



Michael Scannell

Site T6/398

Appeal

NOTICE OF APPEAL UNDER SECTION 40(1) OF  
FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1997 (NO. 23)



## Appeal Form

**Please note that this form will only be accepted by REGISTERED POST  
or handed in to the ALAB offices**

Name of Appellant (block letters)	MICHAEL SCANNELL		
Address of Appellant	DOUGLAS KILLORGLIN CO KERRY.		
Phone:		Email:	
Mobile:		Fax:	

### Fees

Fees must be received by the closing date for receipt of appeals	Amount	Tick
Appeal by licence applicant	€380.92	
Appeal by any other individual or organisation	€152.37	
Request for an Oral Hearing * (fee payable in addition to appeal fee)	€76.18	
* In the event that the Board decides not to hold an Oral Hearing the fee will not be refunded.		
(Cheques Payable to the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board in accordance with the Aquaculture Licensing Appeals (Fees) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 449 of 1998))		
Electronic Funds Transfer Details	IBAN: IE89AIBK93104704051067	BIC: AIBKIE2D

### Subject Matter of the Appeal

APPEALING THE REFUSAL OF APPLICATION T06/398A in  
CASTLEMAINE HARBOUR, CO. KERRY



Please forward completed form to: Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: (057) 8631912 Email: [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie)



RL 7164 9809 71E



### Extracts from Act

**40.—**(1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister on an application for an aquaculture licence or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence may, before the expiration of a period of one month beginning on the date of publication in accordance with this Act of that decision, or the notification to the person of the revocation or amendment, appeal to the Board against the decision, revocation or amendment, by serving on the Board a notice of appeal.

(2) A notice of appeal shall be served—

(a) by sending it by **registered post** to the Board,

(b) **by leaving it at the office of the Board**, during normal office hours, with a person who is apparently an employee of the Board, or

(c) by such other means as may be prescribed.

(3) The Board shall not consider an appeal notice of which is received by it later than the expiration of the period referred to in subsection (1)

**41.—**(1) For an appeal under *section 40* to be valid, the notice of appeal shall—

(a) be in writing,

(b) state the name and address of the appellant,

(c) state the subject matter of the appeal,

(d) state the appellant's particular interest in the outcome of the appeal,

(e) state in full the grounds of the appeal and the reasons, considerations and arguments on which they are based, and

(f) **be accompanied by such fee**, if any, as may be payable in respect of such an appeal in accordance with regulations under *section 63*, and

shall be accompanied by such documents, particulars or other information relating to the appeal as the appellant considers necessary or appropriate.



Site Reference Number:- (as allocated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)	T06/398A
Appellant's particular interest in the outcome of the appeal:	
<p>I want T06/398A TO BE LICENCED. I HAVE BEEN FORMING OYSTERS IN THIS AREA FOR 18 YEARS AND need to develop FURTHER TO BENEFIT my family.</p>	
Outline the grounds of appeal (and, if necessary, on additional page(s) give full grounds of the appeal and the reasons, considerations and arguments on which they are based):	
<p>I am respectfully appealing the decision on the grounds that I cannot operate within the Department Best Practice Guidelines at the current level. I have detailed this and other factors in an attached letter with supporting documents which are referenced along with a map showing said site T06/398A.</p>	
Signed by appellant: <u>Michael Seemeth</u>	Date: <u>5/11/2018</u>
<p><b>Please note that this form will only be accepted by REGISTERED POST or handed in to the ALAB offices</b></p>	
<p><b>Fees must be received by the closing date for receipt of appeals</b></p>	

This notice should be completed under each heading and duly signed by the appellant and be accompanied by such documents, particulars or information relating to the appeal as the appellant considers necessary or appropriate and specifies in the Notice.

DATA PROTECTION – the data collected for this purpose will be held by ALAB only as long as there is a business need to do so and may include publication on the ALAB website

Please forward completed form to: Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: (057) 8631912 Email: [info@alab.ie](mailto:info@alab.ie)



Michael Scannell  
Douglas  
Killorglin  
Co. Kerry

The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board  
Kilminchy Court  
Dublin Road  
Portlaoise  
Co Laois R32 DTW5

I am writing this letter to appeal the Ministers decision to refuse to grant an Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles on site no. T06/398A.

I have operated here as an oyster farmer since 2000 and it is and always has been in my best interest to operate responsibly to preserve the area for my children and their children. My family live here, work here and by me being able to expand my ground, hope to continue to do so for many generations. My eldest son is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of college, studying Agriculture & Environmental Management at GMIT. From an early age he has had a huge interest in oysters and made a valuable input into the family business which we have built up together and intend to grow and develop when he completes his degree. His course choice was based on him one day taking over the business.

I know the area well having been born and raised here and being a 4<sup>th</sup> generation fisherman. I have an understanding and knowledge of my region that one simply cannot learn from reading a report made by someone with no vested interest in an area. While I understand, appreciate and welcome that the deciding bodies have to be cautious when assessing new applications I also fail to understand how a blanket refusal is the answer. My application was made in March 2014 yet it is now 4.5 years later that I am refused permission to grow my business. I feel that my application was not given the due consideration that was deserved and was merely glanced over like so many other more recent applications.

The appropriate assessment is just that and should not be blanket applied across the board. Each application deserves a fair hearing and fair consideration. Aquaculture is not a kind industry to many. There are long hours involved. Applications and appeals are not taken lightly and are not cheap therefore there should be a fair and unbiased consideration made for each one. I am making this appeal and it has been a considerable expense on my part. I have had to;

- Hire an engineer to do the drawing
- Pay the Application Fee
- Pay the Advertising Cost
- Pay for the Appeal

Nobody contacted me asking what my plans were for the site. I was turned down on the **incorrect** assumption that I might overstock the site and harm the ecosystem. I agree that there were ridiculous applications made but none of these applications were made by people who depend on oysters for their main source of income to feed and educate their families.

I have always worked within department guidelines and Operated Best Practice Guidelines for Pacific Oyster Producers as provided by The Marine Institute in conjunction with BIM and IFA Aquaculture. I was part of the working group who worked alongside the Marine Institute in the production of the Best Practice Guidelines Document. I have always kept meticulous records and attended workshops in order to stay up to date with current guidelines.

In keeping with good Husbandry practices I would like to draw your attention to point 1.2 on Page 3 of Best Practice Guidelines (Full copy attached, excerpt shown below)

1.2 Site level stocking density: Whilst reducing in-bag density is likely to have a more profound effect on the health of stocks, reducing stocking density across the site will also reduce infection pressure simply by decreasing the number of animals present on the site at any one time. Increasing the spacing between trestles can also reduce silt build up on certain sites, which will create a 'cleaner' environment for the oysters.

I do not use a tractor to access my trestles. I use a purpose built flat boat only. I have worked in this area for 18 years and now in order to properly expand my business and continue to operate within best practice guidelines I need to increase my working area. Large scale production is not possible as all labour is manual and there is no access for tractors or teleporters. The site T06/398A (Map enclosed) is a modest size and is close to my existing site and within the SUMS area (Special Unified Marking Scheme). This is where a number of oyster producers came together to mark out oyster sites for navigational safety. Therefore this is not a saturation of the area but merely a natural progression in order to maintain and improve my stock and continue to operate within the Departments Best Practice Guidelines.

I understand Appropriate Assessments were put in place for this particular industry when it was relatively new however mine and many other businesses being operated as sole traders are now well established and it can be clearly recognised that the oyster industry of the sole trader is one of the most ecologically friendly sustainable businesses in the country. We are utilising a natural resource, our fresh pristine waters and producing highly regarded sought after world class natural oysters. Surely that should be applauded and encouraged and not restricted!

