

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Seagrass Beds
Lead Partner/Agency	Environment and Heritage Service (DOE(NI))
Steering Group/Other organisations	Seagrass Beds Steering Group - EHS, JNCC, EN, SNH, CCW Unfortunately this group has met only once due to significant staff shortages within EHS. It is proposed that the membership should be extended considerably as soon as is practicable.
Work programme in existence?	NO

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain extent, quality and distribution of seagrass beds in UK waters.						(CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH): An report entitled "The genus <i>Zostera</i> in the UK: A literature review identifying key conservation, management and monitoring requirements" includes detail on the distribution of <i>Zostera</i> spp. in UK coastal waters (Chapter 2) (EHS). A report entitled " An overview of dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for conservation and management of marine SACs: Volume 1 – <i>Zostera</i> biotopes." has been produced. The 'quality' of seagrass beds has yet to be defined.
4.2 Assess feasibility of restoration of damaged or degraded seagrass beds.						Until further surveys fully assess the extent of the seagrass resource, it will not be possible to assess whether restoration is necessary, or to specify a final target. The two reports mentioned above (4.1) give some indication of where beds have been lost or degraded and the reports also consider the feasibility of restoration of damaged or degraded beds. An interim target of 1,000 ha has been costed.

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1 Policy and Legislation							
5.1.1 Consider listing <i>Zostera</i> spp. under Annex 1 of the EC Habitats Directive if there is any opportunity to amend this Annex in the future (ACTION: DETR).						No	It is worth noting that: 1. Seagrass (<i>Zostera marina</i>) forms a subset of the Annex 1 habitat "Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time" and 2. Seagrass beds are also a community associated with the Annex 1 habitat "Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide" (see JNCC SAC selection document ie JNCC Report No. 270) <i>Zostera</i> beds are also noted as a sub-feature of intertidal sediments in some SACs.
5.1.2 Ensure that development schemes, dredging operations and fishing activities, do not affect the integrity or the conservation interest of intertidal and subtidal seagrass beds. (ACTION: CEC, LAs, MAFF, Ports/harbour authorities, SERAD.)						Yes	On-going - see Table B
5.2.2 Explore options for using statutory measures, aside from those specifically designed for nature conservation, to protect seagrass beds. Particular consideration should be given to fisheries legislation and port and harbour regulations (ACTION: CCW, DoE(NI), EN, SNH.)						Yes	On-going – see Table B
5.2 Site Safeguard and Management							
5.2.1 Determine the extent and quality of the seagrass resource which falls within protected areas and notify further sites, if required, to fill significant gaps. In particular, ensure that there is adequate representation of the full range of variation in seagrass communities found around the UK in this network. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH.)						Yes	On-going - See Table B
5.2.2 Identify seagrass beds of particular significance as nursery grounds for fish and ensure these are covered by the protected areas network. (ACTION: CCW, DANI, EHS, EN, MAFF, SFCs, SNH, SERAD.)						No	EHS/DANI – not started This issue will need to be addressed by the steering groups for the various SACs as they are established, for which the appropriate management authorities will be the Sea Fisheries Committees (or the EA in estuaries).

5.2.3 Identify suitable sites for reintroduction or restoration of seagrass and draw up a strategy to enable the target to be met. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH.)						No	See 4.2 above
5.2.4 Seek to control high nutrient loads from agricultural sources that are adversely affecting, or could affect, important areas of seagrass through the designation of nitrate vulnerable zones, where the water body is affected by eutrophication (as defined in the EC Nitrate Directive). (ACTION: DANI, MAFF, SOAEFD, NAW-AED.)						Yes	EHS – see Table B MAFF – see Table B
5.2.5 Take account of the conservation requirements for seagrass beds in the development and implementation of coastal zone management plans and ensure that they are not managed in isolation from other habitats and communities in these areas. (ACTION: DANI, MAFF, SERAD, NAW-AED).						Yes	On-going - see table B
5.2.6 Define statutory water quality objectives for coastal waters. (ACTION: MAFF, EA, SEPA.)						No	On-going
5.3 Advisory							
5.3.1 Publish guidelines on the designation of intertidal SSSIs/ASSIs for their marine biological importance and assess whether, in light of these, seagrass beds are adequately covered by the network. (ACTION: JNCC, EHS, EN, SNH, CCW)						No	On-going
5.3.2 Standardise procedures for monitoring of seagrass beds. (ACTION: JNCC, Research institutes.)						Yes	On-going – see Table B
5.3.3 Provide advice to local authorities and others on minimising impacts of plans and operations, on seagrass beds. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH).						Yes	On-going - see Table B
5.4 International							
5.4.1 Liaise with research institutes and coastal managers in Europe and elsewhere to exchange data and information on conservation of seagrass beds and develop techniques for transplanting and germination of the three species of <i>Zostera</i> found in UK waters. (ACTION: JNCC, EHS, EN, SNH, CCW)	?					No	EHS - Not started
5.5 Future Research and Monitoring							
5.5.1 Compile and publish an up to date record of the extent, quality and distribution of seagrass around the UK. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH.)						Yes	On-going – see Table B

