An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026
Front cover photograph of Murlough National Nature Reserve was provided by Robert Thompson, The National Trust.
FOREWORD

The coast of Northern Ireland is highly valued for its scenic beauty, rich in wildlife and economic importance to local communities. However, there are increasing pressures being placed on this natural resource and a growing recognition within the European Commission that coastlines should be managed in a strategic, integrated and sustainable way.

This strategy is intended to set out long-term objectives for achieving sustainable coastal management, through improvements to existing management systems, the development of new management systems and identifying and dealing with potential areas of conflict. It is paramount that we ensure that the economic, social and environmental future of our coastal area is secured for both local communities and visitors alike.

In devising the aims and objectives for this strategy, there has been extensive consultation with a wide range of public and private organisations which have either a statutory or social responsibility for coastal issues. This consultation highlighted two specific points. Firstly, the coastal zone impinges on almost all of us; it is an area where many of us live, work or which we use for recreation. Secondly, while most statutory public bodies regulate or operate services in the coastal area, there is much more that could be achieved through a more strategic and integrated approach. Integration is the key aim of the strategy.

I hope that the vision and objectives contained in this document go some way in achieving real sustainability for the coastal area so that all appropriate interests can be accommodated and the needs of the modern society fully catered for.

David Cairns MP
Minister for the Environment
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SECTION ONE– Vision for the sustainable management of the Northern Ireland coast

1 Background to ICZM

The objective of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.

During the 1990s, the European Commission funded a “Demonstration Programme” on ICZM. This included 35 projects around Europe (8 in the UK and Ireland and 2 in Northern Ireland - Integrated Management of Down coast (Down District Council); ‘Life’ Project on Irish Dunes (Co. Down and Co. Donegal)) which were examined to understand the pressures and problems facing coasts. The EU Demonstration Programme identified a wide range of environmental and social issues at the coast such as habitat destruction, loss of fish stocks and biodiversity, pollution, economic decline and social deprivation. Interrelated biological, physical and human issues facing European coastal zones were also investigated and the causes were traced to a number of underlying problems, namely:

- A lack of vision related to management at the coast based on a very limited understanding of coastal processes and dynamics and with scientific research and data collection isolated from end-users;
- Inadequate involvement of the stakeholders in formulating and implementing solutions to coastal problems;
- Inappropriate and uncoordinated sectoral legislation and policy, often working against the long-term interests of sustainable management of coastal zones;
- Rigid bureaucratic systems and the lack of co-ordination between relevant administrative bodies limiting local creativity and adaptability;
- Local initiatives in sustainable coastal management lacking adequate resources and political support from higher administrative levels.

The Demonstration Programme also identified eight key principles for ICZM:

1. A broad overall perspective
2. A long-term perspective
3. Adaptive management
4. Local specificity
5. Working with natural processes
6. Involving all parties concerned
7. Support of relevant administrative bodies
8. Using a combination of instruments

These results provided the basis for a European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning ICZM which was adopted by the then fifteen Member States of the EU in 2002. The Recommendation proposed that Member States should conduct a national stocktake to examine which actors, laws and institutions influence the planning and management of...
their coastal zones. Based on the evidence gathered by the stocktaking, Member States should then develop a national strategy to implement ICZM by March 2006.

In March 2003, the UK Government commissioned Atkins to carry out a stocktake of the current framework for management of the coastal zone in the UK. The stocktake was completed in March 2004 and has assisted in developing the national strategies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The stocktake document can be accessed electronically through the following website:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm

2. The coast as a strategic resource – why an ICZM strategy is needed

The Northern Ireland coast, at over 650km long, is an environment of considerable contrast, dynamism and inspiration. The coastal land, estuaries, and inshore waters are rich in natural resources and wildlife. They support a large proportion of the population and a great variety of economic activity as well as a range of leisure and recreational interests.

The special nature of the coast lies in the fact that it is the transition zone between land and sea. This interface where land, sea and air meet is a highly dynamic environment where the biological, chemical and physical attributes change continuously and sometimes dramatically, altering the profile of the shoreline. The Northern Ireland coast also includes highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystems with features that serve as critical natural defences against storms, floods and erosion.

What and where is the coastal zone?

As yet there is no official definition by the European Commission of the coastal zone, particularly in identifying how far inland ICZM should address. In many countries the inland limit, for ICZM purposes, has been defined between 1 and 3km. In Northern Ireland it has been decided to use a 3km inland limit and include flexibility in instances where this limit needs to be increased to take account of factors outside the zone but have an impact on the coastal zone i.e. Water Framework Directive. The seaward boundary is defined in legislation under the Northern Ireland Adjacent Waters Boundaries (Northern Ireland) Order (2002). In general, Northern Ireland’s territorial waters extend to 12 nautical miles from baseline. In the case of planning, it should be noted that, development plans, Planning Policy Statements and the regulation of development proposals currently do not extend beyond low water mark of the ordinary tides.

Need for an ICZM strategy

To date, policies aimed at achieving coastal management in Northern Ireland have principally focused on individual sectoral interests such as aquaculture, environment, fisheries, renewable energy, waste management and tourism.

The present sectoral approach to managing coastal issues is not representative of the ICZM principles as set out by the European Commission. In addition these policies are almost exclusively driven in Northern Ireland by central government Departments, as
opposed to the rest of the UK where Local Authorities have some powers within the coastal zone.

To achieve integrated coastal management all stakeholders (local, regional and national) must be involved in and understand the importance of the ICZM process. It seeks to bring together all those involved in the development, management and use of the coast within a framework that facilitates the integration of their interests and responsibilities.

This is a much wider perspective and implies a focus on the interactions between the wide range of activities and resource demands that occur within the coastal zone. Operationally, this means that ICZM should seek to integrate the various objectives of environmental protection, economic development, pollution control, tourism development, shipping and port management, etc. provided these objectives are ecologically sustainable.

3. A vision that promotes sustainable development principles

The coastal zone is a maritime area where land and sea influence each other to a significant degree. The effects of wind, waves, currents and tides mean that the impacts of activities on the coast can be experienced over a considerable area.

Northern Ireland is noted for its beautiful and relatively unspoilt coast including such well-known features as the Giant’s Causeway (World Heritage Site), Benone Strand, the Antrim Coast road, Strangford Lough and the Mournes coast. The coastline is a unique part of the natural heritage with many man-made coastal features.

The coastal zone is a diverse linear ecosystem comprising: the off-shore waters from just below low water, the beach and shoreline and an associated strip of land behind the shoreline. Northern Ireland’s coastal waters contain about 50% of the region’s biodiversity and the varied coastline is considered to be one of our greatest environmental, tourist and recreational assets.

Many of the important and diverse activities that make our coastline so important can also be a threat to its long-term health. Increasing demands for space and resources make it crucial to find a balance between the interests of people and commerce, and the protection of the natural and built heritage. The challenge now is to ensure that we secure this balance, maintaining and enhancing the coastal area by integrating the protection of the region’s environmental quality with continued social progress and economic prosperity.

This Strategy seeks to identify the key factors affecting the Northern Ireland coast and put in place a series of widely supported aims, objectives and actions which will promote a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to the future management of our coastal zone.
The Strategy Vision

To rise to the challenge the Strategy needs to have a vision which clearly states what is to be achieved for the future of the coastal zone and its inhabitants.

During the Strategy preparation the following vision has been used to guide progress:

A coastal zone which through an ecosystem approach and the sustainable management of natural and built resources supports a vibrant, viable and informed population, and, through sustainable development contributes strongly to the overall economy.

Where decisions about development and conservation of the coastline are taken with timely and accurate knowledge of their impacts within the context of the Precautionary Principle, and in an integrated way with all of these people, communities, organisations, and Government Departments with a responsibility or an interest engaged in decisions.

Where natural and built resources are protected, maintained, enhanced and promoted through, legislation, good practice mechanisms and through the concern and interest of the public, Government, and industry.

The Northern Ireland ICZM Strategy

The Strategy forms the basis for a new approach to the management of the coastal area and will provide a useful framework for all users, planners, managers and developers in deciding how best to balance competing resource demands with environmental needs. It will also aid the development of an integrated programme of social, environmental and economic improvements for future generations.

The Strategy will improve the way the coast is managed by:

Promoting integrated management by encouraging bodies to work together and to consider management of the coastal zone as a whole.

Promoting a new approach to management that will bring users and regulators together to discuss and resolve issues at a local level.

However the ICZM Strategy is not:

- A statutory document
- A nature conservation plan
- An economic development plan
- A social regeneration plan
- Biased towards any particular interest group

The greatest strength of the Strategy is the wide range and number of people and organisations which have been involved in its preparation.
The Non-Statutory approach

All bodies with statutory authority for the diverse range of activities undertaken in the coastal zone are responsible for administering the respective laws or regulations which relate to the control of these activities. In contrast, however, this Strategy is a non-statutory document and, while its aim is to promote a new approach to the management of the coastal zone, the duty and powers of regulating activities remain the responsibility of the statutory bodies.

The Strategy does not impose any new duties on Government Departments, public bodies, organisations or individuals. Instead it prompts all relevant bodies to take steps to implement those actions which they have committed to in the Strategy.
SECTION TWO – Principles of ICZM

4. Description of the key principles of ICZM

ICZM at its best is also based on the following principles:

- **Sustainable development** — “Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

ICZM will embrace the concept of sustainable development in its new approach to the future management of our coastal zone. Sustainable development is about enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The UK Government, and the Devolved Administrations, are seeking to ensure that the goal of sustainable development will be pursued in an integrated way through development of a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment together with a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be achieved in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

The UK’s approach to sustainable development is set out in its strategic framework “One future – different paths” published in March 2005. The framework recognised the need for a consistent approach across the UK and established an agreed set of guiding principles and shared priorities which form the basis for sustainable development policy in the UK. The strategic framework is supported by the separate strategies for each administration which build on existing work and translate the framework’s aims into action, based on the different responsibilities, needs and views.

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy “First steps towards sustainability” was published in May 2006 (http://www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/susdev.pdf). The Northern Ireland Strategy adopts and extends the UK Framework principles and priority areas with the inclusion of an additional principle and two further priority areas for action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guiding Principles</th>
<th>Priority Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living Within Environmental Limits</td>
<td>Sustainable Consumption and Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring a Strong, Healthy &amp; Just Society</td>
<td>Natural Resource Protection &amp; Environmental Enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieving a Sustainable Economy</td>
<td>Sustainable Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Good Governance</td>
<td>Climate Change and Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Using Sound Science Responsibly</td>
<td>Learning &amp; Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunity and Innovation</td>
<td>Governance and Sustainable Development</td>
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Each of the six priority areas has associated objectives, targets and actions to ensure our progress towards a more sustainable future. Delivery of the targets and actions will be progressed through a series of implementation plans, the first of which is due to be published later this year and which will take account of the activities identified in the NI Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy.
The ICZM strategy integrates well, and is consistent, with the principles of sustainable development and this will help to ensure that management of coastal areas is focussed around the goals of establishing sustainable levels of economic and social activity while also affording appropriate protection to the environmental quality of our coastal areas.

- **Precautionary principle** - sensibly erring on the side of caution where scientific evidence or the balance of evidence is not conclusive.

In the ‘Rio Declaration’, adopted by the UK Government at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the precautionary principle was interpreted as follows:

"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Since Rio, the precautionary principle has been included in a number of international agreements signed by the UK in relation to its responsibilities for human, animal and plant health and the environment.

It is considered that the application of the principle should lead to action that is proportionate to the required level of protection. It should also be consistent with other forms of action and be targeted to the risk.

- **Ecosystem approach**

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Essentially, it links planning, decision-making and policy making with the aim of bridging the gulf between economic, social and environmental considerations. The ecosystem approach puts people at the centre of the decision-making framework and can be used by any public or private body in the regulation or management of human uses of the environment. When working toward sustainable development, it provides a checklist for action and the tools for its implementation.

The ecosystem approach was adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000) as a fundamental tool for the delivery of the Convention’s three primary objectives – the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. It was also endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and features strongly in the EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2002).

It is therefore a key mechanism to bring about progress towards sustainable development in coastal regions.
The ecosystem approach is not a formula for managing ecosystems but rather a framework for making ecologically sound decisions, recognising that people and cultural diversity are an integral part of many natural ecosystems. Most importantly, it considers physical processes, functions and the interactions among organisms and their environment in a holistic way.

Ecosystem means “a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit”. (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

The definition of the term ‘ecosystem’ does not specify any particular spatial unit or scale. Indeed, the scale of analysis and action should be determined by the issue being addressed. In the case of coastal zone management, it could, for example, relate to a rock pool, a dune system, a coastal cell or the entire coastal zone itself.

The key elements of the ecosystem approach include:

- Societal choice - involving all relevant sections of society and the scientific community while considering all forms of knowledge, both indigenous and technical.
- Human resource use – considering the economic context, indirect effects on adjacent ecosystems and striking a balance between conservation and use.
- Spatial scales - decentralising management to the lowest appropriate scale and considering long-term effects.
- Ecosystem limits - managing ecosystems within the limits of their natural thresholds; and
- Adaptive management – recognising that change is inevitable within dynamic and complex ecosystems and that in the absence of a full understanding of their functioning, an adaptive ‘learning-by-doing’ approach is needed.

The ecosystem approach does not preclude other management and conservation approaches e.g. those carried out under national policies and legislation, but should, rather, integrate all these approaches and other methodologies to deal with complex situations.

In relation to ICZM, the ecosystem approach objectives and principles are closely aligned with those set out in the EU Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2002).

Please refer to the Convention on Biological Diversity sourcebook (http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/default.shtml) for:

- The 12 ecosystem approach principles.
- Guidance on the application of the ecosystem approach.
- A database of case studies showing how the principles can be applied; and
- Guidance on lessons learnt and best practice.
The EC Demonstration Programme identified eight guiding principles for good coastal zone management. These principles are described below, together with some practical issues that may need to be taken into account when implementing ICZM.

(i) Adopt a broad holistic perspective

This principle advocates the need to move away from piecemeal management of the coast and to take a more strategic approach to management recognizing the complex interaction of physical, biological, cultural and socio-economic factors at play in coastal areas. A holistic perspective should consider both the terrestrial and marine components of the coastal zone, the potential for cumulative impacts and an assessment of the health of natural ecosystems alongside human activities. The delineation of the coast according to administrative or jurisdictional boundaries does not facilitate effective ICZM. Therefore, it is important to assume a more wide-ranging perspective which traces coastal influences to the extent of their natural and/or social boundaries.

Considering coastal issues in the widest practical context may require new arrangements for organizing those bodies involved in decision-making. In some cases compromises will be required in order to find a sustainable balance between competing interests. Enhanced capacity may sometimes be required to understand and analyze the scales at which ecosystem processes operate and to provide good matches between the administration and management of natural resources. Where possible, management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level.

(ii) Local specificity

In addition to taking a broad perspective, it is necessary to complement this approach with a thorough understanding of the character of the local coastline. This makes it possible to respond to local coastal issues with specific solutions and flexible measures. To act on this principle, it will be necessary to collect and analyse information on local biodiversity, coastal processes, social conditions and management structures.

Decentralized management systems are considered to lead to greater efficiency, effectiveness and fairness. It is important that all stakeholders are involved and that local concerns are balanced with the wider public interest. The more closely aligned the management style is with the ecosystem approach, the greater the level of responsibility, ownership, participation and use of local knowledge. It is, however, important to ensure that there remains scope for regional collaboration to deal with management across wider areas where large scale changes are evident.
(iii) Using adaptive management

Using adaptive management means being flexible enough to respond to new information and conditions during a gradual process of developing and implementing ICZM measures. This implies the need for a sound scientific basis to underpin management decisions.