I have attended several ISA Conferences and without fail the speakers constantly refer to the increased world population and the shortage of food. Aquaculture is an integral part of the way forward. There are no chemicals used and oysters are completely natural and a high source of protein.

The Government has laid out very concise plans for the Aquaculture industry in Ireland, particularly sustainable resources and then refuses every single oyster application in Castlemaine harbour citing a generalised appropriate assessment as reason for doing so. Surely this is not acceptable. The industry needs to move forward and not be held back based on "might's" and "what if's".

I must also reference the development of an overarching national marine spatial plan which is identified as a Government policy objective in Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan, *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) (2012)*. Throughout this document it is advised that the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government liaise constantly with all stakeholders in order to move forward together with the same informed objectives. This will enable all parties to achieve balanced development of marine waters.



See Attached

*Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland,  
A Roadmap for the delivery of the national Marine Spatial Plan.*

### **The Kerry County Development Plan (2015/2021)**

The fishing industry in Ireland has constantly been held back while our European counterparts enjoy support and encouragement at local and national level. Below is an extract from the Kerry County Development Plan supporting the development of the small aquaculture industries in order to allow our communities to thrive.

#### **8.4 Fishing / Aquaculture (extract from Kerry County Development Plan)**

Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for the County. Not alone fishing, but fish distribution, processing, aquaculture and related activities generate significant levels of employment and remain an important resource for the County which has potential for further sustainable development. Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish and even plants (4). It is essential that a balance is achieved between generating a sustainable and economically viable industry on the one hand and complying with EU policies and quota on the other hand. The Council will support the sustainable development of the operations of the fishing and aquaculture industry while protecting and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems in our oceans, so they can continue to provide essential monetary and non-monetary goods and services. In recent years there has been a decline in the marine fishing industry due in part to the EU quota restrictions. However there has been an expansion in the aquaculture and secondary sectors of the industry as a whole and overall fishing remains an important and vital sector in the economy of the County.

#### **Support at Government Level**

In the Budget this year Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue allocating an additional €53m in capital next year to fund the first round of projects under the new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The minister said the fund represented an unprecedented commitment by the Government to strengthen Ireland's rural economies and communities.

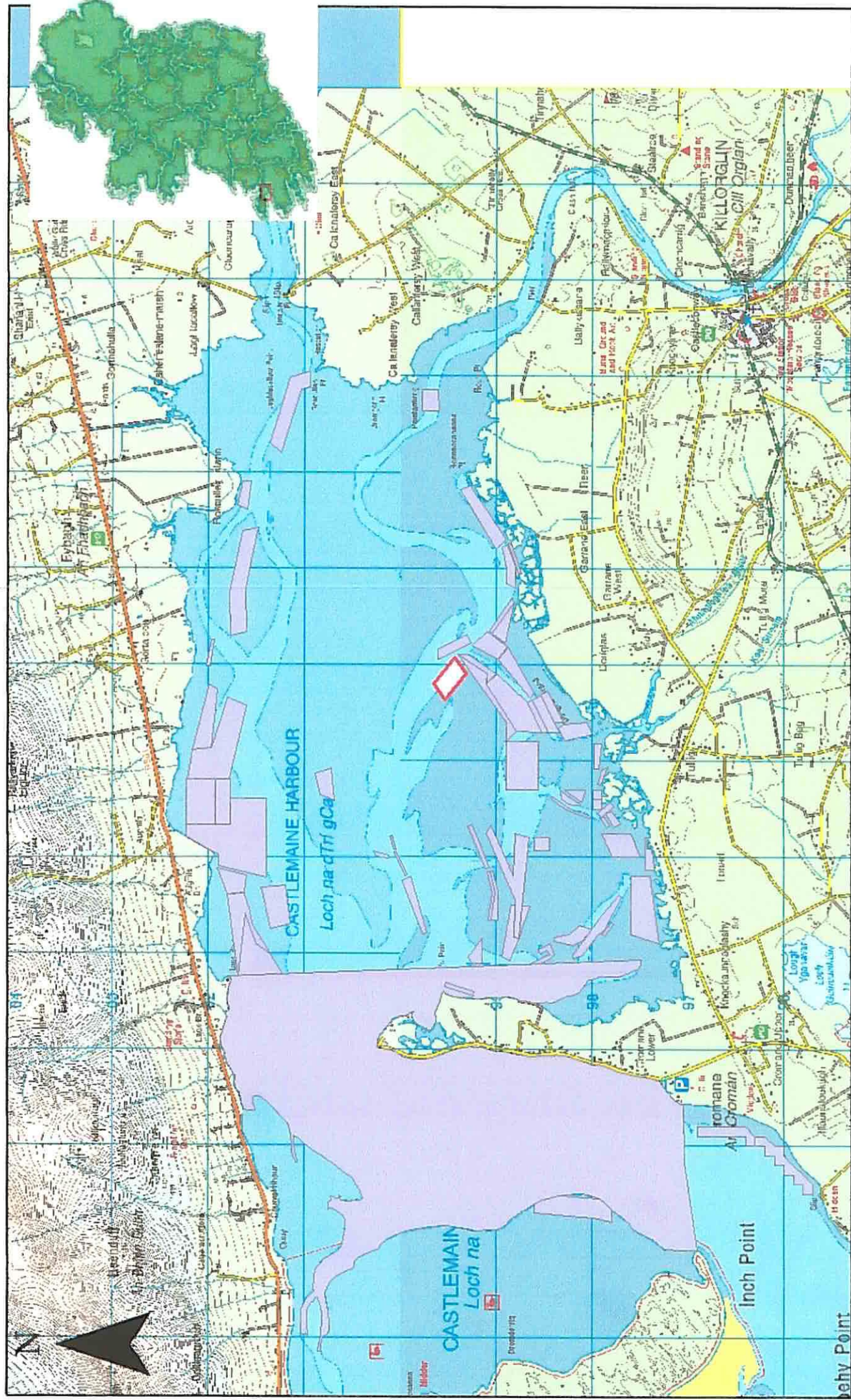
A key commitment of Project Ireland 2040 is the provision of a new €1bn budget over the period 2019-2027 through a Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The first round of funding will see €53m provided to projects. The fund aims to provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It would be hoped that the Aquaculture Industry that we have been developing at our own cost over the years would be considered for part of this rural regeneration funding.

I thank you for taking the time to read my appeal and would ask for your due consideration to be favourable so that I can continue in operating my business within best practice guidelines.

Yours sincerely

  
Michael Scannell





Context Map for application \* To 61398A indicated by Red Outline  
 by Mike Scannell  
 at Cromane Harbour, Co. Kerry

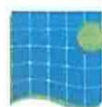




# Best Practice Guidelines for Pacific Oyster Producers for the 2017 Season



**IFA** Aquaculture



*Marine Institute*  
Foras na Mara

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## Background

This document aims to provide guidance to Pacific Oyster producers for the 2017 season to assist in strengthening on-farm biosecurity measures and to assist in minimising stock losses associated with disease. The objective of the guidelines is to assist farmers in avoiding disease introduction and to minimise the impact of disease outbreaks should they arise.

This is a working document which reflects the current status of knowledge regarding best practice with regard to disease and mortality in *C.gigas*. It represents an assimilation of information gathered and discussed during three meetings held with Irish *C.gigas* producers over the period March 2016 to Feb 2017.

