

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

### SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Introduction of regulation to intertidal hand gathering of shellfish

#### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

|                             |                                            |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Developing a                | Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> | Plan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adopting a                  | Policy <input type="checkbox"/>            | Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> | Plan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementing a              | Policy <input type="checkbox"/>            | Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> | Plan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Revising a                  | Policy <input type="checkbox"/>            | Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> | Plan <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Designing a Public Service  | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |                                   |                               |
| Delivering a Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |                                   |                               |

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Intertidal hand gathering of shellfish- A call for evidence

#### 1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The aim of the policy is to formulate a set of management measures to adequately regulate the activity of shellfish gathering within Northern Ireland.

**1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

## SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

**2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

**2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The main group affected by the proposals will be fish processors in the coastal communities along the Co Down coast as well as shellfish gatherers that sell their produce to market.

The Northern Ireland inshore region supports diverse fishing opportunities that make an important contribution to the economies of coastal communities and the introduction of changes to fisheries management regimes outlined in this consultation document are intended to support fishing at sustainable levels while protecting the marine environment.

As intertidal shellfish gathering is currently unregulated by DAERA there is not sufficient data to accurately quantify the value of the fishery. The purpose of the call for evidence document is to request additional information from stakeholders including the fishing industry to allow the Department to more accurately assess the economic impact of any proposals.

**2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.**

The policy is an area based scheme intended to have the same impact in urban areas and rural areas.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

|                                                     |                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rural Businesses                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                             |
| Rural Tourism                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Rural Housing                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas                   | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas                | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas   | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Poverty in Rural Areas                              | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Deprivation in Rural Areas                          | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Rural Crime or Community Safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Rural Development                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Agri-Environment                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                        |
| Other (Please state)                                | <input type="text" value="Fish processors and commercial shellfish gatherers"/> |

**If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.**

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

N/A

## SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

**3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

**3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

|                                                                              |                                     |                      |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Consultation with Rural Stakeholders                                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Published Statistics | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation with Other Organisations                                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Research Papers      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveys or Questionnaires                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other Publications   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below). |                                     |                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

Stakeholder engagement has taken place through existing stakeholder steering groups like the Inshore Fisheries Partnership, MarPAMM MPA management plan steering groups and the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP). More focussed engagement with interest groups, NGOs, fish processors has also taken place. This engagement has listened to the needs of individuals and groups and taken their concerns into account when formulating the potential management measures.

The purpose of the call for evidence document is to obtain more information to better quantify the intertidal shellfish gathering fishery and the impact that could occur as a result of changes in the management of current fishing practices. Specific questions have been included in the consultation document questionnaire to address the lack of information the Department currently holds and allow more accurate assessment of the impacts to rural communities.

**3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?**

The proposed management measures will support fishing at sustainable levels while protecting the marine environment. Evidence suggests the protections afforded to habitats and species within managed MPAs and closed areas, provide significant biological benefits. One of the spill over benefits to areas located beside MPAs is the sustainable supply of larger fish. Increased biodiversity also fosters resilience and can offer a buffer to climate change.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

## **SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

### **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

The potential economic loss to commercial gatherers and fish processors has been considered. As the shellfish gathering fishery is currently unregulated by the Department the value of loss is not currently known. This is the reason for the publishing for a call for evidence document. The questionnaire within this document has been designed to seek the information required to better quantify the potential economic loss to rural communities. The evidence obtained from the consultation responses will be used in the implementation of management measures.

The social and cultural need of individuals to gather shellfish in small quantities for personal consumption has been considered.

## SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

**5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

**5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The potential management measures set out in the call for evidence document have been designed to regulate commercial shellfish gathering. It is recognised that small scale gathering by individuals for personal consumption is an important social and cultural activity that has taken place in coastal communities for generations. The proposed measures have been influenced by this and consideration given in order to allow it continue in some capacity.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES GO TO Section 6A.**

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

N/A

## SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.**

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



|                                                     |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b> | Phil Stewart                          |
| <b>Position/Grade:</b>                              | HScO                                  |
| <b>Division/Branch</b>                              | Marine Conservation & Reporting       |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                   | <i>P. Stewart</i>                     |
| <b>Date:</b>                                        | 8/2/22                                |
| <b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>   | Colin Armstrong                       |
| <b>Position/Grade:</b>                              | PSO                                   |
| <b>Division/Branch:</b>                             | DAERA Marine Conservation & Reporting |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                   | <i>Colin Armstrong</i>                |
| <b>Date:</b>                                        | 8/6/22                                |