5.5.2 Complete a classification of the different types of seagrass communities around the UK as part of the EC BIOMAR project. (ACTION: JNCC.)						Yes	On-going – see Table B
5.5.3 Advise on the establishment of a programme to set up a network of seagrass monitoring stations across the full range of types of seagrass beds in the UK. (ACTION: Marine Laboratories, JNCC.)						Yes	On-going – see Table B
5.5.4 Carry out further research into the factors which adversely affect seagrass beds to understand how these may be avoided or minimised. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH.)						No	On-going
5.6 Communications and Publicity							
5.6.1 Promote awareness among coastal users of the conservation importance of seagrass beds and how to avoid impact on these habitats. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH)						Yes	On-going – see Table B

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							
England							
Northern Ireland							
Scotland							
Wales							
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
England							
Scotland							
No change is the most likely. No new information has been gathered, since the review report of Cleator in 1993, to provide any such assessment. Some survey work has been carried out in the Western Isles on small areas of seagrass beds and more information has been gathered on <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Ruppia</i> spp. beds.							
Wales							
Northern Ireland: Recent indications are that seagrass beds have been declining in area and quality in NI and in Strangford Lough in particular over the last number of years though not significantly since the publication of the Action Plan.							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Progress on the implementation of this plan and the compilation of this assessment form have been hindered by resource limitations within EHS and the lack of a broad based and active steering group. However, very significant groundwork has been completed, primarily as part of the UK Marine SAC Life Project.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Mr Martin Bradley	
Organisation	Environment & Heritage Service (DOE(NI))	
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	29/10/99	

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service

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Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 Maintain extent, quality and distribution of seagrass beds in UK waters.				
Country		Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					
<p>Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):</p> <p>Identifying SACs with seagrass beds present within them, Reg 28/Reg 33 advice, the trialling/beginning of monitoring and initiation of management, all indicate some progress towards 4.1.</p> <p>Scotland More information has been gathered on seagrass beds in the Western Isles, Inner Hebrides and in Orkney.</p> <p>England: Agri-environment scheme measures and other MAFF policies (detailed below) will play a role in controlling nutrient enrichment of seagrass beds, but will not contribute to direct management of this habitat.</p>					

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.2 Assess feasibility of restoration of damaged or degraded seagrass beds.				
Country		Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					
<p>Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):</p> <p>England: Agri-environment scheme measures and other MAFF policies (detailed below) may be able to assist in restoration of seagrass beds where nutrient enrichment is currently a problem.</p>					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.1.2 Ensure that development schemes, dredging operations and fishing activities, do not affect the integrity or the conservation interest of intertidal and subtidal seagrass beds. (ACTION: CEC, LAs, MAFF, Ports/harbour authorities, SERAD.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<p>Protection of UK BAP Priority habitats is taken into account in the assessment of applications for marine disposal of dredged material and marine construction work licensed by MAFF under the Food and Environment Protection Act (MAFF).</p> <p>Interim High Level Targets which were agreed with flood and coastal defence operating authorities in March 1999 include a target to ensure no net loss of UK BAP habitats (MAFF)</p> <p>Where seagrass beds are an interest within an SAC or SPA they will be taken into account when assessing plans/projects under the terms of the Habitat Regulations both in GB and NI.</p>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	<p>See 4.1 above. A loophole in NI Fisheries legislation and Nature Conservation legislation has resulted in damage to areas of Seagrass beds in Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland (EHS)</p> <p>There may be a need to balance differing interests in considering marine disposal/construction licences. The concept of Overriding Public Interest (OPI) may apply in some cases (MAFF)</p>	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	On-going	
Next steps	<p>DANI Fisheries Division are drafting new legislation to close the loophole and prevent events in Strangford Lough being repeated within Strangford Lough or occurring elsewhere in Northern Ireland (DANI, EHS)</p> <p>Work is already underway to study the impact of the dredging and the recovery of the <i>Zostera</i> spp. beds (EHS)</p>	
Output and timescale	New legislation should be in place within the next couple of years though this will be dependant on the timing of the establishment of a Northern Ireland assembly.	<i>Action by</i> DANI/EHS

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.1.3 Explore options for using statutory measures, aside from those specifically designed for nature conservation, to protect seagrass beds. Particular consideration should be given to fisheries legislation and port and harbour regulations (ACTION: CCW, DoE(NI), EN, SNH.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Seagrass beds occur within some designated Bass nursery grounds in England.	

