



# Statement of Public Participation

## Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

April 2018



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



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Front cover image - Tourism NI

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## What is a Statement of Public Participation?

1. DAERA<sup>1</sup> as the Marine Plan Authority for Northern Ireland, is preparing the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (the Marine Plan).
2. The Marine Plan will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the Northern Ireland marine area.
3. The Statement of Public Participation<sup>2</sup> (SPP) sets out how and when stakeholders can be involved in the plan making process. The SPP provides transparency for stakeholders and explains what we will do with the views and opinions expressed during the consultation on the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

## Why are we publishing this Revised Statement of Public Participation?

4. The SPP was originally published in 2012 and marked the beginning of the marine planning process in Northern Ireland. It was reviewed in 2013 and 2015, as development of the Marine Plan progressed. The timetable for publication of the Marine Plan has changed and in order to keep stakeholders informed of progress, we have decided that another review of the SPP is necessary.
5. The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (and its associated documents<sup>3</sup>) has been drafted, and a revised timetable produced. This will inform stakeholders of the next few stages of the process and when they can engage.

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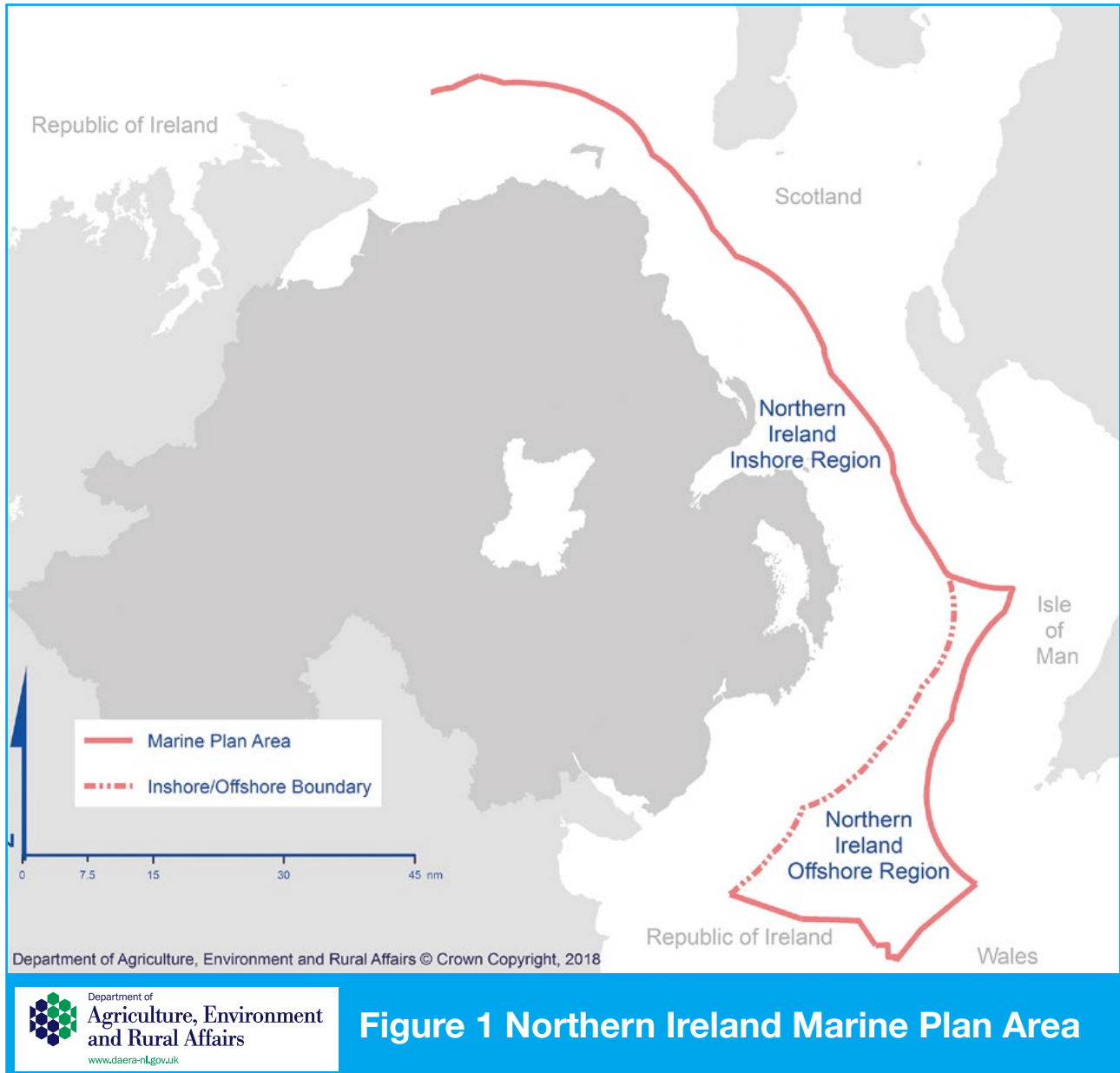
<sup>1</sup> The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> The Statement of Public Participation (SPP) is a requirement under both the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013.

