

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	Stakeholder Relations				
1.	More formalised arrangements should be put in place to ensure that all stakeholders are able to make the expected contribution and commitment. One way of doing so is to continue with a Fisheries Forum type structure to allow a cross sector approach to strategic issues with sector specific issues being addressed through a system of a small number of sub groups;	<p>The Department agrees that there is merit in having a consultative body such as the Forum which represents a broad range of marine stakeholders. It recognises, also that some issues will be of interest to those working within a particular sector or interest group. The Department would wish to see a “parent” Forum meet a few times a year to examine cross-cutting themes and a number of sub-groups established to follow through on work programmes derived from the recommendations of the Fisheries Forum Report – adapted as needed to address future priorities. Membership of the Forum will be drawn from these sub-groups.</p> <p>The Department recognises that issues in relation to the marine environment and conservation will be a key consideration for sub-groups and an important standing item on the Agenda of the Forum itself.</p> <p>The Department will provide secretarial support for the Forum and its sub-groups.</p>	<p>The Department will establish sub-groups for the following areas –</p> <p>Catching and processing Aquaculture Inshore Fisheries</p>	DARD	Oct 2010
2.	Single representative organisations for both sea fishing and aquaculture should be considered;	DARD would prefer to this be the case and will encourage all sectors to form single bodies that will be able to provide a collective view on emerging policy issues. This would apply to the	The Department will use the Forum sub-group structure to facilitate this dialogue.	DARD/ Industry	Oct to Dec 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
		fish catching, fish processing, and aquaculture sectors.			
3.	There has been an improvement in the working relationship between industry and scientists in recent years and this should be further developed to ensure that fisheries management is based on sound and accepted scientific assessments.	Improving scientific knowledge is not something that the Department and its scientific advisors can do alone. It is important that fishermen’s knowledge is factored into this work and also that scientists get the fullest co-operation from fishermen to allow them to gather data from samples of fish landings about the size and age of fish and to accommodate them as on-board observers to collect total catch information. If these data are absent then a precautionary approach will be reflected in the scientific advice from ICES and in the Commissions proposals.	The Department and AFBI will take further steps to better communicate with industry and other stakeholders information about the process of data collection and how this is used.	DARD AFBI	Ongoing
Processing and marketing					
4.	There is a need for greater innovation and research & development in the processing sector and DARD/Invest NI should work with the sector to promote market led innovation, the development of a range of added value products and the move away from a dependency on commodity products such as scampi	There have been a number of attempts to address these problems over the years. Reports have been produced by Seafish and InvestNI which have signposted a way forward. While Government can provide financial support and other technical assistance there must be a willingness on the part of industry to make change.	EFF workshops will be held in the main fishing ports. InvestNI will participate in workshops to be held in fishing ports to make the industry more fully aware of the range of assistance it can offer the industry. Publication of guidance leaflets (for distribution at workshop events)	DARD InvestNI DARD	Nov 2010 Nov 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
5.	Processing companies should develop plans for the strategic uptake of any EU (EFF) or national funding (Invest NI) opportunities so as to make most effective use of these limited funds for the long term benefit of their businesses.	<p>A range of assistance is available through Invest NI to assist businesses to make future investment decisions. This includes areas such as innovation, research and development and business planning. This assistance is available to businesses with sales of at least £100,000 per year, of which at least 25% is outside NI.</p> <p>DARD will ensure that industry is fully aware of the funding available to processing companies under the EFF through tailored workshops, guidance leaflets and the DARD web site.</p>	The processing sector should submit applications under the processing and Marketing Measure of EFF for consideration.	Processing Sector	Ongoing
6.	The use of market information from whatever source (Invest NI, Seafish, and BIM) should also be maximised across the industry not only to raise market awareness but to identify key market opportunities including new product development opportunities and niche markets.	The Invest NI Business Information Centre is a key resource providing information on markets and customers. Subject to any review of public spending assistance is also available for primary and secondary market research, identified in a businesses market development plan as well as market visits.	<p>As per action at (4) above</p> <p>The industry should ensure that they “subscribe “ to the information services available from Seafish at www.seafish.org and BIM at http://www.bimb2b.com/</p>	InvestNI Processing Sector	Nov 2010
7.	InvestNI should provide more assistance to companies participating in relevant trade shows and to facilitate exporters through trade missions to explore opportunities to supply new markets or to penetrate existing markets with new added value products.	Clients of Invest NI are encouraged to develop a strategic market development plan to develop their business in a strategic and focused manner. Such plans identify actions to be undertaken by the business aimed at improving penetration of existing markets and exploring new markets.	As per action at (4) above	InvestNI	Nov 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
		Measures such as trade missions can be supported as part of the market development plan.			