Output and timescale		Action by MAFF
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	See 5.1.2 above This issue will need to be addressed by the steering groups for the various SACs as they are established, for which the appropriate management authorities will be the Sea Fisheries Committees (or the EA in estuaries). MAFF would only intervene if their bylaw powers were insufficient (MAFF)	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	On-going	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.2.1 Determine the extent and quality of the seagrass resource which falls within protected areas and notify further sites, if required, to fill significant gaps. In particular, ensure that there is adequate representation of the full range of variation in seagrass communities found around the UK in this network. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)		
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Some very detailed work on the dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for the conservation, monitoring and management of <i>Zostera</i> biotopes has been produced under the auspices of the UK Marine SAC Life Project. Task 1.1 refers (JNCC, EN,CCW,SNH, EHS). A report entitled “ An overview of dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for conservation and management of marine SACs: Volume 1 – <i>Zostera</i> biotopes.” has been produced. To date 11 candidate marine SACs have been identified with seagrass beds as an interest within them (EN,CCW,SNH, EHS). Monitoring trials have covered seagrass beds throughout the UK eg, Isles of Scilly, Lindisfarne, Morecambe Bay, the Fleet, Strangford Lough and Loch nam Madadh. (EN,CCW, EHS, SNH)	
Output and timescale		Action by EHS,JNCC, SNH, CCW, EN,
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	On-going	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.2.4 Seek to control high nutrient loads from agricultural sources that are adversely affecting, or could affect, important areas of seagrass through the designation of nitrate vulnerable zones, where the water body is affected by eutrophication (as defined in the EC Nitrate Directive). (ACTION: DANI, MAFF, SERAD, NAW-AED.)	
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Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	MAFF funds major research programmes aimed at understanding the processes influencing the loss of nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural land and developing control strategies. The initial research effort was directed at nitrate leaching and the results have been incorporated into good practice advice in the Water Code and have underpinned the voluntary, compensated control options within the Nitrate Sensitive Areas and the mandatory controls which apply within Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. More recently the emphasis in nitrogen research has moved towards understanding ammonia loss from livestock manures and the development of mitigation strategies. Research into phosphorus loss has focused upon quantifying loss processes and developing predictive models which operate at catchment scale. Agricultural good practice aims to limit all nutrients reaching all watercourses. This is promoted through the MAFF Codes of Good Agricultural Practice and other methods. A revised Code for the Protection of Water was published in 1998. In specific cases it may be possible for agri-environment scheme measures on nearby land to assist in controlling nutrient enrichment of seagrass beds.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Work within the UK Marine SAC Life Project has examined the impacts of nutrient changes with saline lagoons within the Fleet. All four seagrass species occur within the Fleet (EN) Two Nitrate Vulnerable Zones have been designated close to the northern shores of Strangford Lough. The <i>Zostera</i> beds are concentrated at the northern end of the Lough (EHS)	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i> JNCC, EHS, SNH, CCW, EN
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designations can only be made where nitrate pollution/eutrophication occurs or is expected to occur. Although there may be indirect benefits to habitats arising from NVZ designations, the status of habitats is not a factor in determining NVZs.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.5 Take account of the conservation requirements for seagrass beds in the development and implementation of coastal zone management plans and ensure that they are not managed in isolation from other habitats and communities in these areas. (ACTION: DANI, MAFF, SERAD, NAW-AED).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Further guidance on preparing and implementing Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) was published by MAFF during 1998, including recommendations relating to coastal processes and biodiversity.	

Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	The extent to which flood defence operating authorities respond (MAFF) Coastal Forum for NI proposed but not yet established (EHS)	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	A MAFF contract is underway to review SMPs and provide guidance on best practice for the next generation of Plans.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.2 Standardise procedures for monitoring of seagrass beds. (ACTION: JNCC, Research institutes.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<p>Tasks 1.2 & 3.2 of the UK Marine SAC Life Project are relevant here.</p> <p>Task 1.2 is to establish an appropriate programme of surveillance and monitoring on a range of marine cSACs and as such involve such things as trials to use CASI to survey and monitor seagrass in Morecambe Bay and the Fleet. Also a long-running monitoring programme in Isles of Scilly (EN, Coral Cay Conservation) has contributed to method development. There has also been testing of aerial photography in the Isles of Scilly and Lindisfarne, Northumberland (EN).</p> <p>Task 3.2 of the UK Marine SAC Life project is to identify and develop appropriate methods for monitoring natural characteristics and condition of Annex I and II interests and environmental factors (JNCC, SNH, CCW, EN,EHS).</p>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.3.3 Provide advice to local authorities and others on minimising impacts of plans and operations, on seagrass beds. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH).	
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Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Regulation 33 (GB), 28 (NI) requires the production of advice to the relevant authorities on the conservation objectives for a marine cSAC and advice on the operations/factors which may impact on the conservation interest within the cSAC. This advice will cover seagrass beds where appropriate. Such advice is also embodied in the two reports referred to in 4.2 above. JNCC have produced a series of Marine Habitat Reviews as a contribution to OSPAR and MarLIN. These reviews consider the status, ecology, sensitivity and of the habitats. Eelgrass <i>Zostera noltii</i> beds and eelgrass <i>Z. marina</i> beds are included in the review.
Output and timescale	Draft Regulation advice 'packages' have been prepared for a series of marine cSACs. <i>Action by</i> CCW, EHS, EN, SNH
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going
Next steps	Production of final regulation advice packages for all marine cSACs
Output and timescale	Some of the packages will have to be produced within the period of the UK Marine SAC Life Project i.e. by February 2001. Others will need to be produced as soon as possible after the sites have been accepted as sites of community interest (SCIs). <i>Action by</i> CCW, EHS, EN, SNH

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.1 Compile and publish an up to date record of the extent, quality and distribution of seagrass around the UK. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH.)
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	An report entitled "The genus <i>Zostera</i> in the UK: A literature review identifying key conservation, management and monitoring requirements" includes detail on the distribution of <i>Zostera</i> spp. in UK coastal waters (Chapter 2) (EHS). This was followed by some very detailed literature review work on the dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for the conservation, monitoring and management of <i>Zostera</i> biotopes has been produced under the auspices of the UK Marine SAC Life Project. Task 1.1 refers (JNCC, EN,CCW,SNH, EHS). A report entitled " An overview of dynamic and sensitivity characteristics for conservation and management of marine SACs: Volume 1 – <i>Zostera</i> biotopes." has been produced. (CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH)

Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.2 Complete a classification of the different types of seagrass communities around the UK as part of the EC BIOMAR project. (ACTION: JNCC.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes. The EC Biomar project is complete	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	A significant output/follow-on from the Biomar project has been the JNCC Report/Marine Nature Conservation Review: Marine biotope classification for Britain and Ireland. Volume 1 Littoral Biotopes, Volume 2 Sublittoral Biotopes Published 1997.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Yes/on-going???	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.3 Advise on the establishment of a programme to set up a network of seagrass monitoring stations across the full range of types of seagrass beds in the UK. (ACTION: Marine Laboratories, JNCC.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	

Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<p>Task 1.2 & Task 3.2 of the UK Marine SAC Life will again provide the basis of such a network and these are already being established, including advice on favourable condition within Regulation 33 packages. There is a well established monitoring programme in the Isles of Scilly. There has also been baseline survey in Morecambe Bay, North Northumberland Berwickshire SAC, Fal/Helford and Plymouth.</p> <p>This work is linked to the work of Action Point 5.3.2 above.</p> <p>A baseline study of the mudflats (including detailed <i>Zostera</i> work) at the north end of Strangford Lough has been completed ahead of a major up-grade of the seawall in the area. Monitoring of impacts both during and post construction will be undertaken. All this work is being funded by the Rivers Agency of DANI.</p> <p>SNH has been undertaking monitoring trials at Loch nam Madadh cSAC in North Uist for the last two years (1998 & 1999). Part of this work has looked at seagrass beds, including <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Ruppia</i> spp., in the lagoon systems.</p>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.4 Carry out further research into the factors which adversely affect seagrass beds to understand how these may be avoided or minimised. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, JNCC, SNH.)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	This work is linked to the work of Action Points 5.3.2 and 5.5.3 above and Tasks 1.1, 1.2 & 3.2 of the UK Marine SAC Life Project (see above) particularly the sensitivity work for OSPAR referred to under 5.3.3 above.	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	On-going	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	

Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
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Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.6.1 Promote awareness among coastal users of the conservation importance of seagrass beds and how to avoid impact on these habitats. (ACTION: CCW, EHS, EN, SNH)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>		
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>		
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>