

Our Ref: MH/dc/pr

24 April 2013

## TO ALL NIFCA STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

### Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

To achieve the IFCA Vision<sup>1</sup> and High Level Objectives<sup>2</sup>, there is a need to develop inshore management measures that enable decision making which is aimed at achieving sustainable development.

Against this backdrop, NIFCA are undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the district's fisheries management regime. There are five stages to the SEA process. The first is Stage A, which sets the content and objectives in a Scoping Report.

This is where we ask for your help please. We would be very grateful if you could let us have comments on the Scoping Report for the NIFCA SEA and if you would be able to comment then could you please let us know.

The Scoping Report is used to determine the extent of the environmental issues and the level of detail required for the Environmental Report, which is Stage C of the SEA process.

If you can comment we could welcome views on the list of relevant plans and programmes, baseline information, key environmental issues, proposed SEA framework, assessment methodology and scope of the Environmental Report. There are questions to consider in Chapter 8 of the Scoping Report and all comments are welcome.

The Scoping Report will be open for consultation for a five week period only and we will be unable to consider any responses after the closing date which is Friday 31 May 2013.

After this five week period, the 'next steps' can be found detailed in Chapter 9 of the report.

Thanking you in advance for your time and response.

**For responses please email to: (putting NIFCA SEA in the subject box)**  
[nifca@nifca.gov.uk](mailto:nifca@nifca.gov.uk)

<sup>1</sup> IFCAs will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

<sup>2</sup> See NIFCA Annual Plans, particularly Success Criterion 6.