

Developing a Marine Plan for Northern Ireland



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DOE NI Marine Plan
Team

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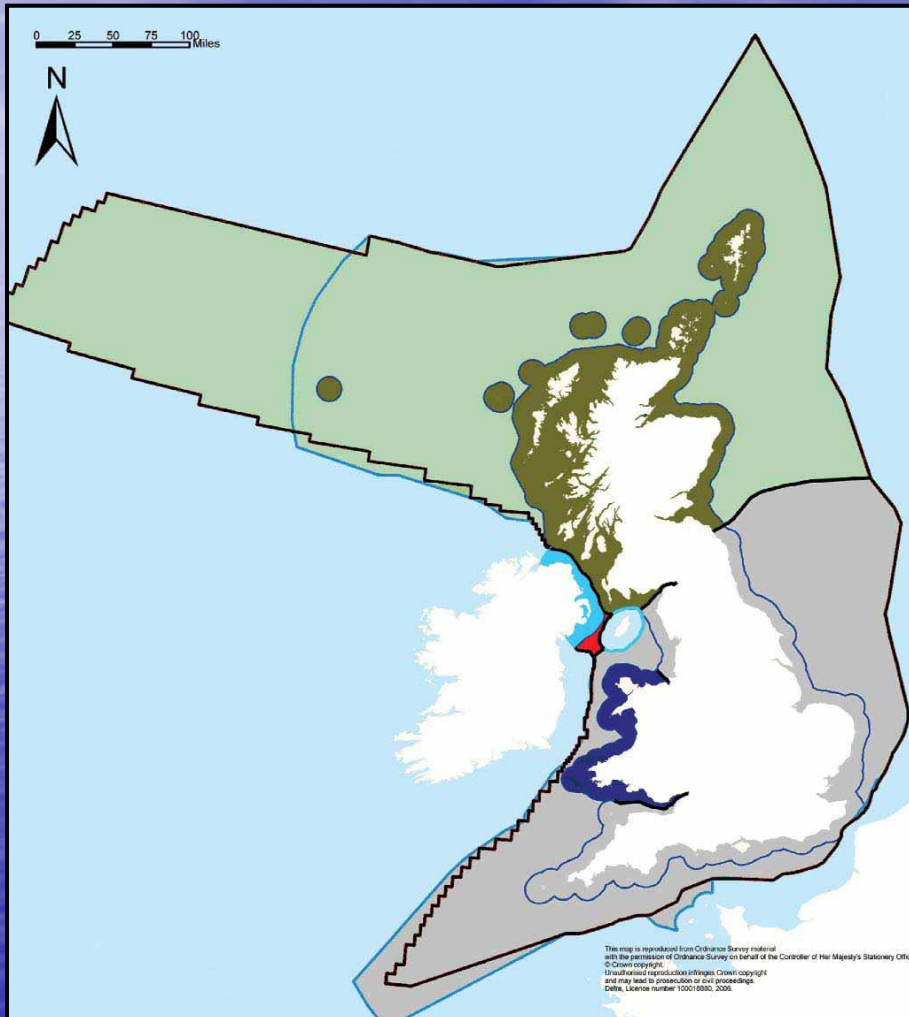
Outline of Presentation

- **Relevant Legislation & Policy Drivers**
- **Background on the NI Marine Bill**
- **Management & Responsibility for NI Marine waters**
 - Role of other Departments
 - Role of the new DOE Marine Division
- **Marine Plan progress**
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Sustainability Assessment
- **ISMF Benefits**

UK Legislative and Policy Drivers

- **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009;**
- **Marine Policy Statement** – overarching policy framework;
- **NI Marine Bill;**
- **NI Marine Position paper** – local policy context.

