

**Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 2.00pm in the Silver Command Room, HM Coastguard Rescue Station, Gateside Road, Coleraine.**

**In Attendance:**

**Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)**  
**John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside**  
**Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency**  
**Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association**  
**Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE**  
**Jonathan Buick, Action Renewables**  
**Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork,**  
**Phil Davidson, The National Trust**  
**Liam Flanigan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association**  
**Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force**  
**Helen Noble, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust**  
**Campbell Tweed. Ulster Farmer's Union**

**Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer**  
**Joe Breen, Environment and Heritage Service**

**Apologies:**

**Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association NI**  
**Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside and Activities Network**  
**Joanne Gaffney, Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative Team**  
**Dick James, Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.**  
**David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners**  
**Tony McNally, The Loughs Agency**

**1. Welcome**

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum. A special welcome was expressed to Helen Noble, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, who is Peter Harper's replacement and Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork.
- 1.2. He went on to thank Gordon Munro, HM Coastguard, Coleraine for offering the use of the HM Coastguard Offices for the meeting and the kind hospitality the members received.

**2. Presentation: HM Coastguard Northern Ireland– Gordon Munro, Belfast North Sector Manager**

- 2.1. Gordon Munro thanked the Chairman for his kind welcome and then gave a short but very interesting and in-depth account about HM Coastguard in Northern Ireland.

- 2.2. He explained that in the UK, HM Coastguard is divided into 3 distinct geographical regions with Scotland and Northern Ireland forming one of those regions.
- 2.3. He went on to say that Belfast Coastguard (Northern Ireland) is responsible for the whole of the coast from Lough Foyle to Carlingford Lough as well as Lough Neagh and Lough Erne. The District is also divided into two sectors:  
  
Belfast North Sector – Weir, River Lagan, Belfast to Culmore Point, Lough Foyle as well as Lough Neagh.  
  
Belfast South Sector – Weir, River Lagan, Belfast to Warrenpoint Harbour as well as Lough Erne.
- 2.4. He explained that HM Coastguard's role is focussed on search and rescue at sea and the prevention of maritime incidents through education and the promotion of safety, it also covers incidents arising on land and in the air, by promoting partnership between all forms of emergency service through the most advanced communications.
- 2.5. The Chairman thanked Gordon for his very information presentation.

### **3. Minutes**

- 3.1. The minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were approved as presented.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **Item 3.8. Northern Ireland Coastal and Marine Forum – Web Site.**

- 4.1. Alan Hamilton gave a short update on progress on the development of the Coastal and Marine Forum Web Site. He said that the web site has now been successfully completed and subsequently passed to the Department of Finance and Personnel, Design Division for an Accessibility Audit review. The timescale for this review is approximately 10 days turn around and that Robert Brown and his team from the Department for Regional Development, Information Systems Unit expect at this stage the web site to go live by the end of November or early December 2007.
- 4.2. He went on to say that Robert had asked him to pass on his thanks to all those members who contributed to the content of the site. Further work is planned to accommodate the Children's Resources page which will entail interactive media and other Teacher Resources for learning material.
- 4.3. Alan pointed out that once the site does go live he will be responsible for updating the site and would be looking for the support of all the Members.

4.4. At the request of Members Alan said he would approach Robert Brown to find out if Members could have access to a working copy of the web site prior to it going live.

**Action: Approach Robert Brown to find out if Members could have access to a working copy of the web site prior to it going live. [CMF Officer].**

### **Item 3.16. Coastal Development Position Paper**

4.5. The Chairman apologised that because of other priorities he did not have a chance to look at the paper since the last meeting. He went on to thank Melanie for her comments and would take these into consideration when redrafting the paper.

4.6. It was agreed that the final sentence should be amended and read as follows – It is important that development both generate sustainable economic activity and preserve the value of the landscape and coastal habitats and associated biodiversity for the enjoyment of all.

4.7. It was also suggested that reference should be made to the use of ‘Design Guides’.

4.8. Some discussion then took place on Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and in particular, PPS14 ‘Sustainable Development in the Countryside’ and PPS20 ‘The Coast’.

4.9. With regard to PPS20 Ken said that he understood that the Planning Service was now considering including PPS20 within another PPS, perhaps PPS14, rather than produce a separate one on ‘The Coast’, however, he had no further details at this time.

4.10. The Chairman said that it is crucial that the Coast is covered somewhere in the suite of PPS documents and it was agreed that the Chairman should write to Planning Service seeking an update on progress on PPS20.

**Action: Letter to Planning Service seeking an update on progress of PPS20. [Chairman]**

### **Item 3.20 Illegal Sand Extraction Ballintoy Harbour**

4.11. Alan Hamilton said that he had been in touch with colleagues in the Planning Service concerning the situation at Ballintoy Harbour. He added that Planning Service has been in contact with Moyle District Council and Council Officers are considering methods of blocking access to the beach.

### **Item 3.23 Sand Extraction Discussion Paper**

4.12. It was agreed by those present that while illegal sand and gravel extraction was an issue the main problem was not the lack of relevant legislation but the difficulty was that of the relevant authorities witnessing such actions first hand and then carrying out the necessary enforcement.

4.13. The Chairman thanked Ken for producing the paper.

### **Item 3.25 Social and Community Representative on the Forum**

4.14. Alan Hamilton reported that since the last meeting and following discussions with NICVA who had been approached initially when setting up the Forum, the Chairman of the Rural Community Network has been approached concerning possible membership on the Forum. However the invitation was declined.

