

Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Coastal and Marine Forum held on Wednesday 25th November 2009 at 2.00 pm in The Coastal Zone at Portrush.

In Attendance:

Prof. Andrew Cooper, University of Ulster. (Chairman)
Judith Annett, (Vice Chairperson)
John Anderson, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Peter Archdale, The Loughs Agency
Ken Bradley, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Maeve Bell, Royal Yachting Association
Liam Flanigan, Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Joanne Gaffney, Aquaculture Initiative
Melanie Gomes, Marine Task Force
David Knott, Belfast Harbours Commissioners
Adrian Martin, Action Renewables
Diane Ruddock, The National Trust

Alan Hamilton, CMF Officer

In Attendance:

Brenda Cuning, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Susan Cramer, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE
Maxime Sizaret, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Gary Burrows, Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Iain Davies, Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Apologies:

Gordon Best, Quarry Products Association
Kathryn Callaghan, Countryside Access and Activities Network
Val Cummins, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork
Phil Davidson, The National Trust
Alan McCulla, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
Dr. Tony McNally, The Loughs Agency
Helen Noble, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Campbell Tweed, Ulster Farmers' Union
Jo Whatmough, Mourne Heritage Trust

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Prof. Cooper welcomed those present to the thirteenth meeting, especially Brenda Cuning and Susan Cramer, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE, and Maxime Sizaret, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust all of whom would be giving presentations later.

- 1.2. He went on to thank Gary Burrows, Northern Ireland Environment Agency for offering the use of The Coastal Zone Centre for the meeting and the kind hospitality the Members received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting of 23rd September 2009 were approved as presented.

3. Matters Arising

Item 3.4. Rathlin Island and Mourne Coastal Route ICZM Projects

- 3.1. The CMF Officer informed those present that Moyle District Council submitted the application to the North East Region Rural Development Partnership regarding the Rathlin project at the end of October. The project comprises visitor information panels/directional signage, picnic tables and a new edition of the Rathlin Code of Environmental Practice.
- 3.2. Rural Development staff are currently assessing the application.
- 3.3. The CMF Officer went on to inform Members that with regards to the Mourne Signature Projects, Mourne Heritage Trust is awaiting receipt of final drawings and associated costs. Once these have been received a meeting is to be arranged to discuss the way ahead.
- 3.4. Members to be kept updated of progress on both projects.

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

Item 3.5. Data Collection and Storage

- 3.5. The Chairman welcomed Iain Davies, Data Manager, Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- 3.6. Iain informed the meeting that Conservation Science Aquatic Unit has ordered new digital base reference mapping from the Hydrographic Office, comprising: Seazone Hydrospatial data, chartered vector/raster data and chartered and surveyed bathymetry data. This data will replace the ARCS Admiralty charts currently in use and should aid and enhance conservation planning and decision making, within the unit.
- 3.7. Iain stated that the Aquatic unit has held outline discussions with Ordnance Survey NI (part of Land & Property Services); with a view to establishing a pilot project to create a GIS web-viewer; enabling government member bodies to access and interrogate GIS marine data.

Item 3.9. Geo-science Trail

- 3.8. The Chairman informed those present that the first meeting of the Geo-science Trail sub group will take place on 14th December 2009.
- 3.9. The Chairman went on to say that since the last meeting he had received a response from Alan Clarke Chief Executive, NITB and that a NITB representative has agreed to attend the December meeting.
- 3.10. Members will be kept updated on progress.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on progress. [Chairman]

Item 3.17. Coastal Councils ICZM Awareness Raising Road Show

- 3.11. Liam Flanigan said that he would be continuing dialogue with NILGA officials about potential mechanisms by which ICZM could be included in the remit of the new councils. He said that it would be important to keep an eye on future developments such as the emergence of the Transition committees it may be possible to address new council clusters at their meetings. He will keep the Chairman and Members updated on developments.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on developments. [Chairman]

Item 3.10. Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Coastal Zone

- 3.12. The CMF Officer said that he had met with Orla's replacement Frances Curran and discussed the way forward. At the meeting Frances asked if the Forum members could confirm if they content with the Indicators and measurements as set out in Orla's paper of March 2009. She confirmed that she was content to retain the Indicator on Second Homes even though there was no current measurement available. Frances said she was aware that there is some work going on looking at how to collect data on second homes and will keep the Forum up to date on this.
- 3.13. Members confirmed that they were content. The CMF Officer went on to say that given the Forum's approval Frances would now begin to develop the indicators further and look at the measurements in greater detail. Frances had indicated that would be willing to attend the next meeting of the Forum and give an update on progress. In the meantime the CMF Officer would keep the Members updated on developments.

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

Item 3.22. Planning and Coastal Erosion

- 3.14. The Chairman confirmed that as agreed at the September meeting he wrote again to the Planning Service seeking further information on PPS 20 and Planning and Coastal Erosion but as yet he had received no response regarding PPS20.

3.15. However with regard to Planning and Coastal Erosion the CMF Officer had prior to the meeting handed him copies of papers relating to the final decision on the Cloughy case. He said that he would analyse the papers later however from a cursory glance it would appear that no consideration was given to the provisions contained within Policy CO1 'The undeveloped coast' and PSU 10 'Development at risk'

3.16. The Chairman said that he will keep Members updated on developments and would circulate the responses to interested members.

Action: Chairman to keep Members updated on developments and forward documents to those requesting them. [Chairman]

4. Presentation: Marine Policy & Legislation - overview & update: Brenda Cunning/Susan Cramer, Planning and Natural Resources Division, DOE.

4.1. Brenda Cunning outlined the Department's Marine Programme, highlighting that 3 teams within PEPG are taking forward policy and legislation for marine licensing, marine planning and marine nature conservation. She explained that the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 delivered aspects of this programme (licensing and planning), and that the proposed Northern Ireland Marine Bill would further develop the whole programme.