In addition, the Marine Institute, BIM and the IFA are currently working with a number of operators around the coast to further investigate the impact of different management strategies on mortality. It is envisaged that data gathered through this work will assist in developing these guidelines further for the 2018 season.

## 1. Husbandry practices

Following good husbandry practices is crucial to maintaining the health and welfare of farmed stock. Any practices which lead to increased stress in stocks increase the chance of animals succumbing to pathogens present in the environment, which may result in the development of disease outbreaks. Good husbandry practices should therefore aim at minimising stress.

### 1.1 In-bag stocking densities (standard bags & trestles)

In-bag stocking densities are important and whilst these should be kept as low as possible, site-specific differences should also be taken into account e.g. In more exposed sites the density for seed needs to be higher than in other bays otherwise bags will move too easily, potentially causing damage to the seed whilst in fast growing bays, densities will generally be less than in slower growing bays.

As a general principle however, lower stocking densities allow for a more homogeneous growth which will require less handling and hence less stress for the stock.

Recommendations	
➤ Maintain appropriate in-bag stocking densities for the conditions on site, whilst aiming to keep them as low as possible at all times	
➤ Optimal Stocking Densities (Draft Aquaculture Explained Manual, BIM)	
Bag Size	Maximum S.D./Bag
4mm	2,000
6mm	500
9mm – 14mm	100

### 1.2 Site level stocking density

Whilst reducing in-bag density is likely to have a more profound effect on the health of stocks, reducing stocking density across the site will also reduce infection pressure simply by decreasing the number of animals present on the site at any one time. Increasing the spacing between trestles can also reduce silt build up on certain sites, which will create a 'cleaner' environment for the oysters.



## Recommendations

- Where possible, decrease the number of oysters on site
- Maximise the distance between trestles within the constraints of the site

### 1.3 Biofouling

Biofouling on bags can reduce water flow and food delivery, therefore potentially impacting on growth rates and quality and increasing stress. Except during periods when temperatures are very high, build-up of weed on bags should therefore be avoided in an effort to improve husbandry conditions for the oysters. During high summertime temperatures, the retention of some weed on the bags can however assist in protecting the oysters by helping to reduce in-bag temperatures.

## Recommendations

- As a general rule, biofouling on bags should be kept to a minimum. The exception to this rule occurs during high summertime temperatures, when the retention of some weed on the bags helps to assist with keeping in-bag temperatures as low as possible, thereby decreasing stress on the animals.

### 1.4 Grading / Handling

Vigorous turning and grading of oysters can lead to shell damage and increased stress in oysters. Oysters which have been exposed to stress are weaker and more susceptible to disease. Therefore practices which limit the impact of handling can have a beneficial effect on oyster survival through the reduction of stress. The period between May and September has been identified as a high risk period during which excessive or unnecessary handling should be avoided. Where possible, handling especially vigorous shaking, should be avoided altogether in July and August.

## Recommendations

- Avoid unnecessary handling of stock especially between May and September. Where this is unavoidable, there should be no rough handling of stock during this period.
- Use water graders if available.
- When using traditional graders, add water to the feeder hopper and to the bin at the end of the grading line to reduce handling stress
- Return oysters to the water as soon as possible after grading.

## 2. Stock

The introduction of new stock onto aquaculture sites represents one of the greatest risks in terms of disease introduction. The source of stocks, their size at introduction and the number of introductions to the site are all important factors to be considered.

The fish health legislation states that movements should not occur from an area with on-going mortality. Where there is doubt as to whether this requirement is being met in the site/country of origin; then the purchaser of the stock should make their own enquiries before accepting new stock. For additional assurance, the purchaser may request testing at source and consult with the Marine Institute in relation to this.

Strategies such as bulk buying of stocks which allow operators to reduce the number of individual introductions to their sites as well as giving operators more power to control the timing of introductions and to request disease testing are worthy of exploration at a bay level, or even more widely.

There has been a growing trend in relation to the movement of half grown and adult oysters both within Ireland and into the country from elsewhere. The potential merits of such movements should be assessed on the basis of the increased risk they pose to the site they are to be deposited on and to the surrounding sites. Where the risks are deemed to be too high, the movements should not occur.

Where possible, all stock movements should be avoided in the summer months.

### Recommendations

- Source stock from an area of equal or higher health status than the bay in which you operate. This relates to both listed and non-listed diseases.
- Request information on the mortality and disease situation in the area where you are sourcing stocks.
- Do not move stock from bays where unresolved mortality is occurring
- Do not move half grown or adult oysters for relaying, where the disease risk posed by such movements outweigh the potential benefits.
- If mortality is evident in incoming stocks DO NOT relay them. Contact the Marine Institute immediately to request disease testing. This can be done through the text alert system (087 1847285)/ by phone (091 387200 / by email ([notification@marine.ie](mailto:notification@marine.ie)).
- Keep up to date records of stock movements and mortality as per your FHA



### 3. Cleaning and disinfection

Pathogens can survive in organic material attached to equipment, people and vehicles. The use of appropriate cleaning and disinfection protocols are critical to limiting the spread of aquatic pathogens.

#### 3.1 Bags and Trestles

Before reuse, bags and trestles, should be thoroughly cleaned to remove all organic matter. Large scale disinfection of bags and trestles after cleaning is the best way to prevent pathogen spread but this may not be practical unless the cleaning and disinfection process can be carried out away from the shore and / or safe disposal of the cleaning and disinfection wash water is possible.

Where this is not possible, the use of warm water power washing will be effective in removing organic material from bags and should be considered. Where disinfection is not possible, desiccation is considered a suitable alternative provided complete drying of the item of equipment is achieved for a period of time which is sufficient to kill any pathogens which might be present. Where possible, bags should be stored in direct sunlight as this method provides three potential disinfection actions, i.e. UV irradiation, heating and desiccation. (OIE, Aquatic Code 2016).

#### Recommendations

- Clean bags and trestles thoroughly to remove all organic material
- Desiccate bags for a minimum of 30 days before reuse

#### 3.2 People, equipment, vehicles and vessels

The risk posed by the movement of staff, equipment, vehicles or vessels between sites is well recognised. Where producers have sites in more than one bay, separate equipment should be kept for each site where practical. If this is not possible, disinfection is required before moving between sites. Information is available on [www.fishhealth.ie](http://www.fishhealth.ie) regarding disinfectants and their use in aquaculture.

Record keeping in relation to cleaning, disinfection and aquaculture related visitors to your site is required and should be kept in the mandatory Shellfish Record Book which has been provided by the Marine Institute. Where a visitor to your site poses a disease risk, appropriate disinfection measures should be put in place before the individual accesses the site or the stock.

### Recommendations

- Where site specific personnel and equipment are not available, disinfect all personnel, equipment, vehicles or vessels moving between aquaculture sites in different bays
- Keep records of all cleaning, disinfection and visitors.

## 4. Staff awareness & vigilance

As little is known about the diseases which have emerged recently in relation to *C. gigas*, staff awareness and vigilance in monitoring of stocks are critical to early detection and potential elucidation of problems. The earlier a problem is detected the more effectively it can be dealt with ensuring the least impact on stocks. Training should be provided to all staff in relation to the biosecurity plan for the site (including identified pest and disease risks).

### Recommendations

- Ensure all staff are aware of the potential pathways of disease introduction and the need for vigilance with regard to mortality
- Check stock regularly and thoroughly
- Monitor stocks carefully during higher risk periods (i.e. when temperatures are high, when there are disease outbreaks elsewhere, etc.)
- Keep records of all relevant husbandry, production and environmental factors such as handling, stocking density, pests, high or low growth, water quality parameters (temp, salinity where data available, high rain, blooms, etc.)

