

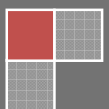
2010

Marine Leisure Activity Sector

Submission to be considered for inclusion
in Comhairle Na Tuaithe Strategic Plan

Achievement of the National Countryside Recreation Strategic Plan goals and objectives will provide a sustainable culture where the Rural Recreation Section of Comhairle Na Tuaithe enables the Marine Leisure / Sport Activity Sector to promote inclusivity, sport and participation in lifelong leisure pursuits.

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Marine Leisure Activity Representative
03/12/2010



THE MARINE LEISURE ACTIVITY SECTOR OBJECTIVES LISTED HEREUNDER WOULD HELP TO MAXIMISE THE POTENTIAL FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

NATIONAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION STRATEGY VISION:

A culture which, within Comhairle Na Tuaithe, facilitates the Marine Leisure / Sport Activity Sector, their sporting NGB's members and others. A culture that promotes and encourages the caring and responsible use of our countryside for recreation or sport, leading to improved quality of life for all.

NATIONAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION STRATEGY

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS / WORK PROGRAMMES:

Including these marine leisure activity goals and objectives in the National Countryside Recreation Strategic Plan will provide a sustainable culture where Comhairle Na Tuaithe enables the Marine Leisure /Sport Activity Sector to promote inclusivity sport and sustainable participation in lifelong leisure pursuits. These institutional goals are designed to promote Comhairle Na Tuaithe.

These objectives and goals will,

- accommodate a Marine Leisure /Sport Activity Sector programme for success,
- support transformation,
- improve quality and effective coach / guide training,
- improve Ireland's national and international reputation as an adventure activity destination.

Furthermore they will enable Comhairle Na Tuaithe to manage its activities by obtaining maximum benefit from the resources and through increased participation by the sector.

Each objective has a lead and support proponents. Proponents are responsible for developing and managing execution of action plans / work programmes.

Action plans and work programmes must be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed. The development of action plans can be facilitated by subgroups of Comhairle Na Tuaithe members. Subgroups may be supported by the Irish Sports Council in the form of NGB Executives forums, Coaches/Guides, Group Officers and Safety Advisors.

The chairman of Comhairle Na Tuaithe can approve and periodically review execution of action plans as required and provide feedback to the lead proponent.

Comhairle Na Tuaithe has long recognised that its mission with regard to the Marine Leisure/Sport Activity Sector is accomplished only because Ireland entrusts us with its most precious resources including clean un-polluted waters. This provides us with opportunities through suitable structures, careful management and sustainable practices, to deliver services for all, in a wide variety of adventure marine leisure /sport activities.

The excellent variety of fish stocks in our rivers, lakes and shoreline are indicative of the excellent quality of habitat and environment that can be used and shared by all. Although participating in any aspect of the adventure marine leisure /sport activities bring with it many rewards, there are some inherent risks. Injuries resulting from these activities are not acceptable. It is our obligation in the Marine Leisure Activity Sector to ensure that people participate safely within our adventure activities by providing a safe, healthy leisure and sporting environment and the promotion of water safety at all times.

The Marine Leisure / Sport Activity Sector are concerned about a possible decline in participation in marine countryside recreation due to many factors. These include but are not limited to:

- poor facilities for certain activities,
- access issues leading to underuse and poor value for money on investment,

- restrictive designation of use rather than a shared use of facilities,
- diminishing fish stocks,
- poor waste management leading to water pollution, water abstraction,
- bio-security and biodiversity issues including invasive species,
- licence fees,
- the effects of climate change on Irelands coast and inland waterways.

Comhairle Na Tuaithe chairman and Board members along with Irish Sports Council's NGB organisations have set goals that reduce the circumstances which influence the decline in use of countryside recreation through its strategic planning procedures. Sharing our concerns, the Comhairle Na Tuaithe Strategic Plan, should integrate the previous separate strategies of the Marine leisure activities sector, to communicate Comhairle Na Tuaithe's vision and strategic plan goals for the management of Countryside recreation in Ireland.

This plan outlines the Marine Leisure Activities Sector vision, goals, and objectives for improving countryside recreation and in doing so reducing those circumstances that negatively impact on it. It also offers a basis for action planning to provide clear guidelines for member organisations to deal with matters directly or indirectly impacting on their recreation element namely marine, land or air.

It is expected that national executive delegates will lead in these efforts; all Comhairle Na Tuaithe member organisations must integrate the policies for countryside recreation management into every development plan.

Progress towards achieving the objectives of the Marine Leisure Activities Sector as part of Comhairle Na Tuaithe Strategic Plan could be tracked and reported by Comhairle Na Tuaithe chairman on a periodic basis. We in the Marine Leisure Activity Sector are committed to the promotion of the National Countryside Strategy in Ireland, and are confident that the actions

outlined in these elements of the plan will improve sustainable and responsible participation in the use of the countryside recreation by all. The adoption of these inclusive countryside objectives into the strategy will lead to healthier lifestyles for all users while better or additional facilities provided will help to improve or enhance the skills of those sporting competitors to the best international standards and provide many additional benefits for the tourism industry.

