

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 2.00pm in Rowallane House, Saintfield.

In Attendance:

Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)
John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association
Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside Access and Activities Network
Martin Carey, Mourne Heritage Trust
Emma Cunningham, Mourne Heritage Trust
Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force
Dick James, Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Andrew McDowell, The National Trust
Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmer's Union

Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer

In Attendance:

Orla Bateson, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
Gareth Evans, Axis 3 Implementation Manager, DARD

Apologies:

Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency
Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association NI
Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork
Phil Davidson, The National Trust
Liam Flanigan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Joanne Gaffney, Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative Team
David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners
Alan McCulla, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Helen Noble, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Caroline Nolan, Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the tenth meeting, especially Orla Bateson, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Gareth Evans, Axis 3 Implementation Manager, DARD both of whom would be giving presentations later.
- 1.2. He went on to thank Andrew McDowell, The National Trust for offering the use of Rowallane House for the meeting and the kind hospitality the members received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 1st December 2008 were approved as presented.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3.2. Illegal Sand Extraction Ballintoy Harbour

- 3.1. The CMF Officer informed those present that there was no change since the last update in that Moyle District Council is taking steps to pursue a public right of way regarding the Sandy Port, Ballintoy.
- 3.2. After discussion it was agreed that this item could now be removed as an agenda item.

Item 3.3. Letter to Coastal Councils

- 3.3. The Chairman confirmed that he had issued a letter to the various coastal councils outlining the Forum's concerns about illegal sand extraction and dumping of waste material on beaches and reiterating Council's duties regarding such matters in those cases where Councils are the custodians of the beaches where such instances occur.

Item 3.7. Rathlin Island ICZM Project

- 3.4. The CMF Officer informed those present that the Department is working closely with Moyle District Council on the possibility of making a bid for funding the project through the Rural Development Programme Fund. Calls for bids had not been made yet.
- 3.5. He went on to say that at a recent meeting with Moyle District Council and representatives from Rathlin Development and Community Association (RDCA) it was agreed that RDCA members would consider what their priority projects might be and bring them to the next meeting of the Rathlin Island Steering Group in April.
- 3.6. The CMF Officer also informed Members that the Department is working closely with Martin Carey concerning a possible ICZM related project in the Mourne Heritage Trust area.
- 3.7. At this point Martin circulated a copy of the Trust's 'Mourne Coastal Routes' Masterplan which includes some 24 individual sites. He went on to say that it is expected that approximately 50% of the funding necessary for these developments will be available from Programme for Government monies through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board as part of Mourne's Signature Project. He added that he would be willing to give members a presentation at a further date if they wished.

3.8. Members to be kept updated of progress.

Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.10. Data Collection and Storage

3.9. The CMF Officer said that a meeting of Northern Ireland Departments and Agencies involved in marine Data was held on 19th February 2009. He went on to say that the main focus of the seminar is to inwardly look at how we in Northern Ireland manage our diversity of marine and coastal data and in particular how we may make it more readily available both in support of National Marine Strategies as well as to the general public.

3.10. He added that this was a very worthwhile event and was probably the first time that the majority of those within NI Departments and Agencies involved in 'Data' had met round the one table and as such we are only at the discovery stage.

3.11. A further meeting of the group has yet to be scheduled.

3.12. Prof. Cooper agreed that it was a worthwhile event but said that we are only at the start of a process and a very long process at that. There was probably a need for a change of culture and mind with regard to Data and in particular the sharing of Data. From a Coastal and Marine Forum and ICZM view point he would like to see better integration and that there was a need for discussion within and between Departments.

3.13. An all Ireland Marine Data Seminar is scheduled to take place at the end of June 2009 probably in Dundalk.

3.14. CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress.

Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.11. PPS 20 – The Coast

3.15. The Chairman circulated a revised draft copy of the 'Position Paper on Coastal Development' and asked that members take it away for their consideration and forward any comments to himself, The CMF officer agreed to email a copy of the position paper to members not present for their consideration and comments.

Action: Members to forward comments on draft position paper to the Chairman. [Members]

CMF Officer to email a copy of position paper to members not present for their consideration and comments. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.14. Geo-science Trail

3.16. The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Minister of Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment highlighting what a valuable asset we have, recommending the need to provide a Central Information Hub and pointing out that the Forum will be producing a position paper on the topic the finding from which will be copied to the Minister. He will keep Members updated about responses received.

3.17. Martin Carey said that this was very timely in that it tied in with a new European Geopark Interreg IV project he was involved in. He went on to say that the proposed Mourne-Cooley-Gullion geopark, incorporating a significant stretch of coastline on both sides of the border, would stretch from the Mourne Mountains, taking in Carlingford Lough, Slieve Gullion in County Armagh and several forests, including Ravensdale and Slieve Foye. The project was still subject to assessment but it was hoped Interreg funding would follow recent endorsement by Minister Murphy, DRD, NI and Minister Gormley, Republic of Ireland.

**Action: Chairman to keep Members updated about responses received.
[Chairman]**

3.18. The CMF Officer reported that as yet no sub group has been set up to take forward the preparation of the Geo Science Trail Position Paper. The Chairman asked the CMF Officer to contact Gordon Best, Chairman of the original Geo Science Trail discussion group about setting up the Geo Science Trail Position Paper sub group.

Action: CMF Officer to contact Gordon Best about the Geo Science Trail Position Paper sub group. [CMF Officer]

Item 3.17. Tourism Representation on NICMF

3.19. The Chairman said that he had issued a letter to Mr Kennedy outlining the Forum's decision on Tourism representation on the Forum.

Item 3.18. Coastal Councils ICZM Awareness Raising Road Show

3.20. The Chairman advised those present that he had contacted Liam Flanigan concerning how best to engage with 'Coastal Councils'. It was thought that talking to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) would be the best first step at this stage. In the circumstances therefore the Chairman said that it was his intention to contact Heather Moorhead, Chief Executive of NILGA. He will keep Members updated on developments.

Action: Chairman to contact Heather Moorhead, Chief Executive of NILGA and keep Members updated on developments. [Chairman]

Item 4. 3. NICMF 1st Report to Government – November 2009.

3.21. The Chairman said that this would be dealt with under Item 6. of the Agenda.

Item 5. 5. National Association of Areas of Natural Outstanding Beauty [NAANOB] Conference 2009.

3.22. Martin Carey informed those present that the NAAONB's 11th Annual Conference entitled "Getting a true sense of your surroundings: Valuing the Environment" is scheduled to take place at the University of Ulster, Coleraine on the 7th – 9th July 2009. The conference will look at the different ways of valuing and getting value from our AONBs.

3.23. He went on to say that there will be a series of field trips to the host AONBs, Antrim Coast and Glens, Binevenagh, Causeway Coast, Lagan Valley, Mourne, Ring of Gullion, Sperrins and Strangford Lough.

3.24. Martin said he would contact Helen Noble about further details on the conference. The CMF Officer will forward these on to Members when available.

Action: CMF Officer to forward further details on the conference to Members when available. [CMF Officer]

Item 5. 7. Marine Bill

3.25. The CMF Officer said that as far as he was aware a Legislative Consent Motion had recently been passed for the UK Marine Bill to extend to Northern Ireland in three areas, the Marine Policy Statement, marine planning in the offshore part of the Northern Ireland zone, that is from the 12 nautical mile limit to the boundary of the zone, and the reform of the major marine licensing regime which applies to Northern Ireland, namely the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.

3.26. He went on to say that the Minister is committed to bringing forward Northern Ireland legislation covering marine planning, marine nature conservation and streamlined licensing all within Northern Ireland's territorial waters as well as considering how best to deliver the new requirements. The timescale for consultation on policy proposals is Spring 2010 with legislation on the statute book by 2012..

