaculture and fisheries.
EPA	The EPA provided general information about SEA scoping guidance and legislation in the Republic of Ireland.

2.6 Comments Generated from Non statutory Consultees as Part of the Scoping Report Consultation

Table 6 identifies how the comments relate to the scoping report chapters and where appropriate how the comment will be addressed.

Table 6 : Non Statutory Consultation Responses

SA Scoping Report Chapter Relating	Summary of Comments received	Response
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNCC queried how the social and economic assessments, including the impact on terrestrial activities, should take place as part of the Sustainability Appraisal and why the 30km buffer was used as part of the SA scoping report. It also noted that tidal influenced rivers and their surroundings should be included. 	<p>Noted, however the CNCC has reiterated an assessment limitation which has already been identified in the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>The 30km buffer rational is explained in section 5.3 of the SA Scoping Report and is separate to the explanation of the Plan area (Section 1.4) of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>The SA Scoping Report does include information around tidal influenced rivers and their surroundings.</p>
Overview of Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNCC also noted information relating to the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, and commented on information about Northern Ireland jurisdiction, plan vision and objectives, the approach and research. 	DOE Marine Plan team to review.
Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CNCC provided comments about legislation inclusions and abbreviation usage. - CNCC also provided comment about the changes to public administration in Northern Ireland. 	<p>Noted. AECOM and ABPmer to include policy as part of the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>The SA scoping report already contains information on changes to public administration in Northern Ireland (Section 3.5.2 of the SA Scoping Report).</p>
Sustainability Appraisal : Approach and Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CNCC commented that the Isle of Man should be consulted. - The CNCC requested a stakeholder meeting at the beginning of the consultation process to explain the sustainability appraisal and the Plan. 	<p>Noted. Isle of Man authorities to be included as one of the consultees for the Sustainability Appraisal and draft Plan.</p> <p>CNCC attended the stakeholder workshop held in May 2014.</p> <p>The DOE Marine Plan team to decide on further consultation prior to the publication of the Sustainability Appraisal and draft Plan.</p>
Baseline Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CNCC provided comments on the existing baseline information. - Irish Whale and Dolphin Group provided baseline information regarding marine mammals and reptiles. - Subsea Cables UK provided a link to where information about subsea cables is held. 	<p>AECOM and ABPmer to integrate CNCC comments, where appropriate, into the Sustainability Appraisal. The information provided by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group will be integrated into the assessment and baseline section of the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>ABPmer are associate members of Subsea Cables UK and will maintain a review of the Subsea Cables UK website and include any information which has been updated by the organisation as part of the baseline for the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>

Appendix A – Original Technical Note Produced in Response to the SA Scoping Workshop

Original Technical Note Produced in Response to the SA Scoping Workshop

This is a summary of the Scoping Workshop comments provided on the 6th May 2014. The workshop had two distinct parts aimed at gaining opinions from stakeholders on a broad range of issues relating to the scope of the SA:

- Discussion 1 sought feedback on the environmental and social topics to be covered in the SA; the baseline information to be included in the Scoping Report (level of detail, accuracy, gaps etc); and the summary of relevant plans and policies.
- Discussion 2 asked for opinions about the method proposed to undertake the SA on the Plan; the approach to consultation; and the approach to the HRA.

This note presents a summary of the comments received on the day from the three discussion groups.

Discussion 1 : Setting the context for the Plan and SA

“Do you agree that all the SA Topics should be ‘scoped in’ to the assessment?”

- Tourism should be included as part of the recreation subheading;
- Wildfowl should be considered under recreation;
- The correct material should be included for each topic and be of the appropriate quality; and,
- The approach to the scoping document should be less static and engage with issues which straddle a number of SA topics e.g. in order to consider ecosystem services which requires an understanding of the relationships between topics.

“What are your views on the baseline information presented in the scoping report? Please highlight any gaps and sources of additional information”.

- Socio economic data about ports and Marine Protection Areas (MPAs) should be included and sectorial socio economic data should be used;
- There is a need to recognise that timescales for existing physical, social and economic environments differ;
- That a common baseline should be considered for both the Plan and the SA, divergence in the baseline was considered a threat to sustainability;
- A more extensive list of material assets is required;
- Transatlantic cables should be included on drawings;
- Each pipeline should be labelled with its use (oil, telecoms, gas);
- Acknowledgement that there is no current marine planning regime and the regime for renewable energy landing should be considered;
- Acknowledgement of uncertainties and data gaps should be included;
- Acknowledgement the understanding of coastal processes is not consistent;
- Coastal resilience should be acknowledged;
- AIS data may need to be updated;
- All shipping routes in Northern Ireland should be included;
- Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) area of search should be acknowledged;
- Condition status of all protected sites should be included and if not available, at least signposted to where this information is;
- The DARD inshore fisheries consultation document should be cited and included in recreation;
- Noise from urban centres and transport infrastructure should be acknowledged along with noise from ports/shipping and turbines;
- Similarly on and offshore lighting should be acknowledged in relation to seascape;
- The onshore study area is considered too deep 30km;
- The geographic context of the landscape and seascape should be considered;
- Mobile marine species (salmon and eels) should be addressed;
- The approach to cultural heritage does not match the information presented;
- Information should be included about the protection of wrecks and the State of the Sea Report;
- Waterlines project information should be included;

- The economics of recreation should be included or acknowledged as a data gap;
- Country Sports should be included or acknowledged as a data gap;
- The economic importance of data gaps should be drawn out;
- Update MOD base information;
- Include information about military waste;
- Include transboundary data;
- Marine aggregate licensing was part of the Crown Estate remit and that it ran its own licensing rounds for extraction;
- Submerged archaeology should be included as part of the cultural heritage section of the baseline;
- The marine context of archaeology should also be acknowledged;
- The headings of population and human health should be separated in the baseline;
- Marine litter should be included;
- The way information is presented should be clearer so topics of interest can be found easily;
- The Marine Division have received information regarding fisheries and deprivation in NI and this should be included; and,
- Dumping grounds for spoil should be included.

What are your views on how the policy information is presented in the scoping report? Please highlight any gaps in policy information

- The reform to NI terrestrial planning has to be considered and included;
- The RDS is being updated to reflect the move in terrestrial planning across the councils and the publication of the single policy document (SPPS) and this should be included;
- A sustainable development plan is due for publication and should be included;
- Discussion group 2 were generally content with the policy content;
- In the context of fisheries, the baseline information section should reflect changes to the Common Fisheries Policy; and,
- The documents should acknowledge the local government reforms and Republic of Ireland spatial strategy reforms.

Discussion 2: Setting out Approach to the Assessment

“Do you agree with the 2 stage assessment approach?”

- The question was raised “Is there potential for challenge in the 2 stage approach?”;
- The approach is a policy led assessment;
- More explanation is required as to why SA objectives will not be used;
- The cumulative effects approach needs to deal with uncertainty and identify the limitation of the assessment;
- The Marine Plan will not have an end date and therefore be under continuous review;
- If the Marine Plan is under continuous review, the SA would also be under continuous review;
- Different SA topics have different timescales for assessment and this should be acknowledged as a limitation;
- Setting the context of heritage is important and should be included in cultural heritage and tourism;
- Future engagement of other marine planning bodies will be important;
- It should be acknowledged other plans have different timescales;
- European directives pertaining to renewable energy, shipping, ports and clean fuel should be included;
- Another tier of assessment should be investigated to integrate ecosystem assessment into the assessment;
- The approach seemed appropriate, where stage 1 had to be undertaken to justify stage 2;
- The approach will not address localised issues because it is anticipated the plan will not address these issues, however the plan may provide an opportunity for the creation of local plans; and,
- As part of the cumulative assessment (or as an additional stage) consideration should be given to the inclusion of an ecosystem services assessment.

“Do you agree with the approach to mitigation?”

- Policy changing mitigation resulting from the SA should be sensitive to existing policies, so as to not create conflict;
- The approach to mitigation has to be flexible;
- It should be stated where a policy has been removed or clarified, what the rationale has been for this action; and,
- The approach to mitigation was agreed but where mitigation is undertaken, it should be presented as part of the SA report assessment. Plan maker should be cognisant of the policy mitigation limitations in relation to existing policy.

“Do you have any comments on the HRA?”

- The HRA should concentrate on the coastal zone;
- The HRA has to include Atlantic salmon (freshwater) and lamprey;
- Provision should be made for non-Annex 2 (of the Habitats Directive) species as part of the assessment; and,
- The HRA will be dependent on the policies which result from the Marine Plan.

“Do you agree with the proposed consultation approach and timetable?”

- The timetable will depend on the feedback from the plan;
- Wider consultation should be considered in the Republic of Ireland, included adjoining county councils, fisheries organisations and government departments;
- A 12 week consultation period seems appropriate for SA report consultation;
- The approach to consultation should include holiday time considerations; and,
- Invasive Species Ireland was suggested as an additional consultee.

“What does the organisation that you represent want this process to deliver?”

- A process which delivers a shared understanding of the plan;
- Sustainable management of the seas and coasts as an integrated unit;
- Identification and assessment of impacts on coastal communities;
- A document which signposts to other plans and policies;
- An assessment where sustainable development does not unduly curtail country sports and the species needed for these sports;
- Clarification regarding all the organisations with marine interests regarding decision making structures and sustainable development versus the use of natural resources;
- The process should work for the protection of ecosystems and species;
- The process should raise awareness maritime archaeology;
- An environmental, social and economically viable fishing industry, with joint/collaborative working;
- Informed decision making, using the most up to date data/science; and,
- Enhanced integration and processes between departments and organisations.

“Please make any additional comments”

- Additional comments related to additional consultation surrounding policy mitigation.

Summary

Discussion 1: Setting the context for the Plan and SA

- Do you agree that all of the SA Topics should be 'scoped in' to the assessment?
 - Broad agreement regarding the existing SA topics, with the inclusions proposed (tourism/wildfowl). The Population and Human Health topics should be separated and a greater distinction between gas and oil infrastructure. Relationship between topics to be described and related to ecosystem services.
- What are your views on the baseline information presented in the scoping report? Please highlight any gaps and sources of additional information.
 - Information has been identified for inclusion and where information does not exist or cannot be used the gap will be acknowledged.
- What are your views on how the policy information is presented in the scoping report? Please highlight any gaps in policy information.
 - Further information about terrestrial planning and related directives will be included. Also information about the Regional Development Strategy and framework links to the Republic of Ireland.

Discussion 2: Setting out the approach to assessment

- Do you agree with the 2 stage assessment approach?
 - There was broad agreement for the 2 stage assessment approach; however as part of the cumulative assessment (or as an additional stage) consideration should be given to the inclusion of an ecosystem services assessment.
- Do you agree with the approach to mitigation?
 - The approach to mitigation was agreed but where mitigation is undertaken, it should be presented as part of the SA report assessment. Plan maker should be cognisant of the policy mitigation limitations in relation to existing policy.
- Do you have any comment on the HRA?
 - Comments have been made regarding the species to be included as part of the HRA.
- Do you agree with the proposed consultation approach and timetable?
 - The 12 week consultation period was considered appropriate but cognisance should be paid to holiday periods. Consultation with the Republic of Ireland should consider adjoining county councils, marine interest groups and government departments.
- What does the organisation that you represent want this process to deliver?
 - The organisations present identified what they wanted the process to deliver.
- Please make any additional comments.

Additional comments were made regarding the expectations for the SA report consultation, which should include information about how mitigation has been utilised in the Plan.

Appendix B – SA Scoping Report Responses

DOE Marine Division
Causeway Exchange
1–7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

15th September 2014

Re: Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Dear Marine Team

Thank-you for the email dated 11th August 2014 regarding the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Report and generally supports the approach taken in the document; however, some comments for consideration are set out below. We note that the plan does not intend to contain any zonings or designations and this has influenced the opinions given.

Consultation Question 1: Do you agree with the main objectives and deliverables of the SA?

Yes, we are generally content with the main objectives and deliverables.