Where Are We? - NI Marine Waters & Activities

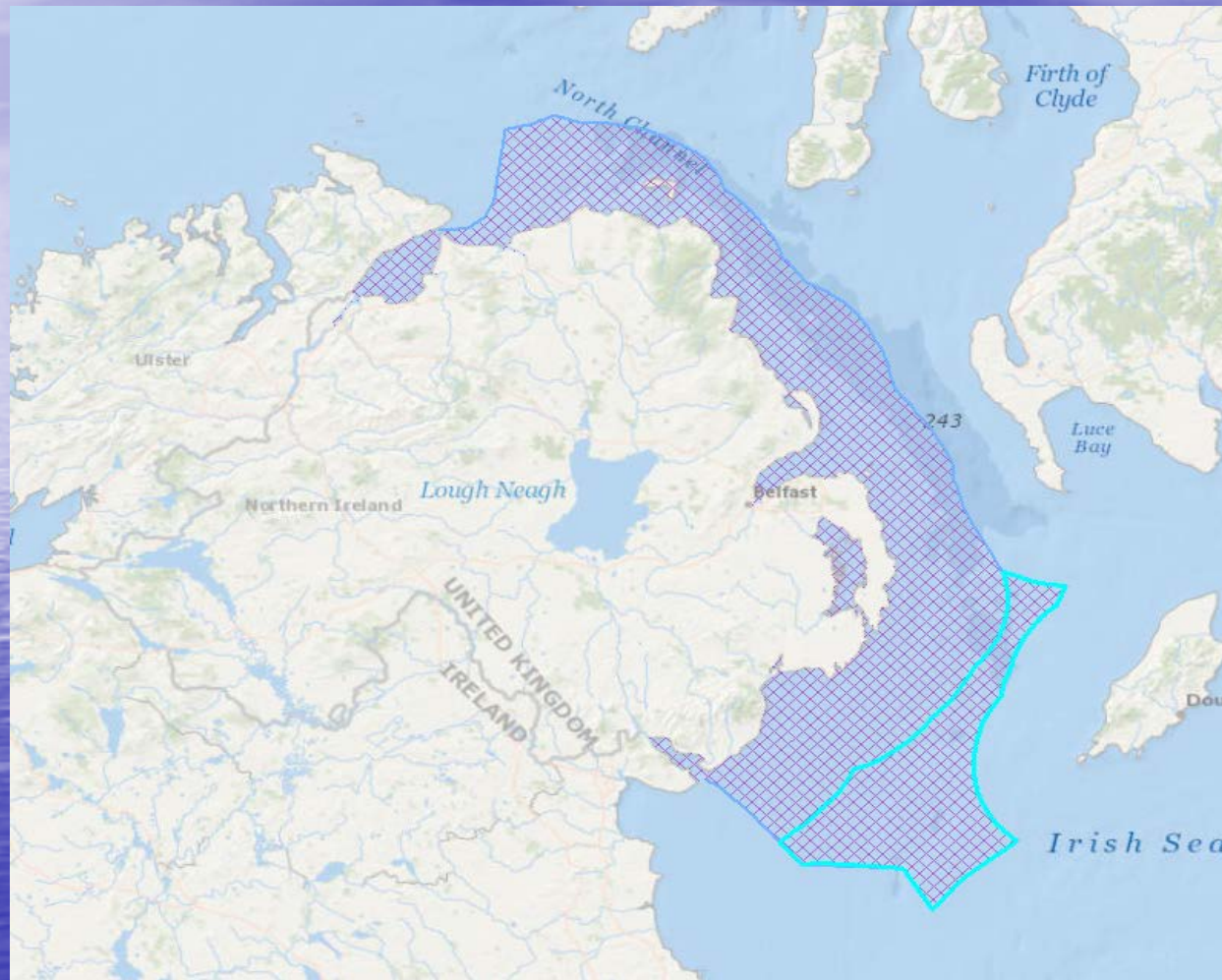


	Northern Ireland Inshore Region
	Northern Ireland offshore Region

Marine Activities:

- Renewable Energy
- Fishing / Aquaculture
- Sub-marine cables
- Oil & Gas Pipelines
- Ports & Navigation
- Defence
- Marine Tourism
- Dredging & Disposal

