

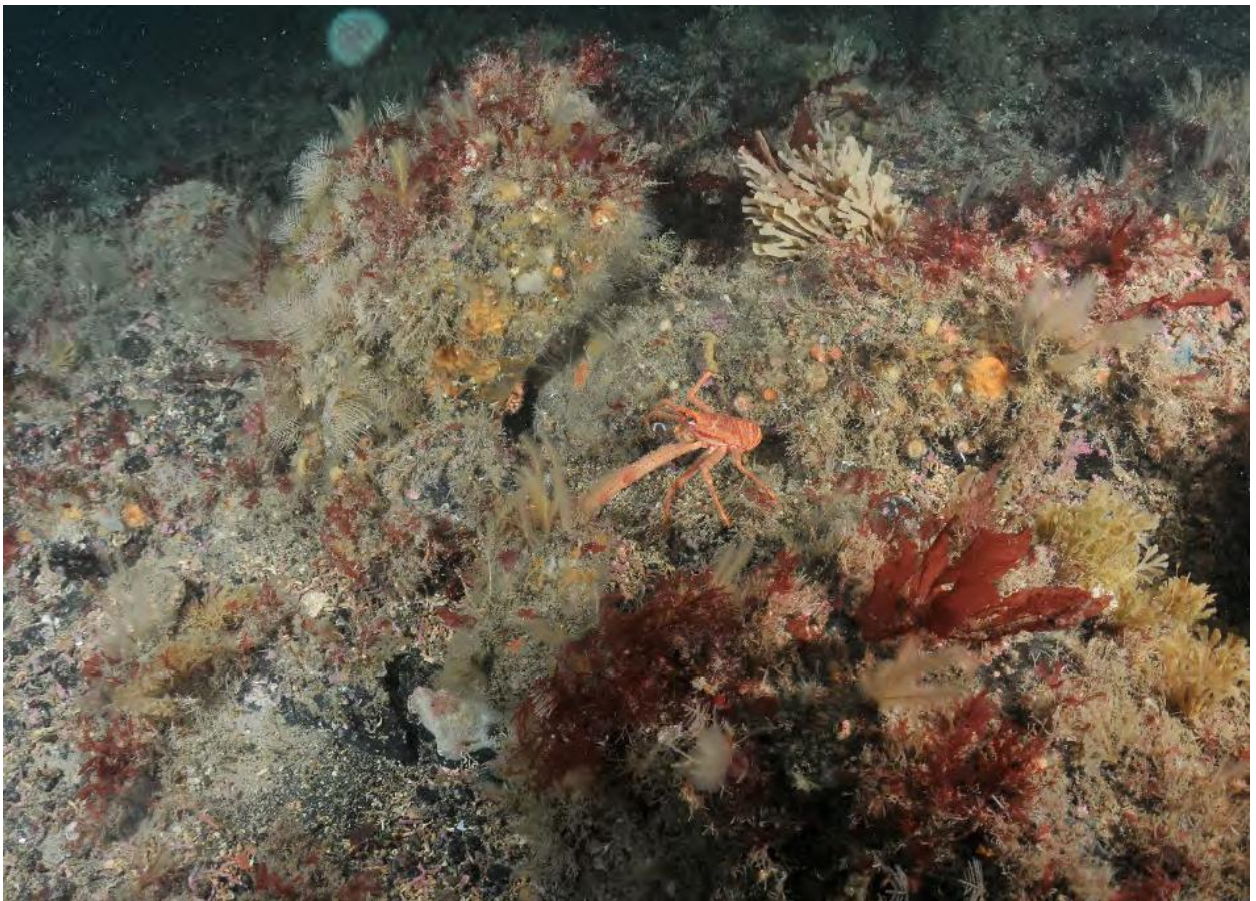


Department of the  
**Environment**

[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

# **A draft Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region**

**A Consultation Document**



**May 2013**

**Front cover photograph is from Rathlin – East coast maerl bed, boulders with bryozoans (*Securiflustra secuifons*), hydroids and the squat lobster (*Munida rugosa*). Provided by the Department of the Environment, Marine Division.**

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## HOW TO RESPOND

### Responding to this consultation

The Department welcomes comments on the content of the draft Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region. If you wish to respond to this consultation, please be sure to clearly indicate in your response the parts of the consultation paper you are responding to as this will aid our analysis of the responses received.

### Response method

Responses can be sent either by e-mail or post.

E-mail: [marineprotectionstrategy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marineprotectionstrategy@doeni.gov.uk)

Post:

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Department of the Environment  
Environmental Policy Division  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Goodwood House  
44 – 58 May Street  
Town Parks  
Belfast  
BT1 4NN

You are invited to respond to this consultation by no later than 30 September 2013.

Should you have any enquiries please send them to  
[marineprotectionstrategy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:marineprotectionstrategy@doeni.gov.uk)

or call on **02890 254736**

An electronic copy of the consultation document can be obtained if required by using the contact details above, or are also available on the Department's website at  
[www.doeni.gov.uk/](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/)

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

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultation responses**

The Department of the Environment (the Department) may wish to publish responses to the consultation document. It will certainly publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation exercise. In addition, your response may be disclosed on request.

The Department is only able to refuse disclosure in very particular circumstances. Therefore, you are advised to read the information at **Annex B** before sending a response to this consultation document. It provides guidance on the legal position of any information given by you.

Should you require further information about the confidentiality of responses, please contact:

Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland

51 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FE

Telephone number: 028 9026 9380

Fax: 028 9026 9388

Alternatively, your request can be sent electronically to [ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

Information can also be accessed at:

[www.ico.gov.uk/about\\_us/regional\\_offices/northern\\_ireland.aspx](http://www.ico.gov.uk/about_us/regional_offices/northern_ireland.aspx)

### **What happens next?**

Following the close of the consultation on **30<sup>th</sup> September 2013** all responses will be considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach decisions on the development of A Strategy for Marine Protection in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Background

