

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.

DAERA – Marine and Fisheries Division

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.

A review of marine licensing fees.

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 checked="" 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.

REVIEW OF MARINE LICENSING FEES

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

DAERA is the marine licensing authority for the Northern Ireland inshore region (0-12 nautical miles). Our objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime for discharging its marine licensing functions to help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met. It is anticipated that fee levels will need to increase to deliver this and enable the allocation of more staff to Marine Licensing Branch. There are two strands to the review:- increasing marine licensing fees using current charging powers; and introducing legislation to increase the range of services/functions for which DAERA can charge a fee.

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 review of marine licensing fees will impact on people wishing to undertake a licensable activity in the Northern Ireland inshore region. These tend to be sector specific activities undertaken by developers and by public bodies such as councils and NI Water.

Some of these people could live in rural areas and some activities could take place in the sea close to rural areas.

Fees are a small percentage of the estimated value of licensable activities and are set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011. DAERA wishes to consult in proposals to amend fees and on proposals to amend its fee charging powers through amendments to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The people impacted are likely to be developers and organisations wishing to undertake activities in the marine and coastal area. As such, it is anticipated that the potential impact of the review of marine licensing fees will have a low impact on people in rural areas.

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.

No, the review of marine licensing fees will apply to all developers wishing to undertake a licensable activity in the Northern Ireland inshore region.

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"/>

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.

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 type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input 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 checked="" 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.

DAERA analysed the public register of marine licenses for the financial year 23/24. During this period 23 marine licenses were awarded, 7 of which were for activities off the coast in what could be described as rural areas which were largely undertaken by public bodies.

The Department will undertake a public consultation on its proposals to review marine licensing fees. This document will be updated should additional information become available.

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

As a result of a review of the Marine Licensing Register DAERA identified one project which could have an impact on the economic needs of people in rural areas. This was the Rathlin Kelp farm which is likely to impact on the economic needs of people in this particular rural area as opposed to people more broadly in rural areas.

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?

The review of marine licensing fees is to deliver a fairer and more efficient marine licensing system. DAERA is aware that the cost of a marine licence is a small percentage of the overall cost of most projects in the marine area and intends introducing a small licence fee for projects which have a low financial value and do not pose a significant risk to the environment. DAERA is confident that this mitigation would address any social and economic needs of people in rural areas in respect of marine licensing fees.

DAERA has therefore concluded that the review of marine licensing fees is unlikely to impact on 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.

None were 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.

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.

No rural needs were identified.

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.



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Susan Cramer
Position/Grade:	DP
Division/Branch	Marine and Fisheries Division
Signature:	<i>Susan Cramer</i>
Date:24	24 May 2024
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Colin Armstrong
Position/Grade:	Grade 6
Division/Branch:	Marine and Fisheries Policy and Legislation
Signature:	<i>Colin Armstrong</i>
Date:	12 June 2024