Consultation Question 2: Do you consider that all the appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted?

Yes, we are generally content that appropriate and relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted. A number of comments are below:

P70 – Please note that Belfast has not met Directive 2008/50/EC limit value for nitrogen dioxide (Westlink corridor) – (modelled exceedance)

Appendix A – note that directive 1996/62/ec is revoked – now 2008/50/ec, although 4th daughter directive 2004/107/ec remains

Appendix A – for Northern Ireland, do not quote Environment Act (1995) for local authority air quality obligations; instead, Environment Order (NI) 2002. Environment Order requires councils to review and assess air quality and declare Air Quality Management Areas / Action Plans where necessary.

Appendix A – Air Quality Regs (NI) 2003 – designate relevant authorities for the purposes of air quality obligations in the Environment Order. Air Quality Standards Regs (NI) 2010 designate NI departments as competent authorities for complying with



target and limit values in Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC and 4th Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC. Objectives for Air Quality (Ozone) regulations are mismatched.

Please note that air quality (ozone) regulations (NI) are now revoked.

Consultation Question 3a: Do you agree with the overall approach and method for the SA set out in Chapter 4.

Yes, we are generally content with the approach and method for the SA. We acknowledge that there is an intention (and associated justification) not to consider high level strategic alternatives however it may be possible to consider polices that are to be assessed as alternatives that could be retained, omitted, or modified.

Consultation Question 3b: Do you agree with the assessment method (Part 1: Policy Assessment, Part 2: Cumulative Assessment, including ecosystem services assessment) that will be applied to the assessment of environmental effects (Stage B)

Yes, we are generally content with the assessment method however: we would recommend that significant positive impacts are also identified where possible; and we would suggest that reference be given to the ecosystem services classification / categorisation utilised (see <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes> for examples).

Consultation Question 4a: Do you agree with the baseline data sources

Yes, we generally agree with the baseline data sources. However please note that new important data sources may emerge during the drafting of the Marine Plan such as a suite of potential UK marine SPAs.

Consultation Question 4c Do you agree the range of baseline data presented is robust enough to allow for a thorough assessment of cumulative effects arisen from the plan.

Yes, we are of the opinion that the data will enable a cumulative effects assessment.

Consultation Question 5a: Do you agree with the approach to the SA consultation.

We are content with the consultation approach.

Consultation Question 5b: Do you agree with the duration of the SA consultation

We are content with the duration of the consultation.

General Comments

P69 – Newtownabbey now has just one AQMA for nitrogen dioxide.

P29: Para 5.8.1 – small typo there 8 main subheadings, not 6 as stated.



Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@doeni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hammond

Dr Mark Hammond
SEA Co-ordinator

SEATeam@doeni.gov.uk
mark.hammond@doeni.gov.uk



An Agency within the Department of the
Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DOE Marine Division
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

15th September 2014

Re: Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Dear Marine Team

Thank-you for the email dated 11th August 2014 regarding the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Report. Please find below comments and tracked changes specific to the Climate Change section 5.11.

5.11 Climate Factors

The following data sources have been used to characterise climatic factors within the Plan area:

- Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990-2012, Report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, The Scottish Government, The Welsh Government and The Northern Ireland Department of the Environment. (Aether & Ricardo AEA, 2014);
- First Steps Towards Sustainability – A Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland (DOE, 2006);
- Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2012, (DECC, 2012);
- Guidelines to Defra / DECC's Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (Defra and DECC, 2012);
- 2012 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions (DECC, 2014);
- Offshore wind – economies of scale, engineering resource and load factors (Garrad Hassan, 2003);
- European Commission;
- UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09);
- Turn down the heat. Why a 4°C warmer world must be avoided (The World Bank, 2012);
- A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland (2012);
- Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2014);
- Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) 2009;
- Cross-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change, [Annual Progress Report 2014](#) (DOE, 2014);
- Coastal Erosion in MCCIP Annual Report Card 2010-11, (Masselink and Russell, 2010);

Comment [DW1]: There is a later publication e.g. 'Everyone's Involved, Sustainable Development Strategy 2010'

Comment [DW2]: This is the inventory by a different title i.e. first bullet point

- Flood and coastal erosion risk management policy evolution in Northern Ireland: “Incremental or leapfrogging?” (Dodds et al., 2010);

- Air Pollution Information System website

http://www.apis.ac.uk/overview/regulations/overview_shipping_emissions.htm; and, AECOM/ABPmer 71

- Devolved Administrations’ Emissions (Committee on Climate Change website

<http://www.theccc.org.uk/charts-data/devolved-administrations-emissions/>).

There are many aspects to climate change that should be considered. These include the following:

- The release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, into the atmosphere, which is generally considered the driving force behind climate change;
- Changes to the climate itself and the physical environment such as sea level rise, change in temperature and extreme weather with consequences for the frequency and intensity of storms, storm surges and extreme wave conditions;
- The potential for ocean acidification in the longer-term;
- The vulnerability of ecosystems and infrastructure; and,
- Society’s reaction to these changes, such as risk assessment and adaptation measures.

Baseline Description

Climate change has primarily been brought about by the burning of fossil fuels and the consequent emission of greenhouse gases. The main greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide (CO2), accounting for about 82% of the total UK greenhouse emissions in 2012. In 2010², Northern Ireland had a 3.7% share of UK total net greenhouse gas emissions, and the trend since the base year has been a decline of 16.0% (Aether & Ricardo AEA, 2014).

Comment [DW3]: 66% of the total NI GHG emissions.

Climate change takes place at a global scale but may result in locally variable results. In the UK in the context of coastal processes, the parameters which may be affected are:

- Winds;
- Wave;
- Surges;
- Mean Sea Level; and,
- Rainfall and runoff through rivers.

Projections of UK coastal absolute sea level rise (not including land movement) for 2095 are in the range from approximately 24.5 - 40 cm (UKCP09 website). There is also predicted to be a slight increase in seasonal mean and extreme waves to the SW of the UK and a decrease towards the North of the UK. In the waters around Northern Ireland, the projected trends suggest a decrease in wave height to the North and no significant change in the Irish Sea. These tentative projections are, however, based on maps with a very coarse grain, and considerable uncertainty is reported.

The most up to date evidence base for the UK’s future climate predictions is provided by the UK Climate Projections 09 (UKCP09). For Northern Ireland, the medium emissions scenario predictions [for mean winter and summer temperature and precipitation changes](#) are shown in Table 21. The medium scenario for all years predicts that there will be warmer, wetter winters and warmer, drier summers. Overall, average annual temperatures in Northern Ireland could increase by up to 3°C by 2080 and **mean sea levels could rise by between 9cm and 69cm (UKCP09)**.

Comment [DW4]: This relates to sea levels, should be used in 1st paragraph, if used at all. Also is a bit confusing when talks about sea level rises but states different figures from the first paragraph

Table 21 : UKCP09 medium emissions scenario prediction for mean winter and summer temperature and precipitation changes for Northern Ireland

Year	Mean Winter Temperature Change	Mean Summer Temperature Change	Winter Mean Precipitation Change	Summer Mean Precipitation Change
2020	1.1 °C	1.3 °C	4%	-5%
2050	1.7 °C	2.2 °C	9%	-13%
2080	2.3 °C	3.2 °C	11%	-15%

Formatted: Highlight

Source: UKCP09

Whilst flooding is regarded as a major hazard in the United Kingdom (UK), to date Northern Ireland's experiences of coastal flooding have been infrequent and less severe compared to those in England and Wales (Dodds et al., 2010).

Despite coastal erosion occurring along 20% of Northern Ireland's coastline (Masselink and Russell, 2010), this issue has historically been, and remains, only a minor concern in Northern Ireland (Dodds et al., 2010). Partly as a result of this, Government administrative arrangements for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Northern Ireland operate in the absence of any statutory provision for coastal erosion, as well as without formal or strategic shoreline management planning and any integrated flood and coastal erosion risk management policy (Dodds et al., 2010). Further information on the risks of coastal erosion in relation to coastal defence considerations are provided in Section 5.13.8.

AECOM/ABPmer 72

Table 21 : UKCP09 medium emissions scenario prediction for mean winter and summer temperature and precipitation changes for Northern Ireland

Year	Mean Winter Temperature Change	Mean Summer Temperature Change	Winter Mean Precipitation Change	Summer Mean Precipitation Change
2020	1.1 °C	1.3 °C	4%	-5%
2050	1.7 °C	2.2 °C	9%	-13%
2080	2.3 °C	3.2 °C	11%	-15%

Source: UKCP09

Northern Ireland Climate Change Risk Assessment

The Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland was published in 2012, it has identified that the entire population of Northern Ireland lives within approximately 35 miles from the coast and that approximately three quarters of the coastline has some type of environmental designation, ranging from local

to world status. It has also identified potential consequences of climate change along coastal areas, which are as follows:

- Loss of existing beaches, foreshores, salt marches and sand dunes, due to more frequent flooding of the existing floodplain; higher extreme flood levels and potentially greater erosion. It is anticipated up to 100 hectares of beach may be lost by the 2080s.
- An increase in cliff instability and weakening of existing sea defences, due to coastal erosion. It is anticipated this will impact cultural heritage sites, infrastructure and the coastal landscape.
- Changes in species migration patterns, which may impact on biodiversity and tourism activities.
- A longer tourism season with more visitors and increased tourism revenues with effects to limited natural assets and infrastructure.

In addition to the impacts on the coast, the consequences to coastal waters and marine environments have also been predicted and they are as follows:

- An increase in harmful algal and jellyfish blooms, affecting both people and wildlife;
- Damage to aquaculture and sea fisheries (including shellfish) due to sea level rise, a deterioration in water quality and ocean acidification.
- A shift in marine species, resulting in changes to biodiversity that may include a reduction in commonly fished species and the introduction of new species.
- An increase in non-native species, which could have significant economic and environmental consequences where they occupy the same niche as native or commercial species if they become invasive.
- The opening of the North East and North West Arctic passages, providing new opportunities for shipping routes.

Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

The Adaptation Programme contains the Government's response to the risks and opportunities identified in

~~the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland. It provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified. The adaptation programme will be updated every five years and has identified adaptation under the following headings:~~

- ~~— Flooding;~~
- ~~— Water;~~
- ~~— Natural Environment; and,~~
- ~~— Agriculture and Forestry.~~

Northern Ireland's commitment to address the impact of climate change is set out in the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Act makes it a requirement that Northern Ireland departments develop a climate change adaptation programme which will address the findings of the most recent report on the risks and opportunities from climate change to Northern Ireland. The first Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (Adaptation Programme) was laid in the Assembly in January 2014, it contains the Governments response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA.

The Adaptation Programme covers the period 2014-2019. It provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified. It contains the first steps in ensuring Northern Ireland's preparedness for the impacts of climate change.

Departments are responsible for reporting on progress against the high level activities allocated to them and their agencies and these will be monitored and progress reported to the Executive through the Cross Departmental Working Group Annual Progress Report annually.

AECOM/ABPmer 73

Greenhouse Gases

On a global scale, the effects of greenhouse gas emissions reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment (AR5) in 2013 have continued to intensify. The report states that since the 1950s, many of the observed changes in climate are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmosphere and ocean have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased. The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. Carbon dioxide concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification. The atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) have all increased since 1750 due to human activity. In 2011 the concentrations of these greenhouse gases

were 391 ppm, 1803 ppb, and 324 ppb, and exceeded the pre-industrial levels by about 40%, 150%, and 20%, respectively. Concentrations of CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O now substantially exceed the highest concentrations recorded in ice cores during the past 800,000 years. The mean rates of increase in atmospheric concentrations over the past century are, with very high confidence, unprecedented in the last 22,000 years.

