

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill Impact Screening Pack



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Section 1

SCREENING FOR SOCIAL IMPACTS - CONTENTS

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS COVERED:

- [Crime Impact Assessment](#)
- [Community Safety & Victims](#)
- [Equality](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Human Rights](#)
- [Rural](#)
- [Social Inclusion](#)

Crime Impact Assessment

| Community Safety | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Will the policy impact on the costs of or demand for legal goods or services to consumers, or impact on the costs of disposal of legal goods? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no impact on costs or demand for legal goods or services. |
| | Will the policy involve the introduction, delivery or amendment of a financial measure, i.e. a tax or concession, grant or subsidy? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no impact on financial measures. |
| | Will the policy introduce, remove or amend a legal requirement or regulatory power? | ✓ | | ✓ | | The intention of the Fisheries and Water Environment Bill is to ensure a consistent enforcement regime and amend certain regulatory powers held by the Department in relation to fishing and aquaculture. |
| | Will it impact on funding for law or regulatory enforcement activity including demand for legal aid? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no impact on funding for law or regulatory enforcement activity. Although regulatory powers will be increased this will not impact funding for law or enforcement. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | A Crime Impact Assessment will not be completed, however, question 3 will be covered under the Regulatory Impact Assessment. |

When Is a Full Crime Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a Criminal Activity Impact Assessment.

In undertaking the assessment, it is only necessary to address the relevant questions highlighted by the screening tool.

Community Safety & Victims

| Community Safety | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Will the policy / project contribute to community safety or impact on fear of crime? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There will be no impact on community safety or impact on fear of crime. |
| | Is it likely to have an impact on any specific type of crime? | ✓ | | | ✓ | Fisheries and marine conservation only be impacted by amended penalties, but no new offences created. |
| | Will the policy / project have an impact on victims of crime? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There will be no impact on victims of crime. |
| | Is there any evidence to suggest that the policy would have a particular impact on victims of the conflict? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There will be no impact on victims of conflict. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | Offences relating to fisheries and aquaculture will be impacted; however, no new offences are being created, and it is for this reason a full Community Safety and Victims Impact Assessment is not required. |

When Is a Full Community Safety & Victims Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a Community Safety & Victims Impact Assessment.

Where a potentially significant impact is identified, a Community Safety Impact Assessment should be taken.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

Equality (this must be completed in line with the Equality Commission's [Guide to the Statutory Duties](#))¹

| | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| Equality | Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no evidence to indicate differing levels of participation by different groups. |
| | Is there any indication or evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no evidence to indicate different groups have different needs, experiences, issues or priorities. |
| | Have previous consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems that are specific to them? | | ✓ | | ✓ | There is no evidence to indicate that previous policies create problems for different groups. |
| | Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy or working with others in government or in the larger community? | | ✓ | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will apply to all groups equally. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | A full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. See separate full Equality Impact Screening. |

When Is a Full Equality Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, consideration must be given to undertaking a full EQIA.

A full EQIA must be undertaken where a significant implication for equality of opportunity is identified.

¹ NOTES:

The above questions must be considered in relation to the nine equality groups. These are: Age, Marital Status, Men & Women generally, Persons with a disability and persons without, Persons with dependents and persons without, Political opinion, Racial group, Religious belief, Sexual orientation. A more detailed overview of the nine equality groups is available in the [Guide to the Statutory Duties](#) which should be consulted before completion of this screening exercise.

Health

1. Health Determinants

Is the initiative affecting any of the following determinants of health?

| Lifestyle | Positive Effect | Negative Effect | No Effect |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Diet | | | ✓ |
| Physical Activity | | | ✓ |
| Safe Sex | | | ✓ |
| Substance use: alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances | | | ✓ |
| Other | | | ✓ |

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on lifestyle factors, note briefly here what those effects are.

There will be no effect on lifestyle factors.

| Physical Environment | Positive Effect | Negative Effect | No Effect |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Air | | | ✓ |
| Built Environment & Land Use | | | ✓ |
| Noise | | | ✓ |
| Water | ✓ | | |
| Other | | | ✓ |

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on the physical environment, note briefly here what those effects are.