8.	The scope to underpin marketing by development of appropriate accreditation throughout the supply chain must be maximised through achieving accreditation for key fisheries within the next 3 years or less.	<p>DARD will continue to make available EFF grant support to enable fisheries to gain MSC accreditation. An award of grant has been made recently to the Irish Sea Pelagic Sustainability Group (ISPSG) to commission an assessment for Irish Sea Herring.</p> <p>The Department recognises that gaining MSC accreditation requires a collaborative effort on the part of all stakeholders to develop management and fishing regimes that are capable of achieving certification. The Department will use the financial and other resources at its disposal to ensure that there is sound science and management arrangements for the fisheries and will make grant available for complementary initiatives such as more selective gear which may need to be implemented. See response recommendation 16.</p>	<p>Achieve MSC accreditation for the Irish Sea Herring fishery.</p> <p>DARD and the fishing industry will consider a way forward and timetable for the accreditation Irish Sea Nephrops as part of the work of the Catching and Processing sub-group</p>	<p>DARD AFBI ISPSG</p> <p>DARD CPSG</p>	<p>Dec 2012</p> <p>Sept to Dec 2010</p>
9.	Aquaculture by its nature has the potential to provide a range of unique contemporary products and production accreditations for the market.	The Aquaculture sector is able to access EFF financial support for marketing and publicity for such products.	DARD will encourage uptake of these measures through the local EFF facilitator, workshops and other publicity.	DARD	Ongoing
10.	The processing sector would benefit from participating in benchmarking	All Invest NI clients can avail of a free Business Health Check as the first step	As per action at (4) above	InvestNI	Nov 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	programmes such as the Invest NI Business Health Check to monitor and highlight areas where costs are not reflective of industry norms and controls can potentially be exerted.	to developing their business.			
11.	The priorities for investment of the funds currently available through EFF and Invest NI should be aimed at encouraging innovation, measures which improve competitiveness and raising quality standards in the processing sector.	The Department would welcome applications of this nature. The EFF regulation specifically refers to the possibilities for funding projects that are “producing or marketing new products, applying new technologies, or developing innovative production methods”	DARD will encourage uptake of these measures through the local EFF facilitator, workshops and other publicity.	DARD	Ongoing
12.	There is a need within the processing sector to establish a representative body through which the sector can discuss common issues and raise concerns with and advise government in a similar manner to other sectoral interest groups.	The Department will establish a sub-group for Catching and Processing (see action at recommendation (1) to facilitate dialogue between the industry and with government. The sector may wish to use the working group to develop its ideas to establish a free standing, representative body.	The Department will use the Forum sub-group structure to facilitate this dialogue.	DARD CPSG	Oct 2010
Fleet Capacity and Development					
13.	DARD should urgently consider the development of a decommissioning scheme which has clearly defined objectives and targets; is available to all sectors of the fleet; includes a means of ensuring that reductions in fleet size and capacity are achieved and maintained through whatever combination of a cap on licence numbers and removal of Fixed Quota Allocations is appropriate; and	Accepted in principle. Final decisions will be taken on whether to provide a scheme on the basis of a business case which will examine the design of possible schemes, value for money and the impacts that such schemes would have for all sectors of the industry.	DARD will start work immediately to prepare a business case for possible decommissioning schemes and will report progress to the Fisheries Forum and its relevant working groups. The Minister will wish to make a final decision on decommissioning by end 2010.	DARD	Sept-Dec 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	addresses the weakness in previous schemes identified in the Public Account Committee Report recommendations.				