## 5. Biosecurity plan

Under the terms of the Fish Health Authorisation which the Marine Institute has granted for each site, a biosecurity plan must be in place which recognises the risks to that site and outlines how those risks can be mitigated. It is essential that the biosecurity plan is followed and updated regularly to reflect any changes in the management practices on site. All staff should be aware of the contents of the biosecurity plan. All records relevant to the biosecurity plan (i.e. cleaning, disinfection, visitors etc) must be kept in the mandatory Shellfish Record Book.

### Recommendations

- Ensure that all risks to the disease status of your site are outlined in your biosecurity plan.
- Consider each risk in turn and minimise that risk by putting appropriate mitigation measures in place.
- Regularly review and update your plan, if necessary.
- Ensure all staff are familiar with the contents of the biosecurity plan and understand the concept of disease risk
- Where possible, control access to your site. Where aquaculture related visitors pose a potential risk to your site, ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfection measures are put in place to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.



## **6. Marine Institute Contact Details**

Marine Institute

Rinville

Oranmore

Co. Galway

Telephone: 091 387200

Text Alert: 087 1847285

Email: [notification@marine.ie](mailto:notification@marine.ie)

## **7. References**

OIE Aquatic Code 2016

OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Diseases

Hick, P., Evans, O., Looi, R., Whittington, R. : Stability of Ostreid Herpes Virus 1 (OshV-1) and assessment of disinfection of Seawater and oysters tissues using a Bioassay

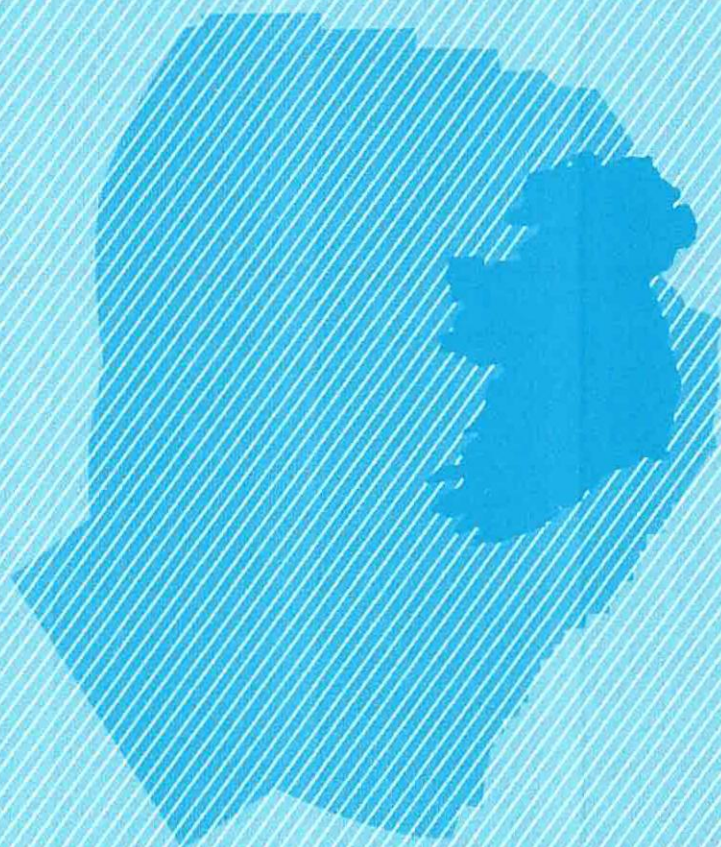
C. W. Kaspart\* & M. L. Tamplin: Effects of Temperature and Salinity on the Survival of *Vibrio vulnificus* in Seawater and Shellfish APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, Aug. 1993, p. 2425-2429





# Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland

A Roadmap for the delivery of  
the national Marine Spatial Plan





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Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,  
Custom House, Dublin, D01 W6X0  
Tel: +353 (0)1 888 2000  
Email: [qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie](mailto:qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie)  
Web: [www.housing.gov.ie](http://www.housing.gov.ie)

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## 1. Introduction and context

As an island nation with sovereign rights over one of the largest marine areas in Europe, Ireland's economy, culture and society is inextricably linked to the sea. Our marine environment is a national asset that yields multiple commercial and non-commercial benefits in terms, for example of seafood, tourism, recreation, renewable energy, oil and gas, cultural heritage, and biodiversity. The future sustainable development of our marine area affects many people. In order to create places and spaces where people can work, live and enjoy, those with an interest can have their say in the marine planning process.

The development of an overarching national marine spatial plan is identified as a Government policy objective in Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan, *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* (HOOW) (2012). HOOW identified that the organisation and regulation of marine-based activity in Irish waters was being carried out on a sectoral and demand-driven basis, without a strategic framework in which sectoral policy objectives could be envisioned, planned and delivered over the long term. As set out in HOOW, "managing our ocean wealth requires an overarching national marine 'spatial' plan underpinned by an efficient and robust planning and licensing framework. Such an approach can provide a governance structure and blueprint for national, regional and local planning of our ocean wealth. This will provide competitive advantage for our marine sectors, help realise the full benefit of our ocean wealth and assist with managing our resources effectively and sustainably".

### HOOW Targets

Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (HOOW) is Ireland's integrated marine plan. It sets out a comprehensive range of actions across a number of sectoral areas to enable our marine potential to be realised. Key objectives are to:

- Double the value of our ocean wealth to 2.4% of GDP by 2030.
- Increase the turnover from our ocean economy to exceed €6.4bn by 2020.

To achieve these, HOOW envisages significant growth in seafood production and aquaculture, maritime transport, marine renewable energy, marine biotechnology and ICT, marine and coastal tourism and leisure. At the same time, HOOW also recognises the importance of our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems to our ocean wealth.

Realisation of these objectives will require the development of a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland for the following reasons:

- To give coastal communities and other stakeholders a clear role in determining how we plan for current and future uses and treatment of our marine territory;
- To reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities;
- To encourage investment by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules;
- To increase cross-border cooperation between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas;
- To support sustainability through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple uses of space.



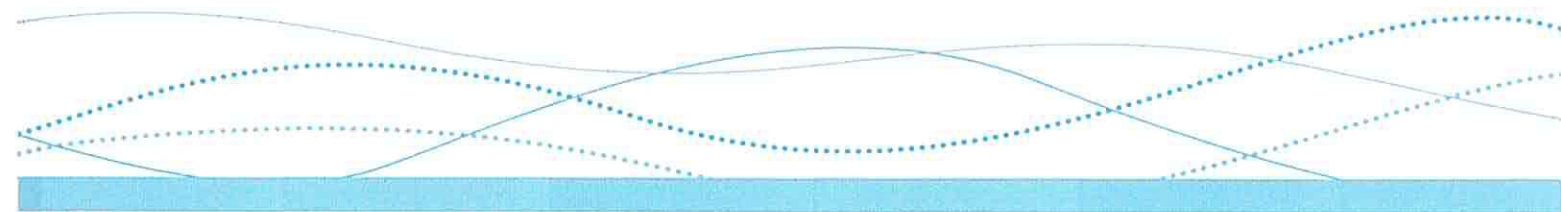
HOOW predates EU Directive 2014/89/EU which established an EU-wide framework for maritime spatial planning (MSP) and was adopted in July 2014. The directive established a framework for MSP, defined as “a process by which the relevant Member State’s authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives”. The Directive details the main goals and minimum requirements for Member States as follows:

- balanced and sustainable territorial development of marine waters and coastal zones;
- optimised development of maritime activities and business climate;
- better adaptation to risks; and
- resource-efficient and integrated coastal and maritime development.

