

Glossary

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TERM	DEFINITION
Anadromous	Refers to fish that migrate from saltwater to freshwater for breeding. These fish are born in freshwater, then swim to the sea where they spend most of their lives. They return to freshwater rivers to breed, completing their lifecycle.
Ancillary Industries	Refer to those sectors that support the main industrial activities by manufacturing parts, components, or providing services. The term "ancillary" itself means subordinate or supplementary, indicating that these industries play a supportive role in the overall industrial ecosystem.
Anthropogenic pressures	Refers to negative impacts on the natural environment caused or produced by human activities.
Aquaculture	The breeding, rearing, growing or cultivation of any fish, aquatic animal, seaweed, aquatic plant, or any other aquatic organism.
The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013	Amends existing legislation and makes new rules relative to fish farming, salmon fisheries, sea fisheries and protection of shellfish waters in Scotland. The Act ensures that farmed and wild fisheries - and their interactions with each other - continue to be managed effectively, maximising their combined contribution to supporting sustainable economic growth with due regard to the wider marine environment.
Aquaponics	Aquaponics is a sustainable food production system that integrates aquaculture with hydroponics in a re-circulating ecosystem, where fish and plants mutually benefit from each other's waste products.

Aquatic Environment	Is a water-based environment. It is an ecosystem found in and around a body of water, in contrast to land-based terrestrial ecosystems. (Examples include: wetlands, rivers, lakes, and coastal estuaries.)
The Assembly (NI)	The Northern Ireland Assembly examines what the Northern Ireland Government is doing, makes new laws on devolved matters and debates the issues of the day.
A Bill	Is a proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law that is presented for debate before Parliament.
Bycatch	The unwanted fish and other marine creatures trapped by commercial fishing nets during fishing for a different species.
Catadromous	Refers to specific species of fish and eels that migrate from fresh water to spawn in the sea.
Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)	Is the overarching policy established by the European Union so that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable and managed to meet socio-economic and employment benefits.
Data Collection Framework	A data collection framework is a structured approach that outlines the processes, methodologies, and tools used to gather, manage, and analyse data effectively. The UK data collection Framework is underpinned in legislation.
Department for Communities (DfC)	The government department in Northern Ireland, responsible for tackling disadvantage and building sustainable communities through housing, social security and welfare, employment services, culture, sports and leisure and historical and cultural affairs.
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	The government department in Northern Ireland, responsible for agriculture, environment, rural development and fisheries in Northern Ireland.
DAERA Enforcement Policy	Outlines the approach of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs towards enforcement actions. It provides guidance to staff and information to stakeholders regarding enforcement practices.

Ecosystem	A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.
Elasmobranchs	A cartilaginous fish of a group that comprises the sharks, rays, and skates.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004	These Regulations implement for Northern Ireland Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The requirement for environmental assessment applies, in particular, to any plan or programme prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use.
Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	Is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristic.
Fish Dealer	Means any person other than a fisher who sells, barter or offers for sale any fish or fish products.
The Fisheries Act (NI) 1966	Primary legislation that details the functions of the Ministry of Agriculture (now DAERA), in relation to fisheries and to make provision for the development and improvement of fisheries. It consolidated amendments to previous Fisheries Acts in Northern Ireland from 1842 to 1954. The 1966 Act regulates inshore fishing, fish farming, inland fisheries and sea fisheries.
Fisheries Management Framework	Is an agreement between the UK Government, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), pertaining to the management of fisheries by the four fisheries policy authorities (the Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and DAERA).
The Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952	An Act to authorise the making of a certain agreement with respect to fishing rights in the tidal waters of the Lough and River Foyle and its tributaries, to provide for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the fisheries in the Foyle Area, to establish a Foyle Fisheries Commission and to define its functions, to dissolve the board of conservators for the