<sup>3</sup> The Marine Plan is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal, which also incorporates a Strategic Environmental Assessment, a Habitats Regulations Assessment, an Equality and Human Rights Impact Screening exercise, a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment and a Rural Proofing Assessment.

## Where is the Northern Ireland Marine Plan Area?

- The Northern Ireland Marine Plan area, which comprises both inshore and offshore regions, abuts the marine areas of Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland, as shown in Figure 1, below.



## Who is a stakeholder? Who will we engage with?

7. This document is for anyone or any group likely to be interested in or affected by, policies or proposals to be contained in the Marine Plan. This will involve a wide variety of people, including those who live or work near the sea, those who derive their livelihood from the sea, as well as those who enjoy it, care about it or manage it in some way. It will include industry groups, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Local Councils, Statutory partners and other government bodies, bordering Administrations, the general public, local communities and local interest groups. By taking part in this plan making process you can influence the decisions being made on the Marine Plan.

## How do we intend to engage?

8. There will be a public consultation on the Marine Plan. The DAERA Marine Plan team is committed to reaching a wide range of stakeholders. We plan to deliver information through our website<sup>4</sup>, newsletter and via email.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-plan-northern-ireland>

# Our Principles of Engagement

## We will:

- involve people early on and encourage as high a level of participation as possible, throughout the plan preparation process;
- engage with interested persons and organisations at the appropriate time, employing effective engagement methods and allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation;
- undertake stakeholder engagement in an open and transparent manner;
- be clear in the purpose of any engagement, and provide easily understood information and feedback to help people participate;
- seek, wherever possible, to combine stakeholder engagement on the plan with other related issues, in order to maximise use of marine stakeholder time;
- respect the diversity of people and their lifestyles and give people a fair opportunity to have their voice heard, regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, sexual orientation, community background, circumstances or wherever they live;
- be consistent in the approach to public participation and make documents publicly available on our website<sup>5</sup>, including availability in alternative formats where appropriate; and communicate clearly.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-plan-northern-ireland>

## Get Involved

9. If you would like to get involved in the Marine Plan process, the DAERA Marine Plan Team can be contacted via:

- email: [marineplanteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:marineplanteam@daera-ni.gov.uk)
- telephone: 028 9056 9262
- or, in writing at: Marine Plan Team  
Marine & Fisheries Division  
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs  
1st Floor, Klondyke Building  
Cromac Avenue  
Malone Lower  
Belfast  
BT7 2JA

## Engagement Timetable

The table below sets out the stages of preparation for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland and includes a number of key opportunities for stakeholder engagement. It should be noted that timings may be subject to change, as plan making is an iterative process.

STAGE OF PLAN PREPARATION	ACTIVITY	METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT	ESTIMATED TIMING
<b>STAGE 1 Initiation and Early stakeholder engagement</b>			
Initiation and early stakeholder engagement.	Informal meetings and discussions with key stakeholders.	Meetings and emails.	February - March 2012: Complete.
Introduction to marine planning in Northern Ireland.	Publication of the draft Statement of Public Participation (SPP).	Workshop and emails.	March 2012: Complete.
Consultation on Draft SPP.	Consultation on the draft SPP.	Emails and meetings.	March - June 2012: Complete.
Launch of Marine Plan process	Publication of SPP	Conference and workshop	June 2012: Complete
<b>STAGE 2 Evidence gathering, scoping and plan preparation</b>			
Plan Preparation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence gathering;</li> <li>• Development of Vision and Objectives.</li> <li>• Consideration of Options and Alternatives.</li> </ul>	Preparation and iteration of Marine Plan.  Evidence gathering through emails, newsletters, key stakeholder workshops, public events, school events and website.  Preparation of draft documents including Vision and Objectives and consideration of Options and Alternatives.	Workshops, emails, newsletters. Website and presentations.  Key stakeholder workshops, public events, school events, meetings, emails, newsletters, and website.  Stakeholder engagement at key stages through workshops, emails and newsletter.	2012 - 2014: Complete.
Development of Draft Marine Plan.	Continued preparation and iteration of Marine Plan.	Meetings, emails and newsletters. Websites and presentations.	2014-2017: Complete.



STAGE OF PLAN PREPARATION	ACTIVITY	METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT	ESTIMATED TIMING
<b>STAGE 3 Consultation and Review</b>			
Consultation on Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.	Publication of and consultation on Marine Plan, Mapviewer, SA Report, HRA and other assessments.	Website, emails and newsletter.	Commenced by 31 March 2018.
Consideration of representations and review of Marine Plan.	DAERA to consider representations and determine if changes are required to the Marine Plan.	Engage with stakeholders to clarify responses (where necessary).	Timing dependent on responses from Public Consultation.
Independent Investigation.	DAERA to consider if Independent Investigation is required for any unresolved issues after the consultation on the Marine Plan.	Engagement to be determined.	Up to 6 months, if required.
<b>STAGE 4 Publication of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</b>			
Publication and adoption.	Publication and adoption of the Marine Plan in final form.	Stakeholders notified.	March 2020.



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