In addition to enhanced environmental management of marine areas, the Directive is also expected to deliver a range of economic benefits for Member States, including:

- lower transaction costs for maritime businesses and improved national competitiveness;
- improved certainty and predictability for private investments;
- improved certainty in obtaining financing for investments in the maritime area;
- improved use of sea space and the best possible coexistence of uses in coastal zones and marine waters;
- improved attractiveness of coastal regions as places to live and invest;
- reduced co-ordination costs for public authorities;
- greater development of innovation and research; and
- enhanced and integrated data and information.

Ireland has transposed the Directive through the European Union (Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning) Regulations 2016, signed into law on 29th June 2016. The regulations establish the legal basis and broad framework for Ireland to implement MSP through the development of a maritime spatial plan (or plans) on a 10 year cycle. Under the Regulations, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (now the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government) is the competent authority for the purposes of the Directive and, by extension, for purposes of preparing Ireland’s first maritime spatial plan. A summary of the MSP Directive is set out at Appendix 1 on p. 19.



In line with the sort of framework envisaged in HOOW, a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland will sit at the top of the hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area. The plan will be informed by existing sectoral plans and will, in turn, be used to inform future cycles of those plans in an ongoing feedback loop. It will provide a coherent framework in which those sectoral policies and objectives can be realised. It will become a decision making tool for regulatory authorities and policy makers into the future in a number of ways including, decisions on individual consent applications which will have to have regard to the provisions of the plan in the same way that terrestrial plans form part of the decision making tool-kit in the on-land planning process. It will also form a key input to the development of future sectoral policies.

Maritime spatial plans will not replace or remove existing regulatory regimes or legislative requirements governing the operation of various marine sectoral activities. Rather they will provide an overarching framework for their continued operation. Public bodies involved in consenting for marine development and activities will be obliged to take into account the objectives of plans as part of their decision-making processes. However, decisions on applications for consent should not be delayed in anticipation of plans being adopted for the first time.

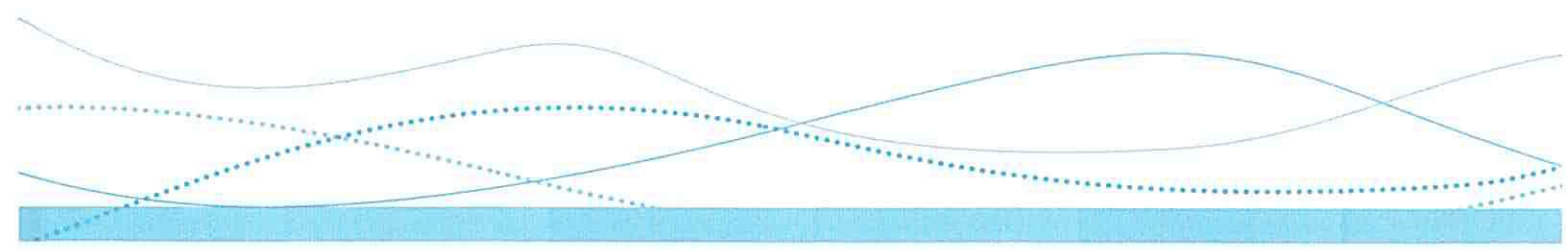
### What is this document?

This document is an important step in the activation stage of making the plan which will ultimately be brought to Government for approval by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government. It is important that, as well as drawing on best practice and experience, we take account of stakeholders' views on how they want to be involved to ensure their participation at appropriate stages in the planning process. The aim of this document is to describe how we will do this, when we will do this and what we will do with the outcomes of your views and opinions.

The specific purposes of this document are to:

- inform all interested parties that a new Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for Ireland is being developed;
- set out the scope and broad content of the MSP;
- assist in identifying key stakeholders who need to be kept informed of progress in the development of the MSP; and
- describe how we take account of stakeholders' views on how they want to be involved to ensure their participation at appropriate stages in the planning process, when we will do this and what we will do with the outcomes of their views and opinions.

In the following sections we set out how and when people can become involved in marine planning. We also briefly describe the main stages and activities in producing a marine plan.





## Our principles of engagement

In developing this plan, we will be guided by the following principles for engaging in marine planning.

We will:

- involve people early on in the decision-making process and in developing specific policy within the framework provided by HOOW;
- engage with interested people and organisations at the appropriate time using effective engagement methods and allowing sufficient time for meaningful consultation;
- be adaptable, recognising that some consultation methods work better for some people and some issues and that a one size fits all approach will not work;
- respect the diversity of people and their lifestyles and give people a fair chance to have their voice heard regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, sexual orientation, circumstances or wherever they live;
- be clear in the purpose of any engagement and how you may contribute and let people know how their views have been taken into account within agreed timescales;
- make documents publicly available on the Department's website;
- communicate clearly with people using plain English and avoiding jargon.

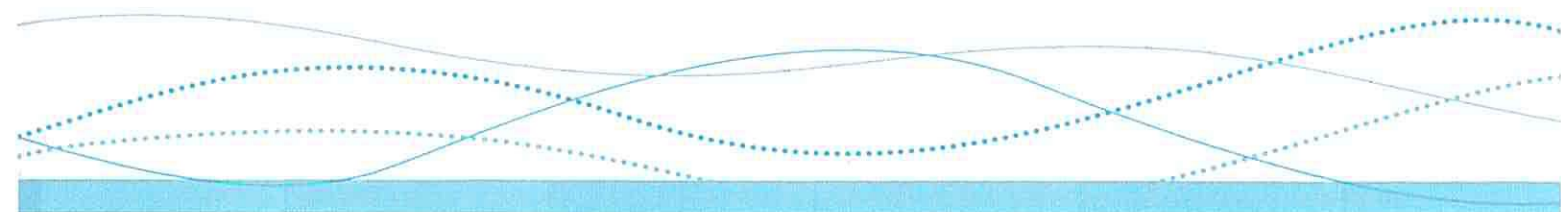
## Who is this document for?

This document is for those who have an interest in Ireland's marine area or those who will be affected by decisions taken on the basis of the plan. Stakeholders could represent a wide range of interests, including those who live or conduct business in and around the marine environment, enjoy it, care about it or help to manage it, from individuals to groups to organisations.

People have the opportunity to be involved in shaping their marine area. If you are part of a local group, business or an individual with an interest in Ireland's marine areas, you may have information and ideas that can help shape its future. By taking part in the marine planning process you can influence the decisions being made about the marine spatial plan.

## Getting involved

Anybody who wants to become involved in the MSP process may make contact in writing by email at [msp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:msp@housing.gov.ie) or by post to Marine Spatial Planning Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90.





## 2. Background to marine planning

### Why marine planning?

As our appreciation grows for the potential of our oceans and seas to support local communities, sustainably manage our marine resources and provide long term investment predictability for development and activities in our maritime area, there is a recognised need to adopt an integrated and strategic approach to manage the use of our seas in the most sustainable way.

Marine planning has been established to do this, complementing existing measures such as licensing and day-to-day management. It focuses on a specific area, considers economic, environmental and social issues, encompasses all sectors, and is forward-looking with a clearly set out vision, objectives and policies. In doing so, our marine area will finally have a system comparable to the well-established and tested planning system on land, delivered through the hierarchy of forward plans. Ireland's MSP will be a policy framework with a horizon of 2040, in line with the lifetime of the new *National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040*. It will be supported by a Government decision and informed by detailed analysis of current conditions, uses and trends in Ireland's marine environment.