Comment [DW5]: This section sets out the background to GHG emissions and action being taken at an international, EU, UK and local level. It is correct, however, would question if this level of detail is necessary to a Marine Plan.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement which commits its parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. The Protocol entered into force in February 2005 and the first commitment period ran from 2008-2012. In 2012, UK emissions of six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol were provisionally estimated to be 573.5 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent. This was 3% higher than the 2011 figure of 554.9 million tonnes (Aether & Ricardo AEA, 2014). This increase is said to be predominantly driven by a shift from natural gas to coal in the power generation sector due to the impact of changes in global fuel prices, and an increase in the consumption of [natural gas/fossil fuels](#) in the residential and [business](#) sector due to colder average temperatures. In 2012 the 'Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol' was adopted which included new commitments for Parties which will run from 2013-2020. During this second commitment Parties (of which the UK and Northern Ireland is part of) have committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 18% below 1990 levels.

At the European level, in addition to the commitments as part of the Kyoto Protocol, the European [Union \(EU\) as part of the Europe 2020 growth strategy has offered to increase its emissions reduction to 30% by 2020 if other major emitting countries in the developed and developing world commit to undertake their fair share of a global emission reduction target. EU leaders have also endorsed an aim of cutting Europe's Commission has also proposed new climate and energy targets for 2030 that include reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels and increasing the share of renewable energy to at least 27%. In the longer term the EU is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% from 1990 levels by 2050 \(EC Website\) as part of a collective effort by developed countries to do likewise.](#)

Within the UK, the Climate Change Act 2008 provides an additional impetus towards decarbonising the economy. It requires carbon emissions to be reduced by 80% (from 1990 baseline) by the year 2050, with an interim target of a 34% reduction by 2020.

In June 2014, the Northern Ireland emission figures were published for 2012. Northern Ireland's 2012 greenhouse gas emissions are estimated at 21 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This is an increase of 2% compared to 2011. There are two main reasons for this increase. Firstly, the 2012 figures include emissions from widespread forest wildfires which occurred during a spell of particularly dry, windy weather. Secondly, global fuel prices have caused a shift from burning natural gas to coal in the energy supply sector. The 2012 emission levels show a longer term decrease of 16% since 1990 (base year). The current Programme for Government has set a target for a 35% reduction in greenhouse gas source emissions by 2025 from the base year.

The largest sources of emissions in 2012 are agriculture (30%), transport (20%), energy supply (18%) and residential (15%). This signals a decreasing trend from the base year, where the main decreases have been observed in the energy supply and residential sectors. Emissions from the transport sector have increased over the same period, although they have been reducing since reaching their peak level in 2007 which it is proposed is related to the economic downturn.

Vessel Fuel Emissions

Emissions from ships are an important source of air pollutants including sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. Annex VI of this convention covers the "Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships". The regulations in this annex set limits on sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from ship exhausts and prohibit deliberate emissions of ozone depleting substances.

AECOM/ABPmer 74

Emissions of SO₂ from the maritime sector in Europe are projected to surpass total emissions from all landbased sources by 2020 according to the European Commission's Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) emission estimates, assuming no action is taken. This is due in a large part to considerable reductions made by shoreside industry and other terrestrial sources. To address the significant health and environmental

impacts of ship emissions, the Commission adopted an EU strategy in November 2002 to reduce such emissions. The strategy resulted in an amended Directive, known as the Sulphur Content of Marine Fuels (SCMF) Directive (2005/33/EC) which came into force in July 2005. The basic obligations of the SCMF Directive included:

- A 1.5% sulphur limit for fuels used by all ships in the SO_x Emission Control Areas of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea and English Channel;
- A 1.5% sulphur limit for fuels used by passenger ships on regular services between EU ports;
- A ban on the marketing of marine diesel oils with sulphur content exceeding 1.5% by mass; and,
- A ban on the marketing of marine gas oils with sulphur content exceeding 0.1% by mass, from 1 January 2010.

As an alternative to the use of low sulphur marine fuels to comply with Articles 4a and 4b of the Directive, Member States can allow trials of unapproved and, use of approved, emission abatement technologies as an alternative to low sulphur fuel provided that these ships '...continuously achieve emission reductions which are at least equivalent to those which would be achieved through the limits on sulphur in fuel specified in this

Directive.' (Article 4c, paragraph 4).

The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 implement the marine fuel elements of the Sulphur Content of Marine Fuels (SCMF) Directive (2005/33/EC) (henceforth

referred to as "the Directive"). The UK is a party to Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention which contains provisions on the sulphur content of liquid fuels and is implemented by the Regulations.

Key Issues, Problems and Future Trends

The NI Executive is committed through the Programme for Government to continue to work towards a reduction of at least 35% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 against the 1990 baseline. DOE takes the lead role in delivering this through the [Ministerially chaired](#) Cross-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change that has representation from all government departments. The latest [greenhouse reduction action Plan annual progress report](#) is available on

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/climate_change/ni_greenhouse_gas_emissions_annual_progress_reports.htm.

In addition to the Climate Change Act, the Northern Ireland Executive approved the Strategic Energy Framework (DETI, 2010) which set a target of 40% of Northern Ireland's electricity consumption to come from renewable resources and 10% with regard to renewable heat by 2020. Higher levels of renewable energy within the overall energy mix will increase the diversity and security of Northern Ireland's energy supply and reduce carbon emissions (DETI, 2010).

DETI is encouraging increased levels of renewable power generation and is working with the independent Northern Ireland Utility Regulator, Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) and SONI on the development of associated new electricity infrastructure necessary to improve Northern Ireland's security of energy supply and manage increase renewable energy levels as set out in the Strategic Energy Framework 2010.

Emissions [from energy supply associated with the power sector](#) have [already](#) decreased by [almost 30.28%](#) from 1990 levels, [and](#) are predicted to decrease by over 60% by 2025 (DOE, 2013).

The Department for Regional Development (DRD) sets the vision and long term framework for regional development, regional transportation and sustainable travel (DETI, 2012). A major role of this department is reducing greenhouse gas emissions from road transport. In 2012, [greenhouse gas emissions from road transport](#) [emissions had](#) increased by [almost 23.35%](#) from 1990 levels (Aether and Ricardo-AEA, 2014) [However since a peak in 2007 there has been a reduction of 11.2% over the last five reported years and are predicted to have increase from 1990 levels by around 9% by 2025 \(DOE, 2013\). A slight decrease in road transport emissions in the last few years has been seen since a peak in 2007 and it is predicted that this decrease will continue to 2025, with the levels being around 13% lower in 2025 compared with 2012 \(DOE, 2013\).](#)

The Department for Social Development (DSD) aims to reduce domestic energy costs [throughby](#) [introducing itsthe](#)

Formatted: French (France)

Comment [DW6]: Question the need for this section. This details the actions being taken forward across various sectors in NI that contribute to reductions in GHG emissions. I understand the linkages with a Marine plan of coastal flooding, erosion and infrastructure from rising sea levels and changing weather patterns (as noted under the baseline description), however, the NI actions in this section whilst addressing action to reducing GHG emissions overall, don't appear to have any great linkage to the Marine Plan.

Comment [DW7]: Don't know what document this reference refers to, therefore unable to verify the stat. Would also advise that if there is later 2014 reports (Inventory, CDWGCC, etc) that these should be used as supersede earlier documents.

Comment [DW8]: DETI 2012, don't know what this is. Why reference what DRD are responsible for with a DETI document. Don't think the reference is necessary.

Comment [DW9]: DOE 2013, as above, don't know what this is and believe 2014 reports would be more appropriate.

Warm Homes and Boiler Replacement schemes that have contributed to a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from the residential sector of 24.2% from 1990 (Aether & Ricardo AEA, 2014) which has already seen a reduction in 2009 emissions compared to 1990. Following

7. NIE is the owner of the transmission assets and distribution system operator in Northern Ireland.

8. SONI is the transmission system operator and is owned by Eirgrid plc (Eirgrid).

AECOM/ABPmer 75

these improvements emissions from the domestic sector heating are projected to decrease by 22% on 1990

levels by 2025 (DOE, 2013).

The role of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) is to balance sustainable development with the challenges climate change presents to agriculture worldwide i.e. the need to produce more food and non-food products whilst reducing the impact on the local and global environment. To achieve

this, DARD will work closely with agriculture, forestry and environmental representatives within an Implementation Partnership to promote Northern Ireland sustainable development and demonstrate both issues can be effectively addressed.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI) works in effective partnership with the agriculture and forestry industries to promote, develop and implement the "Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Strategy" and its associated suite of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

In addition, considerable design effort is currently being made to encourage additional behavioural change by mainstreaming incentives, aimed at reducing carbon intensity of food products, within the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Incentives being considered are consistent with those recommended for inclusion by the European Commission for all Member States.

The development of the UK Smart Agriculture Inventory is continuing to be co-funded by DARDNI and will be a directional lever as Phase 2 of the efficient farming strategy is finalised for launch in 2015.

Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@doeni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hammond

Dr Mark Hammond

SEA Co-ordinator

SEATeam@doeni.gov.uk

mark.hammond@doeni.gov.uk

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 9.5 pt

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, 9.5 pt



Marine Plan Team
DOE Marine Division
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

15th September 2014

Our Ref: SCP140802.1

Re: Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Dear Ms Fisher,

I refer to and acknowledge your correspondence, dated 11th August, in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, referred to as the Plan below.

The Agency acknowledges the level of detail provided in the Scoping Report and welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Plan. The comments made below focus primarily on the need to consider and take into account the potential for likely significant effects in SEA from a transboundary perspective. Specific comments on the scoping questions posed in Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report are provided in Appendix I.

The consideration and assessment of potential cumulative effects and in-combination effects will be of particular relevance during the SEA process. In the context of transboundary effects, the implications of the Plan should be considered taking into account other relevant Plans, Programmes and Projects (PPPs) within both jurisdictions - (See Appendix II). Relevant SEA transboundary related environmental topics include water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna including fisheries, landscape –seascape/ coast scape, soils, air quality and climatic factors and the interrelationship between these aspects.

A preliminary list of key relevant plans/programmes in the Republic of Ireland which should be taken into consideration, where relevant and appropriate, is provided in Appendix II. In addition, a list of relevant EPA reports and datasets are also listed in Appendix III.

Scoping Process Guidance and Baseline Data

Guidance on the SEA Scoping Process is available on the EPA website and should be considered, where relevant in the preparation of the SEA. This can be consulted at the following address: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>.

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations (*S.I. No. 435*), as amended by *S.I. No. 200 of 2011*, notice should also be given to the following:

- The Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, and the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, and

From a transboundary perspective, there would be merits in undertaking consultation with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Communication Energy and Natural Resources and the Marine Institute, during the SEA process.

In addition, there would be merits in consulting with Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht - National Park and Wildlife Services on Biodiversity related matters during the SEA process and the Habitats Directive Assessment.

Further comment will be provided by the Agency upon receipt of the Draft Environmental Report and Plan and associated documents during the next statutory consultation phase of the SEA Process.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,



Tadhg O'Mahony
Senior Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate,
Inniscarra, County Cork



Appendix I - Specific comments on the scoping questions posed in Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report.

Introduction

Q1 Do you agree with the main objectives and deliverables of the SA? (if not, please suggest alternative or additional objectives and deliverables)

There may be merits in distinguishing between the respective roles and outputs of the Sustainability Appraisal and SEA processes in the development of and informing the Plan and in the consideration of transboundary aspects.

Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Q2 Do you consider that all appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted? If not, please highlight any omissions

See preliminary list in Appendix II.

SA Approach and Method

Q3a Do you agree with the overall approach and method for the SA set out in Chapter 4?

Q3b Do you agree with the assessment method (Policy Assessment, Cumulative Assessment) that will be applied to the assessment of environmental effects?

There may be merits in providing more detailed information on the approach to be adopted in considering cumulative effects, landscape including coastscape and seascape, and Ecosystem Services in a transboundary context.

In addition under Air Quality, there may be merits in considering potential implications of noise in the marine environment in particular in relation to marine mammals.

Consideration should also be given to potential land based development associated with marine sector and potential related effects.

