

# Stakeholder Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

**This newsletter provides you with an update on the progress of the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, map-viewer, engagement with stakeholders and reporting to the NI Assembly.**

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## Marine Plan Update

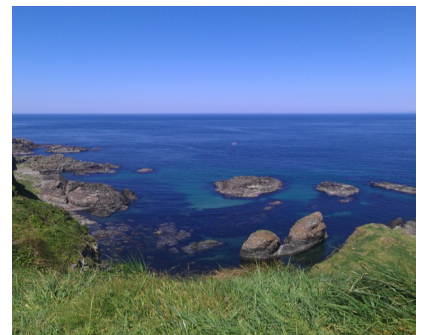
Following a period of engagement with both Northern Ireland and UK Departments and Agencies, the latest version of the draft Marine Plan has been forwarded to consultants (AECOM Ltd) to carry out the Sustainability Appraisal. The formal approval process for the public consultation on the draft Marine Plan can only proceed on receipt of a favourable outcome from the sustainability appraisal.

Work has progressed well on the other impact assessments and screening processes, including rural proofing, equality impact screening exercise, partial regulatory impact assessment and the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Consideration is currently being given to how we will engage with stakeholders during the period of public consultation. Subject to securing the relevant approvals from the Northern Ireland Executive and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; we intend to consult on the draft Marine Plan before the end of March 2016.

## Map-viewer

A publicly accessible map-viewer is currently under development. This will provide information to proposers and stakeholders, and will assist public authorities in their decision-making process. This online facility, which will display a comprehensive set of spatial data relevant to the Northern Ireland marine area, will be available for the draft Marine Plan consultation and will continue to be updated as and when new evidence becomes available.





## Marine Plan Vision

*“A healthy marine  
area which is  
managed  
sustainably for the  
economic,  
environmental  
and social  
prosperity of  
present and future  
generations.”*

## Recent Engagement with Stakeholders

The Marine Plan team along with the Marine Licensing team are continuing to be involved in a series of events to planners within District Councils. These events have enabled the Marine Plan Team to inform planners, within district councils, of their obligations with respect to marine planning in making decisions on planning applications and enforcement action and in taking forward community and local development plans.

## Reporting Progress to the NI Assembly

A report setting out the progress of the Marine Plan process in Northern Ireland, covering the period 2009 to 2015 was published in October. It was laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly in fulfilment of a reporting requirement of the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013. The report is available at

<https://www.doeni.gov.uk/publications/>



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