Adaptive management is essential when working with the natural environment. It will be necessary to educate coastal stakeholders that ecosystem change is a natural phenomenon and to build support and capacity for adaptive management. The temporal element of management must also be considered. Although it can be difficult to assess long-term processes when dealing with complex systems on the coast (in comparison to short-term processes), adaptive management should, nevertheless, be developed for the long-term, while taking into account immediate and critical needs. It will be important to recognize trade-offs between short-term benefits and long-term goals. Adaptive management and monitoring should also take into account the lag between management actions and outcomes.

(iv) Work with natural processes

Working with nature rather than against it will mean recognizing the physical limitations (carrying capacity) of coastal ecosystems. In the long run, however, this will ensure that human activities on the coast are managed in a more environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sound manner.

It is important to recognize that coastal ecosystems need to be managed within the limits of their functioning and that natural thresholds can vary over time and with the impacts of various management decisions. Ecosystem structures are complex and there is a considerable lack of information on ecosystem thresholds; hence adaptive management will be vital in making appropriate responses. It will be essential to conserve ecosystem structure and functioning in order to sustain the benefits which arise from those ecosystems. Management should focus on maintaining and where appropriate, restoring key structures and ecological processes rather than individual species alone.

In practice, coastal managers should endeavour to anticipate problems and err on the side of caution where there is the potential for unknown environmental effects to result from their decisions. Adopting ‘soft’ mitigation measures may be an option in some circumstances e.g. in the case of coastal defence, the negative impacts of hard engineering may be mitigated against by seeking alternative solutions which work with natural processes such as the use of soft engineering and/or ‘setback and retreat’ options.

(v) Take a long-term view

Coastal zone management should take a long-term view, planning beyond short-term needs and addressing long-term issues, including those associated with the impacts of climate change. Consideration should be given to the lifespan of coastal management programmes to ensure their sustainability. Planning for the future
should ensure that current management plans will also bring social, environmental and economic benefits in the longer term.

Monitoring systems should be designed to accommodate the timescale for change in the ecosystem variables selected for monitoring. Often there is a need to strengthen capacity to monitor and detect long-term, low frequency changes in ecosystem structure and functioning.

(vi) Use participatory planning

Participatory planning involves the collaboration of all stakeholders in the development and implementation of coastal management plans. Rather than imposing management measures on people who have not had an opportunity to contribute to their development, the inclusive process of sharing concerns and information openly and devising shared management responses will help establish a sense of stewardship and corporate responsibility. Participation will be essential if meaningful consensus is to be achieved.

Different sectors of society view ecosystems in terms of their own economic, cultural and social needs. It is important, therefore, to involve all stakeholders in:

- Agreeing and defining the goals of management
- Defining the problems; and
- Making choices

Participatory planning should ensure that administrative structures enable all stakeholders to contribute and that there is a clear understanding of the framework for decision-making. It will be necessary to explain how decisions will be taken and when proposals are contrary to best practice, to explain this clearly. Capacity should be developed for negotiation and managing conflicts e.g. through project officers. The process of conflict resolution may take considerable time and resources. Participants should also be made aware of the geographic and temporal framework for planning and management.

It is important to consider all forms of relevant information, whether scientific or indigenous. All relevant information should be shared with stakeholders. Research should be disseminated widely and management decisions made explicit, as not all participants will understand the rationale for decision-making.

(vii) Ensure the support and involvement of all relevant bodies

While participatory planning ensures the involvement of all stakeholders in the development and implementation of ICZM (‘bottom-up’ approach), there is also a need to ensure equality of input to the process by responsible administrations. ICZM can only be effective if it is partnered on an ongoing basis across all relevant administrative bodies (‘horizontal integration’ e.g. between Government Departments) and between all levels of government (‘vertical integration’ e.g. between local and central government).
It may be useful to develop procedures and mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders during the consultation, decision-making, implementation and review phases. The EU Recommendation on ICZM specifies the need to involve economic and social partners, organizations representing coastal zone residents, non-governmental organizations and the business sector in the management process. The involvement of those who actually live and work on the coast can help identify the real problems and find locally relevant solutions rather than imposing a ‘one size fits all’ management approach.

(viii) Use a combination of tools

Effective coastal zone management will require the application of a range of instruments including legislation, technological solutions, research, voluntary agreements and education. Tackling coastal problems effectively will require application of the ‘right’ combination of tools – that combination will depend on the character of the geographic area in question, the nature of the issue to be addressed, the level of participation and cooperation among stakeholders, institutional structures, the legal basis of the initiative and the level of political and financial support available.

Effective implementation of ICZM may also require engagement with multidisciplinary professional and scientific expertise, including such disciplines as economic, social and environmental sciences. Using a combination of instruments should enable greater coherence both between sectoral policy objectives and between coastal planning and actual management practice.

5. International, Regional Seas and EU approaches relating to ICZM.

International Policies

A number of international conventions exist which are of relevance to the coastal area. These conventions address issues such as biodiversity, marine pollution, fishing and maritime safety. The inclusion of ICZM as one of the principal recommendations of Agenda 21, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992) gave the concept both international prominence and political legitimacy.

Other international conventions of significance include:

- RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1978)
- Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
Regional Seas Policies

While some of the threats to ocean and coastal area environments can be approached most effectively on a global scale, their individual characteristics and relevance tend to vary from region to region, and from sea to sea. The regional seas approach to management allows for greater collaboration between signatory nations and for the transfer of technology, information and experience in ICZM.

There have been several regional seas policies developed including the Helsinki and Bucharest Conventions designed for the Baltic and Black Sea areas respectively. The UK is a signatory to the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic – (This Convention derives its name from two earlier Conventions, the Oslo Convention and the Paris Convention.)

EU Approaches to ICZM

While no EU legislative measure applies exclusively to the management of the coastal environment, there are various EU policies and Directives that have an immediate impact on the coastal zone such as:

- EU Structural Funds
- Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)
- Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
- European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- Trans-European Transport Network Policy (Ten-T)

EU sectoral legislation impacting on ICZM includes:

- Bathing Water Directive
- Shellfish Water Directive
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- Nitrates Directive
- Water Framework Directive
- Birds Directive
- Habitats Directive
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive
- Environmental Impact assessment Directive

Apart from the Birds and Habitats Directives, which relate to nature conservation, the above Directives are water-related legislation. While a number of these have an influence on coastal management, the Water Framework Directive is viewed as one of the most significant in facilitating ICZM.
Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The WFD came into force in December 2000 and is designed to take a holistic approach to water quality, addressing inland surface water, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. A co-ordinated approach will therefore be required for the implementation of the measures needed to ensure compliance over the 15-year period allowed for each Member State.

Objectives of the Directive include:

- Protection and enhancement of the status of aquatic ecosystems (and terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly dependent on aquatic ecosystems)
- Provision for enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment by reducing/phasing out of discharges, emissions and losses of priority substances
- Protection of marine and territorial waters

The WFD is based on the river basin as the natural unit for management, and will require the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). The WFD strives for ecological quality by incorporating within its environmental objectives biology, hydrology, morphology and chemistry. As well as maintaining water quality, the objectives specifically refer to protecting ecosystems. Measures being adopted include reviewing the impact which various activities have on the status of the waters.

The WFD is viewed by the Commission as part of the mechanism within which ICZM will be adopted. Its application to waters up to one nautical mile beyond the national baseline goes some way to minimise the current sectoral approach to water quality management. The WFD uses biological communities as long-term indicators of health in the water and is seen as an important legal stimulus at EU level for integrated planning, both coastal and inland.
SECTION THREE – Key organisations and policies affecting the coast

6. Key organisations and policies affecting the coast

The UK Government is subject to a number of European and international obligations relevant to the sustainable management of the coastal zone and its resources. These include the management of fisheries (through the Common Fisheries Policy), nature conservation (e.g. EC Birds Directive and EC Habitats Directive), improving water quality (e.g. EC Water Framework Directive) and shipping, both in UK coastal waters and for UK registered vessels operating elsewhere in the world (through the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea). Issues for proposed Marine legislation for Marine Spatial Planning, consenting, fisheries management, conservation and possibly ICZM. There is currently no overarching coastal zone legislation for the UK as a whole or for Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland, legislative powers and responsibilities are delivered through a number of central government departments. A range of different statutory and non-statutory instruments provide for either the terrestrial or the marine portions of the coastal zone.

A summary of the responsibilities of the various Departments is attached at Appendix 3.

The UK Coastal Zone Law Web Site


contains legal materials and a commentary on coastal zone law in the United Kingdom, together with links to sources of national, European Union and international law on coastal management.

7. Examples of integrated Coastal policies between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Given the commonality of issues involved in sharing land and sea borders, Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI) have been developing a common approach on many topics between the two EU partners. This approach is designed to assist generate practical and mutual benefits through co-operation.

Co-operation between government departments in NI and the ROI takes place both on a business activity basis and also within the framework of the institutions put in place on entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999.

North/South Ministerial Council

The North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was established on 2 December 1999 on the entry into force of the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999. The Agreement stipulates that the NSMC will bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government to develop consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland on matters of mutual interest and within the competence of each Administration, North and South.
The Agreement provided for at least 12 subject areas which would be identified for co-operation and implementation. Co-operation in these areas would be taken forward in two ways – in the case of at least six of them by means of new North/South Implementation Bodies and in the case of at least six others by means of existing bodies in each jurisdiction operating at a cross-border or all-island level.

Following suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 14 October 2002, an agreement between the UK and Irish Governments was made and contained in an Exchange of Notes dated 19 November 2002. This agreement provided a mechanism for decisions to be taken on policies and actions relating to the Bodies and Tourism Ireland during the period of suspension of the Assembly. Interim procedures have been put in place by the NSMC Joint Secretariat for the processing of Ministerial decisions, while the arrangements set out in the Exchange of Notes between the two Governments apply.

Of the six areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by the new North/South Implementation Bodies the areas of Aquaculture and Marine Sectors and Special EU Programmes have links to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

Of the six areas identified as those in which co-operation would be taken forward by existing bodies in each jurisdiction separately (known as the Areas for Co-operation) the tourism sector has relevance to ICZM.

Information on the functions of these three relevant areas is given below.

**Aquaculture and Marine Sector**

The NSMC meets in the Aquaculture and Marine Sector in order to take decisions on policies and actions to be implemented by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC).

The functions of the Commission in relation to the Foyle and Carlingford Areas are exercised through the Loughs Agency. The Agency aims to provide sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas.

The Agency’s main role to date has involved developing the resource through fisheries management, conservation and protection. This includes providing management information (e.g. habitat surveys, fish counters and environmental evaluation), developing conservation mechanisms, catchment management and enforcing conservation and protection legislation. There have been a number of strategic and operational developments of the waterways undertaken by the Agency that impact on the promotion of the fisheries-based resource.
Some examples include:

- a website has been developed that provides information on the rivers and waterways; [http://www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org)

- an interpretive centre was opened to focus on the educational aspects of the waterways particularly to schools and the public;

- an angling officer has been appointed to directly promote fishing in the waterways both at home and abroad;

- publication in November 2003 of a five year development plan for the fisheries based recreation and leisure resource of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas


- DARD Shellfish Carrying Capacity models – SMILE project.

**Special EU Programmes**

The Special EU Programmes Body’s (SEUPB) principal functions are to manage certain EU Structural Funds, such as the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE II), INTERREG IIIA Programme and other Community Initiatives and to support a range of development and regeneration programmes in both the North and South of Ireland.

The SEUPB is a North South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. SEUPB was established on 2nd December 1999 under the Belfast Agreement and reports to the NSMC.

**Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative [CBAIT]**

The Aquaculture Initiative is a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) set up to provide a range of support services for the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry throughout the target area of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland.

It was initially set up between four bodies including the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland Seafood, BIM [Irish Sea Fisheries Board] and the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources under the Peace and Reconciliation Scheme. The Aquaculture Initiative received further funding from the SEUPB under PEACE II programme.

The initiative team will advise on financial, technical, strategic and environmental issues, in order to provide effective support to new and existing aquaculture operations.
The specific objectives of the Aquaculture Initiative are:

- To significantly increase output and growth of new and existing aquaculture business in the target area.
- To assist the sustainable growth of the industry taking into account issues such as environmental accreditation, coastal zone management and Quality Assurance Schemes.
- To liaise between funding organisations and fish farming producers in order to secure financial support for expansion within the aquaculture sector.
- To promote and encourage the highest standards of farm husbandry, production and quality.
- To promote investment in aquaculture from the private sector.
- To encourage economic and technical support co-operation within the aquaculture sector.
- To assist the industry and its governing bodies to allow rapid and effective processing of site licences and grant applications.

There is considerable potential for expansion of the aquaculture industry within the remit area. Through the full development of the natural resources available, aquaculture production can contribute significantly to the economy of the area as a whole and to rural areas in particular. The cross-border team provides advice and support to enable aquaculture producers to meet increasingly rigorous environmental and quality standards. The team also works to raise awareness concerning environmental responsibilities with respect to the sustainable use of natural resources.

The Aquaculture Initiative will also take forward work on implementing the Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) and Environmental Code of Practice for Aquaculture Companies and Traders (ECOPACT) Initiatives as launched in Northern Ireland in November 2004.

CLAMS is based on a concept to develop, at local level, a management plan for individual sea loughs integrating marine aquaculture interests with government policies and the views of other stakeholders.

ECOPACT is a concept developed to bring about the widespread adoption of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) into the aquaculture industry. The ECOPACT document is designed to provide a strong basis for fish farmers and associated businesses to set up their own highly effective EMS, which will impact positively on their communities and the environment.
Tourism Sector

The NSMC oversees the work of Tourism Ireland, a publicly-owned limited company which is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a tourist destination. Following a strategic and comprehensive planning process consumer marketing is based on:

- identifying and evaluating those markets that offer the best prospect for growth, then identifying and targeting the strategic and tactical segments within those markets – the ‘best prospect’ customers;
- examining how best to communicate the benefits of a holiday on the island of Ireland to these potential customers; and
- determining the appropriate marketing mix for each segment.

Using the marketing tools and funds available, Tourism Ireland’s 19 overseas market offices undertook a wide range of above and below the line marketing activities, tailored to suit each market, depending on whether it was advanced or emerging.

Above the line activity included a global advertising campaign, incorporating television, print and radio, while below the line activity included direct marketing campaigns and familiarisation trips for international tour operators. There was also an extensive publicity campaign, which brought journalists from all over the world to the island of Ireland, so they could sample the benefits of a holiday in Ireland for themselves.

Ferry companies, airlines, tour operators and accommodation providers worked with Tourism Ireland to encourage visitors to stay a little longer by offering hundreds of special offers.

Tourism Ireland published two major reports in 2003 setting out very significant targets for the growth and development of tourism over the coming decade.

Co-operation beyond the framework of the North South Ministerial Council

The table below contains information on those indicative areas of NI /ROI co-operation which fall beyond the framework of the North South Implementation Bodies and the six areas of North South co-operation as dealt with in the previous section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>Northern Ireland Bodies</th>
<th>Republic of Ireland Bodies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drainage/Flood Defence</td>
<td>DARD (Rivers Agency)</td>
<td>Office of Public Works (OPW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of levels of Lough Erne and liaison on cross border drainage/flood defence issues.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Electricity Supply Board (ESB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fisheries and Aquaculture

Fisheries management policy – training, development of sustainable fisheries, co-operation on general aquaculture matters

| Fisheries management policy – training, development of sustainable fisheries, co-operation on general aquaculture matters | DARD (in support of training initiatives arranged through local industry representatives) & Loughs Agency, CBAIT | Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) (BIM and Loughs Agency) |

### Renewable Energy

The two Departments have been sharing the findings of their respective studies on renewable energy and exploring the potential for future co-operation on areas of mutual interest.

| Renewable Energy | DARD | DETI | Sustainable Energy Ireland (an Agency of DCMNR) |

### COMMERCIAL PORTS

Discussions on matters of mutual interest on the commercial port services industry.

| COMMERCIAL PORTS | Department for Regional Development (Ports and Public Transport Division) | Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources |

### ENERGY

North/South Electricity Interconnector. An agreed key priority will be to strengthen the electricity infrastructure which supports the Interconnector, especially in ROI.

