



Department of the
Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk

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Your reference:

Our reference:

October 2013

Dear Consultee

**Draft guidance on selection and designation of
Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Northern Ireland inshore region.**

The Department of Environment is undertaking a public consultation on 'draft guidance on selection and designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in the Northern Ireland inshore region'.

The draft guidance sets out the Department's proposed approach to the selection and designation of MCZs in the Northern Ireland inshore region (out to 12nm). While the guidance material will not be statutory, the Department will follow these procedures when designating sites.

The Marine Division is holding a Stakeholder workshop on 7 November 2013 at the Pavilion, Stormont and this will give the Department an opportunity to discuss the draft guidance with marine stakeholders. Further details on this workshop will be sent to you separately.

The consultation period closes on **31 January 2014** and we welcome your views and comments on the draft guidance.

Responses to this consultation can be sent by post or e-mail to Gerardine McEvoy as detailed below:

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Tel: 028 9025 4733
E-mail: MCZguidance@doeni.gov.uk.

The full consultation paper can be viewed electronically at:
www.doeni.gov.uk/ (Click on Consultations).

It is important to note that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely the Department in this case. The right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. It is in the interests of all respondents to familiarise themselves with the information contained in Annex B of the consultation document.

The document may be made available in alternative formats. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. Information and additional copies of the draft guidance consultation can be requested by **Text phone 028 9054 0642**.

Yours sincerely,



KEN BRADLEY