	Londonderry district, and to provide for other matters (including the charging of fees on certain fishing licences) connected with the matters aforesaid.
Good Environmental Status (GES)	A concept defined by the European Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive and maintained in the UK Marine Strategy. It sets out 11 descriptors for the state of marine areas, e.g. biodiversity, eutrophication, commercial fisheries, noise, litter, etc.
Good Ecological Status	Within Northern Ireland the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 are the main driver for assessing our water environment with the aim of achieving good ecological status and good chemical status.
The Human Rights Act 1998	Incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, allowing individuals to seek justice for human rights violations in UK courts.
ICCAT species	The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an international body responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent waters, such as the Mediterranean Sea. ICCAT is principally concerned with fishes such as tunas and swordfish and is also responsible for species caught incidentally as bycatch in these fisheries, including sharks.
IFCA byelaw	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities – Introduced for the purpose of managing inshore fisheries and the protection of Marine Protected Areas. Enforcement is via a team of warranted Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Officers.
Inshore Marine Ecosystem	An ecosystem that occurs where the land meets the ocean and includes many different types of marine habitats.
Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)	A key component of the Fisheries Act (2020). It sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow at a UK level and individually, as they work together to deliver world-class sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management.

Lough Neagh and Lough Erne Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)	<p>The aim of these FMP's is to provide a strategic approach to the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and its habitats in these specific areas, whilst also maximising its value to the economy and the environment and ensuring stakeholder input to it.</p> <p>The FMPs set out how DAERA will seek to manage fish stocks and what scientific information is required to fully inform this process in both Lough areas.</p>
The Loughs Agency	<p>The Loughs Agency is an agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC). It was set up as one of the cross-border bodies under the Belfast Agreement 1998 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland.</p> <p>It provides sustainable social, economic, and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford catchment areas.</p>
The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	<p>This Act modernised the UK approach to the management of the marine area. Key aspects for Northern Ireland are Part 3 incorporating a new UK-wide Marine Policy Statement and the concept of Marine Planning. Part 4 introduced a modernised UK-wide marine licensing system to manage certain activities in the marine area and an accompanying enforcement regime.</p>
The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	<p>This is the legislation underpinning the UK Marine Strategy. It derives from the EU Marine Strategy Directive and introduced an ecosystem-based approach for the management of the marine area to achieve GES for UK seas.</p>
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	<p>Is defined as the largest yield (or catch) that can be taken from a species' stock over an indefinite period without compromising its long-term productivity.</p>
Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)	<p>Are elected by, and represent the people of, Northern Ireland. MLAs pass laws and examine policy on transferred matters like health, education, the environment, social work and housing.</p>

National benefit	Stated within the Fisheries Act 2020 - the “national benefit objective” is that fishing activities of United Kingdom fishing boats bring social or economic benefits to the United Kingdom or any part of the United Kingdom.
Primary Legislation	Is the term used to describe the main laws passed by the legislative bodies of the UK e.g. Acts of the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly. It also includes Acts passed by historical parliaments, other primary legislation for Northern Ireland and Church of England Measures.
Programme for Government (PfG)	On 27 th February 2025 the Northern Ireland Executive agreed a Programme for Government 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’. It outlines how the Executive is committed to working together to deliver nine priorities with the goal of improving the wellbeing of everyone living and working here.
Public Angling Estate (PAE)	DAERA is responsible for the management of fishing rights of Northern Ireland’s Public Angling Estate (PAE), which currently has 89 waters (including both lakes and rivers) where it owns or leases the fishing rights for those waters.
Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (the Animal Health Law)	Also known as the Animal Health Law, it is a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 th March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health. The regulation lays down rules for the prevention and control of animal diseases which are transmissible to animals or humans. It applies from April 21st, 2021.
Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)	Involves a systematic approach to evaluating the consequences of regulatory proposals. Its purpose is to identify and analyse the potential benefits, costs, and other effects associated with new regulations.
Restoration	Is the process of improving or returning an ecosystem or habitat to a healthier and more natural state after it has been damaged or degraded by human activities or environment factors.