GOAL #1: TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE RECREATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: PROMOTE THE MARINE LEISURE/SPORT ACTIVITY SECTOR IN IRELAND AS AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE AND A LIFELONG LEISURE ACTIVITY, IN DOING SO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF THE SECTOR.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Objective 1.2: Prepare a National Marine Facility Plan. Prioritise shared facilities currently in use for further “open to all” activity development.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Objective 1.3: Improve the organisations administration of marine leisure activity sector subgroup through implementation of Service Level Agreements with all stakeholder organisations and State Agencies.

Proponents: *Lead Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Objective 1.4: Develop and implement a review structure to ensure accountability for lead and proponents responsibilities in the promotion and development of the marine leisure activity sector.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section Comhairle Na Tuaithe*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

GOAL #2: TO PROMOTE CARING RECREATIONAL USE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

Objective 2.1: To develop specific Leave No Trace guidelines for the adventure marine leisure / sport activity sector in relation to the marine environment countryside code.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman, Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group

Objective 2.2: To develop an Implementation Plan for the introduction of the Leave No Trace guidelines on Good Practice and Marine Countryside Code

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Objective 2.3: To develop and distribute a child user friendly biodiversity handbook with regard to the Leave No Trace Guidelines on Good Practice and Marine Countryside Code.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Goal #3: To develop a national policy that promotes the rights and responsibilities
of both owners and users

Objective 3.1: Work with relevant Authorities to develop, enact and enforce a suite of Statutory Instruments promoting a balance of rights and responsibilities among all interests and targeting antisocial behaviour in a measurable way.

Proponents: *Lead: Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe*

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group. Liaise also with Gardai.

GOAL #4: TO DEVELOP A SUITABLE STRUCTURE TO DELIVER A NATIONAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION SERVICE IN A STRATEGIC AND COORDINATED WAY

Objective 4.1: Ensure necessary support structures are in place for the Marine Leisure/Sport Activities Sector to ensure local initiatives are supported from planning through to final development and maintenance of recreation amenities.

Proponents:

Lead Chairman Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group

GOAL #5: TO SECURE A PACKAGE OF FUNDING MECHANISMS TO DELIVER ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

Objective 5.1: Provide adequate resources and funding to enable the Marine Leisure Activity Sector deliver on approved marine based countryside projects, to maintain existing projects and to provide training.

Proponents:

Lead: Chairman, Rural Recreation Section, Comhairle Na Tuaithe.

Support: Comhairle Na Tuaithe members including, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, representatives from the Marine Leisure Activity Sector (ISC Subgroup) ISC Marine Leisure Activities Group.

Notes

Goal 1

Objective 1.1 Include the Marine Leisure Activity Sector in all media and promotional campaigns, all marine sporting organisations to refer to themselves as part of the Marine Leisure Activity Sector supported by Rural Recreation Sector. This will help build a very positive image for the sector both at home and abroad, Angling, Canoeing, Sailing, Surfing, Water -Skiing, Power boating, Kayaking, Diving, Rowing Etc..

1.2

A national audit of marine leisure facilities is an urgent prerequisite to agreement on a National Marine Leisure Facilities Development Plan. This audit will include both privately and publicly owned facilities. All agencies involved in the provision of facilities can be invited to assist in the preparation of a National Facilities Development Plan. The plan should prioritise the shared facilities currently in use for further development ensuring activities are “open to all”.

1.3

Administration of the Marine Leisure Sector will be improved by Service Level Agreements with all stakeholders and State Agencies.

Memoranda of understanding between the subgroup and the agencies will assist with action plans for the provision of onshore water sports facilities and for the development of additional areas for water sports.

1.4

A periodic review of Marine Leisure Activities Sector objectives in 2011 and beyond will focus attention on actionable items and lead to early problem or barrier identification.

2.1 - 2.3

Marine Leisure Activity /Sport Sector will develop and implement specific guidelines for the marine environment countryside code that can be included in Leave No Trace training and literature. Rollout with Leave No Trace.

3.1

The Marine Leisure Activity /Sports Sector will work with all agencies, identifying areas of concern and to assist in the development suitable fair (Rights and responsibilities) regulations that can deal with anti social behaviour.

4.1

Rural Recreation Section of Comhairle Na Tuaithe should have the necessary support structures in place to ensure planned and approved local marine leisure activity initiatives are supported from planning through to final development. Service Level Agreements and actively seeking commitment from members will help this process.

5.1

Rural Recreation Section of Comhairle Na Tuaithe should where possible provide resources and seek financial assistance to ensure approved marine leisure activity projects including training are delivered.