Dear Sir/Madam

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SCALLOP ENHANCEMENT SITES IN THE NORTHERN IRELAND INSHORE REGION

I am writing to invite you to respond to a consultation on proposals to develop fisheries management measures to safeguard features within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the proposal to establish scallop enhancement sites, within the Northern Ireland inshore region.

Part 1 of the consultation proposes fisheries management measures for the following MPAs:

- Skerries and Causeway Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- Rathlin Island SAC / Special Protection Area (SPA) and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ);
- Red Bay SAC;
- Waterfoot MCZ;
- Maidens SAC;
- Outer Belfast Lough MCZ;
- Strangford Lough MCZ;
- Murlough SAC; and
- Carlingford Lough MCZ.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.
Part 2 of the consultation paper refers to the establishment of scallop enhancement sites in the following areas:

- Whitehead;
- Drumfad Bay;
- Ballyquintin Point; and
- Roaring Rock.

The consultation document is aimed at organisations, groups, and people who undertake activities, or have a general interest in the marine area.

**Consultation Arrangements**


In an effort to reduce the environmental impact of the production of consultation papers, the Department is encouraging stakeholders to respond using the online response function.

If required, a limited number of hard copies (typescript) of the consultation response form are available - please contact us to discuss your requirements by email to MarineConservation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone (02890 569803).

There is no requirement to provide comments on all of the proposals – you may wish only to provide comments on sites of particular interest to you.

During the consultation period the Department will organise stakeholder meetings to discuss the fisheries management proposals detailed in the consultation document. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is likely that most of these engagement sessions will be delivered using online webinars, but a small number of face to face meetings will also be organised, if feasible and permitted. Please contact us to register your interest by email to MarineConservation@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone (02890 569803).

The closing date for responses to the consultation is **31 March 2021**.

Thank you in advance for your help and participation in this consultation, should you have any queries please contact us to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

**COLIN ARMSTRONG**  
HEAD OF MARINE CONSERVATION AND REPORTING

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*