

**Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at 2.00pm in the Centre for Coastal and Marine Research, University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus.**

**In Attendance:**

**Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)**  
**Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association NI**  
**Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE**  
**Jonathan Buick, Action Renewables**  
**Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside Access and Activities Network**  
**Joanne Gaffney, Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative Team**  
**Dick James, Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd**  
**Caroline Nolan, Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee**  
**Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmer's Union**

**Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer**

**Apologies:**

**John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside**  
**Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency**  
**Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association**  
**Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork**  
**Phil Davidson, The National Trust**  
**Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force**  
**David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners**  
**Alan McCulla, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd**

**1. Welcome**

1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum.

**2. Minutes**

2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were approved as presented.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Item 4.3 Illegal Sand Extraction Ballintoy Harbour**

3.1. The CMF Officer said that in response to Gordon Best's, question raised at the last Forum meeting, as to whether or not Planning Service had actually issued a "Stop Notice" on Moyle Council, the answer was "Not yet". The CMF Officer went on to explain the Council had placed some 'rocks' on a strip of land which gives access to the beach but these were removed as it was not their land. The Council is now looking at placing a barrier on Council land. The CMF Officer went on to say that since the start of the year Planning Service has issued numerous warning letters to the perpetrator in relation to

the unauthorised extraction of sand at Ballintoy. In April 2008 the Department received a letter from the party's solicitor stating that his client has not extracted any material since February 2008 and included an undertaking not to remove any further material. To date Planning Service has visited the site on a number of occasions and it would appear that this is indeed the case.

3.2. Planning Service is still in correspondence with the solicitor concerned regarding restoration of the site and should a suitable restoration scheme/ beach nourishment scheme which requires to be agreed with Moyle Council and EHS not be forthcoming the Department may then proceed to issuing formal Enforcement Notices. Should formal Notices be necessary the Department has a statutory duty to serve notices on all parties which have an interest in the land. This will include Moyle Council. The Council have been informed of the Departments position in relation to this matter.

3.3. In the meantime Members to be kept updated on progress with regard to the situation at Sandy Port.

**Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress with regard to the illegal sand extraction at Ballintoy Harbour. [CMF Officer]**

3.4. Following short discussion it was also agreed that with regard to illegal sand extraction in general and indeed illegal dumping of waste material on beaches the Chairman should write to the various coastal councils outlining the Forums concerns about these issues and reiterating Council's duties regarding such matters where Council's are the custodians of any beaches where such instances occur.

**Action: Chairman to write to the various coastal councils outlining the Forums concerns about illegal sand extraction and dumping of waste material on beaches and reiterating Council's duties regarding such matters in those cases where Council's are the custodians of the beaches where such instances occur. [Chairman]**

#### **Item 4.7. Rathlin Island ICZM Project**

3.5. Ken Bradley gave a brief update regarding the Rathlin Island project advising those present that with regard to the employment of an officer the position remains unchanged in that Moyle Council has still to draft up a job specification but is awaiting the publication of the North East Local Action Group Rural Development Programme Strategy before proceeding further. The first draft of the Strategy has to be with DARD by 31 July 2008.

3.6. The Chairman said that a French student was undertaking some ICZM related work into the possibility of feasibility of a coastal trail on Rathlin Island.

3.7. Ken added that while he had the support of, the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust who chair the Rathlin Ireland Sustainable Strategy Steering Group, and also the RSPB, the National Trust and EHS all of whom own land

on the Island it was hoped to engage with Islanders to assess their support. Ken also added that he was also working closely with CAAN with the intention that a 'Way Marked Walk' developed and approved. He went on to say that an initial approach has been made to Richard Green, Chairman of the Rathlin Development Community Association and he has suggested holding a meeting with the Islanders in September 2008.

3.8. In the meantime Ken said that he along with the CMF Officer had met with the Mourne Heritage Trust on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 to pursue the possibility of taking forward an ICZM pilot project in the Down and Newry and Mourne area such as upgrading of current paths, signage or provision of viewing points to name but a few. Discussions are still very much in their infancy but the Trust is currently working closely with the National Trust on a possible project and there may be scope for the Forum to become involved.

3.9. Members to be kept updated of progress on both these projects.

**Action: CMF Officer to keep Members updated on progress on ICZM Rathlin Island Project and any project that may emerge from discussions with the Mourne Heritage Trust.**

#### **Item 4.9. NICMF Maritime Archaeology leaflet**

3.10. The CMF Officer circulated a proof copy of the Maritime Leaflet he had received from the printers. However he explained that because of the pending re-launch of EHS on the 1<sup>st</sup> July it was considered pertinent to hold off printing the document so that the new Agency's details can be included.

3.11. It was suggested that if it was not too late a small 'Further Information available from:' panel should be included giving bibliographic details and relevant websites. The CMF Officer agreed to investigate this with the Printers.