An NI/ROI Steering Group has published a Development Framework that outlines the benefits and priorities for developing an all-Island Energy Market.

| ENERGY | Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment/NIAER | Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources |

### ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

A range of additional promotional and training events have been undertaken collaboratively. These include:

<p>| ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT | Invest NI (Trade Division) | Bord Bia |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speciality and Fine Food Fair (7-9 Sept 2003 London)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Food Distribution Workshop (27 June 2003)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on Niche Brand Marketing (6 Nov 2003 Belfast)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bord Bia and Invest NI have established the Taste Council to examine the strategic development of speciality food from Ireland.</td>
<td>Invest NI (Trade Division)</td>
<td>Bord Bia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Joint Irish Small Business &amp; Speciality Food Producers Directory (October 2004) was produced and launched in 2004.</td>
<td>Invest NI (Trade Division)</td>
<td>Bord Bia</td>
</tr>
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### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Governmental Body</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI) has had contacts with relevant bodies in the South in several areas over a considerable period. Areas of co-operation have included radiological emergency planning issues and joint environmental monitoring with the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.</td>
<td>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</td>
<td>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Water Management Unit of the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) co-operates fully with the five councils that border Northern Ireland in relation to water pollution response and have also met with the Regional Fisheries Boards to discuss matters of mutual interest. Meetings have also been held with the Irish Coast Guard to discuss marine pollution response.</td>
<td>Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service)</td>
<td>Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disposal of Clinical Waste: A Joint Waste Management Board has been created to take advantage of the benefits to be gained from co-operating in the disposal of clinical waste.

Under the EC Water Framework Directive, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are designated within the same Ecoregions for both marine & freshwaters. There are now close working relationships between ROI and UK specialists who have been developing guidelines and classification tools together for WFD application. A WFD Co-ordination Group has been established under the North South Working Group on Water Quality.

This co-operation has been extended into cross border participation on the EC Water Framework Directive and Lough Melvin Catchment Management Group.

Answer – North South online register of environmental research http://www.answer-online.org/

NS Share – EU INTERREG IIIA project to support WFD implementation in cross border catchments

| Department of the Environment (Environment and Heritage Service) | Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government |
| County Councils EPA Marine Institute Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government |
| Northern Regional Fisheries Board, Central Fisheries Board, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Department of Agriculture |
| EHS | EHS |
| EHS |

**NATURAL HERITAGE**

International Designations Group: This meets regularly to discuss cross-border and all-Island nature conservation issues. It has been in operation for over 5 years.

Department of Environment, Environment and Heritage Service (EHS)

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
A collaborative seminar entitled “Ireland’s Landscape North and South: “Looking Beyond the Boundaries”” took place on 16/17 September 2004. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss landscape matters of mutual interest.

Priority Species: Production of four all-Ireland Species Action Plans for wildlife species whose populations are vulnerable throughout the Ireland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICIAL STATISTICS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and the Central Statistics Office (Dublin) maintain regular contact on matters of mutual interest and with respect to the exchange of information.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>FISHERIES POLICY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Formalising discussions on Fisheries policy</td>
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<tr>
<th>REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY/NATIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During the preparation of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), DRD officials liaised with their counterparts in ROI on the details of the emerging Strategies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The then Director of Regional Planning Division, also served as an advisor to the ROI Government on the preparation of the NSS.

TOURISM

**TIDINET**
The provision of information management and reservation services on behalf of NITB and Failte Ireland.

Infrastructure – Air Access. North West Air Access Committee co-ordinates the development and marketing of access into the North West.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board work with Failte Ireland in the administration of International Fund for Ireland to support tourism in Northern Ireland and the six border counties.

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Tourist Board**

**Failte Ireland**

Work which takes place on the North South axis of the British Irish Council

The British-Irish Council was established under the Agreement reached in the Multi-Party Negotiations in Belfast on Good Friday, 10 April 1998 (“the Agreement”), with the aim of promoting the harmonious and mutually beneficial development of the totality of relationships among the peoples of these islands. The Members of the Council are the Irish and British Governments; together with representatives of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and representatives of the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

The British-Irish Council is a forum for members to consult and exchange information with a view to co-operating on issues of mutual interest within their respective competences. To date, Members have already agreed a range of practical co-operation where appropriate, on areas as diverse as the misuse of drugs; environmental issues; indigenous, minority and lesser-used languages; social inclusion; and knowledge economy issues with work continuing in other sectors including tourism, transport and telemedicine.

The British-Irish Council continues to provide an historic opportunity to build on the excellent working relationship which the Irish and British Governments and other Members have long enjoyed and to promote the development of relations in a number of practical and helpful ways.
The British-Irish Council has continued to meet despite the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2002. In the absence of Members from the Northern Ireland Executive, the interests of Northern Ireland are temporarily represented by the British Government.

The British Government leads the work of the Council on environmental issues. ICZM has recently been added to the Council’s Environment Sectoral Group’s work programme and was a main agenda item at the Group’s April 2005 meeting.

An official level working group was established in 2004 under the chairmanship of the Welsh Assembly Government and with representation from DEFRA, the Devolved Administrations and the Irish Government to consider how the ICZM strategies developed by each region could be appropriately linked, not least in relation to the Irish Sea. The working group has met on a number of occasions to:

- share information on the strategy development approaches being adopted;
- exchange information on ICZM projects under way in the different countries;
- consider common themes/issues relevant to the Irish Sea.

The Group has identified the following issues as potential areas for common focus within the developing country strategies:

- funding for local ICZM networks/partnerships;
- the integration of ICZM into policies/programmes and planning regimes for the coastal zone;
- the need for improved public and institutional awareness of ICZM; and
- the development of common indicators to assess, on a consistent basis, progress in moving down the ICZM ‘road’.

The Group will continue its joint work and will make further reports on progress with the development of the ICZM strategies to the Environment Sectoral Group.
SECTION FOUR – Main issues to be considered

8. Assessment of main issues affecting the coastal area.

(i) Overview

There have been calls for a more integrated approach to coastal zone management in Northern Ireland since 1993 when the House of Commons Environment Committee reported on Coastal Zone Protection and Planning and the DoE subsequently issued a discussion document Managing the Coast. In 1994 the Department of the Environment’s NI statutory advisory body the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC) produced its own advisory report to Government- Coastal Zone Management Policy. As the previous sections have highlighted, many organisations have worked towards the development on improved approaches to the management of the coastal zone, on both an all Ireland and UK wide basis. The Government’s Regional Planning Policy Shaping our Future and the Regional Planning Strategy have addressed many of the issues in an integrated way across Northern Ireland with strategic polices on transportation, rural development, protection of the undeveloped coast and the sustainable development of coastal communities.

There remain, however, many areas where the integrated management of the coastline is incomplete. These are discussed, by topic, in the following pages.

A shared vision for the coastal zone

Northern Ireland has in the past benefited from the coastal zone in many ways from shipbuilding, trade and fisheries, to tourism and leisure. The region stands to benefit in future from offshore renewable energy, an increase in marine tourism, new discoveries of potential medicines and pharmaceutical products extracted from marine organisms, aquaculture and, it is to be hoped, from regenerating fisheries. People enjoy living close to the sea, and place a high value on sea views and this has fuelled a demand for first and second home developments in coastal areas. Waste water from housing and industry will continue to be routed to the sea via rivers and direct outfalls. However the coastal zone does not have an infinite ability to absorb discharges. Not every activity can be developed to its full potential without causing a negative effect on marine ecosystems or on other important activities or industries.

To date in Northern Ireland there has been little debate about priorities for the coastal zone or about the balances to be struck between conservation, industry and development. The development of a vision for how the coastal zone will be in 20 years is essential to sustainable development and to retaining an intact coastal zone ecosystem. At present there is no forum for such debate and no one Department with an overview of the coastal zone.

Since 1994 there have been calls from advisory bodies and non-governmental organisations for an organisation to be created to lead the development of a vision for Northern Ireland’s coastal zone and to develop a strategy and implementation framework.
The Regional Development Strategy and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy also identified the need for a body to take forward ICZM.

In the rest of the UK, a range of local and regional ICZM, groups, partnerships and forums have developed. These have been beneficial in bringing together experts, stakeholders and statutory bodies to promote a more integrated approach. They have also increased awareness, facilitated cooperation and have contributed to resolving conflicts.

**Teamwork in Government**

So many Government agencies and departments are potentially involved in ICZM that co-ordination will be difficult to achieve within the present structure. Even maintaining an overview of each Department’s activities in relation to the coast will be difficult to achieve. The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) which has an oversight role for some aspects of Government, has developed a section on its Policylink web page to help with information flows [www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/policylink](http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/policylink). DOE has also developed a series of ICZM web pages [www.doeni.gov.uk/epd](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/epd) to improve awareness and understanding among coastal stakeholders. An ICZM Forum or Council structure has been proposed by many stakeholders as a way of co-ordinating Departmental efforts in a similar way to, the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group.

Some aspects of ICZM are dealt with on a UK basis (e.g. offshore oil and gas exploration) and some on a cross-border basis, as previously outlined. Therefore arrangements will need to be put in place to include this wider dimension in actions for enhanced teamwork within Northern Ireland

**(ii) Marine Spatial Planning**

Experts on coastal processes generally acknowledge that the coastline should be treated as an important interface area subject to influences from both land and sea, rather than as merely the edge of the land. The coastal zone is an area of concentrated energy with wave, tide and current all impacting on its shape and condition and with a considerable transfer of materials and nutrients in both directions across the coastal boundary. For this reason, many have made the case for a system of planning that combines both land and sea in the coastal zone and considers the interfaces between them in all decisions.

The development of Marine Spatial Planning is a significant proposal in the draft Marine Bill, announced in the recent Queen’s Speech (May 2005), which will be considered by Parliament within the next few years. The Bill will outline a new integrated system, which would be used for planning and managing activities and developments in the coastal zone, and also to provide more scope to protect and restore marine biodiversity. The Bill may also propose new mechanisms for the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, including Marine Protected Areas (MPA) for important species and habitats.

These new arrangements will take some time to develop, and in the meantime a wide range of Departments remain involved in considering coastal and offshore development. Whilst inter-departmental and public consultation are routinely carried out, the current systems do not provide either the integration or the transparency provided by the current terrestrial planning system. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) will require new approaches to
gathering and presenting information about the coastal zone to ensure that all of the information required is available to those making or being consulted on decisions.

While some area development plans may contain specific references to countryside and the coast, and indeed address nature conservation and landscape amenity in areas of undeveloped coast they also deal with all material land use issues in both the developed and undeveloped coast. However, development plans and indeed the land use planning system as a whole does not have a management function. There may be a case for a specific development plan focusing on the coast which considers all coastal activity on an integrated basis and takes full account of the requirement for the regulation and licensing of construction below MHWS under FEPA.

A layer of non-statutory integrated coastal management planning already operates in Northern Ireland. One example is the Strangford Lough Management Scheme. This scheme was developed on an integrated basis with all of the bodies represented on the Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee. It represents the government’s commitment on the management of the Lough by virtue of its status as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive and Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Birds Directive. Currently this level of management planning serves only to advise Departments and has no further role beyond this. Similar schemes may be appropriate for Lough Foyle, Carlingford Lough and Belfast Lough to provide locally relevant decision making within ICZM.

A further example of non-statutory management planning is the cross-border Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) scheme in Carlingford Lough, designed to aid communication and consultation between the aquaculture industry and other local interests on Carlingford Lough. CLAMS assists participation in aquaculture planning, and helps information flows, but falls short of integrated planning for all marine and coastal interests.

Development

Northern Ireland has one of the fastest population growth rates in Europe and it is estimated that there will be a regional need for an additional 160,000 dwellings by 2015. These are expected to be concentrated in the Belfast Metropolitan area, around Londonderry, and to a lesser extent in the Antrim, Ards, Down, and Newry and Mourne areas. In addition to accommodation for local residents there is a significant demand for second homes and apartments around the coastline. On parts of the north coast second home development has reached levels that are causing concern both to residents and planners. One settlement, Portballintrae, has more than 50% of houses occupied on a second home basis.

The landscape value of the Mourne coast is also severely degraded by substantial individual developments in the coastal zone. Replacement dwellings rather than renovation are a major factor. When considered together, these one-off developments have a significant cumulative effect on local coastal landscape.
(iii) Commercial Fisheries

The Northern Ireland fishing fleet is largely dependent on fishing opportunities in the Irish Sea, although some larger pelagic and whitefish vessels are involved in fisheries in other sea areas. The industry is heavily dependent on the Nephrops fishery, which is currently fished at sustainable levels. The small but highly profitable pelagic fleet and crab and lobster vessels are also generally considered to be operating in sustainable fisheries. Much of the decline in the fleet in recent years has been in the whitefish sector due to the decline in whitefish stocks, which has resulted in successive quota cuts, reductions in fishing days, and the closure of the Irish Sea cod spawning grounds every spring since 2000. To date, these measures, introduced as part of the EC Cod Recovery Plan for the Irish Sea have failed to deliver cod recovery.

The problems experienced in NI are not unique and in 2004 the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit report on the UK fishing industry, Net Benefits, (www.strategy.gov.uk/downloads/su/fish/index.htm) was published. The UK Fisheries Administrations in their joint response to Net Benefits, “Securing the Benefits”, (www.defra.gov.uk/fish/sea/sfp/index.htm) set out an overarching aim and objectives for future UK fisheries policy making in the years ahead. The Fisheries Administrations are working closely together to achieve these objectives.

As part of it’s commitments under Securing the Benefits The NI fisheries Administration has commenced a review of inshore fisheries management involving a local Stakeholder Advisory Group made up of wide inshore marine interests. This process seeks to bring together the fishing industry and other inshore marine stakeholders to develop a management system that can deliver a sustainable future for Northern Ireland’s inshore fisheries. The review group will report to Ministers during 2006.

The South Down Task Force was formed as a government response to the decline in the local fishing economy and a funded a strategy for change is in place involving diversification, retraining, and the development of alternative employment opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is leading the development of a strategic plan for the fishing industry in Northern Ireland, whilst the UK Government is consulting on a linked proposal for a UK Strategy via the consultation document ‘Net Benefits, www.strategy.gov.uk/downloads/su/fish/index.htm’. The fishing industry has had little formal dialogue with other marine sectors although its activities can have a major impact locally and regionally.

Atlantic salmon stocks are declining across their range and populations in many Northern Ireland’s rivers are below conservation limits. Falling marine survival is a key factor in this decline and a cause for concern. Similarly, the population of glass eel to the coast has also declined in recent years. Coastal salmon fisheries have been significantly reduced to strike a balance between exploitation and conservation. Lough Neagh supports the largest remaining wild eel fishery in Europe but its future too is dependant on actions to ensure the fishery remains sustainable. DCAL is leading on the ongoing development of local Salmon Management Plans and contributing EU Eel Action Plans.(Also covered in Part (x) Natural heritage below)
As in many areas of policy, radical change towards sustainable development has emerged out of crisis. The fishing industry has an important role to play in ICZM for ensuring its own future and adapting to the challenge of falling profits.

