

North West Coastal Forum Secretariat  
Booking Hall  
Cunard Building  
Pier Head  
Water Street  
Liverpool L3 1QB

BY FAX

Anne Burrill  
European Commission  
DG Environment-B-3  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

13 June 2001

Dear Anne

### **European Commission papers on Integrated Coastal Zone Management**

The North West Coastal Forum welcomes the European Commission's promotion of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

In particular we welcome the emphasis given to the

- need for greater commitment to ICZM, and for mechanisms to promote this within national, regional and local government;
- promotion of activity at the Regional Seas level;
- need for proper resources to allow ICZM to occur;
- importance of regional and local authorities in the implementation of ICZM;
- value of an EU dimension to an ICZM strategy, particularly in facilitating inter-regional co-operation on coastal issues;
- promotion of dialogue between European coastal stakeholders, possibly within a Forum.

### **Promoting ICZM within regional government**

Chaired by the Government Office for the North West, the North West Coastal Forum was launched in May 2000 at the first North West England Coastal Conference, attended by 200 delegates. The Forum's current activities include

- the development of an INTERREG bid taking Regional Seas as a key theme
- a Conference to be held on 20 June 2001 entitled 'Throwing caution to the wind?' exploring issues for this region of offshore renewable energy
- maintaining the portal [www.northwestcoast.org.uk](http://www.northwestcoast.org.uk) which is a gateway to the websites of groups involved in coastal management in North West England.

The England and Wales Local Government Association have commended the North West Coastal Forum as a model for other English regions. Amongst English Government Offices for the Regions, the Government Office for the North West is unique in acting as a champion for ICZM. The North West Coastal Forum is inclusive and its Steering Group comprises 25 key regional and other stakeholders. The Forum's Terms of Reference are attached.

### **Regional Seas**

The North West Coastal Forum is very keen to engage with Irish Sea partners to work on marine and coastal issues, and sustainable development, at Regional Seas level. We liaise actively with the Wales and Scottish Coastal Fora and the Irish Sea Forum, and are developing closer links with key players in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. From your participation in the Irish Sea Forum October 2000 ten year Conference, you will know of the support for a Regional Seas approach to be adopted.

Regional Seas work will form a central element of our proposed bid to INTERREG IIIB. Acting with partners, the North West Coastal Forum firmly expects to apply for funding from this source. Clearly, the trans-national nature of this Initiative will strengthen further the collaboration between areas. We know of the likelihood of other INTERREG IIIB bids from this region, including from the NW Bathing Water Forum.

### **The need for proper resources to allow ICZM to occur**

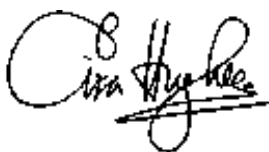
Recognising the need for greater commitment to ICZM, we are pleased that the Commission are providing support for this through the Atlantic Area and North West Europe INTERREG IIIB Programmes.

The North West Coastal Forum is working closely with existing initiatives in the region, including the PISCES partnership which brings together the local coast and estuary partnerships here. These initiatives have, hitherto, found that the lack of distinct national commitment to ICZM and the short-term nature of resources are strong constraints to progress.

### **Promoting dialogue between European coastal stakeholders within a Forum**

The North West Coastal Forum is committed to promoting and delivering ICZM. We would be pleased to be kept informed of progress with a European Stakeholders Forum. We look forward to working further with the Commission on ICZM business.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eira Hughes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EIRA HUGHES  
Chair, North West Coastal Forum\*

\*Supported by

Associated British Ports Holdings plc	North West Tourist Board
British Resorts Association	North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Coastal Cell 11	PISCES, the Partnership of Irish Sea Coast and Estuary Strategies
Countryside Agency	Ribble Source to Sea
Cumbria County Council	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
English Heritage	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
English Nature	Sport England
Environment Agency	Sustainability North West
Government Office for the North West	The National Trust
Irish Sea Forum	The University of Liverpool
Mersey Basin Campaign	
North West Biodiversity Forum	
North West Business Leadership Team	
North West Regional Assembly	

cc:

- John Farnell, DG for Fisheries, European Commission
- Chairs of the English Coastal Forum, Scottish Coastal Forum, Wales Coastal Forum
- MEPs in North West England
- Thomas Tobin, John Sadlier, Iain Douglas and Geoffrey O'Sullivan in the Republic of Ireland
- Bob Bleakley, Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland,
- Antony Hamilton, Department of Local Government and the Environment, Isle of Man,
- Brian Shipman and Simon Pascoe, Local Government Association.