- 1.1 Northern Ireland's seas support around half of our wildlife, including many threatened marine animal and plant species, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.
- 1.2 Marine biodiversity is a term used to describe the variety of life found in the marine environment including plants, animals and microorganisms. When we talk of marine biodiversity we are considering everything, from bacteria to basking sharks. Our marine biodiversity is important for sustaining healthy marine ecosystems as each individual organism has an environmental role on which other species depend. Consequently, it is important to preserve marine biodiversity to sustain a healthy and productive marine environment. Marine biodiversity also has intrinsic value.
- 1.3 The marine environment has a significant value to society, through the goods and services it provides. It is essential for the maintenance of the social and economic wellbeing of our society.
- 1.4 The marine environment is important because it:
  - provides habitats which are essential breeding and nursery spaces for plants and animals, including commercially important species;
  - provides us with a range of food, from fish and shellfish to seaweed;
  - provides raw materials used in a range of products including foods, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and fertilisers;
  - gives opportunities for leisure and recreational activities, such as sea angling, sailing, rock pooling, recreational diving, watching birds and other wildlife;
  - is a significant driver of tourism, which has consequent economic benefits;
  - creates opportunities for employment and contributes to the Northern Ireland economy;
  - can help protect coastal communities as habitats such as sand dunes, reefs and coastal wetlands (e.g. saltmarshes) act as a barrier to dampen the effect of sea swell caused by storms;
  - is involved in the cycling, maintenance and availability of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrient cycling encourages productivity in the marine environment and organisms living within the water column and on the seabed are known to be important contributors to this process;
  - helps to balance and maintain the earth's climate, and adapt to climate change. A considerable proportion of human produced carbon dioxide is

taken up by the sea, particularly phytoplankton. Without such processes, it would be harder for us to cope with increasing carbon emissions;

- helps to breakdown waste products such as sewage effluent which enter the marine environment;
  - helps to ensure a resilient and resistant ecosystem – that is, an ecosystem which can withstand disturbances from some natural and human activities and recover from damage;
  - gives opportunities for human development, including education and research;
  - provides ecological linkages with many other parts of our planet e.g. land, rivers and the atmosphere.
- 1.5 Currently less than 1% of the world's oceans are fully protected from all damaging activities through various protective mechanisms while in Northern Ireland, approximately 14% of our waters are afforded some protection based on a network of protected areas. However, it is also recognised that there are other measures and types of designations which offer protection in our marine environment.
- 1.6 National and International legislation requires that more is done to protect marine biodiversity. Rare plants and animals are under threat and commercially important fish and shellfish species are in decline.
- 1.7 This draft Strategy explains Northern Ireland's approach to inshore marine nature conservation and how this contributes to national priorities and shared aims with other countries in the UK and elsewhere.

## **Purpose**

- 1.8 One of the ways of protecting our marine environment is through networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The key purpose of this strategy is to set out how we intend to use MPAs as one of the tools available to us to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations ( See (Section 3 Paragraph 3.1) for further details).
- 1.9 A 'protected area' is defined by the International Union for Conservation (IUCN)<sup>1</sup> as:

'A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.'

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<sup>1</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature – Dudley, N (Editor) (2008) Guideline for applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland, p8.

- 1.10 Whilst the primary aim of the network will be nature conservation of sensitive and ecologically important species and habitats rather than the protection or restoration of commercial stocks, MPAs are likely to benefit exploited stocks, particularly where these include areas important for reproduction such as spawning and nursery grounds.
- 1.11 The Department is committed to the development of an ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs both at Northern Ireland level and as a UK contribution to the wider OSPAR network. A statement<sup>2</sup> agreed with all administrations has been produced to explain what this means in the UK.
- 1.12 Such a network ensures that biodiversity, including those species and habitats which would decline without protection, is safeguarded. This will help maintain the full functional range of our marine communities and the health of our marine ecosystems. MPAs also have a vital role to play in enabling marine species to adapt to changing climatic conditions<sup>3</sup> by ensuring habitats are conserved to allow species to move within their ranges as changes occur.
- 1.13 The success of a MPA network will depend on many factors including its location, size, level of protection and most importantly, the biology of the species living there.
- 1.14 We currently have five types of MPAs:
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats of European importance, such as reefs and sandbanks;
  - Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for seabirds of European importance, such as Guillemot and Common Tern;
  - Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) for nationally important habitats and species such as mudflats and common seals;
  - Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) for nationally important habitats and species; and
  - Ramsar sites for wetlands.
- 1.15 A new type of MPA, called a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), will be designated under the Northern Ireland Marine Bill<sup>4</sup> (draft Marine Bill) to protect rare, threatened or nationally important marine habitats, species and geological features. Along with the existing European marine sites designated under the EC Wild Birds and Habitats Directives<sup>5</sup> (SPAs and SACs) and other MPAs mentioned above, MCZs will assist in achieving an ecologically coherent network.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/documents/protected/mpa-network-joint-admin-statement-201212.pdf>

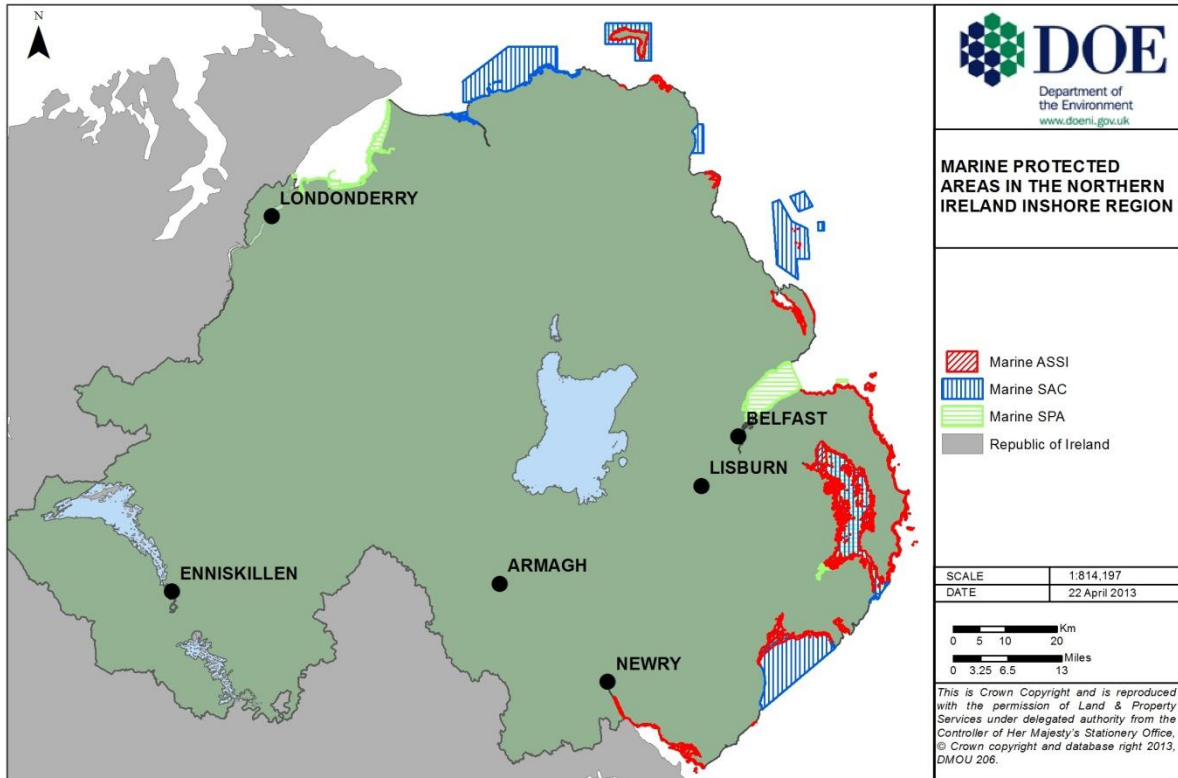
<sup>3</sup> Climate Change Commission Adaptation Sub – Group Report on Natural Environment

