

Name of Method: Checklists

Summary of Method: Use of checklists provides a systematic method to ensure that all likely events resulting from a project are considered in the cause-effect assessment. The process, which is generally presented in tabular format, generally starts with the identification of the individual activities of the proposed plan or project, together with the environmental changes associated with those activities. Additional checklists can be completed for each stage of the cause-effect process, for example comparing the Natura 2000 features against the changes to identify which changes have the potential to lead to adverse effect.

Advantages of Method: The method can also be used to determine data gaps or where of data insufficient quality or quantity are available. Its systematic nature ensures all cause-effect links are considered and provides for ease of comparison between projects.

Limitations of Method: The approach relies on the judgement of the assessor when completing the checklists and therefore cause-effect link may be missed. It also requires knowledge of the parameters connected to the proposed plan or project and the potential impacts associated with these.

References: European Commission Directorate General – Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection, 1999. Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions.
Oakwood Environmental Ltd, 1999. Strategic Cumulative Effects of Marine Aggregate Dredging.