The development of the Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will ensure, as a minimum, that aquaculture and inland fisheries are better managed and that common enforcement powers available to the UK's other sea fisheries authorities are available to the Department in the same way. It will also focus on the conservation, protection and recovery of healthy fish stocks and their habitats which would support the community as a whole.

| Socio-Economic Environment | Positive Effect | Negative Effect | No Effect |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Crime | | | ✓ |
| Education | | | ✓ |
| Employment | | | ✓ |
| Family Cohesion | | | ✓ |
| Housing | | | ✓ |
| Income | | | ✓ |
| Recreation | | | ✓ |
| Social Cohesion | | | ✓ |
| Transport | | | ✓ |
| Other | | | ✓ |

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on socio-economic factors, note briefly here what those effects are.

There will be no effect on the socio-economic environment.

2. Health Care

Is the initiative affecting access to health services?

| Health Care | Positive Effect | Negative Effect | No Effect |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Access to health services | | | ✓ |

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on access, note briefly here what those effects are.

There will be no effect on access to health services.

3. Population Affected

Considering the health impacts identified above, which of the following sections of the population will be affected (Includes Section 75 groups)

| Lifestyle | Positive Effect | Negative Effect | No Effect |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Whole population | | | ✓ |
| Sub-Populations: | | | ✓ |
| Children (0-18 years) | | | ✓ |
| Older People | | | ✓ |
| Marital Status | | | ✓ |
| Persons with dependents | | | ✓ |
| Persons without dependents | | | ✓ |
| Political Opinion | | | ✓ |
| Religious Belief | | | ✓ |
| Chronically ill | | | ✓ |
| Economically Disadvantaged People | | | ✓ |
| Gender (specify male/female) | | | ✓ |
| Homeless | | | ✓ |
| Sexual Orientation | | | ✓ |
| People with Disabilities | | | ✓ |
| Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups | | | ✓ |
| Rural Population | | | ✓ |
| Unemployed | | | ✓ |
| Other | | | ✓ |

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on the whole or a section of the population, note briefly here what those effects are.

Note: The proposal may have a positive impact on one section of the population and a negative effect on the other. Specify where this occurs.

There will be no effect on the health of any subcategories of the population.

4. Recommendation

Considering the health impacts, if any, identified above, are these significant enough to warrant a Health Impact Assessment?

| | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | |
| No | ✓ |

This decision must be based on a judgement of the strength of the available evidence and its applicability to local conditions and the strength of feeling of stakeholders and key informants.

If No, what are the reasons for not carrying out a HIA.

Note: Possible reasons might include:

- Health impacts not considered significant enough
- Lack of evidence to show health impacts
- Not enough time to influence decisions on the proposal
- Lack of resources to carry out required level of research

There are no health impacts to be considered.

Note:

Further information on HIAs can be obtained from the following web sites:

- the dedicated Institute of Public Health HIA site (www.publichealth.ie/hia)
- Investing for health (<http://www.investingforhealthni.gov.uk/impact.asp>).

Human Rights

Before completing the Human Rights screening exercise, it is necessary for you to have read the OFMDFM guidance on human rights entitled “***Get in on the Act; a practical guide to the Human Rights Act for public authorities in Northern Ireland***”.

Go through each of the rights detailed in the table below. For each one **consider whether the policy/proposal engages the right**, i.e. how the policy/proposal you are working on could involve the right. Explain how the right is engaged.

Please note that the rights have been abbreviated so you should see the relevant Article in the Guide referred to above for the full title and explanation of the right.

| Does the Policy Engage the Right? | | |
|--|--------|-------------|
| Human Right | Yes/No | Explanation |
| Article 2 Right to Life | No | |
| Article 3 Prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment | No | |
| Article 4 Prohibition of slavery, and forced labour | No | |
| Article 5 Right to liberty | No | |
| Article 6 Right to a fair trial | No | |
| Article 7 No punishment without law | No | |
| Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life | No | |

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| Article 9 Freedom of thought conscience and religion | No | |
| Article 10 Freedom of expression | No | |
| Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association | No | |
| Article 12 Right to marry and found a family | No | |
| Article 14 Prohibition of discrimination | No | |
| Protocol 1, Article 1 Right to property | No | |
| Protocol 1, Article 2 Right to education | No | |
| Protocol 1, Article 3 Right to free elections | No | |

When Is a Human Rights Impact Assessment Required?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions you must complete the Human Rights Impact Assessment.

If you have answered no to **all** of the questions, a Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required. However, in this case you should complete part 8 of the human rights assessment proforma only which must be signed off by a Senior Responsible Officer (Grade 7, equivalent or above). (Attached below)

Part 8: Proforma

You should now have a clearer view about the policy/proposal and the possibility of it engaging or interfering with Convention rights and freedoms.