The inter relationship between the relevant environmental topics/sub topics should also be considered from a transboundary perspective.

The use of GIS in transboundary environmental sensitivity mapping could be considered.

Baseline

Q4a Do you agree with the baseline data sources?

Q4b Please provide relevant data from other additional datasets that informs the description of the baseline environment of relevant to this SA.

See Appendix I and II of this Submission

SEA Spatial Environmental Information Sources - March 2014

As part of an EPA STRIVE Research project - Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment - Good Practice Guidance, an Inventory of SEA Spatial Environmental Information Sources was prepared. See Link below. : <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/seaspatialinfomationsourcesmarch2014.html>



This spatial environmental inventory can be used to inform the preparation of SEA Environmental Reports and the associated environmental assessments. Data sources include the following environmental topics - Air Quality, Climate, Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Geology, Soils, Hydrology, Water Quality, Flooding, Socio-Economic, Material Assets, Planning Data, and other Sectoral Datasets. Note the database includes Marine related Data Sources,

This inventory was compiled in March 2014 and may not be exhaustive. The inventory will be updated at regular intervals, subject to resources. It is a matter for the user to ensure the most recent relevant environmental data has been consulted in undertaking SEA. See Disclaimer associated with this Database.

The relevant databases should be consulted, as appropriate, during the SEA process.

Note: Disclaimer: Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this spatial dataset, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Additionally this list of data sources refers to datasets compiled in March 2014 and may not be exhaustive. Please consult with data providers to verify any data updates or identify newly generated data. Neither the Environmental Protection Agency nor the authors accept any responsibility whatsoever for loss or damage occasioned or claimed to have been occasioned, in part or in full, as a consequence of any person acting or refraining from acting, as a result of a matter contained in this dataset.

Consultations

Q5a Do you agree with the approach to the SA consultation?

Q5b Do you agree with the duration of the SA consultation?

From a transboundary perspective, there would be merits in undertaking consultation with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Communication Energy and Natural Resources and the Marine Institute, as appropriate, during the SEA process.

In addition, there would be merits in consulting with Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht - National Park and Wildlife Services, as appropriate, on Biodiversity related matters during the SEA process and the Habitats Directive Assessment.



Appendix II – Preliminary List of National / Regional Plans for Consideration

In assessing the potential for likely significant effects including cumulative effects, there would be merits in taking into account, as appropriate, a number of key national/regional level plans/programmes (and their associated environmental assessments) in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). Additional Guidance from EPA and DAHG/NPWS may also be relevant as appropriate.

- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan and SEA /AA (DCENR)
- Ireland's Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Policy (IOSEA I-IV) and SEAs /AAs (DCENR)
- Harnessing our Ocean Wealth (DCENR)
- Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework- SEA/AA to commence (DCENR)
- Draft Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2014-2020 and SEA/AA (DAFM)
- Seafood Operational Programme – in preparation SEA/AA underway (DAFM)
- National Strategic Aquaculture Plan- in preparation –SEA/AA underway (DAFM)
- Food Harvest 2020 DAFM)
- Grid 25 (EIRGRID)
- Grid 25 Implementation Plan and SEA/AA (EIRGRID)
- Sectorial Climate Adaptation Plans – in preparation for multiple sectors (Relevant Government Department)
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region
- Regional Waste Management Plan for Border-Connacht Region in preparation – SEA/AA underway
- *Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016* - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan (DAHG)
- Lough Agency Aquaculture Licensing Programme and SEA/AA

SEA/Appropriate Assessment Guidance:

- Relevant EPA/ Guidance – Strategic Environmental Assessment

See <http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/>

- DAHG /NPWS Guidance - Appropriate Assessment / Marine Habitats

Appendix III - Links to Environmental Data, EPA Reports and European Commission Publications

A list of relevant EPA reports and datasets are listed below for your consideration, in the context of transboundary baseline considerations.



www.epa.ie/ebooks/soe2012/

Ireland's Environment – An Assessment 2012

www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/

Access the latest information about Ireland's environment under eight separate themes or visit our dashboard of key environmental indicators.



Integrated Water Quality Report 2012 – Monaghan-Louth

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/iwqmoulu/>



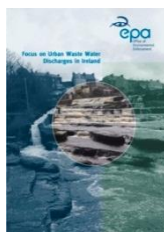
www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/waterqua/name.30640.en.html

This report presents a review of water quality in Ireland for the years 2007-2009.



http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/airemissions/EPA_GHG_%20Emission_%20Proj_publication_2012_final_v1.pdf

The EPA produces greenhouse gas emission projections annually taking into account the most recent environmental and other policy developments as well as updates to key assumptions (such as revisions to anticipate economic growth and future fuel prices).



www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/wastewater/uww/

This report, the eighth in the series, includes for the first time a review of the operation of waste water treatment plants at 529 urban areas that are the subject of an EPA waste water discharge licence application.



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

See the published EC Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment.





Our Ref: **G Pre00332/2014**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

15 September 2014

For the attention of:
Marine Plan Team
Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Marine Division
Email to: marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk

Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping for the Northern Ireland Marine Plan

A chara

On behalf of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to the recent consultation on the above.

Outlined below are the observations/recommendations of the Department in relation to **nature conservation**.

The Department notes the broad scope of the Sustainability Appraisal and focuses its observations on nature conservation. Much of the information contained within is also relevant to an appropriate assessment of the Plan, as required under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive, and should equally be considered in that assessment.

While a draft Plan has not yet been prepared, the Department also notes the draft vision for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is “A healthy marine area which is managed sustainably for the economic, environmental and social prosperity of present and future generations”, while the draft objectives are as follows:

- To promote the sustainable development of productive activities, which support employment at all skill levels, while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests;*
- To help realise the potential of energy resources and energy storage within the marine area while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests;*
- To promote the development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities;*
- To promote the marine resource, its recreational value and the wider social, economic and environmental benefits to all;*
- To promote the preservation and enjoyment of marine related heritage assets;*
- To promote a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem and an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas;*
- To contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation;*
- To encourage compatibility with other plans (including those in adjacent administrations) relevant to the regulation and management of key activities and issues; and,*
- To continue to develop a sound marine evidence base in a coordinated manner to increase understanding and to support the development, monitoring and review of marine plans.*

Scope of the Environmental Aspect of the Sustainability Appraisal:

Section 3: Baseline Data

The Department notes that environmental receptors that occur in the Republic of Ireland have not yet been considered within the draft Report. Information on the ecological receptors in the Republic of

Ireland (marine, freshwater, coastal and terrestrial) that may be affected by the NI Marine Plan is available from the website of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, www.npws.ie. The website has been developed to act as a key source of data, information and publications on nature conservation sites¹ and biodiversity issues of potential relevance to, amongst other things, environmental assessments, and information available there should be used to inform the assessment of transboundary effects. NPWS-owned spatial data are freely available when requested. To submit a request for data, a Data Request Form can be completed and submitted, available at <http://npws.ie/mapsanddata/requestdata/>.

Some datasets (SAC, SPA, NHA boundaries; Protected species data) may be viewed or downloaded from <http://npws.ie/mapsanddata/>; <http://npws.ie/mapsanddata/designatedsitedata/> and <http://npws.ie/mapsanddata/habitatspeciesdata/>. To submit a request for data, a Data Request Form can be completed and submitted, available at <http://npws.ie/mapsanddata/requestdata/>.

The website also includes information on the areas protected for reasons of nature conservation under national legislation, including Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, and nature reserves. Due regard should be given to those sites that may be affected by the Plan. Particular attention should be given to the North Inishowen Coast SAC 2012, the Lough Foyle SPA, the Trawbreaga Bay SPA, Lough Swilly SPA and the River Finn SAC in the Appropriate Assessment Pre-screening/Screening as they have a direct link, either physically or through the movement of species (avifauna), to marine sites within the proposed plan area.

This Department has also published a range of reports that should be used to inform this SEA and to identify the threats and pressures that face biodiversity in Ireland, including, but not limited to:

- This Department's 2013 Article 17 Conservation Status report, available at www.npws.ie, for recent information on the current status of species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive;
- This Department's recent (2014) report on the status of birds protected under the Birds Directive, as required under Article 12 is available at: http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/Converters/run_conversion?file=ie/eu/art12/envuvesya/IE_birds_reports-14328-144944.xml&conv=343&source=remote
- Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive, available at www.npws.ie.

Generic conservation objectives are currently available for all European sites within the Republic of Ireland. In addition, site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs), and associated supporting documents, are available for some sites on the NPWS website². GIS datasets associated with site-specific conservation objectives are also available for download: <http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/habitatspeciesdata/>.

A number of national habitat surveys have been undertaken or are underway, and their resulting reports, should be consulted. Other sources of information relating to habitats and species, which may be impacted upon by the Programme, may also be available from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie) and BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie) and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org).

Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be affected

The following important ecological receptors in the Republic of Ireland should be taken into account in assessing the Plan's likely effects:

- Sites with nature conservation designations, including SACs, SPAs, and their conservation objectives, NHAs, proposed NHAs, Nature Reserves
- Annex IV (Habitats Directive) species of fauna and flora, and their breeding sites and resting places, which are strictly protected under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011
- Other species of fauna and flora which are protected under the Republic of Ireland's Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000 and the Flora Protection Order

¹ Special Areas of Conservation (SACs, currently known as candidate sites but fully legally protected); Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs); and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)

² <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning/conservationobjectives/>

- ‘Protected species and natural habitats’, as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008, including:
 - Birds Directive – Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur)
 - Habitats Directive – Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats, and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur)
- Other habitats of ecological value in a national to local context (such as those identified as locally important biodiversity areas within Local Biodiversity Action Plans and County Development Plans).
- Features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, such as those with a “stepping stone” and ecological corridors function, as referenced in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

Please note that these receptors are broader than those currently identified in the draft Scoping Report, including terrestrial species that may be affected by activities that will come within the scope of the Plan.

Other relevant **Plans and Programmes** which should be considered in the context of potential cumulative effects, include, *inter alia*:

- Plans for the development of the Republic of Ireland’s Renewable Electricity and Energies, including for the offshore (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources).
- Plans and programmes for the management and development of seafood, aquaculture and fisheries 2014-2020 (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

Methodology: It is advised that the Report provides, *inter alia*, detailed information on the methodologies, analyses and data sources employed in the environmental assessment. It is also recommended that the report is fully referenced in order to demonstrate the reliability of the information presented within.

Monitoring:

The monitoring indicators should include ecological indicators that can clearly identify the effects of the programme and should be not be solely quantitative in nature, but also qualitative. This is particularly the case for those elements of the programme that may have an impact on biodiversity.

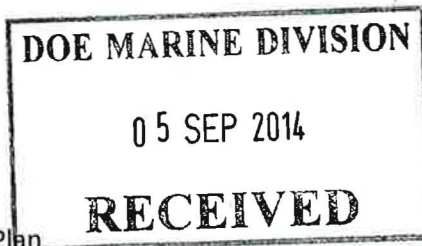
You requested to send the acknowledgement to this letter and any further correspondence to this Department’s Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie; if this is not possible, correspondence may, alternatively, be sent to:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit
Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford

Is mise, le meas



Muiris Ó Conchúir
Development Applications Unit
Tel: 00-353-53-911 7387



Ms. Catherine Fisher
Dept of the Environment Marine Plan
Dept of the Environment
Level 6 Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

2nd September, 2014

Re: Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Dear Ms. Fisher,

Where SEA scoping indicates potential impacts on sea-fisheries and the marine environment, the following information should be taken into account in the SEA.

Relevant Legislation, Plans and Policies

- Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011
- Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 and amendments)
- Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 & Sea-Fisheries Regulations

Fisheries Natura Plans & Declarations made under European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 (online at <http://www.fishingnet.ie/sea-fisheriesinnaturaareas/natura2000sitesundermanagement/>)

- National Seafood Operational Programme (EMFF requirement) & National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (CFP requirement) currently under preparation for 2014 – 2020
- Food Harvest 2020
- Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – the national integrated marine plan for Ireland
- Implementation of pollution reduction programmes for designated shellfish waters (Shellfish Waters Directive 2006/113/EC)
- Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004)
- National Climate Change Adaptation Framework – particularly sector adaptation plans (including marine) due to undergo consultation in 2014.