**Aquaculture**

Northern Ireland’s coastline and sea loughs provide ideal opportunities for fish and shellfish farming developments. Licensed shellfish sites around the coast produce around 7,000 tonnes of mussels and around 280 tonnes of Pacific oysters annually with a combined value of about £3m. Aquaculture provides employment in coastal communities where often there are little or no alternative employment opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), which has responsibility for licensing marine fish farms, is committed to developing, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, an Aquaculture Strategy for the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry.

The development of the bottom grown mussel sector, which has seen the most significant development in recent years, is dependent on the supply of mussel seed from naturally occurring beds. DARD is currently reviewing its policy on the management and exploitation of this resource to promote sustainable development within the sector. The completion of an ecosystem based carrying capacity model for each of Northern Ireland’s five sea loughs should be completed towards the end of 2006. This model will further assist DARD in ensuring that marine aquaculture develops in an environmentally sustainable manner. Within the industry however there remain a number of concerns particularly with regard to water quality and potential conflicts with other marine activities.

**(iv) Climate change and coastal protection**

Climate models predict that Northern Ireland will see warmer wetter winters, with drier summers. The frequency of extreme weather events, which lead to flooding may increase. The timing of natural events such as the blooming of daffodils may alter in response to a changing climate. The balance of species in our environment may change.

On the positive side, farmers may find they are able to grow new kinds of crops and domestic tourism may increase. Businesses may be able to take advantage of changing market conditions.

In Northern Ireland estimates of sea level change by the 2050s range between 13cm and 74cm, dependent upon scenario. Heightened sea levels are expected to exacerbate coastal erosion and compound the effects of storm surges. Storm surges, are temporary increases in tidal height caused by particular weather conditions in future their frequency or severity of may increase as climate change affects weather patterns.

Coastal erosion is a potential impact of rising sea levels with existing beaches and dunes being put under increased pressure. This will have implications for wildlife and habitat protection, as well as for coastal planning policy.
The Rivers Agency already maintains 26 kms of sea defences to help avoid the flooding of low-lying coastal lands, and it is likely that area plans may in future have to address the threat of flooding associated with sea level rise. Coastal erosion is also an issue for parts of Northern Ireland such as the County Down and North coasts.

Responsibility for dealing with coastal erosion in Northern Ireland lies with several Departments as a result of a set of principles delineating responsibilities known as the “Bateman Formula”.

Under this formula coastal responsibilities are shared as follows:

Coastal defence, where it reduces the risk of flooding on extensive areas of farmland, residential or commercial areas, is the responsibility of Rivers Agency of DARD, which maintains 26 kms sea-defences designated under the Drainage Order 1973 by the Drainage Council.

Where infrastructure is vulnerable to coastal erosion, the relevant authority is responsible; therefore, for example, Roads Service is responsible for maintaining the sea defences that protect the road network adjacent to the sea shoreline including the A2 Antrim Coast Road and the A20 Portaferry Road and Translink protects the rail infrastructure.

Otherwise individual landowners are responsible for their own coastline, and depending on the circumstances, may require planning consent from DOE for new coastal protection measures and a licence under the Food and Environment Protection Act to place material on the shore. Consents to carry out a Notifiable Operation are also required for if the site falls within an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) Approximately 40 ASSIs with coastal and marine elements have been designated within Northern Ireland.

Coastal processes are not fully understood, for example there appears to be a relationship between the shape and size of the Tunes Plateau shoal and the rate of erosion of the Magilligan shoreline, and a relationship between coastal engineering work at Newcastle and the sandiness of the beach there.

Climate change and coastal erosion are complex issues and require decisions that take into account both the best research available, and information about public safety, sustainable communities, individual livelihoods, wildlife habitats, navigation and shipping routes, coastal recreation and landscape quality and the relative impacts of different approaches to coastal protection. Strategic issues for discussion include: priority areas for action; the relative merits of hard coastal defences versus managed retreat; the need for further research on coastal processes specific to Northern Ireland; and the case for applying the precautionary principle where the effects of a particular policy cannot accurately be predicted.

ICZM processes need to bring forward transparent policies on approaches to climate change and coastal protection.
(v) Water quality

The seas around Northern Ireland generally have good or excellent biological and chemical water quality. The quality of estuaries and loughs can be impacted by pollutants and nutrients from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources. Water quality is protected under EC Directives (Nitrates, Urban Waste Water Treatment, Shellfish, Bathing Waters, Water Framework Directive), international agreements (OSPAR) and through local legislation (Water (NI) Order controlling discharges to waterways including the coast and the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 controlling deposits in the sea.) EHS's existing water management policy is to maintain or improve quality in surface waters and waters in underground strata as required by national policy, EC Directives and international agreements, and to generally manage river, estuarine, and coastal waters to be at least “Good” under the adopted classification schemes with no downward movement between classes. Plans for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive are in progress with the aim of securing at least good status for all waters under the newly developed classification schemes by 2015. Water quality improvement measures will include investment in improved treatment methods at Waste Water Treatment Works [WWTWs], in addition to many other measures.

The implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland will also improve coastal water quality by reducing the surplus nutrients that run off farmland into waters which contribute to the enrichment of estuarine waters and may lead to algal blooms.

Water quality plays a key role in many nature conservation sites. Coastal zone areas protected by the Habitats Directive include the waters of Strangford Lough and around Rathlin Island as both Special Protection Areas (SPA for Birds) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for a range of habitats, Dundrum Bay, parts of the Causeway Coast and Benone Magilligan Coast are designated SACs and parts of the shores of Carlingford Lough, Larn Lough and Lough Foyle are SPAs.

Water quality also impacts on the tourism and leisure industries and on public enjoyment of beaches and watersports sites. Northern Ireland has 8 Blue Flag award beaches. These awards are primarily concerned with beach management facilities, but only sites meeting the guideline standards of the Bathing Water Directive are eligible. Northern Ireland also has beaches which have failed the EC Bathing Water Directive standards due to factors that include agricultural run-off and discharges from WWTWs.

Marine pollution has not been a major issue in Northern Ireland to date, except for long standing public concern about emissions from Sellafield Nuclear Power Station, but the potential for a major pollution incident remains. Current shipping routes bring ferries, cargo vessels, oil and chemical tankers along with various other ships close to sensitive areas of the North Coast and Rathlin Island. Response to maritime pollution incidents in Northern Ireland is supported by equipment, expertise and logistics from a wide range of sources. Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) hold a stockpile of response equipment at their main store in Belfast which can be used to respond to both marine and inland pollution incidents. In addition to Government owned equipment the major ports and harbours in Northern Ireland are required under the Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Convention (OPRC) to hold response equipment to deal with pollution incidents within their waters. The MCA have stockpiled first strike booming and oil storage equipment in Belfast.
which is also at the disposal of EHS. A number of private sector spill response contractors also have equipment and manpower resources within Northern Ireland.

As part of the ongoing EHS strategy to further its preparedness to respond to marine pollution incidents EHS is a major partner in the EROCIPS (Emergency Response to Oil Chemicals and Inert Pollution from Shipping) project. This project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund through Interreg IIIIB administered by the Atlantic Area program and the British Government.

To date EROCIPS has allowed EHS to release contracts to:

- Update, rewrite and improve the NI Coastal Contingency Plan,
- Undertake a study of the shipping and cargoes transiting the NI coastline in order to better assess the risk from maritime traffic,
- Become a major stakeholder in a Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) project looking into the disposal and treatment of oily waste in relation to the recently implemented EU waste directives,
- Undertake an extensive survey of the NI coastline to identify beach types and access points to support and prepare for a clean-up strategy,
- Provide complete aerial photography coverage of the NI coastline.

In addition further work is planned for 2006 and 2007 which will further enhance existing work undertaken.

In the event of a significant oil spill within NI waters further resources can be made available from MCA stockpiles as detailed in the MCA National Contingency Plan. Should overall UK equipment and expertise resources prove inadequate then the MCA will coordinate additional assistance from EU and/or Bonn Agreement arrangements currently in place for mutual support.

Given the important environmental features and the high level of risk of marine pollution incidents, DEFRA has been considering the designation of Marine Environment High Risk Areas (MEHRA) around the UK including several sites in Northern Ireland. Rathlin Island, Isle of Muck and the Gobbins, Copeland Islands and the approaches to Strangford Lough have all been identified in the highest risk category.

(vi) Tourism and recreation

Much of Northern Ireland’s tourism activity is focused around the coastline and several key resorts rely to some degree on seasonal tourism income. The distinctive character and appearance of coastal settlements contribute significantly to the attraction of the coastal zone to tourists and the tourist product. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has recognised the importance of the coastline and in particular the Giant’s Causeway, to the Northern Ireland economy in its own strategy and in an advisory capacity assists to maintain the visual appeal of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in Northern Ireland, including their coastlines.

Marine activity tourism, special interest and wildlife tourism are all growth areas across the world which offer new alternatives to traditional beach holiday resorts. For example Benone Strand has developed as an activity beach and the north coast attracts large numbers of surfers, even on winter weekends. Marine tourism is forecast to grow steadily over the next five years and is now considered to account for 11% of the world market in tourism. Activities such as is kite flying, kite surfing, surfing, water skiing, jet skiing, surf kayaking, sea kayaking, snorkelling and sub aqua, are increasingly taking place around the coasts, and recreational boat ownership (particularly fast powered craft) is also growing. Maritime events are also popular, drawing large numbers of people and boats.
Some marine leisure planning has been undertaken around the coastline, for example, the Loughs Agency has developed marine leisure and tourism strategies for Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough. Tourism is also considered within the Strangford Lough Management Scheme, in relation to its potential impacts on the Lough's environmental features. To date however there has been no strategic planning for marine or coastal tourism on a Northern Ireland wide basis and little reference within tourism planning to the interface with other coastal zone sectors. Legislation for the control of marine leisure activities is generally weak, except where there is a harbour authority.

(vii) Renewable energy

Following the Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997 (the Kyoto Protocol), the UK Government set a target for 10% of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by the end of 2010, with the figure rising to 20% by 2020. The publication of ‘Vision 2010– Energy Action Plan’ indicated that Northern Ireland would be contributing to the UK targets. The target set for Northern Ireland is that by 2012, 12% of all electricity consumed should be generated from renewable sources.

Some of this contribution may come from offshore wind farms or tidal current turbines, with the majority of development likely to be focused within zones where depths are 20 m or less, due to technological constraints and construction costs. Examples of windfarm proposals include the Tunes Plateau at the mouth of Lough Foyle and an area off the South Down coast, whilst locations such as the Strangford Lough Narrows, the Copeland Islands, Fair Head, Torr Head to Runabay Head, Carlingford Lough and Rathlin Island may prove attractive as locations for tidal turbines.

The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment foresees significant offshore windfarm, tidal stream and wave power energy projects being initiated within the next 10 to 15 years. No strategic or spatial level planning for offshore renewables in the Northern Ireland coastal zone has been undertaken to date. The development of such a plan could be an important activity for the ICZM process. All individual proposals within such a strategic level plan would require a FEPA licence.

(viii) Ports and marine transportation

Northern Ireland has five commercial ports, - Belfast, Londonderry, Warrenpoint, Lame and Coleraine. The Port of Lame is privately owned whilst the remainder are public trust ports. Over 80 international shipping lines operate from the five ports. Belfast Port handles around two thirds of all trade by sea to and from Northern Ireland with a throughput of 9000 boats and some 2 million passengers. 90% of Northern Ireland’s total trade, and almost 50% of the Republic of Ireland’s freight traffic, leaves through Northern Ireland’s ports. The ports represent essential infrastructure to support the quality of life of Northern Ireland and underpin its economy.

All of the ports and harbours have development plans for the future, but some find their plans constrained by issues such as disposal of dredged material, restrictions on land reclamation, the proximity of nature conservation sites, designation and licensing of aquaculture, and the proximity of historic sites and monuments.
Londonderry and Belfast Ports are involved in initiatives to increase the numbers of cruise liners visiting Northern Ireland’s ports each year, and Londonderry Port has developed a major visitor pontoon to encourage recreational boat visits to the City of Derry. Warrenpoint Port is developing as a major landing point and depuration centre for mariculture in Strangford Lough.

The activities of the ports affect other interests through their actions and vice versa, for example, the ports are also harbour authorities controlling navigation within their jurisdictions.

A number of smaller ports such as Bangor, Donaghadee and the fisheries harbours of Ardglass, Portavogie and Kilkeel also support both local industry and tourism.

(ix) Extractive industries

Northern Ireland’s coastline is relatively free of active mineral workings and large scale extraction. Some localised removal of beach sands and gravels takes place around the coastline, particularly the north coast, and there is extensive sand and gravel extraction on parts of the South Down coast from glacial deposits.

EHS is responsible for licensing deposits and construction below MHWS under FEPA. There is currently an active consultation on bringing in legislation to regulate the extraction of marine materials. Offshore oil and gas exploration is not active at present off the Northern Ireland coastline. The Department for Trade and Industry in London (DTI) is responsible for strategic planning and licensing below the high tide mark in Northern Ireland in relation to oil and gas extraction, which are reserved matters. DTI has recently issued a series of Strategic Environmental Assessments for its oil and gas licensing phases (www.offshore-sea.org.uk) including assessments for the Irish Sea and the north coast areas.

Guidance has been issued to accompany the new marine minerals extraction regulations. The new regulations require public consultation and this should be consistent with ICZM principles.

(x) Natural and Built Heritage

The coastline of Northern Ireland is rich in biodiversity with much of the coast protected under national and international designations. The state of the coastal zone and seas around the UK has been monitored for many years by Government Departments and NGOs, though many aspects are still not fully researched or understood. The report ‘Charting Progress: An Integrated assessment of the State of the UK Seas’ (2005) provides the first integrated assessment, across the entire UK Continental Shelf, of the various impacts of human activities in the marine environment and how the ecosystem elements are responding. Prepared jointly by DEFRA, SE, WAG and DOE, the report presents a mixed picture and proposes the adoption of a more holistic approach to management of the seas.
Terrestrial coastal sites and their associated species can be protected through designation and legislation and frequent observations are made to monitor their conservation status. However, marine species and habitats are arguably more difficult to protect and monitor and there are a range of activities that fall outside the direct influence of the Environment and Heritage Service.

The current state of the seas gives those charged with protecting natural heritage across the UK and Ireland some cause for concern. Whilst marine research and monitoring is more difficult at sea, it is now recognised that a number of species are declining in number. For example, the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* is under pressure from bycatch; Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar* is declining for a number of reasons including netting at sea and the quality of inland waters for spawning; and Atlantic Cod *Gadus morhua* is at very low spawning stock levels, though experiencing a slight recovery. European eel stocks are also below safe biological limits. (Atlantic salmon and glass eels also covered in Part (iii) Commercial Fisheries above.)

Agencies in the UK, including those in Northern Ireland, have developed Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) that affect coastal and marine species and habitats. Species Action Plans (SAPs) include native oyster *Ostrea edulis*, basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus* and common skate *Dipturus batis*. Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) include coastal saltmarsh, and horse mussel beds *Modiolus modiolus*. HAPs and SAPs are taken forward on an inter-agency basis with participation from a wide range of Government and other organisations, including industry. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group (NIBG) coordinates the process and has produced an initial report on Government’s progress towards meeting the 76 recommendations contained in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy. To date, the main focus has been on terrestrial species but NIBG plans to increase its focus on coastal biodiversity. A copy of the report can be accessed at:

www.doeni.gov.uk/epd/about_us

Local Authorities around the coast are in the process of developing Local Biodiversity Action plans (LBAPs). These will include plans for coastal biodiversity where relevant. The buildings and settlements of the coastal zone continue to influence social and economic wellbeing and underpin distinctive townscape and landscapes; protection is provided by listing buildings and designating conservation areas and areas of townscape character.