Please ensure the proforma is also signed by your Senior Responsible Officer and if there is any possible interference or limitation refer to your legal advisor for further action and advice.

Please tick the statement that applies, and sign below.

- ☒ a) The policy/proposal does not engage any Convention rights.
- ☐ b) The policy/proposal does engage one or more of the Convention rights but does not interfere with or limit it/them.
- ☐ c) The policy/proposal interferes with, or limits one or more Convention rights and legal advice is being sought.²

Countersign, hold copy with policy papers and refer to your legal advisor

Signed by _____ Janet Smith _____ (Official)

Date _____ 11 February 2025 _____ Grade: DP _____

Signed by _____ Alison McCaw _____ (Senior Responsible Officer)

Date _____ 28th March 2025 _____ Grade: Grade 7 _____

² If you find that it does interfere with or limit one or more of the Convention rights, and your Senior Responsible Officer agrees, you must seek legal advice, even if it is considered that the interference or limitation is justified. The proforma at Part 9 should be used in this regard.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

Rural

| Rural | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | 1. Does the policy apply in rural areas and communities? If NO: set out the reasons why If YES: | ✓ | | ✓ | | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill applies to all inland and marine water environments which are found in rural areas. |
| | a. Does the policy have the potential to have a negative impact on rural areas and communities? | | ✓ | ✓ | | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will focus on improving and ecosystem health, sustainable fish stocks and appropriate enforcement deterrents. It is not envisaged that the bill will have a negative impact on rural areas and communities. |
| | b. Does the policy have the potential to have a positive impact on rural areas and communities? | ✓ | | ✓ | | The intent of the Fisheries and Water Environment Bill is to ensure that environmental, economic and social considerations are appropriately balanced when managing fisheries which will benefit present and future generations. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | ✓ | | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will have a positive impact on rural areas and communities. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be carried out. |

When Is a Rural Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to question 1 is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a rural impact assessment. The following guidance applies:

If the answer to a is yes, a rural impact assessment must be undertaken and the checklist completed.

If the answer to b is yes, the policy document should include a reference to how and why the impact will be positive.

Social Inclusion

| Poverty and Social Exclusion | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Will the policy involve the spending of public monies, the allocation of non-financial resources or the delivery of a service? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy impact on socially excluded or vulnerable groups or involve the delivery of a service within or to socially excluded areas? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy address or impact on measures to promote employment or employability among the most disadvantaged? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy address or impact on other areas of inequality and disadvantage such as health, education and housing? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| CONCLUSION | | | | | ✓ | There is no impact on social inclusion. |

When is a Social Inclusion Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a social inclusion impact assessment.

In undertaking the assessment, it is only necessary to address the relevant questions highlighted by the screening tool.

Section 2

SCREENING FOR ECONOMIC IMPACTS - CONTENTS

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS COVERED:

- [Economic Appraisal](#)
- [Economic Impact Assessment](#)
- [Regulatory Impact Assessment](#)
- [State Aid Compliance Assessment](#)

Economic Appraisal ³

| Economic Appraisal | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Does the decision/proposal involve the spending or saving of public money? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | Does the decision or proposal involve changes in the use of public resources? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill does not involve spending or saving public money and has no impact on the use of public resources, therefore no Economic Appraisal is required. |

When is an Economic Appraisal Required?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, an Economic Appraisal may be required. However, the level of appraisal should be proportionate to the costs involved. Departmental Economists can provide further advice in this regard.

³ NOTES:

Economic appraisals should, where possible, be undertaken by parties not directly involved in the decision-making process. Departmental economists can provide further advice on economic appraisal.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

Economic Impact Assessment

| Economic Impact Assessment | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|--|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | | Yes | No | |
| | Will the policy impact on the provision of goods or services to consumers, or the uptake of such goods and services to consumers? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy impact on the region's infrastructure? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy impact on investment in research and development or promote innovation and creativity? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy impact on or encourage enterprise? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy impact on the skills level within the economy? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the policy address negative perceptions of Northern Ireland and /or help promote it as a place to live, work and invest? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | | ✓ | There is no economic impact. |
| | | | | | | | |

When is an Economic Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking an Economic Impact Assessment.