### Ireland's Marine Wealth - Did you know?

- Ireland's marine territory contains an extraordinary amount and variety of plants and animals.
- Our coastline is home to over 24 species of resident and visiting seabirds. There are over 500,000 pairs of seabirds around the island of Ireland.
- Over 7,300 animal species have been recorded in the seas around Ireland. 25 species of cetaceans have been found in Irish waters, including common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins and harbour porpoises.
- There are almost 600 species of seaweed around Ireland.
- 40% of Ireland's population lives within 5 kilometres of the coast.
- Across Europe, aquaculture accounts for 20% of fish production and directly employs 85,000 people.
- Aquaculture production in Ireland increased by 9% in 2016 to 44,000 tonnes produced, worth €167m.
- Irish ports are critical infrastructure for our international trade, with over 90% of our international trade moving by sea.
- 12,242 vessels arrived in Irish ports in 2015.
- 4.3 million passengers travelled to and from Ireland by ferry in 2016.
- Coastal tourism employs over 3.2 million people in the EU and generates €183 billion in gross value added to the EU economy.
- Available ocean energy exceeds present and projected future needs globally.
- Irish seafood exports were worth €559m in 2016.
- 11,000 people are directly or indirectly employed in the seafood industry in Ireland. The seafood industry contributes €1.1 billion to Ireland's GDP.
- Our ocean economy supported an estimated 17,000 full time equivalents (FTEs) and an estimated 51,000 direct and indirect jobs in 200, or 1% of the total workforce in 2007.



## Benefits of the marine planning system – what will the MSP do?

Marine planning will contribute to the effective management of marine activities and more sustainable use of our marine resources. It will enable the Government to set a clear direction for managing our seas, to clarify objectives and priorities, and to direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards more strategic and efficient use of marine resources. It will inform decisions about the current and future development of the marine area, aiming to integrate social, economic and environmental needs.

Marine planning will create the framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence-based and secures a sustainable future for the marine area. Through extensive public involvement, it will offer everyone with an interest in our seas and coasts the opportunity to have a say in how their marine area is managed.

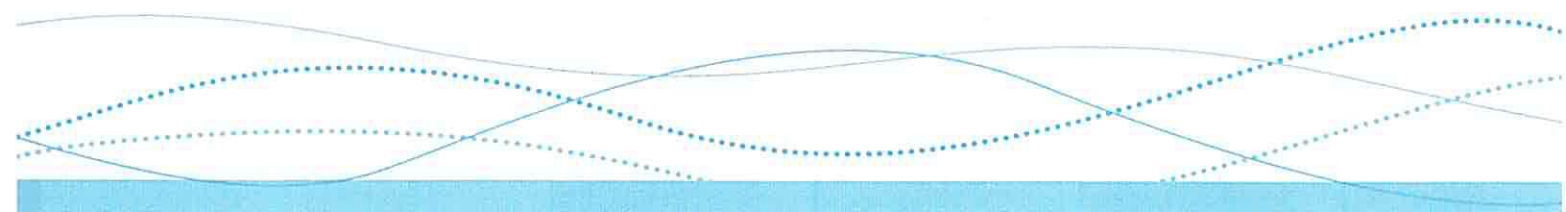
Marine users, including regulators, applicants for consent and interested persons, should find that the system will reduce the regulatory burden on them by giving them more certainty regarding where activities could best take place and thereby speed up the licensing process. Marine users should also feel more confident that decisions made on applications for projects will be robust in the face of challenge, provided they are made in accordance with the policy framework set out in the marine spatial plan. This is because the plan will be based on the best available technical and scientific evidence, including early and consistent engagement with stakeholders together with a sustainability appraisal.

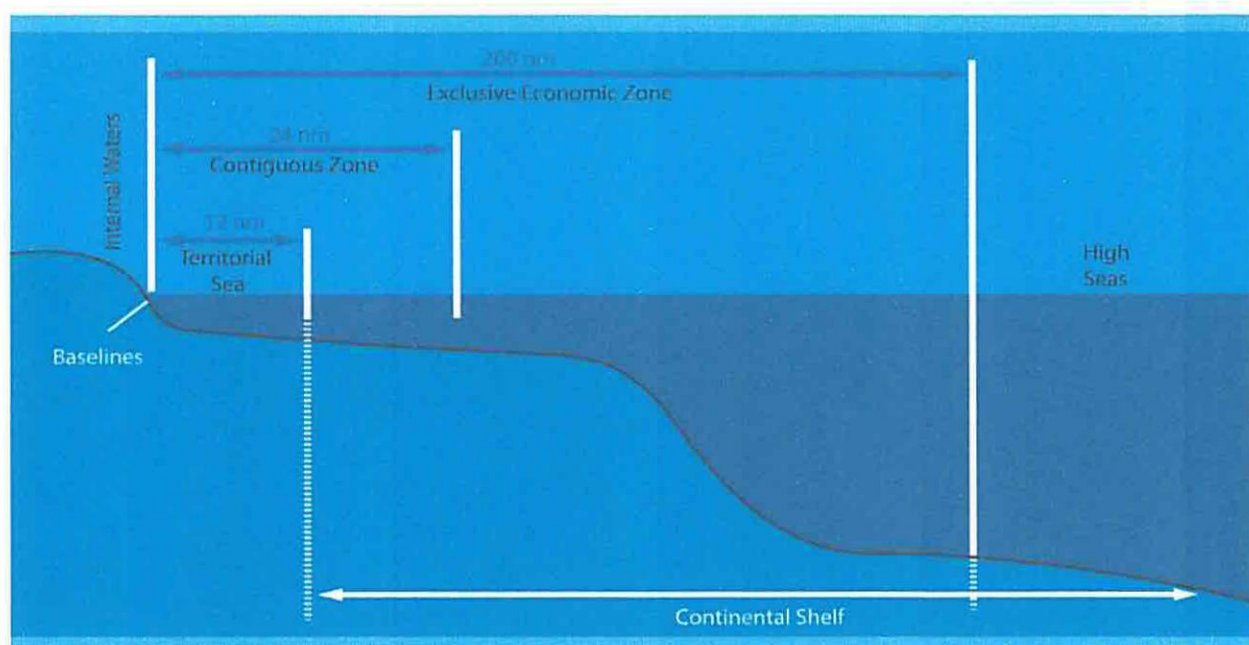
## Progress towards marine planning – where are we at now?

Ireland has transposed the MSP Directive (EU Directive 2014/89/EU) through the European Union (Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning) Regulations 2016, signed into law on 29th June 2016. The regulations establish the legal basis and broad framework for Ireland to implement MSP through the development of a maritime spatial plan (or plans) on a 10 year cycle. Under the Regulations, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (now the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government) is the competent authority for the purposes of the Directive and, by extension, for purposes of preparing Ireland's first maritime spatial plan.