<sup>4</sup> Northern Ireland Marine Bill : [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/marine\\_bill\\_\\_as\\_introduced\\_.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/marine_bill__as_introduced_.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)



## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND INSHORE REGION



### Scope

- 1.16 The Northern Ireland marine area comprises the “inshore” and “offshore” regions<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.17 The “inshore region” is the area of sea within the seaward limits of the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Northern Ireland, i.e. out to 12 nautical miles, including the bed and subsoil of the sea within that area. This area includes parts of the Irish Sea and Atlantic Ocean and areas within the intertidal zone, that is, the area up to the Mean High Water Mark (MHW).
- 1.18 The “offshore region” is the area from the 12 nautical mile mark to the boundary of the Northern Ireland zone<sup>7</sup>. This is an area of the Irish Sea west and south of the Isle of Man territorial waters.

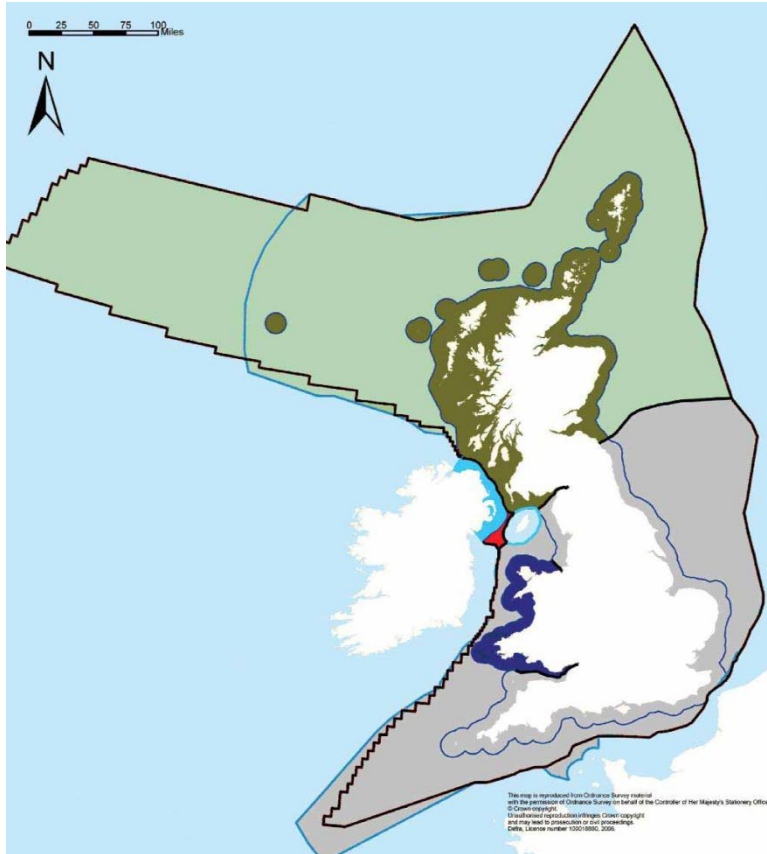
<sup>6</sup> as defined at section 322 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c.23)



<sup>7</sup> The Northern Ireland zone has the same meaning as in Section 98(1) and (8) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c.47)

1.19 Northern Ireland's waters, therefore, abut those of Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland.

1.20 This Strategy relates only to the "inshore region".

### UK MARINE AREA – INSHORE AND OFFSHORE REGIONS



Key to Northern Ireland Marine Area	
	Northern Ireland inshore region
	Northern Ireland offshore region

<b>Responsibility for the Northern Ireland Marine Area</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Marine Function</b>
Department of the Environment (DOE) Marine Division	Inshore  Inshore & offshore	Nature Conservation: Designation and monitoring of ASSIs, SACs, SPAs and MCZs; Marine Assessment and Licensing responsibilities; Marine Policy and Legislation Developing Marine Plan
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Fisheries Division	Inshore & offshore	Fisheries and Aquaculture policy Aquaculture licence Enforcement of fisheries legislation Administer fisheries grant schemes Oversight of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC)
Department for Regional Development (DRD)	Inshore	Ports and Harbour policy and legislation for Northern Ireland NI Water
Department for Transport (London)		Shipping
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)	Inshore	Tourism Energy/Renewable Energy Telecommunications
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	Offshore	Energy/Renewable Energys
The Crown Estate		Management, stewardship and leasing of foreshore and seabed areas
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFM DFM)	Inshore	Sustainable Development
Food Standards Agency (NI)	Inshore	Responsible for classification and monitoring of shellfish harvesting areas
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	Offshore	Designation of SACs/SPAs/MCZs in the offshore region

## **Timescales**

- 1.21 In line with International commitments, this Strategy sets out what we intend to do between now and the end of 2020 to contribute to establishing an ecologically coherent UK network of MPAs and makes provision for longer term actions to meet Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) duties and obligations.
- 1.22 In particular, a number of milestones have been defined as key deliverables in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) under the MSFD. These are:
- 2013:** Identification of spatial measures to contribute to GES, including MPAs
  - 2014:** Establishment of a monitoring programme for the ongoing assessment of GES
  - 2015:** Devise programmes of measures to meet GES
  - 2016:** Implementation of programme of measures
  - 2020:** Delivery of GES

### **Other relevant target timescales include:**

- 2014:** Publication and Adoption of the Northern Ireland Marine Plan
- 2015:** Complete designation of Northern Ireland's Marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – informed by UK Marine SPA programme
- 2016:** The target timescale for ensuring that MPAs and the network are well managed
- 2018:** Report to Northern Ireland Assembly on progress in designating a network of MPAs.

## 2. VISION

2.1 The UK vision for the marine environment is one of ‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.’ This means putting the emphasis on an ecosystem approach to management that maintains the health of the ecosystem alongside appropriate human uses of the marine environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The need to reconcile conservation objectives and individual needs is heightened in the marine environment because there is increasing competition for space.