In undertaking the assessment, it is only necessary to address the impacts highlighted by the screening tool.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

Regulatory Impact Assessment

| Regulatory Impact Assessment | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses? | ✓ | | ✓ | | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will ensure the conservation, protection and recovery of healthy fish stocks and their habitats as a basis for supporting commercial and recreational use. It will also ensure that commercial fishing operations in the inland waters are undertaken to ensure current and future generations of fish are at sustainable levels. |
| | Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on the voluntary / community sector? ⁴ | | ✓ | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will provide quality opportunities for angling, at sustainable levels, which deliver wider benefits, including well-being and tourism. The Bill will also streamline the current aquaculture licensing process. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | ✓ | | A Regulatory Impact Assessment will be carried out. |

When Is a Regulatory Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a Regulatory Impact Assessment. However, the level of appraisal should be proportionate to the costs involved.

⁴ NOTES:

This Includes charities and the social economy sector.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required for:

- i. Proposals which impose **no costs or no savings**, or negligible costs or savings on business, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector
- ii. Increases in statutory fees by a predetermined formula such as the rate of inflation, or Road closure orders.

Legal Aid Impact

In considering the development of a policy proposal especially one involving the introduction of new criminal sanctions or civil penalties, the Northern Ireland Courts Service should be consulted at an early stage in the development of the proposal.

It will always be necessary to discuss and agree the consequences of the policy proposal, including the resource implications, of the new proposal for the workload of the courts and legal aid. Central to these considerations will be the completion of a legal aid impact test. This is not a difficult process, but it is very important that it is carried out to ensure that there are no subsequent problems with securing policy approval for your proposal. Further guidance on undertaking a legal aid impact test is available later in this workbook. It should be noted that legal aid, subject to means and merits test, is available for many aspects of the law which are subject to trial in a court in Northern Ireland. Many new proposals brought forward by central government departments will directly impact on legal aid expenditure such as changing the criminal or civil law or improving or affecting in any way the rights of individuals without that impact being readily or immediately apparent.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

Key questions to consider include:

| Legal Aid Impact | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Will the new legislation impact on or have implications for the workload of the courts and legal aid? | | ✓ | | ✓ | The intention of the Fisheries and Water Environment Bill is to introduce new fixed and variable penalties for breaches of certain legislation. This may reduce the number of enforcement actions resulting in court – however the court alternative is still an option, so it is not possible to quantify impact. |
| | Will the policy proposal involve any entitlement to benefits? | | ✓ | | ✓ | N/A |
| | Will the new legislation or policy proposal impact on people? | ✓ | | | ✓ | The increase in the monetary value of current fines and penalties and the introduction of new fixed and variable penalties will have an impact on people who breach legislation. |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will have minimal impact on legal aid. The increased monetary penalties will not affect the courts or legal aid as these are already existing penalties. The new fixed and variable monetary penalties being introduced are an administrative alternative to prosecution and do not normally include a right to appeal. |

State Aid Compliance

| State Aid Compliance | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | Will the policy involve undertakings (businesses or any entity involved in economic activity)? ⁵ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | There is no impact on state aid compliance. |

When is an Assessment of State Aid Compliance required?

If the answer to the above questions is yes, a state aid assessment should be undertaken.

⁵ **Notes:**

The entity does not have to be profit-making if the activity carried out is one which has commercial competitors. In some instances, public and voluntary sector organisations, such as universities and charities, could be classified as undertakings, as can the State itself. Private individuals are generally not considered to be undertakings unless e.g. self-employed.

Section 3

SCREENING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS - CONTENTS

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS COVERED:

- [Assessment of Environment Impacts](#)
- [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)
- [Assessment of Sustainable Development Impact](#)

Assessment of Environmental Impacts

| | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|----|--|---------------------------------|----|--|
| | | Yes | No | | Yes | No | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Environmental Impacts | Will the project / policy impact on air quality i.e. will it lead to a change in emissions of air pollutants, or the numbers of people affected by poor air quality? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will the project / policy impact on climate change i.e. will it lead to changes in emissions of greenhouse gas, consumption of fossil fuels or increase the need to travel within the region? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will it impact on the landscape or the use of land within the region? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | Will it impact on the use of natural resources within the region? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill contains policies which intend to conserve, promote and recover inland fish stocks and their habitats by considering the entire ecosystem and ensuring that all activities which could potentially impact inland fish stocks are subject to appropriate approvals and management. The Bill itself will have no impact on natural resources. |
| | Will it impact on biodiversity within the region? | | ✓ | | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill will provide legislation to enable the focus on delivering national and international commitments relating to the conservation and protection of particular species of marine wildlife and the wider marine environment. The Bill itself will have no impact on biodiversity. |

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | Will it involve a proposal that has the potential to impact on levels of noise? | | ✓ | | ✓ | N/A |
| | CONCLUSION | | | | ✓ | An environmental impact assessment will not be required on the Bill but may be required by any policies implemented once legislation is in place - see separate Strategic Environmental Assessment Report. |

When is an Environmental Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above is yes, an Environmental Impact Assessment should be undertaken.

Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment

| Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment | Screening Questions | Response to Screening Questions | | Full Impact Assessment Required | | Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on |
|---|---|---------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---|
| | | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| | 1. Is the plan / programme likely to have significant environmental effects? If yes: | ✓ | | ✓ | | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill intends to conserve, promote and recover inland fish stocks and their habitats by considering the entire ecosystem and ensuring that all activities which could potentially impact inland fish stocks are subject to appropriate approvals and management. Any effect on the environment will be positive. |
| | a) Is the plan / programme of the type listed in Article 3(2) ⁶ which determine the use of small areas at local level, or which are minor modifications to plans and programmes; | | ✓ | | ✓ | The Fisheries and Water Environment Bill applies to all inland and marine water which are found in rural areas. Its focus is on improving water quality and ecosystem health, sustainable fish stocks and appropriate enforcement deterrents. |
| | b) Where the plan / programme is not of the type listed in C does it set the framework for future development consent of projects? | ✓ | | ✓ | | |

⁶ European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment”, more commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA Directive.

Fisheries and Water Environment Bill – Screening for Impacts

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | 2. Is the sole purpose of the plan / programme to serve national defence or civil emergency? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | 3. Is it a financial or budget plan / programme? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | 4. Is it supported by the EU Structural Funds or the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund for the programming periods from 2000 to 2006 or 2007? | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | CONCLUSION | | | ✓ | | A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be undertaken. |

When Is a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to question 1 and parts a or b is yes, then a full SEA is required. However, If the answer to any one of questions 2, 3 or 4 is yes, an SEA is not required.

Assessment of Sustainable Development Impact

Sustainable development involves advancing the economic and social well-being of the people of Northern Ireland while protecting and enhancing both the natural and built environment. The duty to promote sustainable development requires public authorities to act in ways that deliver positive outcomes across all three dimensions.

Public authorities must be able to demonstrate compliance with this duty. In rare cases where full compliance is not reasonably practicable, they must clearly explain the reasons.

To support this, authorities should undertake a Sustainable Development Impact Assessment. This involves considering a series of questions—outlined in the templates provided in this workbook—covering social, economic, and environmental impacts. These templates help ensure that all relevant factors are reviewed when making decisions.

Completing the templates provides documented evidence that the authority has fulfilled its statutory duty. A thorough assessment should identify and evaluate all potential positive and negative impacts. While the templates are a tool to guide decision-making, they do not replace the need for careful judgment and comprehensive analysis.

The key links and relationships between the assessments and their potential impacts have been identified and considered. Bringing the findings together in this way helps ensure that decisions are well-informed and take all key impacts into account.

Outcome of Screening Exercise

| IMPACT ASSESSMENT / APPRAISAL | FULL ASSESSMENT / APPRAISAL REQUIRED | | REASON |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|---|
| | YES | NO | |
| SOCIAL IMPACTS | | | |
| Crime | | ✓ | |
| Community Safety & Victims | | ✓ | |
| Equality | | ✓ | |
| Health | | ✓ | |
| Human Rights | | ✓ | |
| Rural | ✓ | | |
| Social Inclusion | | ✓ | |
| ECONOMIC IMPACTS | | | |
| Economic Appraisal | | ✓ | |
| Economic Assessment | | ✓ | |
| Regulatory | ✓ | | |
| State Aid | | ✓ | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS | | | |
| Environmental | | ✓ | |
| Strategic Environmental | ✓ | | |
| SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT | ✓ | | The completion of the templates within this workbook demonstrates that DAERA has taken account of economic, social and environmental impacts of the policies to inform the development of the Fisheries and Water Environment Bill. |

For further information:

Marine & Fisheries Division (MFD)
Fisheries and Water Environment Bill Team
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