



of the physical, biological and chemical status of Lough Swilly, reviewing knowledge of its physical structure, substrate, sedimentation patterns, circulation, water chemistry, ecosystems, fauna and flora. Knowledge of the cultural resources of the area will also be reviewed.

Assess current utilisation of the lough

The nature, patterns and levels of utilisation of the lough will be assessed using available knowledge. This assessment will cover *inter alia*, economic, social and cultural aspects of current utilisation patterns. Where possible, temporal trends in utilisation will be assessed.

Review current management responsibility from administrative and legislative perspectives

Existing responsibilities of various government departments, local authorities and other organisations will be reviewed. Jurisdiction of each body will be assessed. Current management practice will be reviewed.

Review current management practice on the part of responsible bodies

Existing management initiatives relevant to Lough Swilly will be reviewed. This review will involve the geographical scope of management initiatives, the main aims and implementing mechanisms. For example, management plans for SACs, water quality monitoring schemes, implementation of development initiatives etc will be assessed. The jurisdiction of management bodies will be determined and any mechanisms for integration between management activities will be assessed.

Identify gaps in knowledge

Important gaps in knowledge relevant to determining the current status of the lough will be identified and necessary studies will be outlined.

Review other ICZM initiatives for large estuaries

Since several initiatives have been established within the framework of ICZM in Europe. In order to benefit from lessons learned from existing initiatives, a review will be conducted of other initiatives, principally in Ireland and Britain. These will include, for example, the Bantry Bay Charter, the Strangford Lough Management committee, the Focus on Firths initiative in Scotland, and the Cardigan Bay scheme in Wales. Lessons on operation, structure, remit and relationship to other organisations will be assessed

Make recommendations on the form, remit and operational aspects of a potential ICZM initiative

On the basis of information gained, recommendations on a potential ICZM initiative for the Swilly will be presented. This will address its potential composition, remit and operation and relationship to existing management bodies. It will present a potential strategy (set of steps) for developing an integrated structure for sustainable development of Lough Swilly.

1. Introduction and Remit

Background

Lough Swilly (Fig.1) is one of the largest sea loughs in Ireland. It contains a variety of environments and receives inputs from its catchment, the open sea and its own surface area. It supports a range of natural habitats and supports an abundant flora and fauna. A wide variety of activities is undertaken in and around the Lough and a wide range of additional activities have the potential for development based on the Lough and its resources. In common with all coastal areas in Ireland its development and management is the responsibility of a variety of organisations and the Lough holds a variety of conservation designations and offers the potential for a variety of development options.

Within a multi-user resource such as an estuary there are likely to be both conflicts and synergies. These will evolve with technology, resource use and depletion, economics and cultural norms. The environmental and development pressures facing Lough Swilly at present are typical of these problems. It is not possible to address such problems within the current management framework due to a lack of co-ordination and conflict that is the result of structural weaknesses in management. These problems extend to all coastal zones and have been identified in recent European Commission recommendations (EC, 1999, 2000a,b). The concept of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) offers a mechanism for managing a diversity of interests and a variety of responsibilities in such coastal areas. Recognising the potential for ICZM to assist in the sustainable development of Lough Swilly, this scoping study aims to provide a basis for the development of an integrated management system for Lough Swilly.

The study will:

- determine the current state of knowledge;
- assess current utilisation of the lough
- review current management responsibilities from administrative and legislative perspectives;
- review current management practice on the part of responsible bodies;
- identify gaps in knowledge;
- review other ICZM initiatives for large estuaries; and
- make recommendations on the form, remit and operational aspects of a potential ICZM initiative.

The terms of reference of this study are detailed below.

Determine the current state of knowledge

A necessary prelude to the management of any environment is a stocktaking of its resources as a recognition of the limits to which it might be developed. This will involve an assessment of what is known

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Scoping Study

for an

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