Issues for consideration

In the development of any Plans or Programmes due consideration should be given to:

- Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on marine environmental quality including potential impacts on designated Shellfish Growing Waters. Examples include, but are not limited to the following: increased sedimentation; re-suspension of contaminants; discharge of contaminants; and introduction of non-native or invasive species.
- Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on the microbiological quality of shellfish in Classified Shellfish Production areas
- Potential impacts on human health resulting from the placing on the market of microbiologically contaminated shellfish
- Potential impacts on commercially important fish and shellfish stocks, licensed aquaculture sites and areas of importance for fish / shellfish and fisheries e.g. spawning grounds, nursery areas
- Potential impacts on freshwater aquaculture operations including the requirement for water abstraction and capacity of the receiving waters to assimilate discharges
- Future designations of areas of importance to the Aquaculture and Fisheries Sector
- Relevant EU Directives and National Legislation in the area of Marine Spatial Planning

Potential Impacts on Sea-Fisheries and Aquaculture

Major land-use changes can significantly impact the quality of the marine (particularly coastal) environment (e.g. sedimentation, hydrographic change, impacts on benthic eco-system, etc).

All aspects of the seafood sector rely on safe high quality water and assessment of potential impacts on water quality should include the seafood sector. To guarantee food safety the growing waters must attain certain standards. This is of relevance to the fishing and aquaculture sectors. In freshwater aquaculture (on land) a continuity of supply is important to ensure animal welfare and quality. Water supplies in this instance are sourced from rivers, wells and occasionally from mains supplies.

The seafood processing sector also requires a safe and reliable water supply to support its operations.

Designated shellfish waters are very important to the shellfish sector in Ireland working to maintain standards in product safety and quality and enabling sale for direct consumption from many areas, reducing production costs and contributing to the good international reputation of the products. The role of filter-feeding shellfish as a nutrient sink thus helping to reduce eutrophication potential and improve water quality is also important to consider in assessments.

Sources of Marine Data

Details of designated shellfish growing areas which are protected by law (2006/113/EC) are available at: <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/ShellfishWaterDirective/>

Details of Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) are available on the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority website: <http://www.sfpa.ie/>

The Marine Institute publishes a range of corporate reports, scientific and technical reports, peer reviewed articles and conference papers which are relevant to the SEA process. These can be found on the Marine Institute website: <http://www.marine.ie/home/Publications/> or Marine Institute Open Access Repository. Relevant reports and on line GIS include:

- Shellfish Stocks and Fisheries Review 2011: An Assessment of Selected Stocks
- Atlas of Commercial Fisheries Around Ireland
- Atlas of Commercial Discarding
- Ireland's Marine Atlas

Information on the Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters, required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, is available at:

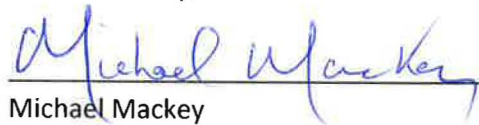
<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/Marine/>

Who to Consult With

- DAFM – Policies, plans and legislation concerning sea-fisheries and aquaculture
- SFPA – Competent Authority for Seafood Safety (classifications, monitoring and sanitary surveys) and Sea-Fisheries Control
- Marine Institute – Fisheries and Marine Environment
- BIM – Seafood Development Agency

Consideration should also be given to consulting directly with the seafood sector. This may include fisheries representative bodies, including producer organisations, local advisory committees, associations, co-operatives; seafood processors; aquaculture representative bodies, etc.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Mackey

Climate Change Section

Dept. of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Johnstown Castle Estate

Wexford

(053) 91 63467

By Email

marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk

15th September 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) brings together the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of Welsh Government. Our purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, used and enhanced, now and in the future.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Natural Resources Wales) on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. Our comments are made in the context of our responsibilities under the Strategic Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 and as advisers to Welsh Government on the natural heritage and resources of Wales and its coastal waters.

We note the strategic nature of the NI marine plan and are therefore satisfied that the level of detail in the proposed assessment will be appropriate to the nature of the proposed Plan. We also understand the relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). We are happy that the topic areas identified in the SA process will address the SEA interests and that these have been scoped into the process.

We welcome the proposal set out in section 1.8 to assess the transboundary effects of the NI marine plan and look forward to inputting to the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal. However, we are concerned to see that no mention is made of the marine planning process in Welsh waters within section 3.4. The development of the first Wales National Marine Plan is now underway, with a consultation expected on a draft plan during 2015. We therefore advise that consideration is given to the development of marine planning in Wales, particularly since the planning process will be happening broadly in tandem in Northern Irish and in Welsh waters. Further information on this process and associated timelines can be found on the Welsh Assembly Government's website at

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/fisheries/marine/marine-planning/?lang=en>

We have no further substantive comments on this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report but look forward to providing our views on the Sustainability Appraisal, and also the Habitats Regulation Assessment, for the Northern Ireland Marine Plan in due course.



Should you have any queries regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact our Marine Resource Management Advisor, Kirsty Lindenbaum at kirsty.lindenbaum@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk 01248 387294, in the first instance.

We would ask that future consultation requests of this nature could be submitted to Natural Resources Wales via our Strategic Assessment Gateway at strategic.assessment@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Rhian Jardine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the name.

Rhian Jardine
Head of Sustainable Communities
Pennaeth Cymunedau Cynaliadwy

Our ref: PCS/135267
SG ref: UK00050

If telephoning ask for:
Angela Burke

Catherine Fisher
Department of Environment
DoE Marine Plan
Level 6 Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

09 September 2014

By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Ms Fisher

Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004
Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland)
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - Scoping consultation

Thank you for your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Regulations which was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 11 August 2014. The Scoping Report has been prepared as part of a Sustainability Appraisal for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

We note that the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be incorporated as part of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan. As required under the Regulations, we have considered the document submitted and comment as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. We are content that the proposed assessment method is proportionate with the high-level nature of the plan to be assessed and that the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental assessment is appropriate. Our answers to the scoping questions posed in Section 6 of the report are set out in Annex 1.

On completion, the Sustainability Appraisal Report and the plan to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

Should you wish to discuss this scoping consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 449 8574 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Angela Burke
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

Ecopy: hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk



Chairman
David Sigsworth
Chief Executive
James Curran

Edinburgh Office

Clearwater House, Heriot Watt Research Park
Avenue North, Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AP
tel 0131 449 7296 fax 0131 449 7277
www.sepa.org.uk

Appendix 1: Scoping consultation questions

Q1a: Do you agree with the main objectives and deliverables of the SA?

Yes

Q2a: Do you consider that all appropriate or relevant policies, plans and programmes have been noted?

Yes

Q3a: Do you agree with the overall approach and method for the SA set out in Chapter 4?

We are content with the overall assessment methodology. We are satisfied that the topic areas identified in Table 5 will address the SEA interests and requirements. Given the nature of the plan we have no concerns regarding the intention to assess the potential environmental effects against the SA topics rather than the standard approach of developing environmental objectives. However, for the purposes of SEA it will be important for the environmental effects to be clearly recorded and not amalgamated with socio-economic issues.

Q3b: Do you agree with the assessment method (Part 1: Policy Assessment, Part 2: Cumulative Assessment, including ecosystems services assessment) that will be applied to the assessment of environmental effects (Stage B)?

We are content with this aspect of the assessment and support the use of an ecosystems services approach to look at cumulative and interrelated effects. However, we would again stress the need to ensure that for SEA purposes the relevant environmental issues are reported in a transparent manner and the detail of the findings is not lost through a combined presentation of environmental, social and economic issues which is only able to reach general conclusions.

Q4a: Do you agree with the baseline data sources?

Q4b: Please provide relevant data from other additional datasets that informs the description of the baseline environment of relevance to this SA.

Q4c: Do you agree the range of baseline data presented is robust enough to allow for a thorough assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Plan?

Q4d: Please suggest any updates/amendments to the baseline description as necessary.

We are content with the baseline data set out in Section 5 and have no comments to make.

Q5a: Do you agree with the approach to the SA consultation?

Q5b: Do you agree with the duration of the SA consultation?

We are satisfied with the approach and welcome the 12 week consultation period.



Scottish Natural Heritage

All of nature for all of Scotland

Catherine Fisher
DoE Marine Plan
Level 6 Causeway Exchange
1 – 7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT2 7EG

26th August 2014

Ref CEA132583
UK 00050

Dear Catherine,

UK00050 Scoping - Department Of The Environment (Northern Ireland) - Marine Plan For Northern Ireland – The Environmental Assessment Of Plans And Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

Thank you for your scoping consultation received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 11th August 2014. I have reviewed the report on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage in our role as a Consultation Authority, in terms of the above Regulations. Our comments are set out below.

We note the high level nature of the plan and that there are no proposals to bring forward new policies, and no proposals to zone new areas for development or new designations. We are happy that the level of detail in the assessment proposed will be commensurate with the strategic nature of the proposed Plan.

We also note the relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). We are happy that the topic areas identified in the SA process will address the SEA interests and that these have been scoped into the process.

We welcome the proposal in section 1.8 to assessing the transboundary effects and look forward to the consultation on the SA report.

Section 1.10 identifies the early intention to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Marine Plan, which is welcome. It is important to clarify the stages of this assessment process. As stated, the screening process should be carried out early. However, this is a broad sift to identify likely significant effect rather than 'a significant adverse effect' as suggested in the scoping report. If a likely significant effect is identified, then appropriate assessment is required to determine no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Section 3.4.2 considers the relationship of the proposed Marine Plan with relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies and notes that the National Marine Plan (NMP) for Scotland is expected to be adopted in 2014. Subject to parliamentary process, we now expect this to take place in 2015. A regional-tier of marine planning is subsequently expected to progress in Scottish Territorial Waters (0-12nm), with the NMP providing a framework for their development. In 2015, the Clyde region is among the first areas for which a regional Marine Planning Partnership will form; it will be relevant for this group to liaise with marine planners in Northern Ireland over transboundary issues.

The assessment methodology in chapter 4 proposes a two part approach – Part 1 on Individual Policy Assessment and Part 2 on Cumulative Assessment. It is noted that the

**Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW,
tel: 01738 444177, fax: 01738458611**

intention is to not use environmental objectives against which to assess the potential impacts of the plan but rather the effects of the Plan on the SA topics. It will be helpful to ensure that the environmental effects are clearly identified and that the reporting of potential adverse environmental effects is transparent and not offset by possible social or economic benefits detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal. Similarly, it will be useful to tease out the relevant SEA environmental receptors from the Ecosystem Services approach to the Cumulative Assessment of all policies/actions in the Plan area. This will help to enable the likely effects to the SEA topics to be transparently documented.

Table 8 details the Assessment Criteria and assessment of significance. We appreciate the difficulties of assessing significant effects at such a strategic level. However, it would be useful to clarify a number of the criteria. Presumably an indirect effect on a baseline feature of national importance could be significant if the outcome of the effects is adverse. Positive effects could be direct or indirect, temporary, short term or permanent.

Section 4.9 proposed a minimum 12 week consultation period, which we welcome.

Chapter 5 considers the Baseline data necessary to carry out the assessment and section 5.8.2 lists the protected sites within the Plan area. As of 24 July 2014, thirty Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been designated under the Marine (Scotland) Act and the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act. There has now also been announcements regarding four further MPA proposals, which could include mobile species (cetaceans and basking sharks), and a suite of marine draft SPAs. The links below provide more detail.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork>
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1350044.pdf>

I hope the above comments are of use to you and should you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact Chris Leakey on 01738 458661, or email chris.leakey@snh.gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely



Cathy Tilbrook
Head of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Copied to:

- sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk
- sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk
- HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Ms Catherine Fisher
DoE Marine Plan
Department of the Environment (Northern
Ireland)
Level 6 Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Direct Line: 0131 668 8575
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
Rosalind.Campbell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: AMN/23/598
Our Case ID: 201402980
Your ref: UK00050 SCOPING
03 September 2014

Dear Ms Fisher

**The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern
Ireland) 2004**
Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) - Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the scoping report prepared for the environmental assessment of the above Marine Plan for Northern Ireland received in the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 11 August 2014.