**Action: CMF officer to investigate possibility of including a 'Further Information available from:' panel on the leaflet. [CMF Officer]**

#### **Item 4.11 Data Collection and Storage**

3.12. The CMF Officer said that there was no further progress to report on this issue at present.

3.13. The Chairman advised those present that he had recently attended a conference in Aberdeen during which he had had a very interesting conversation with colleagues of Andrew Bradbury, the Director of the Channel Coast Observatory, a 5 year project funded by DEFRA.

3.14. It involves centralized coastal data collection, storage and dissemination (all data is made freely available over the web at <http://www.channelcoast.org/>). They have standard formats, standard specifications for data collection by third parties and a great web-based

system to maintain the data. The programme has just been extended to all of England in 5 or 6 regional groups.

3.15. The Chairman said that he thought that it would be a great resource for Northern Ireland (if it could be extended to include us) and would certainly position us better to deal with coastal management. He explained that the types of data they collect are air photography, topography (on a 3-5 year rolling programme) by lidar or orthophotography, beach position and levels, wave data, tide data, habitat extent and changes. All is incorporated into a common format which gives easy reporting etc. At present in Northern Ireland some of this is collected by various agencies, some is not collected and some may be collected more than once. The Chairman suggested that it may be worthwhile for a presentation to be made to a suitable group of government scientists and managers to see if this can be taken forward and perhaps the Forum could host such an event. He added that it would amongst other things satisfy needs for ASSI monitoring, flood risk and preparing for climate change.

3.16. The Chairman went on to say that he believed Andrew Bradbury would quite readily come over and give a presentation on it to EHS/Rivers Agency/AFBI/Planning Service if needed.

3.17. Members were in agreement and that the CMF Officer should contact Andrew Bradbury about possible dates for a presentation.

3.18. CMF Officer would keep Members updated on progress.

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

#### **Item 10.2. Mussel Dredging Carlingford Lough – Web Site enquiry**

3.19. The CMF Officer confirmed that as agreed at the March meeting he e-mailed Mr Conor McGuinness, Kilbroney Park Preservation Society, asking if the Society could provide such details as the specific location(s) where the mussel fishing is taking place, the frequency of the activity and the type of vessels involved. To date he has received no reply.

3.20. The Chairman said that this concluded 'Matters Arising' adding that any remaining items will be dealt with later under the relevant Agenda Item.

#### **4. Monitoring of ICZM Strategy.**

4.1. The CMF Officer said that as agreed he had contacted Forum Members asking if they could highlight their **top priorities (3-4)** in each of the 4 Strategy's Priority Areas i.e. Social/Cultural; Environment; Economy; and Integration and confirmed that only a few Members had responded. In the circumstances no follow up meeting had been arranged.

- 4.2. He went on to say that the present arrangement is that he seeks updates on progress twice yearly (August and December) and that the next round of updates was due at the end of August for discussion at the November meeting. However he said that the feedback from officials at the last update in December 2007 was that little progress could be reported because of the strategic nature of some of the objectives.
- 4.3. Following discussion it was the opinion of those present that it may be better to seek updates annually i.e. Position at the end of December and that a further update of progress on objectives should not be sought until December 2008. Ken Bradley pointed out that this does not of course preclude Members raising concerns about any objectives they wish the Chairman to take to the WFD Inter Departmental Board.

**Action: CMF Officer to seek update on progress on objectives in December 2008.  
[CMF Officer]**

## **5. PPS 20.**

- 5.1. The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the WFD Inter Departmental Implementation Board on Tuesday 22 April at which he raised Members concerns about the lack of progress in bringing forward PPS 20. He said that he was very well received and the Board Members while sympathetic to the Forum's concerns he got the impression that given other priorities, PPS 20 will not be considered for some time, in fact it may never happen. However if that is the case he understands that the various aspects could be dealt with in other PPS's. This was confirmed when he met with Maggie Smith, Director of Planning and Natural Resources Division on Thursday 19 June. Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Minister about PPS 20. The Chairman said he would consult with members prior to finalising the letter. He also said that he would send members a copy of his notes when he met some Members to discuss PPS 20 prior to meeting Maggie Smith. He added that he still has to finalise the Position Paper on Coastal Development.

**Action: Chairman to send Members copy of draft letter to the Minister prior to finalising it and also a copy of his notes on PPS 20 meetings with Members.  
[Chairman]**

## **6. Work Programme**

- 6.1. Following discussion it was agreed that the best way to take this forward would be to set up a Sub Group to develop a work programme for the Forum, All present said they would be happy to sit on the Sub Group and that the CMF Officer would contact all members to arrange a meeting. As Prof. Cooper will be in Australia for July and August Gordon Best agreed to Chair the Group in the Chairman's absence.