### Our Aims

2.2 There are a number of work streams that will contribute to achieving the vision and to which a conservation strategy for the marine environment can contribute. These are reflected in the following strategic aims:

- i. To deliver our national and international priorities for marine nature conservation, including the delivery of an ecologically coherent network of well managed sites.
- ii. To meet the requirements of the EC Wild Birds and Habitats Directives<sup>8</sup> and contribute to the favourable conservation status of EU species and habitats.
- iii. To fulfil our obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>9</sup>, including safeguarding ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity and reducing pressure on marine ecosystems and promoting their sustainable use.
- iv. To contribute towards meeting GES under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>10</sup>.
- v. To contribute towards meeting Good Ecological Status under the Water Framework Directive<sup>11</sup>.

### Objectives

2.3 The objectives of this strategy are to:

- i. Establish an ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs in the Northern Ireland inshore region.
- ii. Ensure that Northern Ireland’s MPAs contribute to the wider UK MPA network.

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<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/index_en.htm)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm)

<sup>11</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html)

- iii. Establish appropriate protection and conservation measures for species and habitats designated 'Priority Marine Features'. These will include the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats, and other species and habitats (including some existing Northern Ireland conservation priority species and habitats) which require protection.
- iv. Establish appropriate management to enable the achievement of favourable condition status and/or GES through regular monitoring of species and habitats while promoting sustainable use of our seas.
- v. Ensure that relevant stakeholders are involved from an early stage in the development of the MPA network.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND OBLIGATIONS

#### International Obligations

- 3.1 There are four international commitments to establish MPA networks:
- under OSPAR (the Oslo-Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic) we should develop an ecologically coherent network of well managed MPAs by 2016;
  - UK Government's commitment at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 to establish a representative network of MPAs;
  - UK Government's commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to establish a network of well managed MPAs to enable delivery of WSSD targets; and
  - UK Government's commitment to the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There is no specific emphasis under this convention for the development of a network of sites, it is however recognised that Ramsar sites will make an important contribution to the MPA network across the UK.

#### European Legislative Requirements

##### **The Wild Birds (2009/147/EC formerly 79/409/EEC) and Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) (European marine sites)**

- 3.2 The **EC Wild Birds** and **EC Habitats Directives** place legal obligations on Member States to protect the most important European species and habitats both on land and in the marine environment. The Wild Birds Directive requires Member States to provide for the protection, management and control of all naturally occurring wild birds and to take special measures for the protection of migratory birds. The Habitats Directive requires Member States to take measures that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by maintaining or restoring certain habitats and species at a favourable conservation status.
- 3.3 Under the Wild Birds Directive, Member States are obliged to select sites known as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for those bird species included in Annex I of the Directive and also for regularly occurring migratory species. In the Northern Ireland marine environment, these include seabird species such as Arctic, Common, Sandwich and Roseate Terns, Manx Shearwater, Cormorant, Razorbill, Guillemot and Kittiwake. The Directive also requires that Member States take measures to maintain populations of all naturally occurring birds.
- 3.4 Under the Habitats Directive, transposed by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, (the Conservation Regulations) Northern Ireland is required to identify and protect a series of

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species of European importance.

- 3.5 Collectively SPAs and SACs are known as the Natura 2000 network which is a Europe wide network of nature conservation protected areas. Where an SPA or an SAC incorporates a sub tidal and/or an intertidal area, they are also referred to as "European Marine Sites" (EMS).

### **The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**

- 3.6 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is the most substantial piece of EU water legislation to date, and is designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout Europe. The Directive came into force on 22 December 2000, and was transposed into Northern Ireland legislation by the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. Under the WFD, Member States must aim to achieve good chemical and ecological status in identified water bodies by 2015. This includes transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile (3nm in Scotland). The MPA network will make a contribution to the achievement of good ecological status for UK estuarial and coastal waters.

### **The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)**

- 3.7 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires that Member States prepare national strategies to manage the seas to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020.

## **Legislation relating to marine nature conservation within Northern Ireland**

### **Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**

- 3.8 The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 contains powers to declare and protect Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs). It provides for the creation of MNRs effectively out to the 3nm limit and for the provision of marine based bye-laws out to 3nm. Strangford Lough became Northern Ireland's only MNR on 4 July 1995. Under the draft Marine Bill Strangford Lough will be re-designated and become Northern Ireland's first MCZ.

### **The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**

- 3.9 The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 contains powers for the protection of wild animals and plants within Northern Ireland. Schedules of listed species contain reference to coastal and marine birds and also to seals and cetaceans.



## **Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995**

- 3.10 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 provides for the implementation of the EC Wild Birds and Habitats Directives. These Regulations enable designation of a series of SAC and SPA sites in coastal and marine areas representing the Northern Ireland contribution towards the Natura 2000 network. European site protection provisions include management schemes and byelaws and measures to give strict protection to species of European importance.

## **The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002**

- 3.11 The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 enables the designation and management of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) to Mean Low Water Mark.

## **Northern Ireland Marine Bill**

### *Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)*

- 3.12 The draft Marine Bill will introduce similar new powers for the establishment of MCZs in Northern Ireland territorial waters.
- 3.13 MCZs will be a key part of the MPA network. They will allow us to protect a range of marine biodiversity in our waters which include rare and threatened habitats and species and features of particular geological and geomorphological interest which are considered of national importance. (See Section 4 – for more information on MCZs)

### *Northern Ireland Marine Plan*

- 3.14 In March 2011, the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations published the **Marine Policy Statement**<sup>12</sup> (MPS). The Statement provides the high-level policy context within which all marine plans in the UK will be developed, implemented, monitored amended and/or withdrawn. It also ensures there is appropriate consistency in marine planning across the whole UK marine area and outlines the national policies for various activities and issues which need to be considered in developing a Northern Ireland Marine Plan (NIMP). It provides transparency to users, guides the development of marine plans, sets out the importance of encouraging co-existence of uses and how impact should be considered.
- 3.15 Until marine plans are in place, all activities that affect or might affect the marine area are subject to the requirements of the MPS unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf>

- 3.16 At a Northern Ireland level, the draft **Marine Position Paper**<sup>13</sup> was consulted on during 2012. This document complements the MPS, and sets out the Executive's objectives for the sustainable development of our marine area and the steps being taken to realise these objectives. It identifies the local policy context within which the NIMP will be developed. The Marine Position Paper will be published soon.
- 3.17 In June 2012, as part of the Marine Plan process, the Department published a '**Statement of Public Participation**' (SPP)<sup>14</sup>. The SPP which was developed with the aid of stakeholder views sets out how and when the Department will involve and engage people during the preparation of the plan and importantly how the views and comments of stakeholders will be factored into the work. It also seeks to ensure that in whatever way people use or enjoy our seas or coastline they will be given the opportunity to get involved.