(xii) Data, information and mapping

Marine Spatial Planning and wider ICZM activity will require new approaches to gathering and presenting integrated information about the coastal zone. Currently data from marine and coastal research is held by a wide variety of individuals, universities, businesses, Government agencies and departments and non governmental organisations. The information is also held in many different formats such as GIS1 and paper records. The CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) database at the Ulster Museum has increasingly played a role in co-ordinating data from a range of agencies on marine and terrestrial species and habitats but ICZM requirements for data are much wider. Quercus, a data and research initiative between EHS and Queens University Belfast, will

1 Geographical Information Systems
play a role in biodiversity research. However, there is a need for one integrated database rather than for a profusion of sectoral databases.

The Irish Sea Pilot – one of a series of pilot projects to inform the process of ICZM across the EU, investigated the information required and available across the range of coastal zone activity. This information ranged from the location, flows and contents of sewage outfalls to the sea; to oil and gas fields, marine habitats and coastal land use. The pilot study recommended that digital map bases combining sea and land areas would be required for ICZM as would new electronic databases combining data sources, and an approach that makes data more easily available to all potential decision makers and the public.

Presenting the information in one place will permit the study of trends and relationships between different aspects of the coastal zone. The Ordnance Survey and UK Hydrographic office have together produced pilot maps to combine onshore and offshore information [www.iczmap.com](http://www.iczmap.com) and are engaged in developing a geographical information system (GIS) strategy called Mosaic, designed to provide a forum for GIS data sharing [www.mosaic-ni.com](http://www.mosaic-ni.com).

In addition the MIDA (Marine Irish Digital Atlas) project [www.mida.uuc.ie](http://www.mida.uuc.ie) is currently underway in partnership between EHS, University of Ulster, Coleraine, and University College Cork. The MIDA will involve high level support from officials and political representatives in the North. This will be a valuable tool in facilitating the sustainable development of our coast.
SECTION FIVE – Objectives for ICZM

9. Objectives relating to sustainable development principles.

A proposed strategy

One of the most important tasks for ICZM is the development of a shared vision about the coastal zone.

This strategy proposes a vision for:

A coastal zone which through an ecosystem approach and the sustainable management of natural and built resources supports a vibrant, viable and informed population, and, through sustainable development contributes strongly to the overall economy.

Where decisions about development and conservation of the coastline are taken with timely and accurate knowledge of their impacts within the context of the Precautionary Principle, and in an integrated way with all of these people, communities, organisations, and Government Departments with a responsibility or an interest engaged in decisions.

Where natural and built resources are protected, maintained, enhanced and promoted through, legislation, good practice mechanisms and through the concern and interest of the public, Government, and industry.

Consistent with the principles of sustainable development the proposed strategy is organised around three priority themes of:

- **Sustainable communities** in the coastal zone
- **Safeguarding and improving the environment** within the coastal zone and
- **Maintaining and enhancing the economy** of the coastal zone;

In order to achieve these:

- **Integration of planning and effort** will be required and this is the fourth main theme of the strategy. The gathering, processing and application of data is vital to informing successful ICZM.

Strategy aims have been developed as follows under each of these themes:

**Sustainable communities (SC)**

1. To establish and maintain a sustainable quality of life for coastal communities in Northern Ireland.
2. To maintain, enhance, and develop coastal infrastructure and services and reduce the effects of isolation associated with coastal communities.

3. To maintain the distinct cultural identities, traditions and skills of coastal communities and protect and present important aspects of their history.

Environment (ENV)
1. To maintain and enhance Northern Ireland's natural resources within the coastal zone and protect, maintain and enhance the condition of designated nature conservation sites.

2. To conserve, protect and where possible enhance the estuarine and coastal environment and terrestrial ecosystems dependent on this such as marine wetlands and salt marshes.

Economy (ECON)
1. To secure a vibrant economic future for Northern Ireland coastal communities and to contribute to the Northern Ireland and UK economies through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone.

2. To maintain the visual appeal and environmental quality of Northern Ireland’s coastal landscapes and seascapes as an underpinning asset of economic development.

3. To maintain and enhance safe passage to ports and harbours in Northern Ireland for commercial shipping, fishing and recreational navigation and support the sustainable economic development of ports and harbours and their hinterlands.

Integration (INT)
1. To provide statutory mechanisms to develop and implement integrated planning for the coastal zone including the area below the low tide mark, and to control inappropriate development and activity on land and sea within the zone.

2. To establish a lead agency and structures to assist the delivery of ICZM in Northern Ireland. To co-ordinate efforts and to facilitate participation in the structures at Northern Ireland and local level.

3. To provide co-ordinated services to support ICZM including research, databases and mapping; and to facilitate access by ICZM partners and the public to an integrated set of information.

Objectives, actions and indicators

In the following tables a set of objectives, actions and indicators have been set out for each aim. Where possible targets have been suggested against objectives to assist in motivation, standard setting and monitoring. Indicators are aspects of the coastal zone that should show change if the policies and objectives suggested in the table for each aim are implemented and monitored. Some are derived directly from the proposed EU ICZM indicators, some from UK indicators of sustainable development, and some have been developed to match the Northern Ireland ICZM strategy elements.
Timescales

EU guidance for ICZM strategies is that they should set out objectives for 20 years, in effect, they should plan for major change to the way that the coastal zone is managed to be achieved within a generation. This strategy proposes three main stages, each with a different focus:

In Years 1-3 it is suggested that the focus is on:

- Protecting and maintaining the existing resource under existing legislation
- Providing information to all groups who will need to contribute to the strategy and be engaged in the actions.
- Identification and co-ordination of existing activities moving towards integration in future.
- Setting up structures to achieve ICZM.
- Rolling out existing commitments and programmes with increasing reference to an engagement with other bodies.
- Development of integrated planning between Government Departments, industry, local authority and community interests.
- The development of spatial planning approaches to the marine area.
- Engagement of industry and communities in current approaches and developing capacity for new approaches.
- Changing agency, industry and community behaviour towards the coastal zone.
- Initiating research programmes to provide knowledge and techniques on which to base spatial planning.
- Implementation of short term objectives.

At the end of year 3 a review of the strategy is proposed to allow for new participants to be involved fully and revised strategy. Thereafter reviews will be carried out on a 3 year cycle.

In Years 4-7 the focus should be on:

- Implementing integrated spatial planning for the marine and coastal zone.
- Joint planning and implementation of new coastal programmes.
Making a significant difference to the protection of critical capital of the coastal zone.

Effective sharing of research and information.

In Years 8-20 integration will now be complete and attention is now focused on maintaining:

- Fully effective integrated coastal zone planning and management systems.
- Systems to respond to new challenges and opportunities.
- Significant improvements in water quality, marine species diversity and economic performance of marine industries.

Explanation of terms used in the tables and the strategy:

Themes
The strategy is based on the broad themes of sustainable development, i.e. coastal zone society and culture, environment, economy and integration.

Aims
Each theme has a set of aims for the delivery of integrated coastal zone management.

Objectives and actions
A set of objectives and actions are set out for each aim. There has been an attempt to make the objectives SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound) but some work still needs to be done in this area, particularly because challenging objectives require consensus across the board. Where possible, targets have been suggested against objectives to assist in motivation, standard setting and monitoring.

Indicators
These are aspects of the coastal zone that should show change if the policies and objectives suggested in the table for each aim are implemented and monitored. Some are derived directly from the proposed EU ICZM indicators, some from UK indicators of sustainable development, and some designed to match the strategy elements.

Priority Period
This 20-year strategy is divided into three main stages:
Years 1-3; Years 4-7; and Years 8-20.

Targets
The desired situation at the end of the priority period indicated against each target – (i.e 1-3).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Key mechanisms and actions</th>
<th>Responsible organisation(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 1.1</td>
<td>The sustainable development and management of coastal livelihoods and activities.</td>
<td>Develop a more integrated approach to the administration of existing policies promoting access to employment in the coast.</td>
<td>DARD DETI DCAL NITB</td>
<td>Harbour Authorities MCA Loughs Agency Fisheries Conservancy Board District Councils EHS Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Levels of employment in marine and coastal zone industries remain the same or rise.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1.2</td>
<td>To identify and monitor the socio-economic status of ‘permanent’ or ‘long-term’ coastal communities, highlighting issues specific to those regions and taking action where appropriate.</td>
<td>Data search – 2001 and other small area statistics</td>
<td>DARD DSD NIHE</td>
<td>South Down Task Force District Councils Invest NI SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Knowledge of socio economic status of coastal communities in comparison to urban and rural inland areas</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1.3</td>
<td>To review and build upon best practice in involving coastal communities in the formulation and implementation of planning policies/proposals for their areas.</td>
<td>Increase public participation in the development of Area development plans and Marine Spatial Plans and assess public opinion in the process of drafting plans.</td>
<td>Planning Service DRD Regional Planning EPD</td>
<td>Local community groups Invest NI EHS SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Coastal and island communities influence future shape of own settlements recognising the importance of natural coastal processes and working with these</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1.4</td>
<td>To encourage a range of housing which meets the accommodation needs of coastal communities, supports local economies and maintains/enhances local character and sense of place.</td>
<td>Consider research into the identification of housing policy mechanisms which can promote/facilitate the provision of a range of housing stock to meet the needs of coastal communities.</td>
<td>NIHE Planning Service DRD Regional Planning DSD</td>
<td>The indigenous coastal zone communities feel able to remain within their home area</td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 1.5</td>
<td>To identify potential threats to coastal zones posed by climate change and consider appropriate actions for the safety, well-being and economic interests of coastal zone communities.</td>
<td>To undertake research into Flood and Coastal Defence, as part of a wider Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Study.</td>
<td>EPD EHS</td>
<td>Rivers Agency DRD District Councils MCA National Trust Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust DARD SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Research to be completed by end of 2006.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To develop spatial planning approaches including adaption measures to the coastal zone that takes predicted sea level rise into account.</td>
<td>Planning Service DRD</td>
<td>Rivers Agency</td>
<td>Spatial planning for coastal issues</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>Key mechanisms and actions</td>
<td>Responsible organisation(s)</td>
<td>Partner(s)</td>
<td>Targets</td>
<td>Priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>SC 1.6</td>
<td>To create a safer environment for the community by providing an effective marine rescue service</td>
<td>Provide and co-ordinate effective emergency responses e.g. provision of rescue co-ordination centre, coastguard S&amp;R and cliff rescue teams, helicopter responses, RNLI co-ordination</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>Emergency services RNLI</td>
<td>95% of incidents response initiated within 5 minutes of alert</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Indicators to the Aim:
- Degree of social exclusion
- Relative household prosperity
- Employment levels and types
- Access to services
- Physical safety of coastal communities

PRIORITY – SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

AIM SC1

TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND
### Priority - Social/Cultural

**Aim SC2**

**To maintain, enhance and develop coastal infrastructure and services and reduce the effects of isolation associated with coastal communities.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Key mechanisms and actions</th>
<th>Responsible organisation(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 2.1</td>
<td>To maintain, enhance and develop appropriate sustainable transport and communication infrastructure to facilitate access to jobs and services, social inclusion, and tourism.</td>
<td>DRD (Ports and Public Transport Division, Roads Service)</td>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>Cost effective and socially effective ferry services</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support and maximise the potential of existing ferry services at Magilligan, Strangford and Rathlin to deliver on social, economic and tourism objectives.</td>
<td>MCA Planning Service</td>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>1 feasibility study and Environmental Statement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider renewed proposals for Carlingford Lough Ferry</td>
<td>MHT</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Standard service is maintained or improved</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain coastal roads and coastal bus services</td>
<td>NITB</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Signed coastal tourist routes with associated services</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develop policy proposals aimed at providing a legislative base within which Northern Ireland ports can modernise and improve</td>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Viable ferry route delivering specific benefits to Northern Ireland society and coastal economy.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve tourist signage of Causeway Coast and other relevant routes</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Moyle Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximise the potential of the possible renewed Ballycastle to Campbeltown ferry route to contribute to the sustainable development of coastal communities</td>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>NITB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 2.2</td>
<td>To support and maintain sustainable coastal and island communities with appropriate access to essential services.</td>
<td>District Councils</td>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>Arrest of population decline and increased number of families with young children living on Rathlin Island</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To bring forward a sustainable development plan to arrest critical population decline on Rathlin Island.</td>
<td>CCGHT Ports and Public Transport Division, Planning Service</td>
<td>UFU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 2.3</td>
<td>Increase the number and distance of coastal walks cycling routes</td>
<td>District Councils</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>1 Mourne Coastal Walk 1 extended Causeway Coast Waymarked Path</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negotiate new access and provide infrastructure to Mourne Coast and North Antrim Coast</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>MHT, MHT, SUSTRANS National Trust, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, CCGHT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key Indicators to the Aim

- Maritime heritage site integrity and access
- No of people with maritime skills
- Marine related employment

### No Objective Key mechanisms and actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Key mechanisms and actions</th>
<th>Responsible organisation(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC 3.1</td>
<td>Complete an integrated and up to date inventory of heritage (built and marine – incl. Wrecks) within coastal zones mapping</td>
<td>Inventory of archaeological heritage below the high tide mark</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maritime archaeology inventory</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The second survey of Historic Buildings</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Completion of 2nd Survey by 2015</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC 3.2</td>
<td>Celebrate Northern Ireland maritime heritage and environment and provide access and interpretation at important maritime heritage sites</td>
<td>Consider maritime heritage trail including former rights of way and paths for Northern Ireland or for regional areas. Inventory of maritime archaeological heritage</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>NITB, MDA, DCAL, National Trust, DARD, District Councils, SLMAC, CCGHT, MHT</td>
<td>1 maritime heritage trail Major maritime events</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Priority – Environment

**To maintain and enhance Northern Ireland’s natural resources within the coastal zone and protect, maintain and enhance the condition of designated nature conservation sites.**

### Key indicators to the aim

To arise from objective ENV 1.3 below

- Status of red listed coastal and marine species
- Rate of loss of or damage to areas all coastal zone areas

### No Objective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Key mechanisms and actions</th>
<th>Responsible organisation(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.1</td>
<td>Develop Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Develop new legislation for MPAs.</td>
<td>EPD, EHS, DARD Fisheries</td>
<td>Fishing Industry, Shipping interests, MCA, NGOs, Aquaculture Sector, Crown Estate, AFBI, SLMAC</td>
<td>Rationale and set of implementation proposals for consultation in 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.2</td>
<td>To collect and collate new and existing baseline coastal data and monitor and report on the condition of the coastal zone to provide feedback on condition and progress in coastal processes and sea level change</td>
<td></td>
<td>EHS, DARD, EPD</td>
<td>NGOs, DARD, MCA, Rivers Agency, AFBI (Potential for ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum)</td>
<td>Agreement Monitoring programme with reports accessible to the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.3</td>
<td>To monitor and report on the status of commercial fish stocks, e.g. spawning stock biomass, recruitment, mortality, fishing effort, landings and value.</td>
<td>Relevant reports on key commercial fish species and the Northern Ireland fleet in the Irish Sea (ICES Area Via).</td>
<td>DARD, EHS, DCAL</td>
<td>NGOs, Fishermen’s organisations, Loughs Agency, Fisheries Conservancy Board, ICES, NASCO, AFBI</td>
<td>Regular objective monitoring and reporting system, accessible to the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.4</td>
<td>Protect, enhance and restore key sites for marine and coastal biodiversity and geodiversity as natural processes permit.</td>
<td>Complete the designation of coastal zone ASSI, SPA SAC and RAMSAR sites. Prepare conservation objectives for management of designated sites and regulate and prohibit adverse activities within ASSIs and Natura 2000 sites, as appropriate.</td>
<td>EHS, DARD</td>
<td>All Agencies, All Departments</td>
<td>All qualifying potential sites designated by 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 By key sites, we mean protected areas throughout the marine waters for which we have responsibility, including Natura 2000 sites, sites that form part of the OSPAR network and the designation of sites for nationally important areas. Nationally important areas could be extensions of ASSIs below low water mark or some other mechanism as emerges from the Marine Bill that is currently out for consultation. Selection of sites will be the result of an appraisal according to certain criteria, such as areas that are particularly special or are essential for the structure and functioning of marine ecosystems and the support of marine biodiversity and the protection of representative species and habitats, taking into account habitats and species for which there are adopted action plans.
<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.5</td>
<td>Protect and where possible restore key coastal and marine biodiversity species and habitats</td>
<td>Progress coastal and marine Biodiversity Action Plans at national and local levels. Establish a marine and coastal group to coordinate the delivery of relevant habitat and species action plan targets with major stakeholders. To include marine and coastal biodiversity in all local biodiversity action plans. To consider the Convention on Biological Diversity target of halting biodiversity loss.</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>NGOs, NIBG, Sea Angler Groups, SLMAC, CCGHT, MHT, Relevant Agencies</td>
<td>Deliver targets of Northern Ireland coastal and marine Habitat and Species Action Plans.</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV 1.6</td>
<td>Promote an appreciation of coastal and marine environments and the role of EHS in coastal zone management.</td>
<td>Develop and implement an EHS Coastal and Marine Communications Strategy</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>EPD, EHS, Countryside Centres, DARD</td>
<td>Relevant publications and website material.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key indicators to the Aim:
- To arise from objective ENV 1.3 below
- Status of red listed coastal and marine species
- Rate of loss of or damage to areas all coastal zone areas