6.2. There then followed an exchange of ideas which members felt that the Group should consider. These included such topics as:

- First CMF Progress Report to Government
- Best Practice Guidelines/Information leaflets
- Public Education – drawing attention to what is there – Coastal Geology/Geodiversity ) e.g. Geo-science Trail (Jurassic (North) Coast/Ice Age (East) Coast trails)
- Build on Lafarge Project at Magheramourne
- Fishing/Aquaculture – From sea to table
- Sea Kayak Trails

**Action: CMF Officer to arrange first meeting of Forum Work Programme Sub Group [CMF Officer]**

## **7. Any other Business**

### **Floods Directive**

7.1. The CMF Officer said that he had attended a meeting on Tuesday 17 June arranged by the Rivers Agency on ‘Coastal Flood and Erosion Management Review’. This is a review of the Rivers Agency’s role in such matters and is being carried out by RPS Consulting. They are due to consult shortly with interested stakeholders such as the Forum as to what rivers Agency role should be.

7.2. The Chairman confirmed that he had recently attended a presentation on the Floods Directive organised by the Rivers Agency at which Planning Division also gave a presentation on PPS 15.

7.3. Following a short debate it was agreed that that the CMF Officer should contact both the Rivers Agency and Planning Division to see if they would be willing to attend the September meeting and give presentations.

**Action: CMF Officer to contact Rivers Agency and Planning Division representatives to find out if they would be willing to attend the September meeting and give presentations.**

### **Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee**

7.4. Caroline Nolan Strangford Lough Officer updated members on a view of the projects being undertaken on behalf of the Committee which the Forum may be interested in. These included:

- ‘Turn O’ the Tide’ a programme of initiatives that will, over the next three years, engage local people and Lough users in the enjoyment, communication and conservation of their heritage. It will bring new audiences to the Lough’s heritage and it will provide a platform for people with knowledge and experience to share. The main funder is the Heritage Lottery Fund, with contributions from Environment and Heritage Service, Down

District Council, Ards Borough Council, the National Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

- Aids to Navigation in Strangford Lough
- User friendly information leaflet on Legislation and Regulations which relate to the Lough
- Voluntary Management Initiative involving Water Based Sports.

7.5. Caroline also went on to say that SLMAC is organising a conference, for the County Down Coastal Councils and is scheduled to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008, the theme of which is Bye laws and was wondering if the Forum would be involved. Members felt that this was a good idea and wondered if there was scope to widen it to include the entire coast. Caroline said that SLMAC had been specifically asked to focus on the County Down coast but could see no problem of inviting all Coastal Councils to event. Following this conference the Forum could decide if there was any benefit in rolling the idea out to focus on the rest of the coastal council areas. It was agreed that Ken Bradley and the CMF Officer would meet with Caroline to discuss further and report back to Members.

**Action: Ken Bradley and CMF Officer to meet Caroline Nolan to discuss Bye Laws Conference. [CMF Officer]**

### **Marine Strategy Directive**

- 7.6. By way of information the CMF Officer advised Members that the Marine Strategy Directive has just been published in the Official Journal of the European Commission and will come into force on 15 July 2008. This means that the deadline for Members States having to transpose the Directive is 15 July 2010.
- 7.7. He went on to explain that the aim of the Directive is to ensure that all EU marine waters are environmentally healthy by 2021 and it is the main component of the Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment, which the Community adopted in 2005. The Strategy establishes four marine regions and identifies eight potential sub-regions. Its objective is to achieve **good environmental status** of the marine environment by 2021. The first programmes of measures to be developed as part of the regional strategies will have to be established by 2016 at the latest. The measures themselves will have to be made operational within two years of their establishment.
- 7.8. These deadlines are consistent with the Water Framework Directive of 2000, which requires that surface freshwater and groundwater bodies (including lakes, streams and rivers, estuaries and coastal waters) should achieve good ecological status by 2015, and that the first review of the River Basin Management Plan should take place in 2021.
- 7.9. The combined implementation of the Water Framework Directive and of the Marine Strategy will bridge the gap between environmental protection of inland waters and the open seas.

7.10. Each Member State is responsible for developing a Marine Strategy for its marine waters. The development and implementation of the strategies should be aimed at the conservation of the marine ecosystems. This approach should include establishment of Marine Protected Areas and should address all human activities that have an impact on the marine environment.

7.11. The strategies should also include a detailed assessment of the state of the environment, define what achieving good environmental status means in the context of each regional sea, and establish clear environmental targets and monitoring programmes. Impact assessments, including detailed cost-benefit analyses of the measures proposed, will be required prior to the introduction of any new measure.

7.12. ‘Good Environmental Status’ is defined as “the environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations.”

7.13. The CMF Officer informed Members that a copy of the Directive can be viewed and downloaded at

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:164:0019:0040:EN:PDF>

## **8. Dates/Venues of next Meetings.**

8.1. The following date was confirmed

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - Venue - Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee offices, Portaferry/ time to be confirmed.

**Action: To confirm time of September meeting of the Forum. [CMF Officer]**

**Alan Hamilton**

**June 2008**