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<sup>13</sup> [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/consultation\\_on\\_draft\\_marine\\_position\\_paper.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/consultation_on_draft_marine_position_paper.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/final\\_version-ni\\_marine\\_plan\\_statement\\_of\\_public\\_participation-07\\_june\\_2012.pdf](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/final_version-ni_marine_plan_statement_of_public_participation-07_june_2012.pdf)

## 4. DEVELOPING THE MPA NETWORK

- 4.1 The UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009<sup>15</sup>, Marine (Scotland) Act 2010<sup>16</sup> and the draft Marine Bill place duties on their respective Ministers to create a network of marine protected sites for the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity. Sites will be identified on the basis of science and managed to promote sustainable use and protect the features designated. The network will contribute to measures to achieve GES under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, particularly wider MPA networks in the North East Atlantic and at the global level under the Convention on Biological Diversity and World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **MPA networks and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

Article 13(4) of the Directive requires that measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status include “spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas, adequately covering the diversity of the constituent ecosystems, such as special areas of conservation pursuant to the Habitats Directive, special protection areas pursuant to the Birds Directive, and marine protected areas as agreed by the Community or Member States concerned in the framework of international or regional agreements to which they are parties”

International and regional agreements on MPAs include the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Convention on Biological Diversity and the OSPAR Convention on the Protection of the North East Atlantic.

Article 13(6) states that “by 2013 at the latest Member States shall make publicly available in respect of each marine region or sub-region relevant information on the areas referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5. Paragraph 5 relates to provision of information to competent authorities.

### **Seven Design Principles of the MPA Network**

- 4.2 The OSPAR agreement in particular involves the development of an ecologically coherent network of sites. Ecological coherence is an evolving concept in the scientific community and there is no universally accepted definition. Guidance has been developed under the OSPAR Convention on the key design principles associated with ecological coherence<sup>17</sup>. These design principles are being followed by the other UK administrations.
- 4.3 In order to ensure an ecologically coherent network of MPAs is established within the wider OSPAR region, the following OSPAR principles are being proposed for Northern Ireland:

**Representativity** – the network should represent the range of marine habitats and species present in Northern Ireland’s territorial waters;

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2010/5/contents>

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.ospar.org/documents/DBASE/DECRECS/Agreements/06-03e\\_Guidance%20ecol%20coherence%20MPA%20network.doc](http://www.ospar.org/documents/DBASE/DECRECS/Agreements/06-03e_Guidance%20ecol%20coherence%20MPA%20network.doc)

**Replication** – ensure replication of habitats with other parts of the UK as appropriate to achieve an overall network;

**Connectivity** – ensure the network has linkages among individual MPAs and between regional networks;

**Adequacy** – the network should be of adequate size to deliver its ecological objectives and ensure long-term protection and/or recovery;

**Viability** – the network should be made up of self-sustaining, geographically dispersed component sites of sufficient size;

**Management** – MPAs should be managed to ensure the protection of the features for which they were selected and to support the functioning of an ecologically coherent network;

**Best available evidence** – the designation of MPAs should be based on the best information/evidence which is currently available. Where there is a lack of full scientific certainty this should not be used as a reason for postponing decisions on the selection of sites.

- 4.4 The identification and designation of MCZs will also take into consideration the naturalness (where species and habitats are in a very natural state due to a lack of human induced disturbance or interaction) and resilience (which is the ecosystem's ability to recover from disturbances within a reasonable timeframe).

### **Northern Ireland MPA Network**

- 4.5 The Department of the Environment has established or designated a number of areas with a marine component under international, European and national legislation. These will contribute to the development of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs which will provide added protection to areas of high diversity as required under the OSPAR convention<sup>18</sup>. Protected areas include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive<sup>19</sup>;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive<sup>20</sup>;

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<sup>18</sup> The Convention contains a number of annexes which deal with specific areas including the protection and conservation of marine ecosystems and biological diversity (Annex V). A list was prepared of threatened and declining species and a network of MPAs which are both ecologically coherent and well-managed was proposed to contribute to the protection of threatened species and habitats.

<sup>19</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:NOT>

- Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971<sup>21</sup> ;
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) designated under The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002<sup>22</sup> ; and
- Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) where Strangford Lough as Northern Ireland's only MNR will be re-designated as an MCZ following the enactment of the Draft Marine Bill.

4.6 The network of MPAs will be a key tool in contributing to achieving GES as required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The network will also help ensure that biodiversity is protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered, and the loss of biodiversity halted as called for at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10 CBD) which took place in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. Further information on MPAs can be found at Annex A.

### **Marine Conservation Zones**

4.7 To complement the existing network of MPAs and improve ecological coherence we intend to use the new MCZ designation mechanism to establish a number of MCZs that will conserve and aid the recovery of:

- the range of marine biodiversity in our waters;
- rare or threatened habitats and species;
- globally or regionally significant areas of geographically restricted habitats or species;
- important aggregations or communities of marine species;
- areas important for specific life-cycle stages of mobile species, such as feeding, spawning and nursery grounds;
- function in our seas, and
- features of particular geological or geomorphological interest.

4.8 Identification and/or selection of MCZs for protection of geological and geomorphological interest does not stop at the seaward margin of the coast as this can also include marine areas which represent the seaward continuation of terrestrial and inter-tidal sites of geological importance as well as active process sites.

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<sup>20</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:EN:PDF>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1_4000_0__)

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3153/contents>

4.9 Features of interest may include:

- areas of national geological importance;
- areas that contain exceptional geological features; or
- areas that are representative of a geological feature, event or process which is fundamental to understanding Northern Ireland's geological history.

4.10 In deciding on the designation of an MCZ the draft Marine Bill when enacted will require that the Department must take account of social and economic factors. However, when an MCZ is designated it does not automatically mean the economic and recreational activities in that site will be restricted. Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species, habitats and geological/geomorphological features (for which a site is designated) to the activities taking place in that area and on the conservation objectives of those feature(s).

#### **Guidance on selection and designation of MCZs in Northern Ireland's seas.**

4.11 The Department is currently drafting guidance on the selection and designation of MCZs which will be the subject of wider stakeholder engagement and full public consultation.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

4.12 The Department recognises the many strands of marine work currently being taken forward (MSFD, Marine Plan, draft Marine Bill etc.) and is committed to linking stakeholder engagement on all aspects of marine management.

4.13 Effective engagement of stakeholders is fundamental. At present, the Department is focussing on data collection and identification of conservation features and locations for potential MCZs. Consultation with experts in the marine environment has led to the formation of a list of 'Priority Marine Features' covering habitats and species which will be safeguarded by the network. Discussions will also be held with stakeholders who may hold relevant data. This will ensure a strong scientific evidence base for the network. Economic and social information will also be taken into account.

4.14 As the process continues, the level of engagement will increasingly reflect direct interest in specific proposals, for example, from those living and working in areas as site locations. The aim is to give all stakeholders full opportunity to participate in the process.

