

Wednesday, 21 August 2002

Dear stakeholder,

Ecological Consultancy Services Limited (EcoServe) have been awarded a contract by the Marine Institute, funded by the Marine RTDI Programme of the NDP, to carry out a feasibility study on the establishment of a Large Scale Inshore Resource Mapping Project. The objectives of this study are, *inter alia*, to:

- Identify national (including statutory) inshore (0-50m depth) mapping requirements for resource assessment and development;
- Identify existing Irish inshore mapping programmes and relevant digital mapping data holdings;
- Identify and evaluate current inshore resource mapping techniques, including how other countries have addressed their requirements in this regard; and
- Recommend, on the basis of identified national needs, a prioritised and costed inshore mapping strategy for Irish coastal waters.

EcoServe are examining the marine ecological aspects of the project. For further background on the project and an indicative map of the area of interest, please see the attached documents.

To achieve the objectives of the study, and to formulate and recommend an inshore mapping strategy, we are consulting with a wide range of 'stakeholder' organisations who currently, or may in the future, have mapping requirements in the inshore and coastal zone for statutory, research or commercial reasons. In doing so we hope to determine the following for each stakeholder:

- Current data collection activities
- Summary of relevant data holdings
- Outline of current and future mapping requirements

In order to collate the relevant information in relation to the above we hope you will be able to complete the attached questionnaire following consultation with ourselves.

Finally, it is hoped that during the course of the project (possibly October 2002) a 'Stakeholder's Workshop' will be held to inform the various stakeholders of the interim results of the study, and to discuss their current and future needs and priorities. Where relevant, new ideas and technologies that might be deployed will be discussed.

I will be in touch with you shortly to discuss your views on how best we can compile the relevant information from your organisation to help us achieve our objectives and to assist you in your future mapping requirements. In the meantime if you have any queries in relation to the project please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Chris Emblow