NI Coastline & Marine Waters



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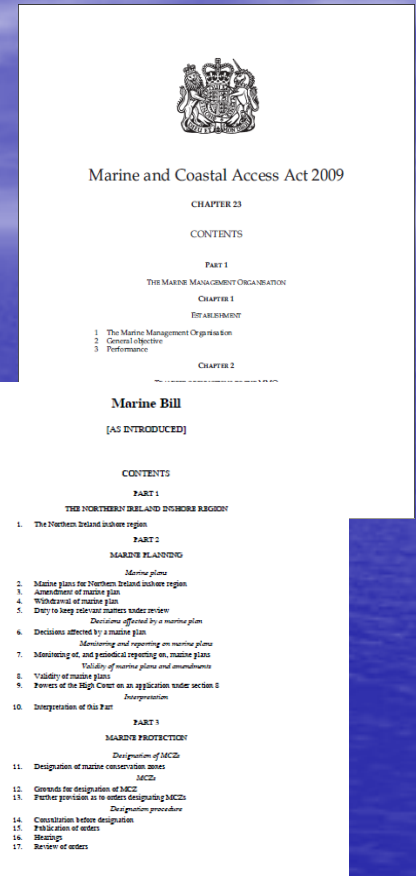
NI Marine Bill

- Aim – to establish a new framework based on a strategic system of marine planning that would balance environmental, social and economic needs and therefore contribute to the sustainable development of NI's marine waters.

- Applies to the territorial sea & seabed adjacent to NI from mean HW springtide out to 12 nautical miles – our inshore region.

- Establishes the Department of the Environment (DOE) as the responsible Marine Plan Authority

- Permits the designation of MCZ's



NI Marine Bill and Plan Direction

- Department may produce a Marine Plan for all or part of the inshore region.
- Department must take all reasonable steps to ensure compatibility between a marine plan and any related terrestrial development plan
- Details the procedure by which the Department must prepare, consult on and publish a marine plan. Requires the publication of a Statement of Public Participation.

Marine Bill continued..

- Provision relate to the preparation, adoption and any amendment of that plan.
- Requires the DOE to consult with other NI Departments with marine functions.
- All public authorities must take any authorisation or enforcement decisions in accordance with the marine plan unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. Other types of decisions must be taken with regard to the marine plan.
- Where a marine plan applies to retained functions (e.g. those which are carried out or authorised by a UK department), the Secretary of State must approve the marine plan before it can be adopted.
- Effect of the Marine Plan policies must be reported on at least every three years and on NI marine planning in general every 6 years until 2030 .

Marine Bill and Marine Nature Conservation

- Allows the Department to designate MCZ's
- Department must publicise MCZ proposals, consult SoS & interested parties.
- Places a duty to designate MCZ's as part of a coherent network of marine sites within the UK marine area.
- Permits the Department to make byelaws to protect MCZ's
- Provides that it is an offence to contravene a byelaw or to carry out a prohibited act in relation to an MCZ

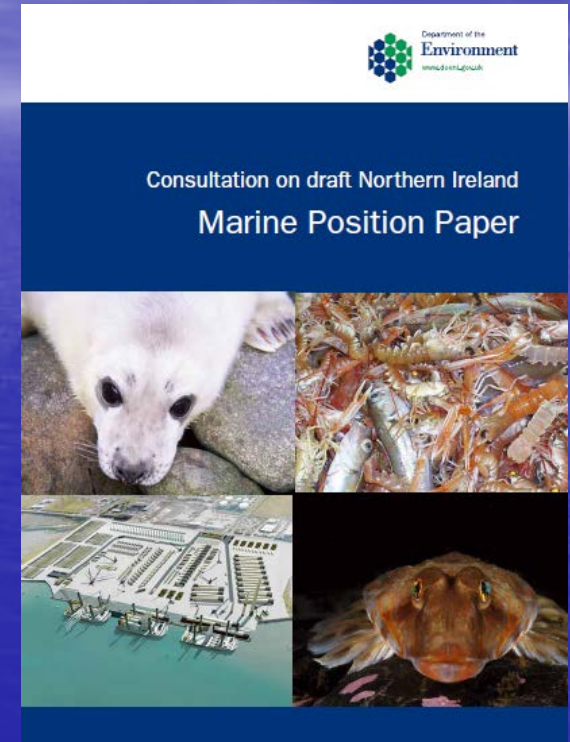
Marine Bill - Latest Position

- Bill went through Consideration Stage on 30 April 2013
- Further Consideration on 13 May 2013
- Final Stage 21 May – today !
- Royal Assent thereafter