4.15 Awareness raising and provision of updates will be important throughout the process. Existing forums, sectoral meetings and publications will be used to reach a wide range of organisations and people and to encourage feedback. All proposals will be subject to a 12 week public consultation. MCZs will be designated by the Department with the agreement of the Secretary of State.

## **5. Managing the MPA Network**

### **Surveillance and Monitoring**

- 5.1 Effective surveillance and monitoring of individual MPAs and the wider marine environment will be crucial to determine how successful we are in achieving healthy ecosystems, and to demonstrate that our aim of providing an ecologically coherent and well managed UK network of MPAs has been achieved and subsequently sustained.
- 5.2 Monitoring the condition of ecological features of individual sites will enable relevant authorities and agencies to adapt management measures accordingly to ensure conservation objectives are achieved. This process will be applied both at the level of the individual site and across the MPA network.
- 5.3 There are a number of statutory requirements for surveillance and monitoring of ecological conditions within and outside existing MPAs and associated programmes to implement these. These include the Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive (covering transitional and coastal waters out to one nautical mile), and other international commitments such as the OSPAR Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity. These and other monitoring and surveillance activities are brought together under the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS).
- 5.4 Within this wider framework, a rolling programme of surveillance and monitoring requirements for the existing SACs and SPAs in Northern Ireland has been developed and implemented and will be expanded to include designated MCZs.

### **Enforcement**

- 5.5 Enforcement of legislation relating to nature conservation in the marine area is currently undertaken by separate bodies under varying sets of powers provided by a range of legislation operating in our marine area.
- 5.6 Under the draft Marine Bill it is proposed that the Department will be responsible for the enforcement of the new obligations on marine nature conservation. It will also have a power to delegate this function should it be considered appropriate.
- 5.7 Other legislative regimes such as marine licensing and fisheries powers contribute to the management and conservation of marine species and habitats. These will complement the marine nature conservation functions.
- 5.8 The draft Marine Bill contains provisions which will extend the 'common enforcement powers' provided for in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to all designated MCZs.

- 5.9 It will provide powers for enforcement that should be more coherent, with respect to appointed officers' abilities.
- 5.10 Under the draft Marine Bill public bodies have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, that are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or where this is not possible least hinders the achievement of these objectives.
- 5.11 It is recognised that unregulated activities can also impact on biological diversity and may also hinder the achievement of conservation objectives for MCZs.
- 5.12 Under the draft Marine Bill there is provision to make a byelaw or byelaws for the purpose of furthering the conservation objectives stated for all designated MCZs. In addition the Department has the power to make emergency byelaws where there is an urgent requirement to protect an MCZ.
- 5.13 It also has powers to make interim byelaws for protecting any feature if the Department thinks there may be reasons to designate the area as an MCZ and there is an urgent need to protect the feature.
- 5.14 The Department intends to publish draft guidance notes on how the proposed new powers to make byelaws, including emergency and interim byelaws, will operate to protect MCZs and provide an explanation of the general offence of damaging etc. protected features of MCZs. These guidance notes will be the subject of stakeholder engagement and full public consultation.



## GLOSSARY

**ASSI** - Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) designated under The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.

**Biodiversity** – is the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they form part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

**Ecological coherence** - refers to the representation and replication of biodiversity features, and the linkages between those features. It also refers to the resilience of the network as a whole, and how well the range and geographic variation of the biodiversity features are covered within the network.

Guidance has been developed under the OSPAR Convention on the key design features associated with ecological coherence. The OSPAR agreement can be found at [http://www.ospar.org/documents/DBASE/DECRECS/Agreements/06-03e\\_Guidance%20eco%20coherence%20MPA%20network.doc](http://www.ospar.org/documents/DBASE/DECRECS/Agreements/06-03e_Guidance%20eco%20coherence%20MPA%20network.doc).

**Ecosystem services** – provide benefits to people from the resources and processes supplied by natural ecosystems.

**European Marine Sites (EMS)** – is the term used to describe Natura 2000 sites which are in the marine environment.

**Geodiversity** – is the variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes which form and alter them.

**GES** – Good Environmental Status

**MCZ** – Marine Conservation Zone. New type of conservation area to be established under the draft Marine Bill.

**MPA** - Marine Protected Area is used specifically to refer to the provisions in the draft Marine Bill, Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This is also a generic term to refer to any area that contributes to the MPA network in Northern Ireland waters.

**MPA Network** – the network of MPAs European Marine Sites (SACs and SPAs), the marine components of Ramsar sites and SSSIs, MCZs (English and Welsh waters), Nature Conservation MPAs (Scottish inshore waters and the Scottish offshore region), and future MCZs in Northern Ireland territorial waters.

**Natura sites** – EU wide network of nature conservation sites (SACs and SPAs) established under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives.

**nm** – Nautical miles

**OSPAR** – used to refer to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic. It is an agreement by relevant governments

and the European Community, to co-operate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. See <http://www.ospar.org/>

**Ramsar** – sites designated as internationally important wetlands following the adoption of the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance in 1971.

**SAC** – Special Areas of Conservation established under the provisions of EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.

**SPA** – Special Protection Areas established under the provisions of EC Directive 79/409/EEC (now codified in Directive 2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds.

## Marine Protected Areas

The UK is a signatory to a number of international agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>23</sup> and the OSPAR convention<sup>24</sup> which aim to establish an “ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)”. Existing protected areas will form the basis of the future network of MPAs. The sites in the network will work together to provide more benefits than an individual conservation area could on its own.

The Department’s Marine Division is responsible for marine nature conservation. All areas established or designated under international, European and national legislation with a marine component will contribute to the MPA network. These are:

- Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive<sup>25</sup>;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive<sup>26</sup>;
- Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance) designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971;<sup>27</sup> and
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) designated under The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.<sup>28</sup>

## Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) with a marine component

Northern Ireland has 54 SACs designated under the Habitats Directive, six of which have been designated for marine components and three more are candidate sites. These are:

NAME	INTEREST FEATURES
Bann Estuary	Atlantic salt meadows.
Murlough	Common seal, Atlantic salt meadows, Mudflats and sandflats, Sandbanks.
North Antrim Coast	Annual vegetation of drift lines,

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/>

<sup>24</sup> [http://www.ospar.org/html\\_documents/ospar/html/OSPAR\\_Convention\\_e\\_updated\\_text\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ospar.org/html_documents/ospar/html/OSPAR_Convention_e_updated_text_2007.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> [http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:NOT)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:NOT](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31992L0043:EN:NOT)

<sup>26</sup> [http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:EN:PDF)

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-home/main/ramsar/1_4000_0__)

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3153/contents>

	Atlantic salt meadows.
Rathlin Island	Sea caves, Annual vegetation of drift lines, Reef, Sandbanks
Strangford Lough	Common seal, Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, Annual vegetation of drift lines, Atlantic salt meadows, Coastal lagoons, Large shallow inlets and bays, Mudflats and sandflats.
Red Bay (Candidate)	Sandbanks
Skerries and Causeway Coast (Candidate)	Sea caves, Sandbanks, Reefs, Harbour porpoise.
Maidens (Candidate)	Sandbanks, Reef, Grey seal

The sites have been designated/proposed because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they contain and to provide increased protection to a variety of animals, plants and habitats of importance to biodiversity both on a national and international scale. A number of these sites have been damaged and require restoration to favourable conservation status as required under the Habitats Directive.

**Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – note that ‘non-breeding’ is now preferred term rather than ‘winter’**

There are 15 SPA sites designated in Northern Ireland, nine of which have a marine component. The sites are designated to protect seabirds and waterbirds and cover areas of their migration routes, breeding and aggregation. These are:

NAME	INTEREST FEATURES
Belfast Lough	Redshank (non-breeding)
Belfast Lough Open Water	Great Crested Grebe (non-breeding)
Carlingford Lough	Arctic Tern (breeding) Common Tern (breeding) Sandwich Tern (breeding) Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)
Killough Bay	Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)

Larne Lough	<p>Common Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Roseate Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Sandwich Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)</p>
Lough Foyle	<p>Whooper Swan (non-breeding)</p> <p>Bewick's Swan (non-breeding)</p> <p>Golden Plover (non-breeding)</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (non-breeding)</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)</p>
Outer Ards	<p>Arctic Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Golden Plover (non-breeding)</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)</p> <p>Ringed Plover (non-breeding)</p> <p>Turnstone (non-breeding)</p>
Rathlin Island	<p>Kittiwake (breeding)</p> <p>Guillemot (breeding)</p> <p>Razorbill (breeding)</p> <p>Seabird assemblage (breeding)</p> <p>Peregrine Falcon (breeding)</p>
Strangford Lough	<p>Arctic Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Common Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Sandwich Tern (breeding)</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (non-breeding)</p> <p>Golden Plover (non-breeding)</p> <p>Knot (non-breeding)</p> <p>Redshank (non-breeding)</p> <p>Shelduck (non-breeding)</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)</p>

Although the legislation does not provide statutory protection for potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) before they have been classified it has been established by case law that protective measures can be taken into consideration as regards development, plans and projects before statutory designation takes place. .

### **Ramsar Sites**

There are 21 Ramsar sites<sup>29</sup> designated in Northern Ireland, of these seven have a marine component. These are:

<b>Marine RAMSAR Sites</b>
Lough Foyle
Larne Lough
Belfast Lough
Strangford Lough
Carlingford Lough
Killough Bay
Outer Ards

These sites are areas of wetland recognised as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.

### **National Sites**

NI has one Marine Nature Reserve, Strangford Lough. The purpose of a Marine Nature Reserve is to conserve marine flora and fauna and geological features of special interest, while providing opportunities for the study of marine systems. The current designation of Marine Nature Reserve will be replaced by Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) which will be introduced through the draft Marine Bill.

### **OSPAR Convention**

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention), to which the UK is a signatory, acts as an intergovernmental platform for co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North East Atlantic. There are currently thirteen OSPAR sites in Northern Ireland. These are:

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<sup>29</sup> [The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat \(Ramsar Convention or Wetlands Convention\)](#) was adopted in Ramsar, Iran in February 1971 and came into force in December 1975.

<b>OSPAR Sites</b>
Murlough
Rathlin Island
Strangford Lough
Belfast Lough Open Water SPA
Belfast Lough SPA
Carlingford Lough SPA
Killough Bay SPA
Larne Lough SPA
Lough Foyle SPA
Outer Ards SPA
Rathlin Island SPA
Strangford Lough SPA
Red Bay cSAC

### Northern Ireland Priority Habitats List (marine habitats only)

NI Priority Habitat	Comment
Blue mussel beds	New habitat
Coastal saltmarsh	No change
Coastal Sand dunes	No change
Coastal vegetated shingle	No change
Estuarine rocky habitats	New habitat
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	New habitat
Horse mussel beds	Revised name – previously <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds
Intertidal chalk	Revised name – previously within Littoral and Sublittoral Chalk
Intertidal mudflats	Revised name – previously Mudflats
Intertidal underboulder communities	New habitat
Maerl beds	No change
Mud habitats in deep water	No change
<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs	No change
Saline lagoons	No change
Seagrass beds	Includes both intertidal and subtidal
Sheltered muddy gravels	No change
Subtidal chalk	Revised name – previously within Littoral and Sublittoral chalk
Subtidal sands and gravels	Revised name – previously Sublittoral Sands and Gravels
Tide-swept channels	Revised name – Habitat expansion

### Northern Ireland Priority Species List (marine species only)

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Algae	<i>Ahnfeltiopsis devoniensis</i>	A red seaweed
Algae	<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>	Knotted wrack
Algae	<i>Ascophyllum nodosum mackay</i>	Free-floating knotted wrack
Algae	<i>Dasya ocellata</i>	A red seaweed
Algae	<i>Desmarestia dresnayi</i>	A brown seaweed
Algae	<i>Phymatolithon calcareum</i>	Common maerl
Bryozoa	<i>Pentapora fascialis var foliacea</i>	Ross/Rose coral
Chordata	<i>Glossobalanus sarniensis</i>	Acorn worm
Cnidaria	<i>Arachnanthus sarsi</i>	A cerianthid anemone
Cnidaria	<i>Caryophyllia inornata</i>	Cup coral
Cnidaria	<i>Diphasia alata</i>	A hydroid