4.2. The first stage of marine planning would be brought forward by the publication of the UK-wide Marine Policy Statement. This is due to be consulted on during 2010, and finalised in 2011. Marine plans would then be developed in accordance with the MPS - in the case of Northern Ireland in 2013-2014.

4.3. New legislation on marine licensing will be consulted on during 2010 and brought into operation in 2011. This legislation will replace the current "FEPA" system of licensing construction and deposits in the sea. A range of legislation will be produced, to cover the application process, fees, appeals, exemptions and civil sanctions (fixed and variable penalties to encourage compliance).

4.4. Brenda concluded by pointing out the number of consultations on marine issues due to issue during 2010, and encouraged the CMF to consider its role in helping to develop the various aspects of the marine programme.

4.5. The Chairman thanked Brenda for her update and was happy to confirm that the Forum would be very willing to help.

4.6. Susan Cramer then gave a presentation on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. This encompassed an outline of the MSFD requirements, a summary of proposals contained within the consultation documents and details of post consultation timescales in the transposition project. She explained that the overall objective of the Directive is that Member States

achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in their marine environment by 2020. The Directive contains the following implementation milestones :-

Deadline Action

By July 2010	Transpose the Directive
By July 2012	Undertake an initial assessment of marine waters; Determine a set of characteristics of and comprehensive targets and indicators to guide progress to Good Environmental Status.
By July 2014	Establish and implement a co-ordinated monitoring programme for the on-going assessment of Good Environmental Status.
By Dec 2015	Develop a programme of cost effective measures to achieve Good Environmental Status.
By Dec 2016	Implement the programme of measures.

- 4.7. Susan explained that DOE is participating in a UK wide transposition project and that the draft transposing regulations are the subject of a public consultation which commenced on 30 October 2009 and will close on 22 January 2010. She urged members of the Forum to consider these documents and to respond to DOE with their comments. Susan explained that the objective of the regulations is to establish a coordinated framework for implementation which respects the UK's devolution settlements. Collaborative working will underpin delivery of the Directive on an international, national and local level.
- 4.8. Susan concluded by reiterating that the consultation will close on 22 January 2010, responses will be considered in February 2010, Executive and committee approval will then be sought March to April 2010, the Regulations laid in Westminster June 2010 with the Regulations becoming law on 15 July 2010. Susan invited questions and encouraged members to consider and respond to the consultation documents.
- 4.9. The Chairman thanked Susan for her very interesting and informative presentation.

5. Presentation: Binevenagh AONB Management Plan: Maxime Sizaret, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

- 5.1. Maxime then gave a presentation on the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan. He explained that the Binevenagh AONB is part of a family of 49 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 9 of them in Northern Ireland. Binevenagh was redesignated in 2006 under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985.

- 5.2. He went on to say that a Management Forum was set up in 2008, coordinated by CCGHT and a management plan being prepared in 2009. He pointed out that AONB Management Plans in Northern Ireland are non statutory plans and rest on stakeholders voluntary contribution, set within a series of policies and guidance.
- 5.3. Following a wide general public and stakeholders' consultation in early 2009 and the preparation of a state of the AONB report, the draft management plan was produced in October 2009. It provides a long term vision for the AONB, aims, objectives and actions. The plan is currently out for consultation and the closing date is Friday 27th November 2009. Maxime said that Members comments are welcome. Following consideration of the various responses received the final plan will be produced, actions detailed, agreed with led partners, costed and timed and the plan will be launch early 2010.
- 5.4. During the presentation Maxime alluded to the fact that the AONB extended seawards as does the proposed Lecale and Strangford AONB which is also out for consultation at present. A short debate ensued on whether or not this was correct and open to legal interpretation.
- 5.5. Ken Bradley pointed out that as far as the Department is concerned the boundary for all AONBs is the low water mark which reflects those of Planning and local government. He went on to say that he was aware of recent interpretations that there was no legal reason for AONB boundaries not extending seawards and was currently awaiting Departmental Solicitors' opinion on this interpretation.
- 5.6. The Chairman thanked Maxime for his very interesting presentation and reminded Members they still had until Friday 27 November 2009 to comment on the Management Plan.

6. NICMF First Report

- 6.1. The Chairman and Vice- Chairman circulated copies of their first draft of the report along with a list of all the objectives and measures contained in the strategy with progress highlighted in red/orange and green. The CMF Officer pointed out that the progress highlighted was only up to December 2008 and consequently may not reflect the correct position.
- 6.2. Following discussion it was agreed that the CMF Officer should seek updates from Departments etc. to reflect the progress position up to the 31st October 2009.

Action: CMF Officer to seek updates from Departments etc. to reflect the progress position up to 31stOctober 2009. [CMF Officer]

7. NICMF Remit – Priorities Update

- 7.1. Judith Annett circulated a discussion paper outlining priorities the Forum could take under its notice. Due to pressure of time only a short discussion

was possible. It was finally agreed that Consultations should be a permanent item on the agenda of future meetings and that Judith's list should be kept updated. If any member feels that a consultation should be considered by the Forum in addition to individual sectoral comments then that member should bring it to the Forum.

- 7.2. With regard to current consultations it was agreed that the Chairman should respond to the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Vice Chair should respond to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Members to be copied into their responses.

Action: Chairman/Vice-Chairman to respond to Sustainable Development Strategy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive. [Chairman/Vice Chairman]

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1. No other business was put forward.

9. Date/Venue of next meeting.

- 9.1. Date of next meeting (provisionally Wednesday, 17th February 2010) – Date/venue/time to be confirmed.

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

Alan Hamilton

December 2009