3.27. Following discussion Members felt it would be it useful if Sheila Rodgers could give an update on the Marine Bill at the next meeting of the Forum.

3.28. The CMF Officer said he would contact Sheila Rodgers and find out if she would be available to provide an update on the Marine Bill at the next meeting of the Forum.

Action: CMF Officer to contact Sheila Rodgers and find out if she would be available to provide an update on the Marine Bill at the next meeting of the Forum.

4. Presentation: Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone – Orla Bateson, Northern Ireland Statistical and Research Agency

- 4.1. Orla thanked the Chairman for his kind words and then gave an interesting and in-depth account of the work she was undertaking on the Forum's behalf on developing a set of Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Northern Ireland Coastal Zone.
- 4.2. Orla circulated a paper outlining a set of 24 indicators and 30 measurements and then spoke to the paper.
- 4.3. She explained that the baseline for the new list of indicators and measures was the set of indicators (27) and measurements (44) outlined in Chapter 11 of 'An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 -2026.' and established by an EU ICZM Expert Group.
- 4.4. She pointed out that the main changes to the Expert Group list were as follows:
 - Four indicators have been removed for the moment as there was no suitable measurement identified. These are Loss of Cultural distinctiveness, Amount of oil pollution, Number of second homes and Water consumption. CSRB will continue to monitor these indicators for suitable measurements in the future. Six measurements were dropped as a result.
 - One new indicator was identified – Promote sustainable development.
 - In total, 17 other measurements were dropped. They were dropped for a number of reasons. More suitable measurements were identified. The measurement was a one off measurement and there was no trend data available. A similar measurement was used in another report e.g. Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report and CSRB have suggested for consistency that the same indicator is used in monitoring ICZM. The data was not available at the coastal zone level.
 - There were 14 new measurements identified for monitoring the rest of the indicators.
 - There were 14 measurements that stayed the same or had a slight re-wording.

- This left 30 measurements against 24 indicators to be reported on.
- The measurement on the length and area of the coastal zone was removed from Goal 7 and put in a heading on its own. This can be reported on visually through maps to show the length and area of the coastal zone. .

4.5. Orla explained that there were a number of proposals for the reporting of the monitoring of the ICZM.

- Central Statistics and Research Branch (CSRB) will collect data for the coastal zones and Northern Ireland for comparison purposes.
- It is proposed that CSRB compiles a report to monitor ICZM. While it would be ideal to release a monitoring report in 2009 in line with the report to be released in November 2009, the timing of the report can be negotiated with CSRB and DOE. The report can be a stand alone document or an appendix in the November 2009 report.
- The data to be collected will be the most recently available data up to the year ending 2007 and report on the last 10 years of the data.
- It is also proposed that the monitoring of the ICZM occurs every 3 years

4.6. The Chairman thanked Orla for her presentation and commended her for the time and effort she had spent in reaching this stage. Following discussion it was agreed that Members should take Orla's Indicators paper away for their consideration and forward any comments to the CMF Officer. The CMF officer agreed to email a copy of the paper to Members not present for their consideration and comments.

Action: Members to forward comments on Indicators paper to the CMF Officer [Members]

CMF Officer to email a copy of paper to Members not present for their consideration and comments. [CMF Officer]

5. Presentation: Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 – Gareth Evans, Axis 3 Implementation Manager, DARD.

5.1. Gareth thanked the Chairman for his warm welcome and then gave a very interesting overview of the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013.

5.2. Gareth gave a brief background to the Rural Development Programme. For over 15 years successive programmes have helped improve the economic, environmental and social opportunities available to people in rural areas.