14.	A Vessel Modernisation Grant Scheme should be introduced based on the outcome of the Fleet Modernisation Needs Survey. Priorities for investment should include fuel and environmental efficiency, improvement of product quality facilities on board vessels and improvements to improve safety of both vessels and crew.	A business case for a vessel modernisation has been completed together with application forms and guidance note. Subject to necessary approvals by DARD and DFP economists a modernisation scheme could be opened in August 2010.	DARD will ensure that the industry is fully aware of the funding opportunities available from the EFF through the local EFF facilitator, workshops and other publicity.	DARD	Ongoing
15.	EFF should be used to encourage and enhance quality at all stages of the supply chain including through encouraging adoption of new technologies	This is largely in the hands of industry to bring forward appropriate investment proposals. Investments to improve product quality in the catching sector can be supported under the Axis 1 vessel modernisation measure referred to at (14) above and under Axis 2 for the processing sector. In some circumstances projects might be supported under Axis 3 for collective "actions".	As per action (14) above.	DARD	Ongoing
16.	Where appropriate support should be provided for the adoption of equipment and practices which improve gear selectivity and encourage environmentally friendly fishing practices.	Support is currently available (and has already been committed) through Collective Actions measures. Funding for individual vessels will be available under EFF Axis 1.	The fishing industry and DARD will consider further developments in this area as part of the work programme for Catching and Processing sub-group	DARD CPSG	Ongoing
17.	The Department should hold workshops in the 3 fishing ports to explain what grants are on offer and	The Department has publicised each EFF measure as it has come on stream. It has entered into an	Workshops will be held in each port. DARD will evaluate the workshops and	DARD DARD	Sept 2010 Dec 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	what investments can qualify for grant	agreement with Seafish to employ an officer in Northern Ireland who will work part time as an EFF facilitator to assist the industry to develop ideas for EFF applications. The Department will organise further events to support new Axis 1 measures	other publicity initiatives and review the need for further promotion of the EFF.		
18.	A programme of work should be initiated by the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (NWWRAC), taking advantage of EFF where appropriate, to develop management arrangements which would ensure the sustainability of Irish Sea whitefish stocks.	The Department would welcome such proposals from the NWWRAC and will consider any EFF applications made. It will need to be convinced, however, that the alternative management proposals are capable of achieving the objective of ensuring that there are sustainable whitefish stocks and that these are acceptable to the EU Commission.	As part of the application process for the EFF the Department will consult with other government stakeholders in GB and Ireland before a decision is made about funding NWWRAC proposals.	NWWRAC and local industry	To be determined
19.	DARD should consider the scope for further hardship payments to the catching sector pending action on measures to assist the long-term restructuring of the industry.	Funding for the last hardship scheme was only possible as part of the package of assistance provided by the Executive in response to the economic downturn. The EFF cannot be used to subsidise vessel operating costs and the last scheme was permitted under state aid rules only because it was within fisheries state aid de-minimis levels. In the current economic climate public spending on such a scheme could not be justified	No action proposed		
Investment in Harbour Infrastructure					
20.	There should continue to be appropriate investment in harbour facilities to support a restructured and	A business plan for £3.5m investment utilising EFF funding in our local fishery harbours has been approved and will	NIFHA will publish its proposed investment programme for the fisheries harbours on www.nifha.co.uk	NIFHA	2011-2015

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	modernised fleet at least at the levels proposed in the EFF Investment Plan (£3.5m).	be implemented commencing in 2011.			
21.	The Department should consider making grant support available to other parts of the support sector such as fish sellers and engineering services.	The Department is willing to use the EFF to support the development of all sectors the fishing industry so long as this is in keeping with the rules set down in the EFF regulation.	The support sector should discuss proposals with the EFF facilitator and make applications to the EFF if appropriate.	Fishing industry support sector	Ongoing
Aquaculture					
22.	A review of the existing licensing and regulatory regime should take place with the objective of streamlining current procedures and practices and delivering an improved service to applicants.	DARD will undertake a review of the existing licensing regime and the policy context. This will include liaison with stakeholders and other departments and agencies who are involved.	DARD will initiate a review in consultation with the industry and other stakeholders.	DARD	Nov 2010
23.	Where existing fish culture licences are being considered for revocation, notice of the intention so to do should be widely advertised to allow consideration by other potential operators (both new and existing) to reinvigorate dormant sites.	<p>A transfer of a fish culture licence is only possible with the agreement of the licence-holder, and it may not always be possible to facilitate the transfer of licences to allow potential operators to reinvigorate dormant sites (for example, when a site is on private land).</p> <p>The Department will actively pursue the option of a transfer to a third party of any fish culture licence that is being considered for revocation.</p>	<p>The Department will consider ways to facilitate contact between the licence holder and any interested parties. It will discuss its proposals with the Aquaculture sub-group.</p> <p>The Department will consider, and aim to facilitate, any proposal for transfer of a licence, subject to statutory requirements."</p>	DARD; Licence holders	<p>Dec 2010</p> <p>When a proposal is made</p>
24.	The priorities for investment under EFF should be projects which encourage:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased capacity; 	DARD takes note of the Forum's recommendations on priorities for investment.	As per action (4) above.	DARD Aquaculture sector	Nov 2010

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modernisation of facilities; • adoption of quality assurance and environmental management systems; • adoption of research and development findings. 				
25.	The scope for production of new or alternative species and adoption of new technologies should be investigated including the identification of any marketing, environmental or other barriers to the successful implementation of new farming operations or technologies.	<p>The Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative (EEIG) has received EFF funding from DARD to appoint a consultant to research and report on the diversification options available to Northern Ireland's land based aquaculture sector. The Report will be circulated widely to inform industry and other stakeholders.</p> <p>On publication, DARD will consider any recommendations and how they may be implemented.</p>	CBAIT will report on the diversification options available to Northern Ireland's land based aquaculture sector.	DARD, CBAIT	Publication of report by Dec 2010 and report to be considered by Feb 2011
26.	The highest levels of fish health status should be sought and maintained in the context of the EU's regulatory regime.	<p>DARD has implemented the Aquatic Animal Health Directive 2006/88/EC and will continue to develop regimes to enhance and maintain Northern Ireland's high fish health status and to ensure compliance with EU rules.</p> <p>DARD will continue to press for maintenance of its 'additional guarantees' (disease freedom status) from the European Commission on Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD), Spring Viraemia of Carp (SVC) and Gyrodactylus salaris (GS).</p>	DARD will undertake the targeted surveillance and sampling programme necessary to support a declaration of category one (disease-free) status for the whole of Northern Ireland for Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) by 2012.	DARD	Surveillance/ sampling programme to commence by July 2010. Declaration by February 2012."