Priority – Environment
To maintain and enhance Northern Ireland’s natural resources within the coastal zone and protect, maintain and enhance the condition of designated nature conservation sites.
### Priority - Environment

**To Conserve, Protect and Where Possible Enhance the Estuarine and Coastal Environment and Terrestrial Ecosystems Dependent on This Such as Marine Wetlands and Salt Marshes.**

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.1</td>
<td>To continue to implement Regional Development Strategy Policy (SPG-ENV 2.2) within all coastal area development plans</td>
<td>Area development plans, Environmental Impact Assessment for significant projects.</td>
<td>DARD EHS</td>
<td>District Councils Planning Service Water Service DARD</td>
<td>Effective measures to implement Env 2.2 within all new area plans</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV2.2</td>
<td>All surface waters to achieve environmental objectives under the Water Framework Directive by 2015.</td>
<td>Full implementation of existing Directives (UWWTD, Nitrates etc) Full implementation of River Basin Management Plans</td>
<td>EHS EPD DARD DCAL DRD</td>
<td>Local authorities FCB Loughs Agency Planning Service Rivers Agency National Stakeholder Forum ROI authorities</td>
<td>To prevent deteriation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV2.3</td>
<td>To endeavour to meet the guideline standards of the EC Shellfish Waters Directive at all designated Shellfish Waters in Northern Ireland.</td>
<td>Improved water quality arising from ENV 2.2 and shellfish water action plans.</td>
<td>EHS EPD Water Service</td>
<td>DARD</td>
<td>To maintain and improve water quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV2.4</td>
<td>To meet the guideline standards under the EC Bathing Water Directive</td>
<td>Implementation of ENV 2.2</td>
<td>EHS Water Service EPD</td>
<td>All designated bathing waters meet at least mandatory BWD standards and endeavour to meet guideline standards.</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV2.5</td>
<td>To establish regular reporting of water quality to the public</td>
<td>Report detailed water quality results and BWD compliance at all monitored bathing waters.</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>Baseline report 2005 Report 2010 Report 2015</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV2.6</td>
<td>To prevent marine and coastal pollution incidents. To provide an effective response to marine and coastal pollution incidents</td>
<td>Major marine and coastal incident exercises To take part in the EU funded Marine and Coastal Incident Exercise (MCE/ICES) To ensure OPCP plans are in place for all ports and harbours that require them To undertake two booming deployments per annum. To determine the risk posed to the Northern Ireland coastline from shipping in the Irish Sea.</td>
<td>MCA EHS</td>
<td>District Councils MHT Other EROCIPS partners</td>
<td>Reduction in number of marine pollution incidents and in seriousness of incidents. Produce NI Coastal Contingency Plan Develop Pollution Response Coastal GIS Review existing booming plans.</td>
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</table>

An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026
**Priority: Environment**

To conserve, protect and where possible enhance the estuarine and coastal environment and terrestrial ecosystems dependent on this such as marine wetlands and salt marshes.

**Aim: Env2**

Key indicators to the Aim
- Quality of coastal and inland waters
- Amount of all water pollution
- Amount of coastal, estuarine and marine litter
- Quality of bathing waters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consider designation of parts of the coastline as Marine Environment High Risk Area (MEHRA). To ensure adequate counter pollution and response equipment is in place to deal with marine pollution incidents.</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>MCA EHS</td>
<td>Booming equipment is in place within identified high risk areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PRIORITY – ECONOMY

**To secure a vibrant economic future for Northern Ireland coastal communities, and to contribute to the Northern Ireland and UK economies through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone.**

**Key Indicators to the Aim**
- Jobs in the industries that depend on the coastal zone
- Contribution to the economy of the sector

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.1</td>
<td>To develop a strategic approach towards the sustainable extraction of marine and coastal aggregates and minerals in Northern Ireland and of other products as they become relevant.</td>
<td>Sustainable Marine Aggregates and Minerals Spatial and Development strategy for Northern Ireland. Development of consenting regime.</td>
<td>DETI EPD EHS</td>
<td>Industry NGOs MCA Planning Service GSNI Crown Estate DARD EHS</td>
<td>Strategy brought forward through ICZM process</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.2</td>
<td>To develop a strategic and integrated approach towards renewable energy production in Northern Ireland marine and coastal zones.</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy development strategy for Northern Ireland.</td>
<td>DETI EHS MCA Planning Service DARD</td>
<td>1 strategy brought forward through ICZM process</td>
<td>Successful implementation and monitoring</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.3</td>
<td>To develop a strategy to support the long term sustainable development of the aquaculture industry in Northern Ireland.</td>
<td>Sustainable Aquaculture and development strategy for Northern Ireland. Develop and implement a Northern Ireland Aquaculture Strategy.</td>
<td>DARD Loughs Agency DARD</td>
<td>EHS MCA CBAIT</td>
<td>1 strategy developed with participation from other ICZM partners</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.4</td>
<td>To develop a strategic approach to marine and coastal tourism, hospitality and leisure development in Northern Ireland.</td>
<td>Review inshore fisheries management in Northern Ireland, involving wide cross section of marine fisheries stakeholders. Collaborate with other UK Fisheries Administrations to implement UK-wide fisheries measures in Northern Ireland waters.</td>
<td>DARD</td>
<td>Fish producer and processor organisations DCAL Loughs Agency EHS NGOs</td>
<td>Review to report by end of 2008.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.5</td>
<td>To develop a strategic approach to marine and coastal tourism, hospitality and leisure strategy (pos. as an all Island approach)</td>
<td>Sustainable marine and coastal tourism and leisure strategy (pos. as an all Island approach)</td>
<td>DETI NITB Loughs Agency DARD EHS Planning Service NGOs MCA Possible Marine Institute and Tourism Ireland if on a cross-border basis. District Councils Regional Tourism Partnerships SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Industry NGOs MCA</td>
<td>1 strategy brought forward through ICZM process</td>
<td>Successful implementation and monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Priority - Economy

To secure a vibrant economic future for Northern Ireland coastal communities, and to contribute to the Northern Ireland and UK economies through the sustainable use of the natural resources of the coastal zone.

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 1.6</td>
<td>To promote the seafood products of the marine and coastal industry sectors in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Seafood marketing plan</td>
<td>DARD Northern Ireland Seafoods Limited</td>
<td>Invest NI District Councils Regional Tourism Partnerships Sea Fish Industry Authority</td>
<td>2 major promotional campaigns 2007 and 2012.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Key mechanisms and actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 2.1</td>
<td>Define, identify and assess seascapes around Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Commission seascapes assessment for Northern Ireland</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>Planning Service</td>
<td>Assessment by 2007</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review Coastal land not currently in AONBs for possible designation under current criteria</td>
<td>Undertake systematic review of coastal lands against current criteria</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Review by 2008</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 2.2</td>
<td>To develop and adopt management measures that protect the quality of coastal landscapes and seascapes</td>
<td>Continue programme to complete production of AONB management plans and secure funding for their implementation.</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>CCGHT MHT MCA SLWAC DETI NITB District Councils Planning Service DARD</td>
<td>All coastal AONBs to have management plans by 2012</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider the introduction of an ‘Areas of Outstanding Seascape’ designation.</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>All AOS to be designated by 2012 and management plans in place</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review current policy to concentrate resources on improvements to landscape quality to designated landscapes</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Review by 2008</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 3.1</td>
<td>To assist safe passage for commercial shipping, fishing and recreational navigation</td>
<td>To maintain the existing navigation infrastructure to assist safe passage and respond to new navigational hazards and needs</td>
<td>Irish Lights</td>
<td>DRD EHS District Councils Regional Tourism Partnerships AFBI</td>
<td>Retain baseline provision at 2005 levels</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To consider the need for a navigation authority for Strangford Lough to assist in recreational management</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>EHS District Councils Regional Tourism Partnerships AFBI</td>
<td>Options report and consultation completed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To consider the need for additional recreational buoyage and lights to assist recreational development and management</td>
<td>District Councils Port and Harbour authorities</td>
<td>RYA RNLI DRD EHS Regional Tourism Partnerships AFBI</td>
<td>Options report and consultation completed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 3.2</td>
<td>To support the sustainable economic development of ports and harbours and their hinterlands</td>
<td>To zone lands for further port and harbour development</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Planning Service DARD NIFHA District Councils Regional Tourism Partnerships AFBI</td>
<td>Introduce legislation by 2008 to help Trust Ports realise their full potential and contribution to local economy</td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To develop and introduce legislation up-dating and further extending the commercial powers of Trust Ports.</td>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>EPD MCA Trust Ports DARD NIFHA EHS AFBI</td>
<td>Forward programme for sustainable dredging and disposal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To review future dredging and disposal requirements strategically, and bring forward simplified consents procedures for sustainable dredging and disposal practices.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 3.3</td>
<td>To bring forward arrangements for integrated planning and for the management of conflicting uses within all of Northern Ireland’s loughs and estuaries</td>
<td>To consider the development of permanent integrated management structures for all of the loughs and estuaries</td>
<td>Loughs Agency Rivers Agency NIHE DARD</td>
<td>Trust Ports MCA NIFHA AFBI SLMAC</td>
<td>3 initial integrated management plans for Northern Ireland loughs by 2008</td>
<td>1.2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PRIORITY - ECONOMY
TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE SAFE PASSAGE TO PORTS AND HARBOURS IN NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COMMERCIAL SHIPPING, FISHING AND RECREATIONAL NAVIGATION, AND SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF PORTS AND HARBOURS AND THEIR HINTERLANDS

### Aim – ECON 3

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 3.4</td>
<td>To promote maritime and coastal safety in the recreational and commercial contexts</td>
<td>Standard setting, information, inspection and prosecution services in relation to commercial shipping Information and inspection in relation to recreational boating e.g. Seasmart Training and competence testing in relation to recreational and commercial skippers and crew</td>
<td>MCA</td>
<td>RYA, CAAN</td>
<td>Reduction in number and severity of incidents at baseline 2006</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Aim – INT 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INT 1.1</td>
<td>To develop and implement integrated marine and coastal spatial planning policies, legislation and planning mechanisms to support ICZM.</td>
<td>To bring forward PPS20 as an immediate statutory planning mechanism for the coastal area. To develop a set of proposals for statutory marine spatial planning and integration with terrestrial planning and bring forward for consultation (including zoned approaches).</td>
<td>DRD Regional Planning Division</td>
<td>EPD Planning Service EHS EHS DETI DARD DARD DRD</td>
<td>To publish a draft of PPS20 for public consultation by March 2007, Consultation document by 2008</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT 1.2</td>
<td>To review marine and coastal legislation in the light of ICZM requirements and identify opportunities for new legislation.</td>
<td>In co-operation with other UK areas recommend legislative changes via a new possible Marine Bill.</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>MCA DARD EHS SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td>Identify changes by 2006, Implementation of changes by 2010</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT 1.3</td>
<td>To bring forward proposals for public participation in marine spatial planning which provide meaningful involvement to coastal communities.</td>
<td>Proposal paper to inform INT 1.1 above</td>
<td>EPD Planning Service DARD SLMAC CCGHT MHT</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposals by early 2007</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### PRIORITY - INTEGRATION

**TO ESTABLISH A LEAD AGENCY AND STRUCTURES TO ASSIST THE DELIVERY OF ICZM IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS AND TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION IN THE STRUCTURES AT NORTHERN IRELAND AND LOCAL LEVELS**

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<tr>
<td>INT 2.1</td>
<td>To create strong leadership and accountability for the implementation of ICZM and co-ordinate ICZM actions within Government Departments and other agencies and countries/regions</td>
<td>Establish a Northern Ireland Coastal and Marine Forum to provide advice, monitoring, information, reporting and representation to Government. To establish an ICZM implementation group to co-ordinate Government Departments, industry, cross border interests and potentially local authorities or local implementation groups</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>Support of all Departments</td>
<td>Establishment of ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum by end 2006</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment of implementation group by end 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Employ officer by mid 2006</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>SLMAC/CCGHT/MHT</td>
<td>Local implementation proposals by end 2006</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INT 2.2</td>
<td>To widen stakeholder engagement in ICZM and build the capacity of stakeholders for participation in ICZM</td>
<td>Develop a stakeholder communication strategy</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>DETI/DARD/SLMAC/CCGHT/MHT</td>
<td>Employ staff within ICZM unit</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT 2.3</td>
<td>To secure additional resources for the implementation of new ICZM activities in Northern Ireland</td>
<td>Identify and cost new activities arising from ICZM approach</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adequate resources</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
### Aim: INT 2

**To raise awareness of integrated coastal zone management issues, what ICZM means and why it is important.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>INT 2.4</td>
<td>To raise awareness of integrated coastal zone management issues, what ICZM means and why it is important.</td>
<td>Organise Roadshow (including Agencies involved in delivery) to find out what people not only want but also need.</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>All Government Bodies, MCA, Leuchs Agency, District Councils, Strangford, Lough Information Network</td>
<td>Develop initial awareness baseline on a number of key awareness priorities (household survey)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hold surgeries for implementation.</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Repeat survey after 3 years to track changes in awareness</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider role of education and the national curriculum</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ICZM website</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Priority - Integration

**Aim – INT 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Key mechanisms and actions</th>
<th>Responsible organisation(s)</th>
<th>Partner(s)</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INT 3.1</td>
<td>To implement co-ordinated mapping of the onshore and offshore elements of the Northern Ireland Coastal Zone</td>
<td>Prepare special ICZM maps to support marine spatial planning (INT 1.1)</td>
<td>OSNI, GSNI, DETI</td>
<td>All agencies holding relevant data</td>
<td>Mapping fully in place by 2010</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop GIS database of all marine data to work in relation to ICZM digital mapping</td>
<td>EHS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Database in place by 2010</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare maps and develop GIS database</td>
<td>Rivers Agency</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mapping fully in place by 2010</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT 3.2</td>
<td>To encourage sharing of marine and coastal data to form integrated database at 3.1 above</td>
<td>Information and co-ordination officer time</td>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>All agencies</td>
<td>1 officer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INT 3.3</td>
<td>To review the need for and commission additional social, economic and environmental research and monitoring to support the implementation of ICZM</td>
<td>Identify gaps in research to support ICZM</td>
<td>DOE (potential for ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum)</td>
<td>All agencies</td>
<td>1 research requirements review by 2007</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Commission, implement and disseminate research</td>
<td>EHS, SLMAC, CCGHT, MHT</td>
<td></td>
<td>New suite of ICZM related research</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION SIX – Implementation and review procedures

10. Ensuring that objective targets are achieved.

ICZM- implementation

One of the key purposes of integrated coastal zone management is to improve the way that different bodies, both within and outside Government, work together and share information. It is also intended that the public, in particular those who live and work within the coastal zones, should be engaged in ICZM management and should be able to influence the process.