I have reviewed the scoping report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Regulations. This letter contains the views of Historic Scotland on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal (part 1), and the duration of the proposed consultation period (part 2).

1. Scope of assessment and level of detail

- 1.1 Overall the scoping report provides a clear outline of the proposed approach to the environmental assessment of this draft Marine Plan. I note the SEA will form part of a Sustainability Appraisal that will be used to inform the development of the draft plan and assess the environmental, social and economic effects arising from the Plan's implementation.
- 1.2 I note that Table 5 proposes to scope the historic environment in to the assessment and I am content to agree with this.
- 1.3 The method for assessment (ecosystems approach) appears robust and proportionate to this high level programme, I am content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental assessment.

2. Consultation period for the Environmental Report

- 2.1 I am content with the 12 week period proposed for consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal. For administrative purposes, Historic Scotland considers that the





consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Secretariat.

None of the comments contained in this letter should be construed as constituting a legal interpretation of the requirements of the SEA Regulations. They are intended rather as helpful advice, as part of Historic Scotland's commitment to capacity-building in SEA. Should you wish to discuss this response please contact me on 0131 668 8575.

Yours sincerely

Rosalind Campbell
Senior Heritage Management Officer (SEA)





By email:
marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk

Our reference: 720

15 September 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation.

The MMO has reviewed the document and whilst we have no specific comments to make we would like to draw your attention to the marine planning remit of our organisation as you may wish to be aware of this in relation to the consultation.

As the marine planning authority for England the MMO is responsible for preparing marine plans for English inshore and offshore waters. At its landward extent, a marine plan will apply up to the mean high water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers. As marine plan boundaries extend up to the level of the mean high water spring tides there will be an overlap with terrestrial plans which generally extend of mean low water springtides. At their seaward limit, marine plans in England include the UK Exclusive Economic Zone. In the North West the Offshore plan area, extends to the Isle of Man 12nm territorial sea limit.

All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the UK Marine Policy Statement unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. The Marine Policy Statement will also guide the development of Marine Plans across the UK. More information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/03/18/marine-policy-statement/>.

On 2 April 2014 the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans were published, becoming a material consideration for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and other public authorities with decision making functions. The plans were accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, details of which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/east-inshore-and-east-offshore-marine-plans>. Further information, including the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plans document, can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/marine-planning-in-england>. Marine planning in the South Plan Areas began in 2013.



If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website www.gov.uk/mmo

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Agemmill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i'.

Angela Gemmill
Relationship Manager

E stakeholder@marinemanagement.org.uk

Maguire, Mary K

Subject: FW: TRIM: RE: Scoping Report - Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - Consultation Bodies

From: Stewart, Gerard [<mailto:gerard.stewart@environment-agency.gov.uk>]

Sent: 17 September 2014 11:26

To: Marine Plan Team

Cc: Brailey, Helen; Collett, Claire; Westcott, Rob

Subject: TRIM: RE: Scoping Report - Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - Consultation Bodies

Hello

Thank you for consulting us and apologies for this late response. This is to let you know that we do not have any issues to raise with you on this consultation.

Gerard

Gerard Stewart MSc CEnv MIEMA
Senior Advisor Sustainable Places
Planning, Housing and Environmental Assessment

✉ Environment Agency, Kingsmeadow House, Kingsmeadow Road, Reading, Berks RG1 8DQ

☎ x7 25 5253 / +441189 535253 / +447919217330

gerard.stewart@environment-agency.gov.uk

From: Marine Plan Team [<mailto:marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk>]

Sent: 11 August 2014 15:35

To: Marine Plan Team; 'SEA.Gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Alasdair.McKenzie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Susan.Dean@sepa.org.uk'; 'Chris.Leakey@snh.gov.uk'; 'Charles.Wagner@english-heritage.org.uk'; Goodall, Sophie; 'Land Use Plans and Sub-national PPS:.'; 'Sue.Maisey@dh.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Stephen.Hall2@defra.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Tom.Simpson@communities.gsi.gov.uk'; 'strategic.assessment@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk'; 'Steve.Spode@wales.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Richard.Kevern@wales.gsi.gov.uk'; 'suzanne.whiting@wales.gsi.gov.uk'; SEA Team; 't.omahony@epa.ie'; 'sea.@environ.ie'; 'noel.oconnor@agriculture.gov.uk'; 'gerry.clerkin@dcmnr.gov.uk'; 'manager.dau@environ.ie'; 'Alison.Brown@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk'; 'roger.matthews@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk'

Cc: 'William.Carlin@scotland.gsi.gov.uk'; 'Cathy.Tilbrook@snh.gov.uk'; 'london@english-heritage.org.uk'; Whittle, Nicola; Collett, Claire; 'National SEA Consultations:.'; 'enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk'; Hammond, Mark; 'c.omahony@epa.ie'; 'sea@epa.ie'

Subject: SA: Scoping Report - Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - Consultation Bodies

Dear Consultee,

Please find attached a request for comments / views on the Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, prepared by Aecom on behalf of the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Marine Division.

The document is available at: http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/common_policy-marine-plan-for-northern-ireland-home/marine-plan-for-northern-ireland-sustainability-appraisal.htm

The Marine Plan Team would welcome any comments / views you may have on this report. **Comments should be submitted to the Marine Plan Team no later than 15th September 2014.**

Should you not be the person / team responsible for making comments on the report, please forward this e-mail to the correct person / team within your organisation and advise us of their contact details so we can update our records.

Kind regards,

Marine Plan Team

Marine Plan Team * DOE Marine Division * Causeway Exchange * 1-7 Bedford Street, * Town Parks,* Belfast, * BT2 7EG.

Tel: 028 90 823557 * marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk

This message has been scanned and no issues discovered.

Information in this message may be confidential and may be legally privileged. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify the sender immediately, delete it and do not copy it to anyone else.

We have checked this email and its attachments for viruses. But you should still check any attachment before opening it.

We may have to make this message and any reply to it public if asked to under the Freedom of Information Act, Data Protection Act or for litigation. Email messages and attachments sent to or from any Environment Agency address may also be accessed by someone other than the sender or recipient, for business purposes.

Date: 29 August 2014
Our ref: 128938
Your ref: N/A



DoE Marine Plan
Level 6 Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business
Park Electra
Way Crewe
Cheshire CW1
6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Fisher

RE: Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for your consultation dated 11 August 2014. The following constitutes Natural England's formal response which is aligned to the Scoping Questions published in the above report:

Question 1

Natural England agree with the environmental ambitions set out within the main objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

Question 2

We welcome the identification of the adjoining administration's marine plans in Chapter 3 but note there is no reference to the Isle of Man or Ireland's marine plans and suggest that they are also relevant. As one of the main objectives of the SA relates to renewable energy production we recommend that reference is also made to the strategic, marine renewable energy plans which cover English and Scottish waters to assess the potential for cumulative impacts on the environment.

Question 3a

Natural England broadly agrees with the overall approach taken for the SA as set out in this document. However it is noted that the 'Important Factors' associated with the Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna topic (see table 5) do not include Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species or protected species. Whilst these classifications are referred to frequently within the discussion on baseline data it might strengthen the SA if these are added as important factors underpinning this topic area.

Question 3b

The two stage approach to the SA is appropriate to ascertain the impacts of this plan in isolation but will not assess the potential benefits/impacts of the plan in combination with the other plans and programmes identified within the Scoping Report. Such a broader assessment will take place within the Habitat Regulations Assessment in relation to European designated sites but we suggest the team consider the benefits of analysing the in combination effects of the plan for other important factors within the SA as well.

We have no further comments in relation to questions 4 and 5.

For any queries relating to the content of this letter please contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Robinson
Cumbria Area Team
E-mail: jim.e.robinson@naturalengland.org.uk
Telephone: 07786 231017



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Marine Plan Team
DOE Marine Division,
Causeway Exchange,
1-7 Bedford Street,
Town Parks,
Belfast, BT2 7EG

Our ref:
Your ref:

Telephone: 07798 653897
Fax:

9th September 2014

Dear Ms Fisher,

Sustainability Appraisal – Scoping Report of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for your email of 11th August 2014, which was copied to my colleague Charles Wagner, and for the link to the *Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*.

English Heritage is the Government's advisor on all aspects of the historic environment in England. English Heritage is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and we report to the UK Parliament through the Secretary of DCMS.

The National Heritage Act 2002 gave English Heritage responsibility for maritime archaeology in the English area of the UK Territorial Sea. However, for marine planning activities that occur beyond the 12 nautical mile limit of the English area of the UK Territorial Sea, and within the UK Marine Area not subject to the responsibilities of any Devolved Administration, any advice that we do offer is given without prejudice to the aforementioned Act.

We thank you for sharing this scoping report with us.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Pater
Marine Planning Unit

cc. Charles Wagner (Head of Planning and Regeneration, English Heritage)

Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford, GU1 3EH

Telephone 01483 252057 Facsimile 01483 252001

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



Comments for the response on the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

Overall the appraisal is well written and it is a good attempt at covering the background required in order to formulate the marine spatial plan. Please see additional comments below which will hopefully support the process.

Firstly the appraisal for the Marine Plan includes the offshore region and shared waters. Westminster has the responsibility for decision-making in relation to MCZs in these waters therefore it is vital that there is good communication around the planning in this area. Who is leading on the marine plan for the offshore and shared waters?

The plan also didn't explain how it will work in the disputed waters around Carlingford and Lough Foyle so this is an important aspect of the plan.

Also there is a need for a section on Scientific Research – this includes the renewable demonstration projects in Strangford Lough such as Minesto and the growing of Kelp for biofuel for example as well as sites being used for other research.

Specific Comments are below

1.11 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment will be qualitative -This is because of lack of data. We are saying for the South plan that where data exists to do a quantitative assessment, it should be done, rather than just a blanket qualitative for everything

1.4 Should take into consideration that terrestrial activities can also have an impact on the marine area and therefore have an effect not just affected by the marine plan.

See : Marine Act Northern Ireland 2013

8 (1) A public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with any appropriate marine plan, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

(2) If a public authority takes an authorisation or enforcement decision otherwise than in accordance with any appropriate marine plan, the public authority must state its reasons.

(3) A public authority must have regard to any appropriate marine plan in taking any decision—

(a) which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the Northern Ireland inshore region, but

(b) which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision

1.8 + 4.2 – The Isle of Man should also be consulted (They are relevant to the plan even if they are not part of the EU)

2.2.5 DOE is responsible for leading the implementation of the Directive in the inshore region – who is responsible in the offshore and shared waters....?

2.3.1 Need to mention that the Marine Plan to bring about the Marine Policy Statement vision of 'clean, healthy, safe, productive & biologically diverse oceans & seas', i.e. is there to protect the environment as well.

2.3.2 The objectives could go further - It's important that these are sound and tight as the policies will come from these objectives. On initial reading, these look ok, but there is only 1 and a half 'environment' objectives (the half being climate change!). There is no mention of recovery of the environment, or protection other than in an MPA network. No mention of ecosystem services or cumulative effects. No direct mention of fisheries either. The South Plan objectives are quite good, compare with them.

2.4 As terrestrial planning in Northern Ireland will be within the remit of the new super councils will there be capacity building in order for terrestrial decision makers to understand any potential impacts of terrestrial developments on the surrounding coast and seas/ or how their area might be affected by marine developments.

3.3 In the EU section the Marine Spatial Planning Directive should also be mentioned and the Integrated Coastal Zone management (which is now not in that legislation).