4.15. Alan also pointed out that he had approached colleagues in the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs concerning the possibility of representation from the Rural Development Council and was awaiting a response.

4.16. It was agreed that Alan would consider a way forward and report on options for Members to consider at the next meeting.

4.17. The Chairman said that concerns that the economic elements (i.e. the private coastal businesses) covered by the strategy are under-represented had been raised in a letter from J J Kennedy, Sandycove Holiday Homes Ltd, Ballywalter.

4.18. Members felt that the economic side was covered within the Forum Membership and that the Tourism Representative on the Forum, Claire Donnelly, and Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Tourist Industry Confederation was there to cover such issues and organisations/individuals should approach her with any concerns they might have so that she in turn can raise them on their behalf.

**Action: Consider a way forward and report on options for Members to consider at the next meeting. [CMF Officer]**

### **Item 5.8. Rathlin Island ICZM Project**

4.19. Ken Bradley gave a brief update regarding the Rathlin Island project advising those present that a meeting is being arranged by Special European Union Programmes Body with interested parties including hopefully representatives from Scottish Isles with a view to taking forward an Interreg project on the island which would include the employment of an ICZM Officer. Val Cummins said she would provide Alan with details of Irish Island contacts. The meeting is to be scheduled for early December. Members will be kept updated.

### **Item 6.1. NICMF Work Programme**

4.20. Following discussion it was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum in January 2008 would take the form of facilitated workshop to develop a

work plan for the Forum. Alan would make the necessary arrangements and contact Members regarding venue and starting time.

**Action: Make arrangements for CMF Work Programme workshop to be held in January 2008. [CMF Officer]**

#### **Item 6.7. NICMF Conference**

4.21. Ken Bradley reminded members about the idea of arranging a conference around a seabed mapping project which has just commenced from Tory Island to Rathlin Island. The project is being carried out by the Marine Institute of Ireland and the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency with Environment & Heritage Service as the Lead Partner. He explained that the 'Joint Irish Bathymetric' (JIBS) Project is similar to a larger mapping project around the coast of the Republic of Ireland. The project is due to complete early next year. Ken suggested and it was agreed that a conference somewhere on the North Coast would provide an ideal opportunity to promote the findings of the project.

4.22. Members were in agreement with this idea and Val Cummins said the I-CoNet, The Irish Coastal Network. would be happy to host a Joint conference. Initial thoughts were that the conference could be based around Marine Spatial Planning. Joe Breen said that MCA and The Marine Institute may wish to launch their results at a separate function, however, he could envisage no problems in developing the two events together.

4.23. It was agreed that a sub group should be set up to take the event forward. CMF Officer to liaise with Val.

**Action: CMF Officer and liaise with Val about setting up a small sub group to take the conference forward.  
[CMF Officer/Val Cummins]**

#### **Item 6.8. NICMF Brochure**

4.24. Alan Hamilton confirmed that that brochure was currently at the printers and should be available within the next few weeks. He would contact Members once he has received the printed copies.

#### **Item 6.9. NICMF Maritime Archaeology leaflet**

4.25. The Chairman explained that draft Maritime Leaflet has now been produced and will be presented at the next meeting of the Forum for approval.

**Action: Draft Maritime Leaflet to be presented at the next meeting of the Forum for approval. [Chairman]**

#### **Item 6.12 Friends of Larne Lough**

4.26. John Anderson confirmed that discussions were continuing on this issue.

#### **Item 6.18 Data Collection and Storage**

4.27. Joe Breen confirmed that he had made approaches within EHS to find out if they had the capacity to take forward a scoping exercise and was awaiting feedback.

4.28. CMF Officer would keep Members updated on progress.

**Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress on Data Collection and Storage Scoping exercise.**

### **5. Monitoring of ICZM Strategy**

5.1. Alan Hamilton pointed out that the next meeting of the WFD Board is on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and agenda items had already been agreed for that meeting. In the circumstances it was felt that it would be too short notice for Chairman to attend and that he should plan to attend the next meeting of the Board on the 15 April 2008. In the meantime the CMF officer will seek an update on those objectives where there appears to be some slippage. If members wish an update on particular objectives which relate to their particular area of interest they should forward details to the CMF Officer.

**Action: CMF Officer to seek update on those objectives where there appears to be some slippage. [CMF Officer]**

**Members to forward any details of those objectives where they would like an update on progress. [All Members]**

### **6. Any Other Business.**

#### **The Management of Marine and Coastal Habitats**

6.1. Alan Hamilton said that he had received a request from Maeve Rafferty, Key Species Biodiversity Manager with Ulster Wildlife Trust seeking to give a presentation to the Forum on the management of marine and coastal habitats concentrating on: basking shark, harbour porpoise, common skate, otter and meadow cranesbill. Members were content to proceed and for the CMF officer to contact Maeve and ascertain if she can attend the next meeting of the Forum,

**Action: Contact Maeve Rafferty to confirm if she is content to give her presentation at the next meeting of the Forum. [CMF Officer]**

## **7. Date of next Meeting.**

7.1. The following dates were confirmed:

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – CMF Work Programme Workshop - time and venue to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008 - time and venue to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 - time and venue to be confirmed.

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - time and venue to be confirmed.

**Action: To confirm venue and time of January meeting of the Forum. [CMF Officer]**

**Alan Hamilton**

**November 2007**