There is currently no effective forum in Northern Ireland through which this integration can take place. ICZM will require the development of a way of co-ordinating views and developing joint programmes. The Government is already committed to this. Now that the Northern Ireland ICZM Strategy is in place it is imperative that some form of structure should be established as soon as possible to oversee the implementation of the strategy. The results of the recent consultation on the type of formal structure should drive and inform ICZM in Northern Ireland were inconclusive. Other factors which could have a bearing are the ongoing Review of Public Administration and likewise the Review of Environmental Governance and until the outcome of these reviews are known a structure will be put in place similar to that described in Option 3 of the consultation paper as an interim measure.

A Coastal and Marine Forum and ICZM Implementation Group (2 linked bodies)

The implementation bodies – i.e. Government Departments, statutory agencies and the industries that depend on the coastal zone sit together within the ICZM Implementation Group to co-ordinate and integrate their actions towards achieving the ICZM strategy objectives. It is proposed that this group is chaired by a Senior Government Official.

In parallel, a Coastal and Marine Forum provides stakeholder involvement, public information and education on ICZM. It also provides expert advice, co-ordinates research, and provides support towards the achievement of the strategy objectives. The Coastal and Marine Forum would also be responsible for monitoring progress and reporting against the targets of the strategy. The Coastal and Marine Forum would have a strong, independent chair, who would also be a member of the implementation group. The two bodies would work together on periodic reviews of the strategy. The chair of the implementation group would be a member of the Coastal and Marine Forum. Proposed membership and remits are set out on page 64.

Future Developments

It is felt that any long term commitment to implementation bodies would have to take account of national and local developments. For instance, DEFRA is developing a Marine Bill in 2006 which may include proposals for a separate marine management organisation. This authority’s role could include the wide range of consents, enforcement and protection of the marine environment in an holistic and integrated approach. It could also be responsible for the operational work on any system of marine spacial planning. At a local
level, the current Review of Public Administration and the Review of Environmental Governance may also have an impact on the future role, responsibility and composition of an ICZM implementation group.
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026

- Two-part structure – Coastal Implementation Group and Coastal and Marine Forum in parallel

Chair: Senior Government Official Coastal Implementation Group

Chair ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum

ICZM
interdepartmental and industry group
Implementation of key parts of action programme within Govt and industry
Meets 3 monthly

ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum Secretariat
Project Officer

Loughs Agency

The Crown Estate

Planning Service EHS

NILGA (2)

CNCC (1)
Marine Sub Group

5-7 Regional integrated management groups
e.g. Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Mourne Heritage Trust
South Down Task Force
Strangford Lough
Management Advisory Committee
Belfast Lough Sea and Shore
Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Advisory
Challenging
Raising public awareness
Monitoring progress
Research
Strategy review and implementation
Meets 3 monthly

Research and Education (1-2)

DOE (EPD Grade 7)

NGOs (1) Via Marine Task Force

Trust Ports (2)
Northern Ireland Fishery Authority

Industry (7)
Energy
Fishing
Farming
Extractive
Tourism
Aquaculture
Marine Industry

National Trust (1)
as a major coastal landowner

DCAL (2) OSNI and Inland Fisheries

Rivers Agency

DRD (2) Regional Planning and Ports Roads

DETI (3) Minerals, Energy, Tourism

MCA

DOE (2) SDD WFD

Wider stakeholder circulation and contact
11. Evaluation and revision of objectives and targets.

Review

The ICZM strategy is a non-statutory document and its successful implementation will depend upon effective cooperation, co-ordination and communication between those involved in delivering the objectives. However, the long-term success of this strategy will depend on its ability to respond to new issues and activities, accommodating changes as they occur. This suggests the need for a process of regular review as highlighted in the role of the ICZM Coastal and Marine Forum in the previous chapter. It is anticipated that this review should be carried out within three years of the introduction of the strategy. Thereafter a review should be undertaken every three years.

Evaluation

The strategy document is not an end point in the ICZM process, but the beginning of a long-term process. Implementation of many of the objectives will take some time and there will be a need to assess both the strategy’s effectiveness and, ultimately, the health of the coastal zone (environmentally and economically). The degree to which Northern Ireland’s coastal zone is being maintained and developed in a sustainable way, is crucial to the success of ICZM. To assist in measuring this success use could be made of the set of indicators, established by a EU ICZM Expert Group, for the sustainable development of the coastal zone. These indicators are listed as follows:

### Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOALS</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>MEASUREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To control as appropriate further development of the undeveloped coast</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Demand for property on the coast</td>
<td>Size and proportion of the population living in the coastal zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Value of residential property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Area of built-up land</td>
<td>Percent of built-up land by distance from the coastline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rate of development of previously undeveloped land</td>
<td>Area converted from non-developed to developed land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Demand for road travel on the coast</td>
<td>Volume of traffic on coastal motorways and major roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pressure for coastal and marine recreation</td>
<td>Number of berths and moorings for recreational boating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Land take by intensive agriculture</td>
<td>Proportion of agricultural land farmed intensively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To protect, enhance and celebrate natural and cultural diversity</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Area of semi-natural habitat</td>
<td>Area of semi-natural habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Area of land and sea protected by statutory designation</td>
<td>Area protected for nature conservation, landscape or heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Effective management of designated sites</td>
<td>Rate of loss of, or damage to, protected areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Change to significant coastal and marine habitats &amp; species</td>
<td>Status and trend of specified habitats and species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of species per habitat type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Red list coastal areas species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To promote and support a dynamic and sustainable coastal economy</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Loss of cultural distinctiveness</td>
<td>Number and value of sales of local products with regional quality labels or European PDO/PGI/TSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Full time, part time and seasonal employment per sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Value added per sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Patterns of sectoral employment</td>
<td>Number of incoming and outgoing passengers per port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Volume of port traffic</td>
<td>Total volume of goods handled per port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Proportion of goods carried by short sea routes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14 Intensity of tourism

15 Sustainable tourism

16 Quality of bathing water

17 Amount of coastal, estuarine and marine litter

18 Concentration of nutrients in coastal waters

19 Amount of oil pollution

To ensure that beaches are clean and that coastal waters are unpolluted

20 Degree of social exclusion

21 Relative Household prosperity

22 Number of second homes

To reduce social exclusion and promote social cohesion in coastal communities

23 Fish stocks and fish landings

24 Water consumption

To use natural resources wisely

25 Sea level rise and extreme weather conditions

26 Coastal erosion and accretion

27 Natural, human and economic assets at risk

To recognise the threat to coastal zones posed by climate change and to ensure appropriate and ecologically responsible coastal protection

The Next Steps

ICZM is about finding better ways forward from where we are now. If the coastal zone is to prosper then there is a need to invest in more sustainable products, processes and social and environmental strategies. There is no doubt that the objectives of this strategy will lead to more sustainable practices in the coastal zone. It is also understood that their progression will have financial implications for many organisations.

Currently, there are no specific resources set aside for the implementation of the objectives. The majority of these will need to be taken forward as part of the day-to-day activities and programmes of responsible organisations and partner(s).
# Appendix 1

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFBS</td>
<td>Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSI</td>
<td>Area of Special Scientific Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AONBs</td>
<td>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOS</td>
<td>Area of Outstanding Seascape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIC</td>
<td>British Irish Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIM</td>
<td>Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Seas Fisheries Board)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAAN</td>
<td>Countryside and Activities Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>Common Agricultural Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBAIT</td>
<td>Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCGHT</td>
<td>Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDaR</td>
<td>Centre for Environmental Data and Recording</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEFNI</td>
<td>Construction Employers Federation Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFP</td>
<td>Common Fisheries Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAMS</td>
<td>Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNCC</td>
<td>Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARD</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCA</td>
<td>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCMNR</td>
<td>Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFRA</td>
<td>Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEL</td>
<td>Department for Employment and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETI</td>
<td>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE</td>
<td>Department of the Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRD</td>
<td>Department for Regional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSD</td>
<td>Department for Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOPACT</td>
<td>Environmental Code of Practice for Aquaculture Companies and Traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEIG</td>
<td>European Economic Interest Grouping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHS</td>
<td>Environment and Heritage Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>Environmental Management Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPD</td>
<td>Environmental Policy Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EROCIPS</td>
<td>Emergency Responses to Oil, Chemical and Inert Pollution from Shipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESB</td>
<td>Electricity Supply Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESDP</td>
<td>European Spatial Development Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUBWD</td>
<td>European Union Bathing Water Directive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCILC</td>
<td>Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSA</td>
<td>Food Standards Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP</td>
<td>Habitat Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HWM</td>
<td>High Water Mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICE</td>
<td>Institute of Civil Engineers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2

SCREENING FOR EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSALS FOR AN INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

NORTHERN IRELAND ACT 1998 (SECTION 75) STATUTORY EQUALITY OBLIGATIONS

1. Background

1.1 The objective of ICZM is to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity on our coastal areas while protecting the environment. The strategy is aimed to facilitate the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the coast.

1.2 The key principles are:

- To provide a broad overall perspective
- A long term overview
- Adapt management
- Work with natural processes
- Take a long term view
- Use participatory planning
- Ensure the support and involvement of all relevant bodies
- Use a combination of instruments

2. Screening Analysis

2.1 The purpose of this appraisal is to assess whether or not the policy proposals for an ICZM strategy will promote equality of opportunity in accordance with Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act.

2.2 The appraisal has been performed in accordance with the Department’s Equality Scheme, approved on 8th February 2001. It is based upon the criteria contained in the guidance for performing the ‘first sift or screening’ to identify which, if any, of the nine category of groups identified in Section 75 might be affected by the policy proposals (i.e. religion; political opinion; race; age; marital status; sexual orientation; gender; disability; dependants).
2.3 The groups affected by the proposals will be those individuals who live, work or visit coastal or marine locations.

2.4 The ‘screening’ appraisal is summarised in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>There is no evidence that any of the particular groups is, or will be, more affected by these proposals than any other or that any particular group would be disproportionately affected by the policy proposals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>There is no evidence of this and no reason to suspect that any of the particular groups would gain any advantage, or be disadvantaged, by these policy proposals in terms of their particular needs or priorities. The strategy is intended to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of coastal communities and there is no evidence to suggest that such groups are in any way representative of any of groupings identified in Section 75.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy or working with others in government or the community at large?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>The strategy’s objectives should promote better community relations in coastal communities as it is intended that they will be more closely involved in decision making.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems that are specific to them?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>The Department will consult widely about the policy proposals, but the results of the consultation exercise are not expected to indicate that the policy proposals would particularly disadvantage any of the groups identified in Section 75, therefore the Department considers that equality issues do not arise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 As a result of the ‘screening’ analysis, the Department considers that there are no equality issues arising from these policy proposals.

2.6 The Department therefore does not consider that a second sift (scoping) or full impact assessment is required in this instance.
Key organisations

- **Department of the Environment [DOE]**

The overall aim of the Department is “to work in partnership to promote sustainable development and to secure a better and safer environment”.

In pursuing this aim the key objective of the department is:

“To protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment and built heritage and support the adoption of the principles of sustainable development; to plan and manage development in a sustainable way which will contribute to a better environment and which is modern and responsive to the community; to work with statutory and voluntary partners to reduce road deaths and serious injuries; and to support a system of effective local government which meets the needs of residents and tax payers”.

- **Environment and Heritage Service**

Within the Department, the Environment and Heritage Service takes the lead in advising on, implementing and responding to the Government’s environmental policies and strategies in Northern Ireland. The Agency is engaged in a diverse range of activities, which together promote the Government’s key themes of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change. The overall aims are to protect and conserve Northern Ireland’s natural heritage and built environment, to control and regulate pollution and to promote a wider appreciation of the environment and best environmental practices.

In working to conserve the natural heritage of Northern Ireland, the **Natural Heritage Directorate** of Environment and Heritage Service is concerned with both wildlife species and their habitats and with rural landscapes on a broader scale. Activities include the development of Biodiversity Action Plans, a programme for protecting habitats and species, protection of rare and endangered species, protecting landscapes, monitoring areas designated for their scientific interest and providing advice to other statutory authorities.

The **Environmental Protection Directorate** of the Environment and Heritage Service seeks to safeguard the quality of air, water and land. This involves the enforcement of legislation and a range of supporting activities to monitor and report discharges and emissions, to establish the impacts of pollution, to set standards and issue consent licenses and authorisations.
Finally, the **Built Heritage Directorate** of the Environment and Heritage Service exists to identify, record and protect the built, buried and underwater remains of human activity, from prehistoric times to the present. It manages the Protection of Monuments in Northern Ireland and maintains the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), holding information on approximately 15,000 sites. The schedule means that nothing, which would alter or damage a monument or its curtilage (area around the Monument or Building), as defined on a legal map, can be done without Scheduled Monument Consent.

The Environment and Heritage Service website ([www.ehsni.gov.uk](http://www.ehsni.gov.uk)) provides information on many coastal and marine aspects of the agency’s work.

**Planning Service**

In Northern Ireland, the Planning Service is responsible for planning applications. Terrestrial planning is managed through the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, as amended by the Planning (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, which introduced new and revised powers and penalties.

Planning Service is responsible for developing and implementing, Government planning policies and development plans in Northern Ireland. The Agency carries out a range of activities, which promote the Government's key themes of sustainable development and creating a better environment. Its aim is to plan and manage development in ways which will contribute to a quality environment and seek to meet the economic and social aspirations of present and future generations.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS), ‘Shaping our Future’, is a strategy for the development of Northern Ireland up to 2025. It contains a Spatial Development Strategy and related Strategic Planning Guidelines. As a strategic planning document the RDS has set the long-term direction for development plans and the Department must also take its content into account in making decisions on individual planning applications. Confirming the importance of the RDS all planning policy and plans made by the Department must now be “in general conformity” with the Strategy.

Detailed planning policy is contained in a series of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), which are gradually replacing the policies contained in “A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland” (PSRNI) published in 1993. PPSs set out the main planning considerations that the Department takes into account in assessing proposals for the various forms of development and are also often relevant to the preparation of development plans. Development
plans may be in the form of area plans, local plans or subject plans. They apply the regional policies of the Department at the appropriate local level. Development plans inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to guide development decisions within their local area. The Department also prepares planning guidance to supplement, clarify or illustrate by example its policy statements and plans.

Current coastal planning policy is contained in the PSRNI but Regional Planning and Transportation Division within the Department for Regional Development is currently preparing PPS 20 – The Coast, which on publication will supersede the existing coastal policies and will provide land use planning policy which will be administered by Planning Service. In addition to PPS 20, PPS 1 - General Principles, PPS 2 - Planning and Nature Conservation, and PPS 8 – Planning and Open Space, Sport and Recreation are all relevant to the management of coastal areas.

Department for Regional Development [DRD]

The overall aim of the Department is “to improve the quality of life for everyone in Northern Ireland by maintaining and enhancing a range of essential infrastructure services and by shaping the region’s long-term strategic development”.

In pursuing this aim, the key objectives of the Department are:

- Supporting the economy by maintaining and developing safe transportation networks, promoting airport and harbour services, shaping the long-term development of the region and providing other services to the public and other Departments; and

- Contributing to the health and well being of the community and the protection of the environment through the provision of modern, high quality water and sewage services, at the lowest possible cost.

