

# Response ID ANON-SHJY-CTH9-P

Submitted to Northern Ireland Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Strategy Review - Consultation  
Submitted on 2024-08-09 15:33:03

Thank You

## Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:  
Joanna Drennan

2 What is your email address?

Email:  
Joanna.Drennan@rtpi.org.uk

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Royal Town Planning Institute

## Proposed Vision

4 Do you agree with the proposed vision?

Answer: - Answer::  
Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

We support this comprehensive and ambitious vision. As with the Blue Carbon Action Plan, the MPA Strategy needs to be supported by a Marine Plan for Northern Ireland which is ambitious, influential, focuses on delivery and is well resourced. It is imperative that the strong link between marine and terrestrial planning is recognised and efforts are made to ensure that these are joined up.

## Proposed Aims

5 Do you agree with aim 1?

Answer: - Answer::  
Yes

Please provide further evidence or comments:

We agree with this aim. As with the Blue Carbon Action Plan, it is imperative that the strong link between marine and terrestrial planning is recognised and efforts are made to ensure that these are joined up. There will be implications arising from development and decisions made in the marine environment on land, and vice versa.

## Proposed Aims 2

6 Do you agree with aim 2?

Answer: - Answer::  
Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

We support a co-management approach, and recommend the inclusion of spatial planners in some form of the co-management structure. There is a strong link between marine and terrestrial spatial planning which needs to be acknowledged and properly resourced. The Northern Ireland Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee 2022 reports recognise that the land use planning system is not currently adequately resourced, both at local authority level and within statutory consultees, both of which have a potential role to play here. The system needs to be properly resourced, both financially and in terms of skills and labour, in order to function effectively.

There needs to be cohesive land, coastal and marine planning, with an overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence-based and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area. Any spatial policies must set the basis for holistic, cooperative and integrated decision making and management, as many of the issues affecting a particular MPA will require action at other scales and in a range of specialisms.

## Proposed Aims 3

7 Do you agree with aim 3?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Proposed Objectives

8 Do you agree with objective 1?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

9 Do you agree with objective 2?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Proposed Objectives 2

10 Do you agree with objective 3?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

As noted previously, spatial planners will be important stakeholders to involve as there is a strong interrelationship between marine, coastal and terrestrial planning, with implications arising from development and decisions made in the marine environment on land, and vice versa.

11 Do you agree with objective 4?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

12 Do you agree with objective 5?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

13 Do you agree with objective 6?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

As with the Blue Carbon Action Plan, we urge that any engagement and communications strategy includes spatial planners. Part of the role of the RTPI as a learned institution is to promote and advance the training and education of planners in terrestrial planning, but now there is the need to extend this training and education into the marine and coastal environment. We must be mindful that we are operating within a new marine planning system that is underpinned through the Draft NI Marine Plan (DAERA, 2018), the NI Marine Act 2013 and the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011, and Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Our planners (across all aspects of planning: local planning authorities, DfI, Planning Appeals Commissioners, and private planning consultancies) will need to undergo significant training and working with specialists in the marine environment to deal with planning issues that they have never seen before. This will require specific engagement with planning professionals, and the planning schools in Northern Ireland.

14 Do you agree with objective 7?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

### Proposed Objectives 3

15 Do you agree with objective 8?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

We support an inclusive governance structure, and recommend the inclusion of spatial planners in this governance structure.

16 Do you agree with objective 9?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

### Proposed Actions

17 Are actions numbered 1.1 – 1.4 sufficient to meet objective 1?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

As noted with the Blue Carbon Action Plan, at the same time as collating evidence, we would recommend updating the Marine Map Viewer or establishing a web map portal which will map the Marine Protected Areas together with links to relevant planning policies or activities in the area. The web map portal would need to be owned, managed and updated in order to be of continuing value.

### Proposed Actions 2

18 Are actions numbered 2.1 sufficient to meet objective 2?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

### Proposed Actions 3

19 Are actions numbered 3.1 – 3.4 sufficient to meet objective 3?

Answer: - Answer::

No

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

Spatial planners must be included in the co-management approach, whether that is planners from local planning authorities, strategic planners from the DfI or Planning Commissioners from the Planning Appeals Commission, acknowledging the importance of integrating terrestrial, coastal and marine planning, both north and south of the border.

### Proposed Actions 4

20 Are actions numbered 4.1 – 4.2 sufficient to meet objective 4?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

### Proposed Actions 5

21 Are actions numbered 5.1 – 5.2 sufficient to meet objective 5?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Proposed Actions 6

22 Are actions numbered 6.1 – 6.3 sufficient to meet objective 6?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

We support transboundary representation and encourage the inclusion of spatial planners, north and south of the border, in any governance structure, acknowledging the intrinsic link between marine, coastal and terrestrial planning across borders.

## Proposed Actions 7

23 Are actions numbered 7.1 - 7.3 sufficient to meet objective 7?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Proposed Actions 8

24 Are the actions numbered 8.1-8.2 sufficient to meet objective 8?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Proposed Actions 9

25 Are the actions numbered 9.1-9.2 sufficient to meet objective 9?

Answer: - Answer::

Yes

Please provide further comments to support your answer:

## Have we missed anything

26 Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation. Having reviewed the Review of the Marine Protected Areas Strategy is there anything else that you wish to add?"

Please provide further comments to support your answer: