



NIEA Northern Ireland
Environment Agency
www.ni-environment.gov.uk



Department of the
Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk

Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures - North Western IRBD

Habitats Directive Article 6 Assessment

Appendix III

north western
international
river basin district



Project part financed
by the European Union

North South Shared Aquatic Resource (NS SHARE)

Appendix III Key Conventions, Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes - International

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Biodiversity	Ospar Convention (1992) The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic	The current instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Objectives include the protection of the marine environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives include the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Ramsar Convention The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Objectives include protection and conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl as Waterfowl Habitat.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Climate	UN Kyoto Protocol The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol 1997	Objectives seek to alleviate the impacts of climate change and reduce global emissions of GHGs.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Environment / Pollution Prevention	The MARPOL Convention International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).	Objectives include for the protection of the marine environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Human Health / Air	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Key Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes – European Union

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Biodiversity	The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Human Health	The EU REACH Initiative Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH)	Objectives seek to limit the harmful effects to the environment and human health from certain chemicals through improved analysis and data collection.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The EU Shellfish Directive (79/923/EEC)	Objectives seek to maintain those coastal and brackish waters, which need protection or improvement, in order to allow shellfish to develop and to contribute to the high quality of shellfish products intended for human consumption.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Plant Protection Products Directive (91/414/EEC)	Objectives seek to harmonise the overall arrangements for authorisation of plant protection products within the European Union. This is achieved by harmonising the process for considering the safety of active substances at a European Community level by establishing agreed criteria for considering the safety of those products. Product authorisation remains the responsibility of individual Member States.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Objectives seek to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Soils	The Soils Directive (Draft)	The proposed Directive lays down a framework for the protection and sustainable use of soil based on the principles of integration of soil issues into other policies, preservation of soil functions within the context of sustainable use, prevention of threats to soil and mitigation of their effects, as well as restoration of degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with the current and approved future use of the land.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Sustainable Development	The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Objective is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) as amended by Directive 97/11/EC	Objective is to require Environmental Impact Assessment of the environmental effects of those public and private projects, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.	Yes possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure such a flood walls or flood defences. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.	Yes, a risk of significant in combination effects with other relevant plans either inside or outside the plan area may occur. For example in combination with the regional development strategy new developments together with new structures under the Floods Directive could combine to cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)	The overall objective of the revised Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing, but it also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters and to standardise the information provided to bathers across Europe.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Objective is to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. To this end, it prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land. The Directive provides an integrated approach to establish pollution prevention from stationary “installations”. This codified act includes all the previous amendments to the Directive 96/61/EC and introduces some linguistic changes and adaptations.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC	The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure drinking water is wholesome and clean.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)	The objective is to regulate potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals produced in Europe. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Key Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes - Ireland

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Biodiversity	The National Biodiversity Plan (2002)	Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity. Although such issues would be dealt with at local or site level, the Plan should have regard to these objectives and promote such objectives where possible.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Wildlife Act 1976. The Wildlife (Amendment) act 2000	The purpose of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000 is to provide for the protection of Wildlife (both Flora and Fauna) and the control of activities, which may impact adversely on the conservation of Wildlife.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, as amended SI 233/1998 and SI 378/2005	These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as NATURA 2000.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988 (SI 293 of 1988)	Prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Also, give effect to Council Directive No. 78/659/EEC on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Cultural Heritage	The Planning and Development Act 2000	Under this Act the County Councils are required to compile and maintain a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in their Development Plans. Sites included in the RPS are awarded automatic protection and may not be demolished or materially altered without grant of permission under the Planning Acts.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Human Health	Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations 1988 (SI 84 of 1988) and amendments	Prescribe bathing water quality standards and the bathing areas to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Give effect to Council Directive No. 76/160/EEC concerning the quality of bathing water.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (SI 268/2006)	Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to determine compliance with the standards.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Planning	National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (2002)	Objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning.	Yes possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan.	Yes, a risk of significant in combination effects with other relevant plans either inside or outside the plan area may occur. For example in combination with the regional development strategy new developments together with new structures under the NSS could combine to cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.
	National Development Plan from 2007 to 2013	Objectives of the NDP are to promote more balanced spatial and economic development.	Yes possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan	Yes, a risk of significant in combination effects with other relevant plans either inside or outside the plan area may occur. For example in combination with the regional development strategy new developments together with new structures under the NDP could combine to cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.
	Planning and Development Act 2000	Revised and consolidated the law relating to planning and development by repealing and re-enacting with amendments the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999; to provide, in the interests of the common good, for proper planning and sustainable development including the provision of housing; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the Roads Act 1993, the Waste Management Act 1996, and certain other enactments.	Yes possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new infrastructure. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the plan	Yes, a risk of significant in combination effects with other relevant plans either inside or outside the plan area may occur. For example in combination with the regional development strategy new developments together with new structures under the Planning and Development Act could combine to cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Sustainable Development	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004)	Objectives include protection of the environment and integration of plan making processes into the sustainable planning of the country as a whole. The EU SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law under S.I. 435 in 2004.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Environment	The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992	Objectives include the better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Water	Drinking Water Regulations SI 439 of 2000	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters. Give effect to provisions of EU Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations 1998 (SI 258 of 1998)	Provides for specified improvements in water quality conditions in rivers and lakes based on phosphorus concentrations or related water quality classifications and give effect to certain requirements arising under Council Directive 76/46/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003)	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 378 of 2006)	Provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Give further effect to several EU Directives including Directives in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources (“the Nitrates Directive”), dangerous substances in water, waste management, protection of groundwater, public participation in policy development and water policy (the Water Framework Directive).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Key Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes - Northern Ireland

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Biodiversity	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (SI No. 3153 of 2002)	Provides much of the legislative basis for the protection of sites of importance to nature conservation in Northern Ireland. The Order provides for such areas to be designated as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order (NCALO) 1985	Legislates for National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (SR No. 380 of 1995) and amendments.	Implements the Habitats Directive in NI.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 and amendments.	This Order aims to protect wild animals, birds, plants and their habitats.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Cultural Heritage	The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991	Under this Order the DOE is required to compile and maintain a lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Planning	Planning Policy Statements 1 - 18	Policies on land-use and other planning matters that apply to the whole of Northern Ireland.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Environment	Environmentally Sensitive Areas Designation Order (Northern Ireland) 2005. SR No. 276 of 2005.	Aims to conserve and enhance designated natural beauty areas, to conserve flora and fauna and geological and physiographical features of those areas; and to protect buildings and other objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest in those areas.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999. SR No. 73 of 1999.	Defines activities that require an Environmental Impact Assessment, and the preferred methods and contents of the assessment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Water	The Surface Waters (Dangerous Substances) (Classification) Regulations (NI) 1998 (SR 397 of 1998)	Prescribe a system of classifying the quality of inland freshwaters, coastal waters and relevant territorial waters. It creates a system for classifying waters according to the presence in them of concentrations of the dangerous substances listed in the Schedules. Sampling requirements are prescribed in regulation 4. Regulation 5, by modifying section 4C of the Water Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, requires (and enables) the Department of the Environment to establish water quality objectives for those dangerous substances by applying the classifications prescribed in the Regulations.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998	This legislation aims to prevent pollution of groundwater. Before certain listed substances including used sheep dips and waste pesticides are disposed of by land spreading, authorisation must be obtained from Department for the Environment's Environment and Heritage Service.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	This established limits on the amount of chemical fertiliser to be applied to crop requirement taking into account phosphorus available from soil and organic manures.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	As eutrophication is recognised as a major problem, legislation covering all farms in Northern Ireland was considered the best option for implementing the Nitrates Directive. An action programme was agreed between the Department and stakeholders and accepted by the European Commission in October 2006. This resulted in the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, coming into operation on 1 January 2007.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Industrial Pollution Control (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (No. 2777 (N.I. 18))	Aims to prevent or minimise environmental pollution by prescribed substances from certain industrial processes. Best Available Techniques Not Entailing Excessive Cost (BATNEEC) must be used to minimise releases.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (No. 662 (N.I. 6))	Contains a number of provisions to combat and prevent pollution affecting waterways and groundwater. It is an offence under the Water Order to make a polluting discharge or deposit either directly or via a drain into a waterway or the underground strata. It is also an offence to make an effluent discharge from a septic tank or treatment plant into a waterway or a soak-away without the consent of the Department of Environment (DOE).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006	Aims at transferring responsibility of water and sewerage services to a government owned company. New regulation of these services to be implemented. Sets out the framework for the introduction of domestic charging for water and sewerage services.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Other Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes of Relevance – European Union

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Cultural Heritage	Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) (Valletta 1992)	Objective is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985)	Objectives seek to provide a basis for protection of architectural heritage and are a means for proclaiming conservation principles, including a definition of what is meant by architectural heritage, such as monuments, groups of buildings and sites. The Convention also seeks to define a European standard of protection for architectural heritage and to create legal obligations that the signatories undertake to implement.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The World Heritage Convention United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris 1972)	Objectives seek to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage and ensure that effective and active measures are taken for these.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Environment / Pollution Prevention	The MARPOL Convention International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).	Objectives include for the protection of the marine environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Human Health/ Air	World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987)	Objectives seek the elimination or minimisation of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Review of Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes – European Union

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Air	The Air Framework Directive Directive on Air Quality Assessment and Management (Framework Directive) (1996/62/EC)	Objectives include the prevention and/or reduction of airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Directive on National Emission Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	Objectives seek to limit the national emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Biodiversity	The EU Biodiversity Strategy Communication on a European Community Biodiversity Strategy	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of biodiversity loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Climate	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005.	Objectives seek to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for EU action {SEC (2007) 849}	Objective is to kick-start a Europe-wide public debate and consultation on how to take forward possible avenues for action in adapting to climate change at EU level.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Human Health	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010 (first period)	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	Laying down the Health Conditions for the production and placement on the market of live bi-valve molluscs (91/492/EEC)	Objectives seek to ensure a suitable environment for shellfish growth and protect consumers of shellfish. It classifies shellfish harvesting areas according to the quality of shellfish populations. The classification determines the conditions under which shellfish harvested from those waters can be offered for sale.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Sustainable Development	EU Common Agricultural Policy	Aims to provide farmers with a reasonable standard of living, consumers with quality food at fair prices and to preserve rural heritage.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Gothenburg Strategy (2001) Communication from the Commission on “a Sustainable Europe for a Better World”	Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable. Informs the 6 th EAP and the Irish sustainable development strategy.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012	Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Waste	The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)	The Landfill Directive sets targets to reduce landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.	Yes possible impacts may arise where reduction measures to landfill are replaced with land spreading on or near a protected site. This would need to be carried out according to best practice guidance.	There is a risk of in combination effects with all other plans and programmes such as the sewage sludge directive which may lead to increased spreading to land. If these processes are carried out at different parts of an SAC/SPA it could potentially damage the protected site.

Preliminary Review of Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes – Ireland

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Air	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 271 of 2002)	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 53 of 2004).	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Biodiversity	Flora Protection Order 1999	Objectives are to protect listed flora and their habitats from alteration, damage or interference in any way. This protection applies wherever the plants are found and is not confined to sites designated for nature conservation.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Climate	National Climate Change Strategy (2000) and National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	Objectives include the reduction of national GHG emissions (including those from the water sector). The Plan should give regard to these objectives and targets for reductions in CO ₂ equivalents from the water sector.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Cultural Heritage	National Heritage Plan (2002)	Core objective is to protect Ireland’s heritage. Plan uses the “polluter pays principle” and the “precautionary principle.” Sets out archaeological policies and principles that should be applied by all bodies when undertaking a development.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The National Monuments Acts (1930 to 2004)	Objectives seek to protect monuments of national importance by virtue of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching to them and includes the site of the monument, the means of access to it and any land required to preserve the monument from injury or to preserve its amenities.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Provides for the establishment of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The objective of the NIAH is to aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage, especially by advising planning authorities on the inclusion of particular structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)	Objective is to set out for all concerned parties the basic principles and approaches for the protection of the archaeological heritage.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999)	Objective is to set down policy on licensing of excavations, and guidelines for licensees on strategies and method statements, reports and publications.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities	Objective is to provide a practical guide for planning authorities and for all others who must comply with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on the protection of the architectural heritage and support the effort of protecting Ireland’s architectural heritage.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Energy	White Paper on Sustainable Energy (2007)	Objectives include the increased utilisation and development of renewable energies to meet EU targets.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) (DoEHLG)	Objectives are to ensure that future development in Ireland occurs in a sustainable manner.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Protection of the Environment Act 2003	Objectives include for better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Water	Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995	Deals with the improvement of lands by drainage and the preventing or sustainably reducing the flooding of lands. Sets up the process of Arterial Drainage Schemes and provides for the maintenance of these works. Also implements a number of drainage and flood reduction related measures such as approval procedures for bridges and weirs, and iterates reporting requirements for Drainage Districts.	Yes, possible impacts may arise where structures such as bridges, weirs and flood prevention measures are put in place at or near a protected site. These should not be sited within or near protected sites.	Yes, a risk of significant in combination effects with other relevant plans either inside or outside the plan area may occur. For example in combination with the regional development strategy new developments together with new structures under the Arterial Drainage Acts could combine to cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.
Material Assets	Dumping at Sea Act, 1996	Make provision to control dumping at sea, to give effect to the convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic done at Paris on the 22nd day of September, 1992.	Yes, possible impacts may arise where standards outlined in the RBMP are more stringent than those in the Dumping at Sea Act.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	The Fisheries Acts 1959 to 1997	Amends and extends the laws relating to fisheries, to prohibit persons from engaging in aquaculture except with and in accordance with a licence, to establish a procedure for the granting, renewal, amendment and revocation of licences, to allow for appeals against decisions relating to licences and for connected purposes.	Yes possible impacts may arise where failures to meet the requirements of a licence may result in deterioration in water quality or the granting of an aquaculture licence may impact on a protected site.	Yes, there is a risk of significant in combination effects. The siting of new aquaculture sites together with the Dumping at Sea Act could potentially cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.
	The Harbours Act 1946	An Act to make further and better provision in relation to the membership of certain harbour authorities and to the management, control, operation and development of their harbours, to provide for the charging of rates by such harbour authorities, to make certain provisions in relation to pilotage authorities and to provide for other matters connected with the matters aforesaid.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2005	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for undertaking any works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore which represents the greater part of the foreshore. The foreshore is the seabed and shore below the line of high water of ordinary or medium tides and extends outwards to the limit of twelve nautical miles (approximately 22.24 kilometres).	Yes, possible impacts may arise where the erection of long-term structures (e.g. piers, marinas, bridges, roads, car parks) and granting of licences for other works (e.g. laying of submarine pipelines and cables) and purposes (e.g. aquaculture) take place. However, these will primarily be at a site level.	Yes, there is a risk of significant in combination effects. The siting of new structures together with those required under the Floods Directive or arising from the Fisheries Act could potentially cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Waste	The Waste Management Act 1996 and amendments	Objectives include (amongst others) the more effective and environmentally sensitive management of wastes in Ireland.	Yes, possible impacts may arise where the siting of new waste infrastructure is in or near a protected site.	Yes, there is a risk of significant in combination effects. The siting of new structures together with those required under the Floods Directive could potentially cause unacceptable pressure on a protected site
	European Communities (Port Reception Facilities for Ship Generated Waste and Cargo Residues) Regulations 2003 (SI 117 of 2003)	Objective is to reduce the discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea, especially illegal discharges, from ships using ports in the Community, by improving the availability and use of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, thereby enhancing the protection of the marine environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Preliminary Review of Legislations, Plans, Policies and Programmes - Northern Ireland

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Air and Climate	UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007	Sets out a comprehensive strategic framework for air quality policies, and establishes Air Quality Objectives for key air pollutants.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Air Quality Limit Value Regulations (NI) 2003 (SR No. 2121 of 2003) and amendments.	Sets out air quality limit or guide values for specified pollutants to be achieved by local authorities.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	Draft UK Climate Change Bill (2007)	The draft Climate Change Bill, the first of its kind in any country, and accompanying strategy, set out a framework for moving the UK to a low-carbon economy. The key component of the legislation requires a mandatory 60% cut in the UK's carbon emissions by 2050.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Biodiversity	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Sets out the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed in 1992 and describes the UK's biological resources and commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. Includes Species Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy 2002 (including NI Species and Habitat Action Plans and Departmental Biodiversity Implementation Plans)	Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group (NIBG) identified 15 major issues affecting Biodiversity in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy 2002 is the Government response to the publication.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Cultural Heritage	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973	Objectives seek to provide for the designation of a wreck on account of the historical, archaeological or artistic importance of the vessel or of the objects associated with it.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	Objectives seek to provide for the protection of all archaeological sites and objects including those on the fore-shore and the sea-bed.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
	Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning Archaeology and Built Heritage	This PPS sets out the Department of the Environment’s planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage. It embodies the Government’s commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Energy	Renewables Obligation Order (Northern Ireland) 2006 (April 2006)	Places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers in the United Kingdom to source an increasing proportion of electricity from renewable sources	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
	The Energy Efficiency (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (No. 659 (N.I. 3))	Aims at promoting energy efficiency in the public and private sectors of business and to the public as a whole, through financial assistance, advice, research and dissemination of information.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Planning	The Regional Development Strategy 2025 – Shaping Our Future	Offers a strategic and long-term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to the year 2025	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.
Sustainable Development	A Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006. ‘First Steps to Sustainability.’ (and Implementation Plans)	The Strategy and implementation plan are aimed at ensuring that progress in Northern Ireland is done with the correct balance of economic, environmental and social considerations.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Summary of Objectives	Possible impacts from Policy, Plan or Programme?	Is there a risk of significant “in combination” effects with other policies, plans or programmes including the Draft RBMP?
Water	The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990	These regulations implement Council Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular soil, when sewage sludge is used on agricultural land. They prohibit the use of sludge from sewage treatment works being spread on agricultural land unless specified requirements are fulfilled.	See Sewage Sludge Directive.	See Sewage Sludge Directive.
	UK Marine Bill	The Marine Bill is designed to ensure clean healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, by putting in place better systems for delivering sustainable development of marine and coastal environment.	No significant impacts on European sites either within or outside the plan area.	No risk of significant “in combination” effects.