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
27.	<p>There should be greater emphasis on ensuring that aquaculture is accepted as a sustainable and legitimate activity within the broad marine and environmental policy development process. Structures are needed to improve communication between the industry and those that regulate it.</p>	<p>The Report on the Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (2009/2106/(INI)) considers aquaculture to be an integral part of the CFP that plays a complimentary role vis-a vis the catching sector. The 2009 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on building a sustainable future for aquaculture also identified improving the sector's image and governance as one of the areas that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>DARD is committed to the creation of one cohesive aquaculture stakeholder group and has provided the Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative with the resources to deliver this objective. This seems consistent with Recommendation 2 above.</p>	<p>DARD will contribute to the development and implementation of EU, national and local marine and environmental policies on an on-going basis and will promote the sector's interests, image and governance in doing so.</p> <p>CBAIT will progress the creation of a cohesive, representative aquaculture stakeholder group. In the meantime DARD will continue to consult as appropriate with industry through representative organisations e.g. the Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum, local CLAMS Groups, the All Island Mussel Dredgers Producer Organisation etc.</p>	DARD CBAIT	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Communication ongoing, creation of stakeholder group by 2012</p>
28.	<p>DARD (in conjunction with DAFF) should progress the implementation of the Rising Tide Report on the bottom mussel culture sector and in particular the recommendations on access to seed, improving statistical information on the sector and managing potential conflict with other fisheries interests.</p>	<p>The Rising Tide Report was launched in May 2008, and it contained 32 recommendations. Consideration and implementation of these recommendations continue to be discussed and progressed at regular meetings of the all island Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum (the formation of which was itself a recommendation).</p>	<p>DARD will continue to implement the recommendations through participation in the Forum. On the specific areas referred to in the recommendation:</p> <p>Access to seed: The management arrangements for the 2010 seed mussel fishery, including the opening date and suitable fishing tides, were discussed and agreed at the BGMCF meeting in February 2010. AFBI is</p>	DARD, DAFF, BGMCF	<p>Regular (3-4 times per year) meetings</p> <p>Surveys July-August 2010 and annually</p>

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
			<p>responsible for undertaking annual surveys of areas where seed has historically been found in NI and making recommendations to DARD in relation to its exploitation. Surveys have already taken place in 2010 and further surveys will be carried out this year.</p> <p>Statistical information: DARD Fisheries Inspectorate also monitors seed fishing, relaying and harvesting activity and has introduced a data collection system. This data will facilitate a key element of the stock tracking system proposed in the Rising Tide Report. In 2010 all mussel seed fished in Irish waters must be notified by SMS to a stock tracking system prior to vessels leaving a seed fishing area. This was developed and is managed by the Forum Secretariat.</p> <p>Conflict Management: In an effort to reduce conflict, DARD notifies other fisheries interests of dates and areas that will be opened to fishing in order that fishermen can, if necessary, arrange to move static gear from the areas in question. This process will continue, and DARD will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to other interests.</p>		<p>Ongoing throughout seed fishery</p> <p>Ongoing, in advance of seed fishery</p>

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
29.	In order to maintain and develop the Bottom Grown Mussel Sector in Northern Ireland, DARD in conjunction with bottom mussel producers and the BMGCF should work together in consultation with other stakeholders to develop access arrangements for unexploited seed resources in Northern Ireland waters.	<p>The Bottom Grown Mussel Consultative Forum (BGMCF) on which both DARD and DAFF are represented was established in December 2008 and meets regularly to assess and progress implementation of the recommendations in the Rising Tide Report.</p> <p>Following the establishment of the BGMCF, DARD has put in place a formal structure to enable industry representatives to meet with scientists from AFBI, the BGMCF Secretariat and representatives from BIM and the Loughs Agency to discuss arrangements for the surveying for, and exploitation of, the seed mussel resource in Northern Irish waters. The process has resulted in greater industry participation in surveys of the historical mussel seed beds off the Co Down coast.</p>	BGMCF Secretariat is to facilitate a meeting between AFBI and mussel producers in June to consider and agree proposals for industry seed surveys, of areas in NI waters other than those where seed has historically been found, prior to the re-opening of the seed mussel fishery on 30 August 2010.	DARD, DAFF, BGMCF, AFBI	Completed
30.	The potential for the local Aquaculture industry to provide the processing sector with raw material to develop new product lines should be explored.	This should be examined by industry representatives.	DARD will facilitate this discussion between the Aquaculture and processing Sectors through the Forum sub-group structures.	DARD CPSG ASG	To be determined
Inshore Fisheries					
31.	A strategy for the development of inshore fisheries should be prepared.	DARD will aim to complete a draft Inshore Fisheries Development Strategy in consultation with marine stakeholders by March 2011	DARD will commission, AFBI to develop a Inshore Fisheries Development Strategy	DARD	Completed Jul 2010
32.	DARD should urgently develop a	DARD in conjunction with the industry	The inshore fisheries research	DARD/AFBI	March 2011

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	programme of data a collection and research with industry and AFBI to provide assessments of fish stocks upon which management decisions can be based. This work should also map areas where fisheries take place, as well as important fish spawning and nursery areas, to inform government marine policy, for example location of marine renewable energy facilities, and marine nature conservation zones.	and AFBI will agree priority areas for data collection & research.	programme will be incorporated in the Inshore Fisheries Development Strategy.		