## What area will be covered?

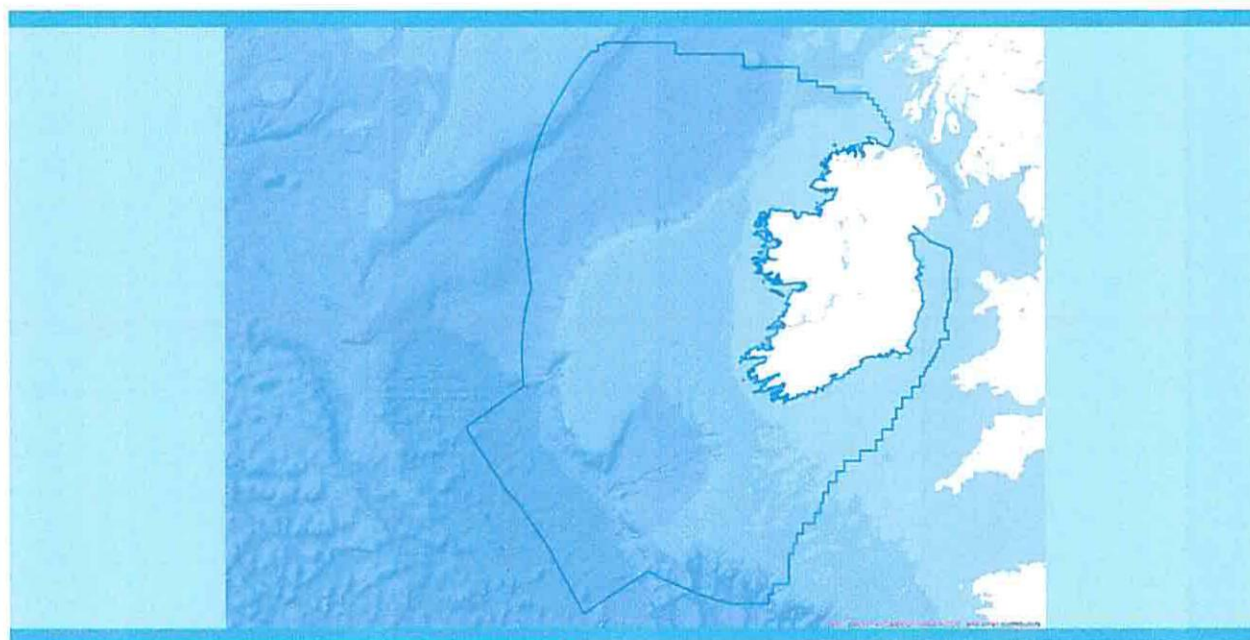
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the basis in international law for the establishment of maritime jurisdictions, as outlined in Figure 1.





**Figure 1: Maritime zones as provided for in international law<sup>1</sup>**

The marine plan will cover Ireland's maritime area, including internal waters (sea area), territorial seas, exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. The maritime area comprises approx. 490,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends from mean high water mark at the coast seaward to in excess of 200 nautical miles in parts (Figure 2). It is proposed that a single plan will be prepared for the entire area with the possibility of more detailed regional plans being made at a later date.



**Figure 2: Ireland's maritime area**

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from UNCLOS 30th Anniversary Pamphlet: [http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/convention\\_overview\\_convention.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_convention.htm)



## What issues will the plan address?

The MSP will be a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues:

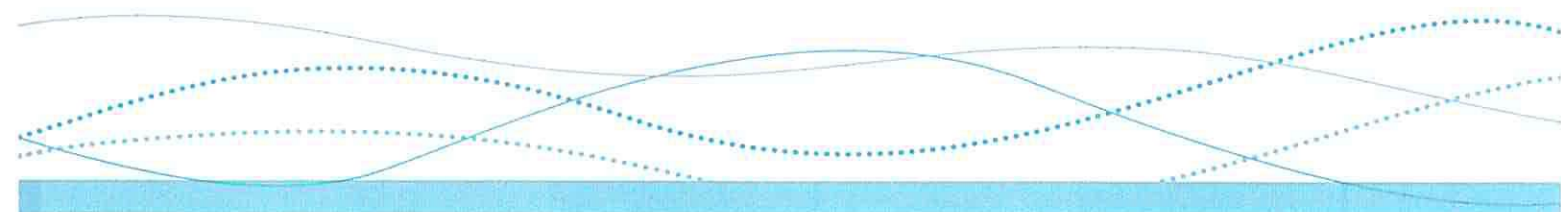
- key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact;
- climate change and related impacts;
- communities and health;
- cultural heritage;
- marine environment and biodiversity;
- transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.

## Reporting area of the marine plans

The reporting area will consist of the wider areas of analysis required for the plan, which includes the broader area outside of the plans' area boundaries. A reporting area will not have a defined geographical boundary; rather the area differs depending on the issues being reported. As such, those stakeholders may be affected by the marine plans outside the plan areas boundaries, depending on the issue being considered. Working with the Marine Institute, we will engage and consult with those other countries bordering Irish waters in the United Kingdom and France.

## What will be the relationship between this plan and the National Planning Framework?

Just as the National Planning Framework will stand as the spatial expression of national policy for Ireland's terrestrial area, the MSP will set out the spatial expression of national policy for Ireland's marine area. There are many shared aims and overlapping areas of co-ordination and activity between forward planning for our terrestrial and marine space, just as there are sectors in which activities or development have a presence on land and in our seas. As depicted in Figure 3 below, the land use planning and marine spatial planning processes will work alongside each other to ensure a consistent and effective policy and regulatory approach to marine and terrestrial planning. The alignment of the lifetimes of the two plans is important in this regard.



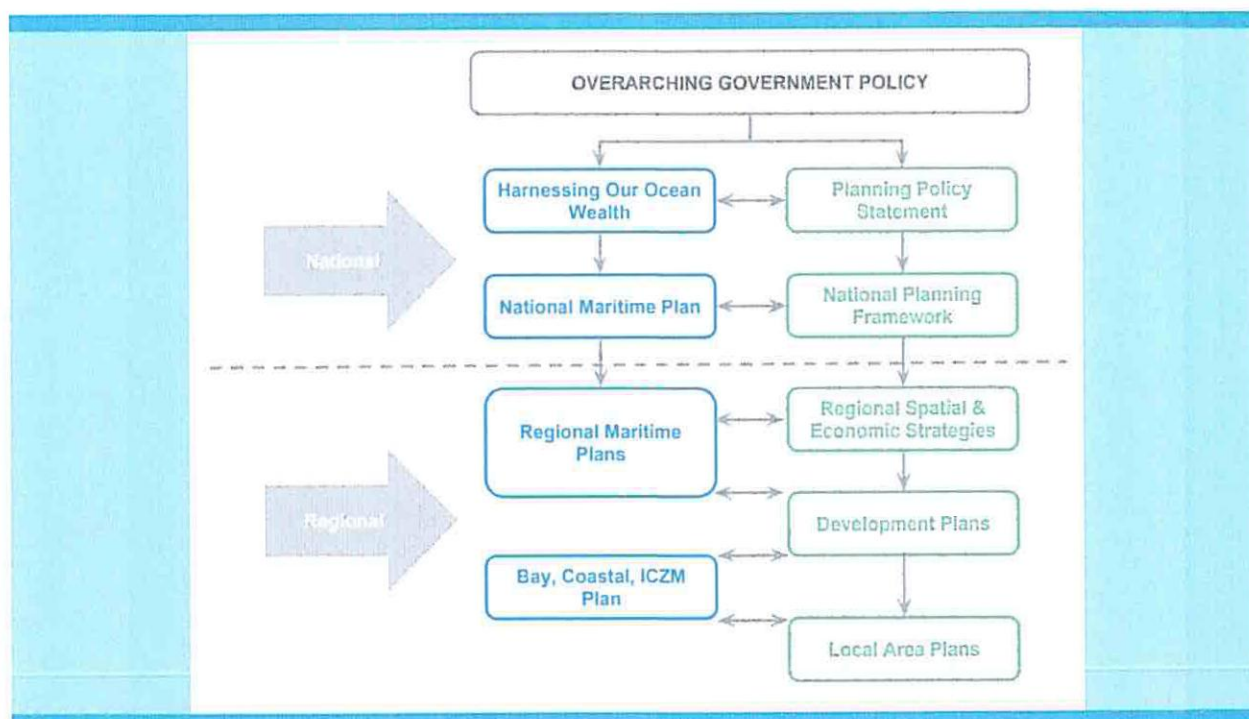


Figure 3: Alignment of Maritime and Terrestrial Planning



### 3. Stages in the preparation of Ireland's MSP

This roadmap marks the first stage in the development of Ireland's marine spatial plan – so the process of plan making is now underway. To guide and oversee the day to day preparation of the plan, Minister Eoghan Murphy, T.D., will establish a Cross-Departmental / Inter-Agency team.