Ports and Harbours

In Northern Ireland, the Ports and Public Transport Division of the Department for Regional Development is the Department’s sponsor division for Northern Ireland’s commercial ports (Belfast, Coleraine, Larne, Londonderry and Warrenpoint) and airports, and is responsible for policy and legislation in both areas. It also contributes to the development of policy at national level and makes sure that reviews are conducted on the regulatory framework that ports and airports operate in.
The Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority was established under the powers of the Harbour Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 and the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority Order (Northern Ireland) 1973. There are in total 8 members of the Authority. It is responsible for the maintenance, improvement and management of the harbours of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie.

**Regional Planning and Transportation Division**

Responsibility for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 lies with the Regional Planning and Transportation Division within the Department for Regional Development. The Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 requires that all departments in exercising their functions shall have regard to the Regional Development Strategy. The Planning (Amendment) Northern Ireland Order 2003 requires all policies, development plans and development schemes to be in general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy.

**PPS20 – The Coast**

Regional Planning and Transportation Division is currently preparing PPS 20 The Coast, which on publication will supersede the existing coastal policies.

**Water Service**

The Water Service, an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development has responsibility for the supply and distribution of drinking water and the provision of sewage services to domestic, agricultural and business customers throughout Northern Ireland. The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 requires the DOE to promote the conservation of the water resources of Northern Ireland and to promote the cleanliness of water in waterways and underground strata.

**Roads Service**

 Roads Service is an Executive Agency within the Department for Regional Development.

It is the sole road authority in Northern Ireland, responsible for just over 24,900 kilometres of public roads together with about 8,300 kilometres of footways, 5,800 bridges, 250,000 street lights and 370 public car parks.

Roads Service is responsible for implementing the ‘roads’ element of the Regional Transportation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 and ensuring that the public road network is managed, maintained and developed.
Roads Service encourages good environmental design and management of the public road network, respecting the special character of each location. Roads Service is also responsible for the Strangford Lough Ferry Service.

Roads Service is responsible for maintaining the sea defences that protect the road network adjacent to the shoreline.

- **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure [DCAL]**

  DCAL is responsible in Northern Ireland for developing policy, service delivery, administration and monitoring of arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport and leisure, visitor amenities, inland waterways and inland fisheries, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, language diversity and the Northern Ireland Events Company.

  The Department also advises on the distribution of National Lottery money.

- **Salmon and Inland Fisheries**

  Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, DCAL has overall responsibility for the supervision and protection of salmon and inland fisheries and for the development and establishment of fisheries. The Department exercises the functions conferred on it by the 1966 Act to meet those responsibilities. Under Section 25 of the 1966 Act, the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland (a Non Departmental Public Body) is responsible for the conservation and protection of salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland, other than those in the Foyle and Carlingford areas which are the responsibility of the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission.

- **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development [DARD]**

  The overall aim of the Department is “to promote sustainable economic growth and development of the countryside in Northern Ireland by assisting the competitive development of the agri-food, fishing and forestry sectors, being both pro-active and responsive to the needs of consumers for safe and wholesome food, the welfare of animals and the conservation and enhancement of the environment”.

  In pursuing this aim the key objective of the Department is “To promote sustainable development of the agri-food industry and the countryside and stimulate the economic and social revitalisation of disadvantaged rural areas; reduce the risk of loss of life and property from flooding; promote sustainable development of the sea fishing industry; and maintain, protect and expand forests in a sustainable way”.


Sea Fisheries

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the supervision and protection of sea fisheries. Under the Sea Fish Conservation Act 1967 as amended by the Sea Fisheries (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 the Department may regulate the commercial use of fishing for and landing of sea fish. It has, along with the other UK Fisheries Administrations, responsibility for implementing the Common Fisheries policy.

Aquaculture

Under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 as amended, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the licensing of all fish farms including marine fish and shellfish farms and land based fish farms using either an enclosed water re-circulation system, a pump ashore system, abstracting from a bore hole or fish farms on inland waters.

The shellfish aquaculture sector in Northern Ireland has developed rapidly in recent years and a Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan produced by DARD and the Queen’s University of Belfast was published in 2001. The Plan contains a number of strategic recommendations to promote a sustainable aquaculture industry including the development of an Environmental Risk Assessment package to assist with the assessment of aquaculture licence applications, a shellfish carrying capacity model and a Code of Best Practice for shellfish farmers.

Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

The Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA) is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by DARD whose main role is to improve, manage and maintain the fishing harbours of Ardglass, Kilkeel and Portavogie.

Rivers Agency

The Rivers Agency, an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development acts as the statutory drainage and flood defence authority. The Agency is not charged with responsibility for preventing flooding and its powers are limited to providing free-flowing watercourses to alleviate flooding.
The Loughs Agency

The Loughs Agency is an agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC), established under the 1998 Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland. The FCILC is legislated for by the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Acts 1999 and 2002. The Board of the FCILC, in exercising the functions of the Body, is required to act in accordance with any directions given by the North/South Ministerial Council, to which it also reports. The FCILC’s sponsoring Departments are the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the North and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland.

The functions of the Loughs Agency are set out in North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (NI) Order 1999, the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999, the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952 (as amended) and the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 (as amended).

The FCILC was given responsibility, which it exercises through the Loughs Agency, for:

- the promotion of development of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough for commercial and recreational purposes in respect of marine, fishery and aquaculture matters;
- the management, conservation, protection, improvement and development of the inland fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas;
- the development and licensing of aquaculture; and
- the development of marine tourism.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment [DETI]

DETI is responsible for economic policy development, energy, tourism, mineral development, health and safety at work, Companies Registry, Insolvency Service, consumer affairs, and labour market and economic statistics services. It also has a role in ensuring the provision of the infrastructure for a modern economy. Economics, financial and personnel management services are provided centrally within the Department. DETI has four agencies, established as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), to assist in strategy implementation: Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI), which supports business growth and inward investment, promotes innovation, research and development and in-company training, encourages exports and supports local economic development and
company start up. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), which is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland as a tourist destination; The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI), which is responsible for health, safety and welfare at work; and The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (GCCNI), which is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the interests of consumers and campaigning for the best possible standards of service and protection.

- **Energy**

  In Northern Ireland offshore development consents and the regulatory control of marine activities are matters for the DETI.

  Leases are granted under the three Acts (Foreshore Act, 1933, Foreshore (Amendment) Act, 1992 and the Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act, 1998) for the erection of long-term structures (e.g. piers, marinas, bridges, roads, carparks). Licences are also required for other works (e.g. laying of submarine pipelines and cables) and purposes.

- **Northern Ireland Tourist Board**

  The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland as a tourist destination. NITB’s overall aim is to ensure that tourism contributes to the creation of a dynamic, competitive economy and to ensure the development of a long-term sustainable tourism industry in Northern Ireland.

  NITB is currently implementing its Strategic Framework for Action. Part of the delivery of this strategy is the regional development of tourism partnerships or RTP’s (Regional Tourism Partnerships). Geographically there will be 4/5 partnerships covering all of Northern Ireland. These bodies will have a local tourism remit and be representative of tourism stakeholders in that area.

  Currently there are three which cover a 'coastal' area:

  - **NE** - which includes the council areas from Newtownabbey to Limavady. Signature Project is the Giant's Causeway
  
  - **Belfast** - which includes the Belfast City Council and other peripheral councils e.g. Antrim, Lisburn etc. Signature Project is Titanic
  
  - **SE** - which includes most of Co. Down & Co Armagh. Signature Projects are Mourne National Park & Saint Patrick
It is likely that a fourth Regional Tourism Partnership will be formed in the West. This may geographically include Derry City and extend along the County Londonderry coast.

The structure of the RTPs may offer a local sounding board/consultation forum for ICZM developments which would affect tourism in that area. This could be investigated when the RTPs are fully functional, after April 2006.

As part of the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Framework for Action there are also a number of “Winning Themes” which NITB has identified for tourism development. These include Activity Tourism, Culture Arts and Heritage and Short Breaks. Some of these may have implications for coastal management.

- Local Government

In Northern Ireland, local government is comprised of Borough, City and District Councils. They have both strategic partnership and operational roles in the implementing of the ICZM strategy.

The new strategic responsibilities of Community Planning and Sustainable Development will be outlined in new legislation. Current directly relevant operational responsibilities include waste management, enforcement, environmental health, economic development and recreation and tourism provision. In the near future the Development Control function of Planning will become part of Councils under RPA.

Twelve of Northern Ireland’s twenty-six councils have responsibility for coastal areas, including harbours and in some cases navigational marking and lights provision. Beaches are also included in the public health responsibility of District Councils. Bye-laws for beaches can be made under various legislation including public health Acts. Local authority jurisdiction coincides with the council’s seaward administrative boundary, which is usually the mean low water mark.

Local Authorities and the communities they represent are positioned to play a crucial and continuing role in the consultation, planning, implementation and operational development of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategy.

- Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was formed in 1998 when the Coastguard Agency (TCA) and the Marine Safety Agency (MSA) were merged (both previously created as separate executive agencies in 1994). The MCA is an executive agency within the Department for Transport.
The MCA Belfast office covers the whole of the Northern Irish coastline from Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough and two inland waterways – Lough Neagh and Lough Erne.

The MCA Vision is:-

SAFER LIVES, SAFER SHIPS, CLEANER SEAS.

The MCA is statutorily responsible for:

- The initiation and co-ordination of civil maritime search and rescue within the United Kingdom Maritime search and Rescue Region - responding to maritime emergencies 24 hours a day.

- Developing, setting, promoting and enforcing high standards of marine safety

- Minimising the risk and impact of pollution of the marine environment from ships – to 200 nm limit

MCA activities which impact upon Northern Ireland include:

- Responding to marine incidents and emergencies

- Ensuring that United Kingdom registered vessels are designed, constructed and maintained to the highest current safety standards, including seagoing vessels, inland waterway vessels and chain ferries.

- Setting appropriate standards for inspections and surveys of fishing vessels to ensure high safety standards (both of vessel and safety equipment)

- Registration, measurement and marking of fishing vessels

- Targeted inspection of foreign flag vessels calling at Northern Irish ports.

- Educating the maritime community and public in accident prevention

- Examination of seafarers prior to the issue of international STCW convention certificates of competency and national Boatmaster’s Licenses

- Holding negligent seafarers accountable for illegal actions through the MCA Prosecution Unit

- Negotiating international standards for seafarers and applying these to the UK maritime community
o Statutory consultees for FEPA 85 licensing of Works in Tidal Waters for navigational safety issues.

o Consultees on fish farm applications for navigational safety issues in association with DARD (Fisheries Division)

o Approval and implementation monitoring of Port waste Management Plans around the coast.

o Facilitate and chair local District Marine Safety Committees, local Search and Rescue Committees and associated working groups in Northern Ireland.

o Involvement with ‘Resilience’ Forums throughout Northern Ireland in respect of contingency and continuity planning following major incidents

o Reporting marine incidents and casualties to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB).

o Assessing reports of marine pollution and informing MCA Counter Pollution Response Branch. Providing support during counter pollution and salvage operations.

o Assistance to the Ministry of Defence and Local Authorities with the identification, guarding and disposal of explosive ordnance and hazardous objects washed ashore.

o Environmental quality issues including, but not limited to, dangerous goods and the IMDG code, ballast water, air pollution from ships, ship recycling, antifouling/TBT, oil tagging, sewage from ships and marine litter.

o **The Crown Estate**

The Crown Estate manages one of the largest property portfolios in the UK. It consists of urban, rural and marine holdings, including; offices and shops, agricultural and common land, foreshore and seabed. The Crown Estate returns the net profit generated from activities on this land to the Treasury for the benefit of the UK taxpayer.

Our marine estate is the largest and most diverse portfolio with The Crown Estate. It includes more than half of the UK’s foreshore, 55 per cent of the beds of tidal rivers and estuaries and almost the entire seabed out to the 12 nautical mile UK territorial limit. It also includes the rights to the natural resources in the UK Continental Shelf, with the exception of oil, coal and
gas. The Crown Estate does not own the water column or govern public rights such as navigation and fishery over tidal waters.

The Crown Estate grants leases or licences to enable seabed and foreshore development. This enables a wide range of activities to occur on our land, including: seabed routes for cables and pipelines, ports and marina development, aquaculture, marine renewable energy, boat moorings, slipways and piers. Such licences are granted alongside consents required from Government departments.

The largest leaseholders are Local Authorities, ports and harbours, and conservation bodies. Through regulating leases these bodies may control day-to-day activity and use of undeveloped tidal land.

- The National Trust

With over 200 kilometres (approximately 30%) of the Northern Ireland coastline in its care the National Trust owns and manages a very high proportion of the total Northern Ireland resource of coastal habitats. Maritime cliffs and slopes stretch along the north coast at such sites as the Giant’s Causeway, White Park Bay, Larrybane, Fair Head and Murlough Bay while extensive sand dune complexes can be found at Murlough NNR, Portstewart Strand, Grangemore and White Park Bay. Some of the best examples of coastal saltmarsh occur on Strangford Lough, the Bann Estuary, Ballymacormick Point and along the Dundrum coastal path while vegetated shingle, a particularly scarce habitat in Northern Ireland, can be found at the Giant’s Causeway, Mourne Coastal Path, Strangford Lough and Kearney.

The National Trust’s holdings within the Northern Ireland coastal zone provide a significant contribution to the protection of landscapes, seascapes, history, archaeology, culture, habitats and wildlife, and the provision of coastal access. They also number among the major tourist attractions in Northern Ireland, including four of the region’s top twenty visitor attractions (Giant’s Causeway, Carrick-a-rede, Portstewart Strand, Mount Stewart). The Trust’s holdings are concentrated in eastern and north Derry, north and north east Antrim coastlines, Strangford Lough and South Down, with a few outliers on Islandmagee, Belfast Lough and the Lecale coast. On the shores of Strangford Lough, the Trust owns two mansion properties, namely Castle Ward set in a parkland estate, and Mount Stewart whose gardens are internationally renowned. On the North Derry Coast, the Trust owns the remains of the 18th Downhill estate including Mussenden Temple. The Trust’s coastal properties also include, two coastal villages, Cushendun and Kearney, and number of small vernacular buildings and scheduled monuments. The landscape quality of many of the Trust properties is exceptional, a significant proportion falling within designated AONBs, including the majority of the Giant’s Causeway World Heritage Site. Most of the countryside properties are of high nature conservation value with several of international importance designated under international or national legislation. Of particular importance in this
respect is Strangford Lough, the UK’s largest Marine Nature Reserve, having SAC, SPA, Ramsar and ASSI designations, and where the Trust is the largest single private (i.e. non-government) landowner. Many of the Trust’s coastal properties are also of high archaeological importance.

All the Trust’s extensive coastal properties are open to public access and are thus highly important for the provision of access to the coast in Northern Ireland.

**National Trust Coastal Properties in Northern Ireland 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Approx. Area in Hectares</th>
<th>Grid Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avish</td>
<td>168.22</td>
<td>C715345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballymacormick</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barmouth and Grangemore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrick-a-Rede &amp; Larrybane</td>
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<td>Castle Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cushendun</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downhill</td>
<td>49.25</td>
<td>C758363</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dundrum Coastal Path</td>
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<td>Dunseverick</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairhead and Murlough Bay</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giants Causeway</td>
<td>118.74</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green and Blockhouse Islands</td>
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<td>Islandmagee</td>
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<td>J596858</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loughan Bay and Portaleen Bay</td>
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<td>D233396</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCutcheons Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mournes Coastal Path</td>
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<td>Murlough Nature Reserve</td>
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<td>Orlock</td>
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<td>White Park Bay</td>
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TOTAL 5997.012