3.4 NI has jurisdiction over the 'shared waters' as well

3.4.2 Should also include the Shetland Marine Spatial Plan <http://www.nafc.uhi.ac.uk/study-at-nafc/marine-science-and-technology/strategy/marine-spatial-planning>

3.5.1 LGDs – explain abbreviations as they are used

4.3 We would advocate the Marine Spatial plan follows an ecosystem lead approach rather than focussing on sustainable development. Sets the tone for the Plan as a development plan by saying this, which is not what it should be. The new EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive requires that marine plans are developed using an ecosystem approach.

4.5.1 In the South plan, there are objectives specifically about ecosystem goods and services.

4.8 – It would be useful to have a stakeholder meeting to explain the sustainability appraisal and the plan at the very beginning of the consultation process.

5.3 – Where does the 30km buffer come from? For instance, in Denmark, the Planning Act (1991) defines the landward boundary of the coastal zone as a 3 km inland from the coast, and the seaward boundary as the shoreline, but in Spain, under the Shores Act (1988), the landward is up to 200m from the inland limit of the shore.

The Northern Ireland Marine Act states:

2 (1) In this Act the “Northern Ireland inshore region” means the area of sea within the seaward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Northern Ireland, including the bed and subsoil of the sea within that area.

(2) In this Act “sea” includes—

- (a) any area submerged at mean high water spring tide,
- (b) the waters of every estuary, river or channel, so far as the tide flows at mean high water spring tide.

(3) The area of sea referred to in subsection (2)(a) includes waters in any area—

- (a) which is closed, whether permanently or intermittently, by a lock or other artificial means against the regular action of the tide, but
- (b) into which seawater is caused or permitted to flow, whether continuously or from time to time, and
- (c) from which seawater is caused or permitted to flow, whether continuously or from time to time.

Therefore the area covered should include tidal influenced rivers and their surroundings – such as the river Foyle up to Strabane for example... (as explained in 5.6)

5.71 and freshwater data

5.8.2 Remove Marine Nature Reserve as it is now an MCZ, it should also add to the list ASSI’s and and relevant SLCI’s. Protection of **Wrecks Act** (1973) in **Northern Ireland** territorial waters protecting Ship wrecks (Girona)

Table 11 – It would be useful to list the sites in geographical order around the coast so all Belfast Lough Designations together for example for clarity.

As this is for the marine spatial plan it would be useful to include a list of other marine designations in the surrounding coastal areas and waters which may be impacted by the Northern Ireland Marine Spatial Plan.

P33 In National overview mention MNRs are now defunct and Strangford Lough has become the first MCZ.

P35 Table 12 – Skerries and Causeway Coast Missing

P37 – Seagrass beds – There has been limited surveying of seagrass – in particular subtidally therefore this is a clear knowledge gap.

Also the Pisces Reef Complex SCI NI has no control over.

P38 There are two recommended MCZ (rMCZs) that occur within the Plan area that have been proposed as candidate MCZs – which Northern Ireland has no control over.

P31 Should include a list of saline lagoons such as Glynn Lagoon, Larne Lough

P41 should also include ocean acidification as well as climate change

P46 Table 14 Otter also known in Strangford Lough (especially near Quoile)

P47 Harbour Seal typo – 3rd Para Strangford Lough

P48 Omission of any reference to underwater noise impacts (although this may fit better later in its own topic), impacts from developments eg collision risk (turbines & vessels, including corkscrew injuries), displacement from foraging/breeding ground, etc.

P58 – 5.8 – Need to take into consideration noise frequencies and duration and well as levels and timing. Needs more mention of impulsive noise (part 1 of the MSFD noise descriptor), to cover the construction noise from offshore renewables, oil & gas, ports. There is potential for this to have significant impact on marine mammals and hearing sensitive fish, eg herring.

P72 A longer tourism season with more visitors and increased tourism revenues with effects to limited natural assets and infrastructure. - Not necessarily, if there is increased storminess and unusual weather events. Could also reduce tourism eg diving as visibility is reduced.

5.12/13 – Should include FLAG group formation and the proposed and potential outcomes of this funding on coastal communities.

5.13.6 – Need to include businesses requiring on material resources for tourism such as the seaweed baths in Newcastles and for agriculture such as seaweed harvesting for meat production (feed supplement) and direct and other uses such as health supplements etc...

5.14.2 Need to take into account magnetic field interference to migratory fish which may be caused by cables

5.14.4 There are other channels which are dredged for safe navigation of shipping lanes including Carlingford Lough.

5.14.6 – This should be updated to include the latest licensing round.

5.14.7 – Update that Strangford Lough has been licenced for exploration for a 30MW development in the Narrows by Siemens (who have taken over Seagen). This section should mention all the potential threats to the environment from offshore renewables. Some of these are briefly mentioned in the Biodiversity topics, but is important that they include it here as 'Key issues' for the sector for balance.

The following comments and observations are in response to the consultation on the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Overall Comments

Overall the report needs more thorough consideration of marine mammals and the threats to marine mammals in NI waters. There appears to be a poor understanding of the protection allocated to marine mammals in NI waters arising from protections granted under the EU Habitats directive and other international agreements. The same applies to marine turtles. There also needs to be better and more thorough consideration of the threats to marine mammals from anthropogenic sources both current and future.

Table 13 – basking shark

Basking sharks are a priority species for UK yet this species and consideration of the threats to it do not appear anywhere else in the scoping report. This species needs to be given greater consideration in this scoping report

5.8.6 Marine Mammals – data sources

'Atlas of the Distribution and Relative Abundance of Marine Mammals in Irish Offshore Waters 2005-2011 (IWDG 2013)' – the correct reference for this publication is **Wall et al., 2013**

The full citation is:

Wall D., Murray C., O'Brien J., Kavanagh L., Wilson C., Ryan C., Glanville B., Williams D., Enlander I., O'Connor I., McGrath D., Whooley P. and Berrow S. (2013). Atlas of the distribution and relative abundance of marine mammals in Irish offshore waters 2005 - 2011. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Merchants Quay, Kilrush, Co Clare.

Table 14 : Marine mammals regularly occurring within the Plan area

Cetacean species omitted from this list:

Humpback whales... there is data showing that this species occurs each summer at low densities off the north and east coasts of Northern Ireland, particularly in July. (IWDG 2014).

Fin whales have been recorded on occasion off the NI coast in the summer months. (Wall *et al.*, 2013).

Table 14 : Marine mammals regularly occurring within the Plan area

Long-finned pilot whale:

There is no data to indicate that long-finned pilot whales occur in Northern Irish waters other than as vagrants. Pilot whale habitat is typically deep waters beyond the shelf edge. The inclusion of this species for consideration would need to be backed up by robust data... to our knowledge no such data exist.

Bottlenose dolphin

'They are most often recorded close inshore, even entering estuaries and rivers but are rarely observed in open water.'

Does this statement refer to bottlenose dolphins in general or in UK waters? The largest population of bottlenose dolphins in European waters occurs in offshore waters over and beyond the continental shelf slopes, these are a distinct genetic grouping. In Ireland there are two distinct populations, a resident population in the Shannon Estuary and a wide ranging coastal population.

References:

Hammond, P. (2006) Small Cetaceans in the European Atlantic and North Sea (SCANS-II): Final Report. LIFE Project Number, LIFE04NAT/GB/000245, Final Report.

Hammond, P.S., Macleod, K., Gillespie, D., Swift, R. and Winship, A. (2010) Cetacean Offshore Distribution and Abundance in the European Atlantic (CODA). Sea Mammal Research Unit, Gatty Marine Laboratory, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife, KY16,2LB, UK.

Louis, M., Viricel, A., Lucas, T., Peltier, H., Alfonsi, E., Berrow, S., Brownlow, A., Covelo, P., Dabin, W., Deaville, R., De Stephanis, R., Gally F., Gauffier, P., Penrose, R., Silva, M.A., Guinet, C. and Simon-Bouhet, B. (2014) Habitat-driven population structure of bottlenose dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus*, in the North-East Atlantic. *Molecular Ecology* (2014) 23, 857–874.

Common dolphin

'Although known to be common in deep water, this species is most frequently sighted in Northern Ireland off headlands...'

The bulk of common dolphins occur over shallow (<200m) shelf waters but they also occur in deeper waters beyond the shelf. They occur seasonally in the Irish Sea during the summer months.

Common dolphin

'The Common Dolphin is not protected under the EC Habitats Directive'

All cetacean species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.

Risso's dolphin

'Risso's Dolphin is sighted regularly all year long around the Irish coast. They generally prefer deep offshore water ...'

In UK & Irish waters Risso's Dolphins are most abundant over shelf waters and in coastal waters, particularly of the SW and SE coast of Ireland, around the Isle of Man and between Wexford and Pembrokeshire in the South Irish sea. They may use deeper waters of the continental shelf slope and offshore banks on a seasonal basis.

References:

Jefferson, T. A., Weir, C. R., Anderson, R. C., Ballance, L. T., Kenney, R. D., & Kiszka, J. J. (2014). Global distribution of Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*: a review and critical evaluation. *Mammal Review*, 44(1), 56-68.

Wall D., Murray C., O'Brien J., Kavanagh L., Wilson C., Ryan C., Glanville B., Williams D., Enlander I., O'Connor I., McGrath D., Whooley P. and Berrow S. (2013). Atlas of the distribution and relative abundance of marine mammals in Irish offshore waters 2005 - 2011. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Merchants Quay, Kilrush, Co Clare.

Risso's dolphin
<p><i>'Risso's Dolphin is not protected under the EC Habitats Directive'</i></p> <p>All cetacean species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.</p>
Killer whales
<p><i>'The biggest concentrations of Killer Whales occur over the continental shelf. These are nomadic species in their distribution and have been known to hunt inshore and up rivers following salmon runs.'</i></p> <p>The vast majority of NI sightings relate to the 'west coast' killer whale community which numbers just 10 animals. These killer whales feed predominantly on seals but also on fish.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Beck S., Foote A.D., Kotter S., Harries O., Mandleberg L., Stevick P.T., Whooley P. and Durban J.W. (2014) Using opportunistic photo-identifications to detect a population decline of killer whales (<i>Orcinus orca</i>) in British and Irish waters. <i>Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom</i>. doi:10.1017/S0025315413001124</p> <p>Foote A.D., Simila T., Vi'kingsson G.A. and Stevick P.T. (2010) Movement, site fidelity and connectivity in a top marine predator, the killer whale. <i>Evolutionary Ecology</i> 24, 803–814.</p> <p>Foote AD, Newton J, Piertney SB, Willerslev E, Gilbert MTP (2009) Ecological, morphological and genetic divergence of sympatric North Atlantic killer whale populations. <i>Molecular Ecology</i>, 18, 5207–5217</p>
Killer whales
<p><i>'Killer Whales are not protected under the EC Habitats Directive'</i></p> <p>All cetacean species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.</p>
Pilot whale
<p>There is no data to indicate that long-finned pilot whales occur in Northern Irish waters other than as vagrants. Pilot whale habitat is typically deep waters beyond the shelf edge. The inclusion of this species for consideration would need to be backed up by robust data... to our knowledge no such data exist.</p>

Pilot whale
<p><i>'Pilot whales are not protected under the EC Habitats Directive'</i></p> <p>All cetacean species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.</p>

Baleen whales
<p><i>'Humpback Whales and Sei Whales have also been observed in Northern Ireland waters, but are not frequently sighted'.</i></p> <p>Humpback whales... there is data showing that this species occurs each summer at low densities off the north and east coasts of Northern Ireland, particularly in July. (IWDG 2014).</p> <p>Fin whales have also been recorded on occasion off the NI coast in the summer months. (Wall et al., 2013)</p> <p>Sei whales have been recorded on two occasions just prior to stranding but are not known to occur regularly in Northern Irish waters (IWDG 2014).</p>

Baleen whales
<p><i>'None of the baleen whales are protected under the EC Habitats Directive''</i></p> <p>All cetacean species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.</p>

Otters
<p>It is worth noting that both riparian and coastal habitats support otters, as do coastal islands. Otters live at far higher densities in coastal habitats than riparian habitats, predominantly due to a high abundance of food in coastal habitats. Otters require consideration in a coastal context as significant numbers may be present on the Northern Irish coast.</p>

Marine turtles

'Turtles are not protected in Northern Ireland waters...'