Cnidaria	<i>Diphasia nigra</i>	A hydroid
Cnidaria	<i>Edwardsia timida</i>	A burrowing anemone
Cnidaria	<i>Haliclystus auricular</i>	A stalked jellyfish
Cnidaria	<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>	A stalked jellyfish
Cnidaria	<i>Lytocarpia myriophyllum</i>	A hydroid
Cnidaria	<i>Parazoanthus axinellae</i>	A colonial anemone
Cnidaria	<i>Polyplumaria flabellata</i>	A hydroid
Cnidaria	<i>Virgularia mirabilis</i>	Sea pen
Crustacean	<i>Arrhis phyllonyx</i>	A deep-sea shrimp
Crustacean	<i>Atelecyclus rotundatus</i>	Circular crab
Crustacean	<i>Cestopagurus timidus</i>	A hermit crab
Crustacean	<i>Inachus leptochirus</i>	A crab
Crustacean	<i>Munida rugosa</i>	Rugose squat lobster
Crustacean	<i>Palinurus elephas</i>	Spiny lobster
Echinoderms	<i>Anseropoda placenta</i>	A goosefoot starfish
Echinoderms	<i>Astropecten irregularis</i>	A starfish
Echinoderms	<i>Labidoplax media</i>	A burrowing sea cucumber
Echinoderms	<i>Leptosynapta bergensis</i>	A sea cucumber
Echinoderms	<i>Ocnus planci</i>	A sea cucumber
Echinoderms	<i>Paracucumaria hyndmani</i>	Hyndman's sea cucumber
Echinoderms	<i>Solaster endeca</i>	Purple sunstar
Echinoderms	<i>Thyonidium drummondi</i>	A sea cucumber
Fish	<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>	Lesser sandeel
Fish	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel
Fish	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark
Fish	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring
Fish	<i>Dipturus batis</i>	Common skate
Fish	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod
Fish	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	Tope shark
Fish	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle shark
Fish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	Sea monkfish
Fish	<i>Merlanguis merlangus</i>	Whiting
Fish	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	European hake
Fish	<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling
Fish	<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	Smelt
Fish	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice
Fish	<i>Raja undulata</i>	Undulate ray
Fish	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic salmon
Fish	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel
Fish	<i>Solea solea</i>	Sole
Fish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spiny dogfish
Fish	<i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angel shark
Fish	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Horse mackerel
Mammal	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Minke whale
Mammal	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale
Mammal	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin

Mammal	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Pilot whale
Mammal	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale
Mammal	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer whale
Mammal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Common seal
Mammal	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise
Mammal	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin
Molluscs	<i>Atrina fragilis</i>	Fan mussels
Molluscs	<i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i>	Brackish cockle
Molluscs	<i>Chlamys varia</i>	Variegated scallop
Molluscs	<i>Cumanotus beaumonti</i>	A nudibranch mollusc
Molluscs	<i>Erato volute</i>	Egg cowrie
Molluscs	<i>Eubbranchus doriae</i>	A nudibranch mollusc
Molluscs	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	Horse mussel
Molluscs	<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Native oyster
Molluscs	<i>Palio dubia</i>	A nudibranch mollusc
Molluscs	<i>Tonicella marmorea</i>	A chiton
Reptiles	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle
Reptiles	<i>Dermodochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle
Sponges	<i>Antho (Antho) brattegardii</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Antho (Antho) granditoxa</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Clathria (Clathria) barleei</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Clathria (Microcionia) elliptichela</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Eurypon coronula</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Hymedesmia (Hymedesmia) cohesibacilla</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Hymedesmia (Hymedesmia) rathlinia</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Hymerhabdia typica</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Lissodendoryx (Ectyodoryx) jenjonesae</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Mycale (Aegogropila) cf. Contarenii</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Spanioplion armaturum</i>	A sponge
Sponges	<i>Tethya hibernica</i>	A sponge
Tunicates	<i>Pycnoclavella stolonialis</i>	Pin head sea squirt
Tunicates	<i>Pyura microcosmus</i>	A sea squirt

## Nagoya

The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10 CBD) took place in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

To provide more common purpose across Member States, the strategic framework of 2020 biodiversity targets (Aichi Targets) was agreed at Nagoya. These targets are designed to provide a focus for the next decade and a step towards the CBD's 2050 vision for "living in harmony with nature where biodiversity is valued and conserved, restored and widely used, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people".

The 20 Aichi Targets come with an obligation on Parties to integrate these into their biodiversity strategies and plans and to report on this activity to COP 11 in October 2012.

## **Nagoya Strategic Goals**

There are five strategic goals under which the Aichi targets sit. The Aichi Targets which are most relevant to the marine environment are grouped principally under Strategic Goals "B" and "C".

**Strategic Goal B** (Aichi Targets 5 to 10) is to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use so that by 2020:

- 5• Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats at least halved.
- 6• Fish stocks managed and harvested sustainably.
- 7• Agriculture, aquaculture and forestry managed sustainably.
- 8• Pollution not detrimental to biodiversity.
- 9• Invasive alien species and pathways controlled.

In addition Strategic Goal B includes a target on climate change impacts (Aichi target 10) which is of relevance to the marine area.

**Strategic Goal C** (Aichi Targets 11 to 13) is to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. so that by 2020:

- at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas, are conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and
- 10% of marine areas managed effectively and conserved through ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures.

Nagoya Strategic Goals and Aichi Targets can be accessed at:

<http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

## **Confidentiality of Consultations**

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

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

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) )

### **Screening for Equality Impact Assessment**

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity. As a result of screening exercises undertaken prior to consultation on 'A Northern Ireland Marine Bill – Policy Proposals' it was considered that there were no significant implications for equality of opportunity and a full Equality Impact Assessment was not required. As the contents of this Draft Strategy reflect how the Department plans to take forward the Marine Nature Conservation aspect of those proposals a further screening exercise is not required.

## **Rural Proofing Statement**

Rural proofing is a process to ensure that all relevant Government policies are carefully and objectively examined to assess whether or not they have a different impact in rural areas from that elsewhere, because of the particular circumstances of rural areas; and where necessary, what policy adjustments might be made to reflect rural needs and in particular to ensure that, as far as possible, public services are accessible on a fair basis to the rural community.

Since the proposals in this paper apply principally to the marine area, and activities that take place there, and not in relation to land, they mainly affect the rights of users of the marine area and the wider public interest of protecting the marine environment. However, these proposals will influence activities on land, and vice versa, since there is some inevitable overlap between marine and land issues. The proposals outlined in the Strategy aim to provide improved protection and sustainable development of the marine environment. It will enable Northern Ireland to make the best sustainable use of its resources by taking a more strategic approach to managing marine activities and protecting marine resources in the future.

Rural communities will benefit from the improved management of marine and coastal resources through potential for increased tourism and more sustainable fishing.

## List of Consultees

The following is not an exhaustive list, but is indicative of the types of organisations this document was sent to.

Executive Ministers and Junior Ministers  
Northern Ireland Party Leaders  
MPs and MEPs  
The Speaker of the Assembly  
The Clerk of the Environment Committee  
MLAs  
The Assembly Business Office  
The Assembly Bill Office  
NI Assembly Library  
Office of the First and Deputy First Minister  
North/South Ministerial Council  
Northern Ireland Office  
Section 75 Consultees  
Legal Deposit Libraries  
Departmental Library  
Other External Agencies  
District Councils  
Government Departments  
Other Statutory Agencies & Bodies  
Transport  
NGOs  
Conservation/Environmental Groups  
Education  
Universities  
Energy/Renewable Energy Industry  
Telecommunications/Cabling  
Ports/Shipping Organisations  
Extraction Industry  
Farming Organisations  
Aquaculture/Fishing Industry/Groups  
Sports and Recreational Groups  
Tourism