

COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE March 2007

1 Purpose

This paper sets the terms of reference for a Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Delivery Group to ensure that activity in relation to meeting the objectives of the coastal and marine Habitat and Species Action Plans is well co-ordinated and supported. The activities of the Group will facilitate effective communication between relevant government agencies, local government, private and voluntary sectors and relevant stakeholders and will include the maintenance and strengthening of links within the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

2 Scope

The focus of the Group will be on the delivery of biodiversity priorities; in doing so, it will work closely with the Coastal and Marine Forum and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group but will not replicate their work.

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

- Maritime cliff and slopes
- Coastal sand dunes
- Coastal vegetated shingle
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Mudflats
- Sheltered muddy gravels
- Seagrass beds
- Maerl beds
- Mud habitats in deep water
- Saline lagoons
- *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs
- Littoral & sublittoral chalk
- *Modiolus modiolus* beds
- *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs
- Tidal rapids
- Sub-littoral sands and gravels

The Group will also consider all other relevant Priority habitats and species.

3 Objectives

The main objectives of the coastal and marine habitat and species action plans are:

- To **maintain** the extent of existing habitats and populations of species.
- To **enhance** the ecological condition of existing habitats and species populations to achieve *favourable condition*.
- To **increase** the area of each type of habitat through **restoration** where applicable.

The Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Group will be a partnership group which will provide expert technical advice to government, engage in delivering actions and make recommendations to aid delivery of the targets contained within the habitat and species action plans.

The remit of the Group will be to:

3.1 Agree a **definition** of favourable condition

3.2 **Monitor** and **report** on habitats and species in the context of Biodiversity Action Plans and relevant policies.

3.3 Provide advice on the **co-ordination** of activity on coastal & marine habitats and species, including

- Development of best practice
- Advice on relevant Biodiversity Action Plans
- Providing guidance for landowners and other stakeholders
- Liaison with coastal and marine interests in the Republic of Ireland, the UK and further afield.
- Interpretation, education and knowledge sharing

3.4 Provide advice and commission **research** as required.

3.5 Provide technical advice on and engage in the delivery of the coastal and marine Biodiversity **Work Programme**.

4 Representation

Members of the Group

- EHS, Natural Heritage (Chair) (Bob Davidson)
- EHS, Water Management Unit (Phil Elliott)
- DARD – Fisheries Division (Kenny Parker)
- DOE - Environmental Policy Group (Ken Bradley)
- The Loughs Agency (Paddy Boylan)
- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group (Bob Brown)
- Council for Nature Conservation and the Country side (David Erwin)
- Crown Estates Commissioners (Frazer McConnell)
- Marine Task Force (representing RSPB, UWT, Friends of the Earth, Northern Ireland Environment Link, The National Trust, WWT, WWF) (Melanie Gomes)
- The National Trust (Phil Davidson)
- Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (Maxime Sizaret)
- Strangford Lough Office (Caroline Nolan)
- Mourne Heritage Trust (Martin Carey)
- Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd (ANIFPO) (Alan McCulla)
- Northern Ireland Fisheries Producers Organisation (NIFPO) (Dick James)
- Northern Ireland Local Government Association (Orla Maguire)
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ciaran O'Keeffe)
- Cross-Border Aquaculture Initiative (CBAIT) (Joanne Gaffney)
- Centre for Marine Resources & Mariculture (C-MAR) (Dai Roberts)
- Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) (Matt Service)
- CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data & Recording) (Julia Nunn)
- Local Biodiversity Officers Forum (Emma McLoughlin)
- Rivers Agency (Gareth Greer, Environmental Section)

Corresponding Members

Corresponding members and other organisations and individuals may be requested to attend meetings as required

- DCAL Fisheries Operations & Technical Support (Marcus McAuley, Principal Fisheries Officer)
- Planning Service, Planning Policy Section (John Davison)
- Water Service (Andrew McConville)
- Belfast Harbour Commissioners (David Knott, Safety & Environmental Manager)

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 an event as required.
EHS will provide secretariat services to the Group.

6 Review

Progress against the work programme, Terms of Reference and membership of the Group will be reviewed as required.