NI Marine Position Paper

(March 2012)

- Policy context for NI Marine Plan
- Complement UK MPS
- Reflects Executive's Objectives for sustainable development of marine related activities



Responsibility for the NI Marine Area

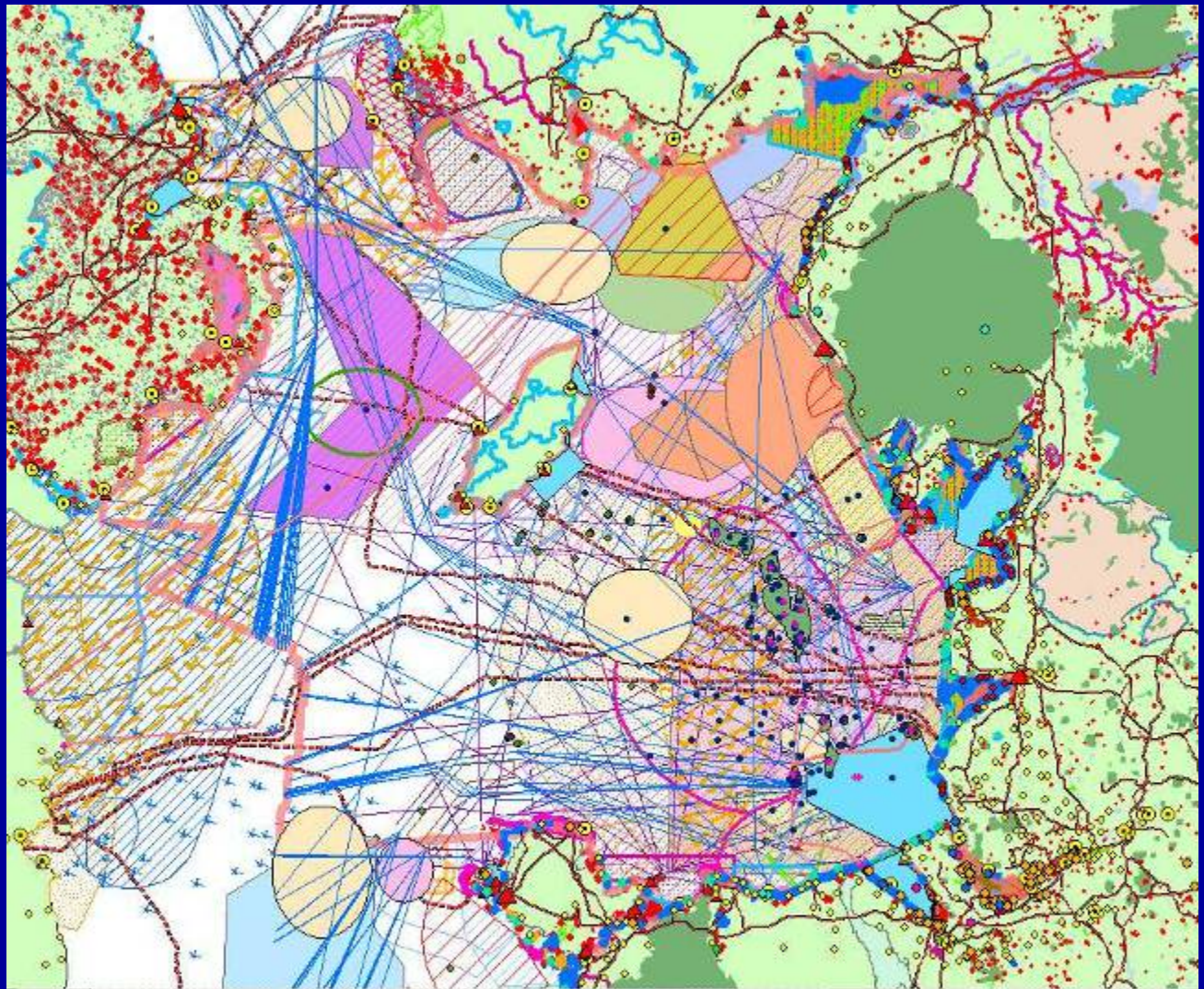
- **Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)**
 - Sustainable development of Sea fisheries & aquaculture.
 - DARD Rivers Agency implements Floods Directive.
 - DARD also sponsors NI Fishery Harbour Authority
 - Co-sponsors Loughs Agency
 - Important contributor to marine research through Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
- **Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment (DETI)**
 - Energy policy e.g. Offshore renewable energy, offshore gas storage & mineral developments.
 - Also responsible for development of modern telecommunications infrastructure with associated underground/ undersea cables
 - Tourism
- **Department for Regional Development (DRD)**
 - Legislative framework of NI Commercial ports and harbours
 - Owns NI Water
- **Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL)**
 - Salmon, sea trout & eel conservation
 - Certain marine recreational activities
- **Department for Social Development (DSD)**
 - short impounded stretch of River Lagan.