33.	Fishing effort in the inshore sector should not be allowed to increase above current levels and measures should be introduced concurrently with restructuring of the “offshore fleet” to prevent effort transferring into the sector.	DARD appreciates that fluctuations in fishing opportunities and the economic circumstances of the “offshore fleet” and restructuring initiatives can result in transferring effort to inshore fishing. This will be considered when developing a business case for any decommissioning scheme (recommendation 13). Controlling effort must however be considered in the context of the current vessel licensing system in consultation with other Fisheries Administrations.	DARD will discuss and agree with industry, other UK Fisheries Administrations and the DSO feasible measures to limit inshore fishing effort in NI inshore waters.	DARD	March 2011
34.	An inshore fisheries consultative group should be established to specifically consider inshore issues and assist the Department to develop local inshore fishery management plans.	The Inshore Group will be established as a Fisheries Forum sub-group and it will be consulted during the development and implementation of the Inshore Fisheries Strategy.	As per action at (1) above	DARD	Oct 2010
35.	Inshore fisheries should be developed using an ecosystem based approach that takes account of the social,	Agreed	DARD will ensure that an ecosystem based approach is included and considered as part of the development	DARD	March 2011

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	economic and environmental impacts of any development.		of the Inshore Fisheries Development Strategy.		
36.	The Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 should be reviewed and where appropriate brought into line with recent changes in primary fisheries legislation elsewhere in the UK. Other local inshore fisheries legislation should be reviewed and where possible simplified.	Agreed	DARD will carry out a review of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 and inshore fisheries legislation to identify additional primary powers that are required. The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing And Fishing Methods) Regulations 1993 will be reviewed and replaced.	DARD	June 2011 2011/12
37.	DARD should take any available opportunities under the European Fisheries Fund to support the development of an inshore fisheries strategy and its implementation and to support the sustainable development of inshore fisheries and aquaculture.	Agreed	As per action at (31) and (32) above	DARD	March 2011
38.	Any new inshore fisheries with the potential to impact on existing fisheries and the marine environment should be subject to an environmental impact assessment.	DARD has obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive to exercise its functions in a manner that helps to achieve Good Environmental Status in the marine environment by 2020. It also has a duty to manage fisheries to ensure that all fish stocks are sustainable in the long term. In this context any new fisheries, whether by virtue of the technology used or their location, that may cause significant impacts on the marine environment or existing fisheries,	DARD will develop policy proposals for the introduction of fisheries impact assessments with the aim of consulting during 2011/12	DARD	2011/12

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
		should be subject to impact assessment before they are permitted.			
