

Coastal and Marine Environment: Biodiversity, Management and Protection



IEEM Irish Section Conference and AGM

13 October 2008

Marine Institute, Oranmore, Galway

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Supporting Professionals in Ecology and the Environment



BACKGROUND

The Marine Strategy Directive is a major step towards a better protection of our oceans and seas. There is a strong need for a European integrated approach to protect our oceans and seas more effectively. The aim of the European Union's (EU) marine strategy (adopted in June 2008) is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.

Seventy percent of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans and seas and more than half the world's population lives within 60 km of the coast. We are reliant on our oceans and seas for many things, although most importantly for food, energy sources (wind power, oil and gas, etc) and tourism revenue. It is easy to see, therefore, how our health and the health of our planet depend, in no small part, on the condition of our oceans and seas.

This conference will look at the current state of biodiversity in the marine and coastal areas around Ireland and consider how best to protect and manage these areas in the future. The following topics will be covered:

- Marine Policy including the Marine Strategy Directive and the Water Framework Directive.
- Coastal habitats and their protection.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).
- Coastal bird populations.
- Coastal cetaceans.
- Coral reefs.
- Sponge communities.
- Pollution and biomonitoring.
- The final speaker of the day will provide information about the IEEM's Guidelines for Marine and Coastal Ecological Impact Assessment, that are currently in production.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Local Government Ecologists.
- Town and County Planners.
- Policy and Decision Makers.
- Ecological/Environmental Managers and Consultants.
- Non-governmental organisations (e.g. Wildlife Trusts).
- Anyone working in the Marine/Coastal conservation sector.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:25 **Welcome**

09:30 **Keynote Address: the Marine Strategy Directive and its Implications for Protecting Marine Biodiversity**
Speaker TBC

MORNING SESSION: COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY AROUND IRELAND

09:50 **Extent and Conservation Status of Coastal Habitats**
Karen Gaynor (National Parks and Wildlife Service)

10:10 **Trends in Coastal Bird Populations**
Steve Newton (BirdWatch Ireland)

10:30 **Cold Water Coral Reefs**
Anthony Grehan (National University of Ireland, Galway)

10:50 **Discussion**

11.00 **Break and posters**

11:30 **Sponge Communities of Rathlin Island Special Area of Conservation**
Bernard Picton (Ulster Museum)

11:50 **The Irish Whale & Dolphin Sanctuary – are Coastal Cetaceans Protected?**
Simon Berrow (Irish Whale and Dolphin Group)

12:10 **Discussion**

12:20 **IEEM Irish section AGM**

13:00 **Lunch**

AFTERNOON SESSION: MANAGING AND PROTECTING COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY

14:05 **Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Transitional Waters**
Shane O'Boyle (Environmental Protection Agency)

14:25 **Marine Policy – The Need for a Biodiversity Foundation**
Melanie Gomes (Northern Ireland Marine Task Force/Ulster Wildlife Trust)

14:45 **Pollution as a Driver of Biodiversity Change: Impacts and Biomonitoring in Intertidal Habitats**
Tasman Crowe (University College Dublin)

15:05 **Discussion**

15:15 **Break and posters**

15:45 **Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Ecological Designations**
Anne Marie O'Hagan (Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork)

16:05 **IEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in Britain and Ireland - Marine and Coastal**
Mick Green CEnv MIEEM (Ecology Matters Ltd)

16:25 **Discussion**

16:40 **Conference closes**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

BOOKING

Early booking is advisable – places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. **REGISTERING FOR THE CONFERENCE CAN ONLY BE DONE ONLINE.** To register for the conference please go to <http://www.ieem.net/confireland2008.asp> and follow the relevant link to book your place.

PRICES (conference fees are exempt from VAT)

IEEM Members	= €90	(£70)
Non IEEM members	= €140	(£110)
IEEM Student members (limited number of places)	= €45	(£35)
IEEM members in Abeyance/Deferred/Retired	= €45	(£35)

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

When booking, please advise us if you have any special dietary requirements.

CONFIRMATION OF BOOKINGS

Bookings will be confirmed by email.

ACCOMMODATION

No accommodation is included in the delegate fee. For information on accommodation in Oranmore, please visit Golreland's website <http://www.goireland.com/galway/oranmore.htm>.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

This programme is correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change without notice. The most up to date programme will be available on the IEEM website.

POSTER PAPERS

Posters on a relevant topic are welcome, please contact Norma O'Hea (nmohea@yahoo.com) if you wish to submit a poster.

CANCELLATION

In the event of cancellation, a 50% refund will be made if advised before 6 October 2008; no refunds after 6 October 2008. All cancellations must be received in writing. Substitutions can be made at any time.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Attendance at this conference counts towards the CPD requirements for IEEM members.

PHOTO CREDITS FOR FRONT COVER

Common Dolphins - Padraig Whooley; Grey Seal - Martha Tressler; L Funshinagh - Pascal Sweeney; Loop Head, Co. Clare - Richard Nairn; Minke Whale - Padraig Whooley; Mullaghmore Burren Co. Clare - Richard Nairn; Seagulls - Anne Taylor; and Sheeps Head - Pascal Sweeney.

LAST BOOKING DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2008

Bookings may be accepted after this date but will incur a late booking fee of €12.50 (£10)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

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