DOE MARINE DIVISION

- The Department of Environment is the marine plan authority for all Northern Ireland's marine waters.
- The Department established a new Marine Division in November 2012.
- From within the Department, existing policy, planning, conservation and scientific functions for marine management and protection were drawn together.
- In addition, it has responsibility for implementing international, EU and national legislation along with national legislation to promote, protect and sustain Northern Ireland's coastal waters.

Competition for Marine Space

- Landuse
- Tourism
- Oil & Gas
- Mariculture
- Coastal Defence
- Ports & Navigation
- Military Activities
- Culture
- Conservation
- Dredging & Disposal
- Submarine Cables



▪Fishing

▪Renewable
Energy

▪Marine
Recreation

▪Mineral
Extraction

The NI Marine Plan

- An unenviable task...An optimistic team



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NI Marine Plan -Progress to date

- Production of SPP (June 2012 & revised May 2013?)
- Extensive series of bi-lateral meetings with Gov Departments.
- Programme of stakeholder engagement.
- Series of public drop in sessions along entire coast.
- Further engagement planned as plan progresses

Sustainability Appraisal

- Sustainability Advisory Group.
- Imminent Stakeholder events to agree Plan vision and objectives.
- Workshops on scenarios / alternatives & preferred options
- Consultants will also cover SEA, HRA, EQIA & Rural Proofing

Marine Plan Timeline

- SPP – June 2012
- Evidence gathering and working drafts of relevant documents to be prepared, including consideration of options and alternatives – April 2013;
- Preparation of draft plan and iterative process of Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA) together with other necessary assessments – Spring 2014;
- Draft marine plan to DOE Minister for consideration – mid May 2014 .
- Draft marine plan to the Secretary of State and Executive for approval – End of May 2014.

Evidence

- To inform development of a Northern Ireland Marine Programme / Plan
- Identify:
 - current pressures
 - current state
 - Trends
 - gaps
- MPS – Plan informed by data provided by consultees, stakeholders, regulators and experts
- Future proof the Plan



www.chartingprogress.defra.gov.uk

www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/state_of_the_seas_ni_report.htm

ISMF Benefits to the NI Marine Plan

- Importance of regular liaison with officials from other marine administrations. NI Plan team are committed to continue regular meetings.
- As a conduit through which we can share and avail of marine information.
- Publishing relevant documents of significant use during plan preparation e.g. the Irish Sea Issues and Opportunities Report.
- Moral support !

THANK YOU

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