39.	Inshore fisheries policy must recognise the importance of both the commercial and recreational sectors in contributing to the social and economic development of coastal areas. The needs of both sectors should be considered as part of local inshore fishery management plans.	Agreed.	The Inshore Fisheries Development Strategy which, will guide future policy will consider the possible impacts of inshore fisheries activity on all stakeholders and the marine environment and were possible mitigate the effects of these impacts.	DARD	March 2011
Marine Environment and Conservation					
40.	Government should ensure that all sections of the industry are aware of relevant environmental policy developments and have the opportunity to input into these and to receive adequate notice to take account of the need to implement environmental obligations.	In relation to MCZs the DOE is aware that many potential MCZ locations may also be of interest to fishermen. It is therefore important that all views are taken onboard during the designation process with the conservation objectives of each site being fully discussed. Designation is intended to be a transparent process with sufficient flexibility to take account of the social and economic needs of marine users as well as the need to protect nationally important marine species and habitats.	The DOE will consult with all stakeholders including the fishing industry at an early stage in the development of marine environmental policy. DARD will ensure that this is a standing item on the Fisheries Forum Agenda	DOE DARD	Ongoing Ongoing
41.	The interest of sea fisheries and marine aquaculture should be incorporated into all marine policies developed by Government.	Agreed	DARD through interdepartmental steering groups will continue to advise the DOE and other Departments of the impacts on and concerns of the fishing industry, in relation to emerging policies relating to marine conservation zones	DARD	Ongoing

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
			(MCZs) and marine renewable energy.		
42.	All stakeholders must be fully involved in the proposed designation of marine protected areas.	<p>DEFRA are responsible for designating Marine Conservation Zones outside our inshore waters which includes an area for which DARD has devolved responsibility for fisheries management. Northern Ireland fishing stakeholders and the Northern Ireland government are represented on the Irish Sea Conservation Zones stakeholder group that will make recommendations to DEFRA on the location of Marine Conservation Zones in the Irish Sea. The agreement of the Northern Ireland Executive will be required if any of these zones impact on devolved fisheries responsibilities.</p> <p>DETI will encourage developers to consult at an early stage on individual marine renewable energy projects as these come forward.</p>	<p>As per action at (40) above</p> <p>DETI will continue to consult with all stakeholders, including the fishing industry, as part of its ongoing engagement approach on policy development.</p>	<p>DARD DOE</p> <p>DETI</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
43.	Government should introduce environmental impact assessments for new inshore fisheries with a potentially significant impact on the marine ecosystem.	See commentary at (38) above	As per action at (38) above	DARD	2011/12
44.	DARD in partnership with other marine stakeholders should take steps to achieve environmental accreditation for key fisheries within the next 3 years or	Agreed	As per action at (8) above	DARD	Dec 2012

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
	less				
45.	Practices such as high grading and discarding need to be addressed within EU rules to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks.	There is no evidence of high-grading in Irish Sea fisheries. The Department accepts that discarding of some fish may happen because of quota limitations. The Department believes that the best way to avoid discarding is through the adoption of more selective gears. Financial support has been made available to the nephrops fleet to install larger square mesh panels and cod ends. DARD will continue to support, through the EFF, research and trials involving scientists and fishermen to develop more selective fishing methods. DARD will support proportionate European policies aimed at discard reduction.	As per action at (16) above	DARD CPSG	Ongoing
46.	DARD should work with stakeholders to develop long term management plans for the main commercial fisheries as a key priority.	Long Term Management Plans (LTMPs) provide a framework for taking fisheries management decisions that have effect over a number of years. This results in greater certainty about change and permits fishers to make better planning and investment decisions. It is near certain that future LTMPs will have to address the Commission's desire to move to fishing stocks at Maximum Sustainable yield by 2015. DARD is currently working with the	AFBI will convene a science working group in September 2010 to address the necessary scientific issues relating to this Irish Sea Herring. To have the herring LTMP assessed during 2011 leading to EU approval during 2012	DARD/AFBI	2010-2012

	Recommendation	Commentary	Action	Who	By When
		<p>industry and AFBi to develop LTMPs for herring and Nephrops. These LTMPs will need to be in place to support MSC accreditation.</p> <p>DARD will continue to work with the Irish Sea Pelagic Sustainability Group in relation to herring. It will use the CPSG to develop a consensus on a way forward for Nephrops which will include the issue of MSC accreditation of the fishery.</p>			