All marine turtle species are listed as protected under Annexe IV of the Habitats Directive requiring strict protection within the EEZ of member nations. SAC's are required to be designated for species in Annexe II... including Harbour Porpoise & Bottlenose Dolphin.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Noise

There is a very significant existing link between marine mammals and marine noise. Noise pollution impacts on every facet of marine mammal ecology and has the ability to cause direct physical harm, transient physical harm and long term chronic effects due to changes in behaviour, impacts on communication and stress. Seismic surveys and mid frequency active sonar (of the sort commonly used in NATO exercises in waters off the Northern Irish coast, are of particular concern.

References:

OSPAR (2008) Draft assessment of the environmental impact of underwater noise. Biodiversity Series.

Horowitz, C. and Jasny, M. (2007) Precautionary Management of Noise: Lessons from the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*, 10:3, 225 — 232

AEI (2008) Ocean Noise 2008: Science, Policy, Legal Developments. AEI Special Report, Acoustic Ecology Institute, 45 Cougar Canyon Santa Fe NM 87508, USA ... (a useful review of some recent research into the effects of noise on marine mammals).

Nowacek, D.P., Thorne, L.H., Johnston, D.W. and Tyack, P.L., 2007. Responses of cetaceans to anthropogenic noise. *Mammal Review* 37(2): 81–115

Weilgart, L., 2007. The impacts of anthropogenic ocean noise on cetaceans and implications for management. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 85: 1091–1116

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Water quality

Marine mammals are subject to the effects of deteriorating water quality and water pollutants. As a marine apex predator, cetaceans build up and store toxins absorbed through their prey, thus they may be subject to the effects of toxins at concentrations higher than are present in the surrounding water. Such pollutants can have chronic effects on both individuals and populations.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Bathymetry / Hydrography

The distribution and abundance of marine mammals is often defined by bathymetry and hydrography. This is linked to species specific adaptations to specific habitats e.g. deep diving vs continental shelf species and the how bathymetry and hydrography affects the availability of preferred prey species.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Climate Factors

Far from being an abstract concept, global warming may have very real effects on marine mammal species around our coasts with some become rarer while others increase. As apex marine predators, changes in cetacean species ranges will have unknown knock on effects on the marine ecosystems which they are part of. In some cases, such as for white-beaked dolphins, the potential changes resulting from global warming may have significant and direct impacts on their long term conservation status.

Reference:

Lambert, E., Pierce, G. J., Hall, K., Brereton, T., Dunn, T. E., Wall, D., Jepson, P.D., Deaville, R. & MacLeod, C. D. (2014). Cetacean range and climate in the eastern North Atlantic: future predictions and implications for conservation. *Global change biology*, 20(6), 1782-1793.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Commercial Fisheries

Marine mammals are impacted by commercial fisheries both directly and indirectly. The most significant direct impact is bycatch, with significant numbers of marine mammals being bycaught in commercial fisheries annually. In some cases this can lead to population decline. Other direct impacts include noise pollution and waste plastics, fishing gear and other pollutants discarded by fishing fleets. Indirect impacts stem from the impacts of overfishing on marine mammal populations as well as habitat destruction by commercial trawling.

Reference:

Nellemann, C., Hain, S., and Alder, J. (Eds). February 2008. In *Dead Water – Merging of climate change with pollution, over-harvest, and infestations in the world's fishing grounds*. United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, Norway, www.grida.no

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Aquaculture

Marine mammals are impacted by the presence of aquaculture in coastal areas. This may range from habitat exclusion and pollution caused by aquaculture to problems created by the interaction (predation) of marine mammals on farmed fish. Seals are the marine mammal species most typically involved although habitat exclusion and pollution may also affect coastal cetacean species.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Ports, shipping, navigation, dredging and disposal

Dredging and disposal of dredging material can have a direct impact on marine mammals in terms of risk of physical injury from dredging machinery, dredge spoil dumping and/or noise emanating from both processes. Indirect impacts can arise from displacement of marine mammals from preferred habitat by physical or noise disturbance from dredging and dumping activities.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Military activity

Military activities may have direct and indirect effects on marine mammals. Direct physical harm may arise from at-sea weapons firing/explosions and from use of very loud sound sources (e.g. mid-frequency active sonar). Mid frequency active sonar is thought to cause some deep diving species to surface too rapidly, resulting in decompression sickness and death. Mid frequency active sonar is also thought to result in avoidance behaviour by marine mammals and has been linked to strandings of non-deep diving cetaceans.

References:

- Dolman, S.J., Parsons, E.C.M. and Wright, A.J. (2011) Cetaceans and military sonar: A need for better management. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 63 (2011) 1–4.
- Dolman, S.J., Evans, P.G.H., Notarbartolo-di-Sciara, G. and Frisch, H. (2011) Active sonar, beaked whales and European regional policy. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 63 (2011) 27–34.
- Evans, P.G.H and and Miller, L.A (Eds) (2003) *Proceedings of the Workshop on Active Sonar and Cetaceans*. Proceedings of the Workshop on Active Sonar and Cetaceans, European Cetacean Society's 17th Annual Conference, Gran Canaria, March 2003.

Appendix C - Marine Aggregate Extraction

Extraction of marine aggregates can have a direct impact on marine mammals in terms of risk of physical injury from machinery and/or noise emanating from extraction processes. Indirect impacts can arise from displacement of marine mammals from preferred habitat by physical or noise disturbance from extraction activities.

Appendix C - Underground Offshore Energy Storage

Disturbance and potential injury to marine mammals may occur during marine geophysical surveys which accompany this type of development.

Appendix C - Petroleum Exploration Licensing

Noise pollution impacts on every facet of marine mammal ecology and has the ability to cause direct physical harm, transient physical harm, and short-term or chronic effects due to changes in behaviour, impacts on communication and stress. Marine seismic and geophysical surveys have been shown to cause disruption to communication, alteration of diving behaviour and avoidance behaviour in marine mammals. The cumulative impact of multiple marine seismic surveys may result in the desensitisation of large areas of ocean over many weeks or months, with potential chronic effects on cetacean populations.

Direct impacts may also result from oil spills, as was seen in the recent Deepwater Horizon spill where thousands of marine mammals were affected.

References:

J. Gedamke, Gales, N. and Frydman, S. (2011) Assessing risk of baleen whale hearing loss from seismic surveys: The effect of uncertainty and individual variation.

J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 129 (1) Thompson, P.M., Brookes, K.L., Graham, I.M., Barton, T.R., Needham, K., Bradbury, G. and Merchant, N.D. (2013) Short-term disturbance by a commercial two-dimensional seismic survey does not lead to long-term displacement of harbour porpoises. *Proceeding of the Royal Society B* 280: 20132001

Stone, C. J., and Tasker, M. L. (2006) The effects of seismic airguns on cetaceans in UK waters. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*, 8(3), 255. Clark, C. W., & Gagnon, G. C. (2006) Considering the temporal and spatial scales of noise exposures from seismic surveys on baleen whales. *IWC/SC/58 E*, 9.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Recreation and Tourism

Both positive and negative interactions may exist between marine mammals and marine recreation and tourism. Positive effects arise from the positive influence on marine tourism and recreation that marine mammals have in terms of whale-watching and the general enjoyment arising from seeing marine mammals in the wild. This can result in direct economic benefits to local whale-watch and eco-tour operators and resulting knock on benefits to the local tourism services sector (e.g. accommodation providers, food outlets, shops, bars etc.).

Negative impacts on marine mammals may also occur from marine recreation and tourism. Unregulated boat-based whale-watching may cause disturbance to marine mammals and the recreational use of water craft may result in direct physical injury to marine mammals or disturbance and/or habitat displacement due to physical presence of vessels and/or increased noise levels.

References:

Arcangeli, A. and Crosti, R., 2009. Short term impact of dolphin watching on the behaviour of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in western Australia. *Journal of Marine Animals and their Ecology* 2(1): 1–7.

Christiansen, F., Lusseau, D., Stensland, E. and Berggren, P., 2010. Effects of tourist boats on the behaviour of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins off the south coast of Zanzibar. *Endangered Species Research* 11: 91–99.

Holt, M.M., Noren, D.P., Veirs, V., Emmons, C.K. and Veirs, S., 2008. Speaking up: Killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) increase their call amplitude in response to vessel noise. *JASA Express Letters* 125(1): EL27–EL32.

Pirotta, E., Milor, R., Quick, N., Moretti, D., Di Marzo, N., Tyack, P., Boyd, I. and Hastie, G., 2012. Vessel noise affects beaked whale behaviour: Results of a dedicated acoustic response study. *Plos One* 7(8): e42535.

Williams, R., Bain, D.E., Ford, J.K.B. and Trites, A.W., 2002. Behavioural responses of male killer whales to a leapfrogging vessel. *Journal of Cetacean Research Management* 4(3): 305–310.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Industrial Discharges

Marine mammals are subject to the effects of deteriorating water quality and water pollutants. As a marine apex predator, cetaceans build up and store toxins absorbed through their prey, thus they may be subject to the effects of toxins at concentrations higher than are present in the surrounding water. Such pollutants can have chronic effects on both individuals and populations.

Appendix C - Marine Mammals & Offshore Renewable Energy

Noise pollution impacts on every facet of marine mammal ecology and has the ability to cause direct physical harm, transient physical harm and long term chronic effects due to changes in behaviour, impacts on communication and stress. Very high noise levels result from marine geophysical surveys which precede wind farm and tidal power developments. Very high noise levels also occur during the construction phase, primarily due to pile driving activities. New research also suggests that long-term habitat exclusion for some cetaceans can result from the development of wind farms, while other species (e.g. seals) may use wind turbines as a foraging opportunity. Tidal energy turbines also present a direct threat of physical injury to marine mammals.

References:

- Teilmann, J. and Carstensen, J. (2012) Negative long term effects on harbour porpoises from a large scale offshore wind farm in the Baltic—evidence of slow recovery. *Environmental Research Letters* 7.
- Dähne, M., Gilles, A., Lucke, K., Peschko, V., Adler, S., Krügel, K., Sundermeyer, J. & Siebert, U. (2013) Effects of pile-driving on harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) at the first offshore wind farm in Germany. *Environmental Research Letters*, 8(2), 025002.
- Evans P.G.H. (Ed) (2008) Offshore wind farms and marine mammals: impacts and methodologies for assessing impacts. ECS Special Publication Series No. 49.

Compiled by: Dave Wall & Suzanne Beck

Position: Ship Surveys Officer / Northern Ireland Officer

Date: 15/09/2014

Maguire, Mary K

From: Marine Plan Team <marineplanteam@doeni.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 September 2014 16:20
To: Maguire, Mary K
Subject: FW: Subsea cables and SCUK

Mary

Response from Subsea cables UK.

Valerie

From: Peter Barham [<mailto:liaisonofficer@subseacablesuk.org.uk>]
Sent: 23 September 2014 14:20
To: Marine Plan Team
Subject: Subsea cables and SCUK

Dear Sir

I am writing to follow up on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the NI Marine Plan you circulated to one of my colleagues recently.

We acknowledge that this was not a full consultation, but we appreciate that you circulated the document for comment.

We can see that cables are being considered and we are grateful for that - please look at our website for more information.

<http://www.subseacablesuk.org.uk>

As Liaison Officer for SCUK, I would be grateful if you could include me in on any further communication about the Plan and I will keep SCUK members up to date with progress.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Barham
Liaison Officer
Subsea Cable UK



Tel. 01780 450931

liaisonofficer@subseacablesuk.org.uk