

## Marine Debris Removal in Strangford Lough.

The removal and disposal of boats and fishing debris from four locations in Strangford Lough.

This includes

Taggart Island fishing and aquaculture debris concrete coated polystyrene cubes, 2x old fishing boats, an old powerboat, and a metal pontoon.

Zenato a 27ft Solid glass fiber yacht.

Mellifont ex fishing Trawler

Morlo 16ft Fibreglass Yacht

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This includes:

Taggart Island fishing and aquaculture debris concrete coated polystyrene cubes, 2x old fishing boats, an old powerboat, and a metal pontoon. - Which will mostly be removed by Tractors and diggers from the shore and floated off where possible and transported by boat to a pier for removal for recycling where possible and the waste will be disposed of appropriately.

Zenato a 27ft Solid glass fibre yacht. - This will be floated if possible and removed from the nearest pier ideally intact and then transported for recycling and disposal appropriately

Morlo 16ft Fibreglass Yacht - the new location of this yacht can now be craned from its location and lifted onto a flat bed lorry in one piece with any relevant parts recycled and the rest disposed of appropriately

Mellifont ex fishing Trawler - This large vessel will be broken up in the field adjacent to the site using suitable plant machinery (on NT Land but not within the ASSI) for removal by road for recycling and waste disposal.

This will remove debris from Strangford Lough allowing the seabed to return to a more natural state.

The debris will be disposed of appropriately with any reusable/ recyclable parts being processed and any marine or land litter collected during the proposed works will be appropriately disposed of to prevent litter entering the marine environment to prevent adverse impacts to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

National Trust and any contractors hired to complete the works shall adhere to the appropriate pollution prevention guidelines including DAERA Pollution Standing Advice To prevent adverse

impacts to Marine Protected Areas, Habitats and Species, as required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), The Marine Act

(Northern Ireland) 2013, The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

and also DAERA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Standing Advice To prevent marine mammal disturbance as required under the

Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995(as amended) and The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).

National Trust and the contractors will ensure that there is no storage of materials in the ASSI below High Water Mean Spring (HWMS) tide mark. This will prevent a pollution incident or smothering impact to any Eelgrass (*Zostera*) feeding areas for Brent Geese.

The access route along the foreshores will be predetermined and the route will not go over *Zostera* beds or any other designated features. This is in order to prevent compaction/damage to *Zostera* beds present on site as required under The Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and OSPAR Agreement 2021-01.

In addition, National Trust and the Contractors will ensure invasive non-native species biosecurity measures are in place for all stages of the project and all equipment used. This is to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species as required under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).

#### Excavation Requirements

The contractors will not be using percussive equipment such as rock breakers or piling on site therefore there should not be significant marine mammal disturbance.

DAERA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Standing Advice will be adhered to.

Agricultural and removal machinery potentially including marine tow boats will be used to remove the boats and marine debris in the least damaging and disturbing way possible.

All work will be carried out with consideration, to negate the impact on over-wintering and breeding birds, avoid disturbance to breeding seals and to minimise the impact on soils and vegetation.

No vehicles, machinery or works will occur below the High Water Mean Spring (HWMS) tide mark (except in direct vicinity of removal of the marine debris) to prevent impact on ASSI features of local coastal processes and Eelgrass (*Zostera*) beds that are important feeding areas for Brent Geese.