5.3. The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 was approved by the European Commission on 24 July 2007. The European Union has set three main themes within which all Member States are to focus their Rural Development Programmes. These themes (known as axes) are:

- Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation
- Axis 2 - Improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management
- Axis 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity

5.4. Gareth said that he is responsible for Axis 3.

5.5. Approximately £100million of the funding through Axis 3 will be delivered at community level with new local action groups developing tailored strategies and programmes for their area.

- Axis 3 of the programme contains the following measures:

3.1: Diversification into non-agricultural activities.

3.2: Business creation and development.

3.3: Encouragement of tourism activities.

3.4: Basic services for the economy and rural population.

3.5: Village renewal and development.

3.6: Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage

5.6. The Minister asked local Councils to come together in clusters to deliver the new programme on a sub-regional basis, and seven clusters were formed. Each cluster worked with a new, locally formed Action Group to prepare and implement a local rural development strategy aimed at addressing need in the area.

5.7. Gareth explained that to date 2 clusters are open for expressions of interest and went on to say the application form for projects has been made 'applicant friendly' with less information required at that stage.

5.8. Once expressions of interest have been assessed follow up interviews will take place with detailed information required at that stage.

5.9. Gareth was encouraged by the interest shown so far with many and varied ideas being put forward.

5.10. He went on to say that the programme provided a great opportunity to take forward projects with a coastal emphasis such as the development of maritime and cultural products or increasing access to built and natural heritage sites.

5.11. The Chairman thanked Gareth for his very interesting and informative presentation which no doubt gave some Members present 'food for thought' to take forward projects within their own organisations

6. NICMF First Report

6.1. The Chairman circulated a draft copy of a 'Framework for Reporting' document which he had prepared and asked that Members take it away for their consideration and forward any comments to himself. If anyone wished to volunteer to assist in the drafting of the report the Chairman said it would be much appreciated. The CMF officer agreed to email a copy of the draft paper to Members not present for their consideration and comments.

Action: Members to forward comments on draft 'Framework for Reporting' paper to the Chairman. [Members]

CMF Officer to email a copy of draft paper to Members not present for their consideration and comments. [CMF Officer]

7. River Basin Plans.

7.1. It was agreed to hold this item over until the next meeting.

8. Any other business.

Sustainable Ocean Summit

8.1. Melanie Gomes drew Member's attention to the World Ocean Council – Sustainable Ocean Summit which is taking place in Belfast on 16th – 17th June 2009.

8.2. Melanie agreed to forward details of the event to the CMF Officer for onward transmission to Members.

Action: CMF Officer to forward further details on the event to Members when available. [CMF Officer]

Marine Renewal Energy, Larne Lough

8.3. John Anderson informed Members of a proposed Compressed Air Renewal Energy project in Larne Lough which is in addition to the proposed Carbon Capture project. Following discussion about marine renewal energy in

general and the need for Strategic Environmental Assessments it was agreed to invite Barbara Swann, DETI to give a presentation on the NI Offshore Wind and Renewable Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Scoping Report which she is involved in at the next meeting of the Forum.

<http://www.offshoreenergy.co.uk/ScopingReport.html>

8.4. The CMF Officer said he would contact Barbara Swann and find out if she would be available to give a presentation at the next meeting of the Forum.

Action: CMF Officer to contact Barbara Swann and find out if she would be available to give a presentation at the next meeting of the Forum.

Planning and coastal erosion

8.5. The chairman raised concerns over interpretations of planning guidance on coastal erosion and sought the Members agreement on writing to the Chief Executive, Planning Service to seek clarification on developments that appeared to be inconsistent with planning guidelines. Members agreed that he should write seeking clarification.

Action: Chairman to write to Cynthia Smith, Chief Executive seeking clarification on developments that appeared to be inconsistent with planning guidelines. [Chairman]

9. Date/Venue of next meeting.

9.1. Date of next meeting Wednesday, 1st July 2009 – Venue/time to be confirmed.

**Action: To confirm venue/time of July 2009 meeting of the Forum.
[CMF Officer]**

Alan Hamilton

March 2009