River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile.
Royal Assent	Is the method by which a monarch formally approves an act of the legislature, either directly or through an official acting on the monarch's behalf.
Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)	Are mandated under the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which requires public authorities to consider the needs of people in rural areas when formulating policies, strategies, and plans. The Act aims to ensure that rural needs are integrated into public service delivery, promoting fairer treatment and better outcomes for rural communities.
The Sea Fisheries Act 1968	An Act to make further provision with respect to the subsidies payable to, and the levies which may be imposed on, the white fish and herring industries, to make further provision for the regulation of sea fishing, to amend the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 and the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967, to make provision with respect to fishing boats and gear lost or abandoned at sea, to remove anomalies in certain enactments relating to sea fisheries and the white fish and herring industries and to repeal other such enactments which are obsolete or unnecessary, and for connected purposes.
The Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967	UK legislation that regulates the fishing industry. It allows for the regulation of the size of fish landed, the type of fishing gear that can be used, and restrictions on the species that can be landed. The act aims to ensure sustainable fishing practices and the conservation of fish stocks.
The Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006	Is an Irish law that revises and consolidates previous fisheries legislation. It establishes the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority and defines its functions, which include the protection of fish stocks and the enforcement of fishing regulations.

	The Act also addresses maritime jurisdiction issues related to fishing activities.
Section 75 – Northern Ireland Act 1998	Imposes a statutory obligation on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations across various categories, including religious belief, political opinion, gender, race, disability, age, marital status, dependants, and sexual orientation. This section requires public authorities to have due regard to these needs in carrying out their functions.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Is a systematic decision support process and evidence based instrument, aiming to ensure that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan, and program making.
Strategic Review of Angling (2014)	<p>The Strategic Review of Angling in Northern Ireland (NI) final report was published in February 2014 with an update published in October 2016. The review provides information on the scale and characteristics of participation in angling in Northern Ireland in 2013 and identifies the opportunities and constraints to further development.</p> <p>The report also provided detailed information on the issues and challenges that needed to be overcome to realise the potential of Northern Ireland to be a place where angling can be enjoyed by all, contribute to the delivery of healthy lifestyles and be a key economic driver through tourism visits.</p>
Subordinate Legislation	Refers to rules or laws enacted under the authority of an Act of Parliament. It is also known as secondary legislation or delegated legislation, and it serves to establish the details and practicalities of original laws.
Sustainable Development	<p>Is an approach to growth and human development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>Sustainable development aims to balance the needs of the economy, environment and society.</p>

The UK Fisheries Act 2020	The Act provides the legal framework for the UK to operate as an independent coastal state under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) after the UK has left the Common Fisheries Policy (the CFP) at the end of the “Transition Period” at 11pm on 31 st December 2020.
UK Marine Policy Statement	MPS is the framework for marine planning and decision-making in the UK. It was adopted in 2011 and updated in 2020 to reflect the UK’s withdrawal from the EU.
UK Marine Strategy	Provides the framework for delivering marine policy at UK level and sets out how it will achieve the vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. The Strategy consists of a 3-stage framework for achieving good environmental status (GES) in UK seas.
UN Food and Agriculture Organisation	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that aims to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security globally.
UN Global Biodiversity Framework	(GBF) is a landmark agreement that contains global targets to be achieved by 2030 and beyond to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity. It contains four overarching goals and aims to ensure that nature’s contributions to people are valued, maintained, and enhanced.
UN Sustainable Development Goals	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated - they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017	Within Northern Ireland the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 are the main driver for assessing our water environment with the aim to achieve good ecological and chemical status.

The Water (NI) Order 1999	<p>Establishes a framework for the management and regulation of water resources in Northern Ireland. It addresses issues such as pollution prevention, requiring consent for discharging trade or sewage waste into waterways, and outlines offences related to water pollution.</p> <p>The Order also repeals and re-enacts previous legislation, specifically the Water Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, to enhance water management practices.</p>
The Windsor Framework	<p>Is a post-Brexit agreement between the UK and EU aimed at addressing the challenges posed by the Northern Ireland Protocol, ensuring smooth trade, and safeguarding Northern Ireland's place in the UK.</p>