

## 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.

Consultation on management measures for the use of fast craft and personal water craft (PWC) in marine protected areas

#### 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.

Consultation on management measures for the use of fast craft and personal water craft (PWC) in marine protected areas

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

Protection of marine wildlife that are at risk of disturbance from the use of fast craft and PWC in marine protected areas.  
Education of stakeholders to ensure that they can carry out their activities in a sustainable manner.  
To increase the strength and depth of The Department's evidence of incidents of disturbance to marine wildlife in marine protected areas.

**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.*

NA

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

NA

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

NA

## 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.**

One of The Department's proposals is that commercial tour providers who wish to operate in marine protected areas gain accreditation in a wildlife safe scheme called WiSe. This accreditation will serve as evidence that skippers of their vessels have the required knowledge and skills to observe marine wildlife safely while avoiding the risk of causing disturbance to it. On gaining accreditation The Department will issue the tour providers with a permit to operate in marine protected areas. The permit will be issued free of charge, there will however be a cost associated with the training required for the operators to gain the necessary accreditation. Carrying out wildlife tours etc. in an accredited manner however will help to conserve the marine wildlife in protected areas thus ensuring the future sustainability of the individual's business, meaning that the long-term impact to operators in a rural community is a positive one.

The policy is currently at the consultation stage, this assessment may be updated as The Department receives further information in response to the consultation.

**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.**

This policy will not impact people in rural areas differently than from those in urban 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 checked="" 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"/>

**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 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.**

The Department has engaged with Local councils, NGOs and training providers to set up an advisory group on the subject. Such engagement has yielded input to help formulate the proposed management measures.

Organisations include:

- Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- Ards and North Down District Council
- Causeway Coast and Glens District Council
- Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership
- SportNI
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Royal Yachting Association
- Personal Watercraft Partnership

There is a question in the consultation document that asks commercial tour operators directly what the impact of the relevant proposal will have in their business.

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

The Department is aware that people in rural areas depend on the marine environment for their livelihood.

The aim of the proposals is to ensure that any people in rural areas that have a business providing commercial marine tours will be able to operate in a sustainable manner. Protecting marine wildlife will ensure that the operators will be able to conduct their business for years to come.

The policy is currently at the consultation stage, this assessment may be updated as The Department receives more information in response to the consultation.

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?**

NA

## **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.**

People in rural areas depend on the marine environment for their livelihoods and many base their business around it. The Department takes this into consideration when developing proposals for management measures in marine protected areas.

## 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 dependency that people from rural areas have on the marine environment was taken into consideration when developing proposed management measures in marine protected areas. At an early stage of development, The Department considered introducing prohibition zones to all vessels around certain designated features within marine protected areas. Taking this rural need into consideration however, The Department was of the view that proposed prohibition zones may adversely impact those who depend on access for their business. The Department revised its proposal, deciding instead to offer permitted access to all marine protected areas for commercial tour providers, thus supporting this rural need.

Commercial fishing vessels will not be prohibited from accessing any zones that are prohibited to personal water craft.

The policy is currently at the consultation stage, this assessment and the policy may be updated as more information is received in response to the consultation.

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.**

NA

## 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.



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<b>Position/Grade:</b>	DP
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<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Marine and Fisheries Division
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<b>Date:</b>	02/03/22