

# WETLANDS BIODIVERSITY DELIVERY GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nov 06

### 1 Purpose

This paper sets the terms of reference for a Wetland Biodiversity Delivery Group to ensure that activity in relation to wetlands is well co-ordinated and supported within Northern Ireland. The activities of the Group will facilitate effective communication between the relevant government agencies, the private and voluntary sectors, including the maintenance of links with the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

### 2 Scope

Relevant Habitat Action Plans to be considered by the group include:

- Fens
- Reedbeds
- Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating waterbodies
- Eutrophic standing waters
- Mesotrophic lakes
- Marl Lakes
- Coastal & Floodplain grazing marsh
- River and Streams.

Relevant action for priority species as agreed by the group.

### 3 Objectives

The main objectives of the freshwater and wetland HAPs are:

- To **maintain** the extent of existing habitats.
- To **enhance** the ecological condition of existing habitats to achieve *favourable condition*.
- Where possible **increase** the area of each type of habitat through **restoration**.

The remit of the Wetland Biodiversity Delivery Group should include:

- 3.1 The co-ordination of arrangements for **monitoring** and **reporting** on habitats in the context of Biodiversity Action Plans.
- 3.2 The **co-ordination** of activity on wetland habitats, including
  - Development of best practice
  - Advice on relevant Biodiversity Action Plans
  - Providing guidance for landowners and other stakeholders
  - Liaison with wetland interests in the Republic of Ireland and UK
  - Interpretation, education and knowledge sharing
  - Advising and contributing to River Basin Management Plans
- 3.3 The identification and support of **research** needs.
- 3.4 Establish, deliver and review the Wetlands Biodiversity Work Programme.
- 3.5 The consideration of cross-border catchment management issues.
- 3.6 The provision of Wetlands biodiversity advice to government.

## 4 Representation

Proposed members of the Group are:

Chairman EHS Natural Heritage  
DARD – Rivers Agency,  
DARD – Service Delivery Group  
DARD – Central Policy Group  
Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute  
DOE, EHS – Water Management Unit  
DCAL – Inland Fisheries  
Loughs Agency  
Ulster Farmers Union  
NI Agricultural Producers Association (invited but no reply)  
NI Freshwater Task Force – 2 NGO reps  
Ulster Anglers Federation  
NI Coarse Fishing Federation  
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside  
NI Biodiversity Group  
David Griffiths - University of Ulster  
Alan Keys – Ballinderry Hatchery

David Laughlin – Bann Systems Ltd  
Fisheries Conservancy Board - Richard Kennedy or Brian Finn  
NI Local Government Association (invited but no reply)  
National Parks & Wildlife Service

## **5 Organisation**

Each representative will be expected to meet their own costs of membership.  
It is envisaged that the Group will hold a business meeting twice a year together with a field trip.  
EHS will provide secretariat services to the Group.

## **6 Review**

The effectiveness, Terms of Reference & membership of the Group will be reviewed on a yearly basis.