It is intended that the MSP will be finalised in 2020, and forwarded to the European Commission at that time, ahead of the due date for submission by Member States of their plans in March 2021. There will be four broad stages in the development of the plan.

The first is the Activation Stage, which will run to end 2017, and has involved establishing the MSP function in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Stage 2, the Development Stage, of which this roadmap forms a central part, will run until Q3 of 2019 and will involve the analysis and identification of data and information required to provide a robust evidence base to underpin the MSP. It will involve the publication of an evidence and issues overview for public consultation. This stage will draw together key information and viewpoints from stakeholders in order to identify and test options for a preferred approach to MSP. It will conclude with the publication of a draft Marine Spatial Plan and supporting environmental assessments for consultation.

Stage 3, the Finalisation Stage, will run from Q4 of 2019 to Q3 of 2020. It will include approval of the plan by Government, followed subsequently by publication of the final MSP and its notification to the European Commission ahead of the required deadline of March 2021.

The final stage of the process, Stage 4, will run from end 2020 onwards. It will involve implementation of the plan, review of its operation and preparation for the next iteration of the planning process.

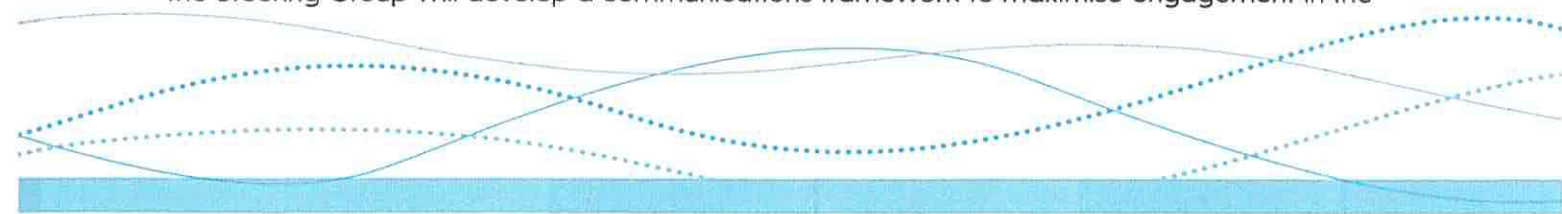
An outline of potential tasks for each of the four main stages is provided at Appendix 2.

#### Organisational responsibilities

To ensure an effective approach to the preparation of the MSP, the following arrangements are proposed:

(1) A high-level Cross-Departmental Steering Group will be established to lead and oversee the development of the MSP. This group will be made up of high-level representatives of government departments whose policies and functions are relevant to the Plan.

The group will also contain one representative from the local government sector and one representative from the Marine Institute. To ensure effective communication around the new MSP, the Steering Group will develop a communications framework to maximise engagement in the

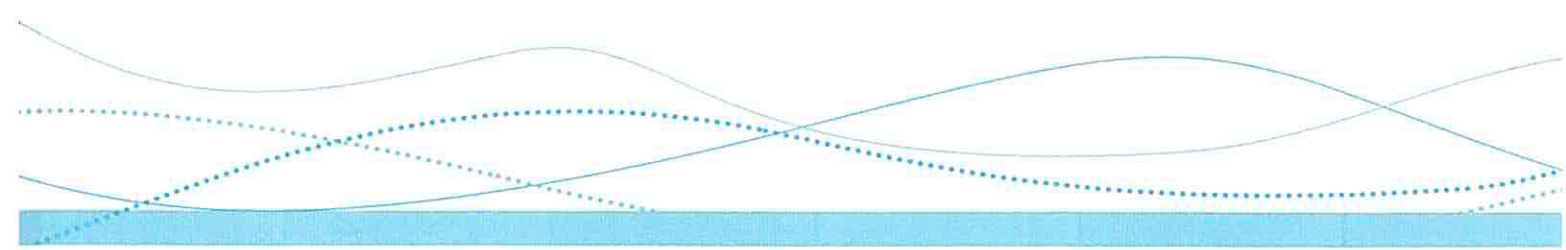


MSP preparation across all relevant media, including social media. It is proposed that this group will report to the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Economic Infrastructure.

(2) An Advisory Group will be established to ensure the participation of relevant non-governmental organisations, professional bodies and technical experts in the process. It will be the effective link to facilitate the participation of the economic, environment and social pillars while maintaining flexibility to incorporate other sectors as appropriate within these consultative forums e.g. the third level education or knowledge sector etc.

(3) The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has established a dedicated Marine Spatial Planning Section, staffed with administrative personnel and supported by the relevant technical expertise including from the Marine Institute which has a key support role in terms of technical and scientific input to the development of the Plan, to service the proposed organisational structures above, and to support the overall process of preparing the new Plan, including compliance with legal requirements under various EU directives, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, and Birds and Habitats Directives.

As it is intended that the MSP will be built from the ground up, together with the strategic oversight of its development at national level, it is necessary to construct the consultative arrangements to ensure delivery of a coherent framework with broad ownership and buy-in from the local and regional level. Accordingly, the broad structure for participation arrangements provides for an extensive participatory process designed to embrace local authorities including the elected members, regional assemblies, relevant non-governmental organisations and professional bodies, under the auspices of all government departments. Further detail on public participation and consultation is set out in the next section.





## 4. Consultation phases for marine plan production

### When will we engage?

We will carry out ongoing engagement as the plan develops and will work closely with our key stakeholders and people interested in the marine area. In addition, there are certain stages at which we are legally required to engage in a structured and formal way, for example formal consultation on the draft plan, or during the strategic environmental assessment process. However, it will be important for us to hear stakeholder's views and opinions on how they feel the plans are progressing throughout the process.

Alongside the stakeholder engagement processes outlined below, we will put in place arrangements for public consultation through interactive web based arrangements, including the establishment of a dedicated website [www.msp.gov.ie](http://www.msp.gov.ie).

The timeline at Appendix 2 below sets out our proposed stages of plan making, highlighting a number of key opportunities for stakeholder input into the planning process. However, you should note that these timelines represent a rough guide only: plan making is an iterative process so these stages may be subject to amendment.

### Who will we engage with?

As previously mentioned, the marine plans are for anyone who has an interest in the marine plan areas. However, there are certain sectors that are immediately recognisable as playing a key part in marine planning, such as:

- aquaculture;
- defence and national security;
- offshore renewable energy;
- oil and gas exploration and production;
- fisheries;
- local coastal communities and elected members;
- local authorities;
- marine aggregates;
- environmental organisations, including marine conservation;
- cultural heritage;
- marine dredging and disposal;
- ports and shipping;
- telecommunications and cabling;
- tourism and recreation;
- waste water treatment and disposal.

This is not intended to be an exclusive list<sup>2</sup> and will be expanded upon throughout the marine planning process. We are committed to communicating and engaging with as many groups and individuals as possible.

<sup>2</sup> The ordering of lists in this document does not denote any order of priority or hierarchy among the items listed.

## How will we engage?

There are certain groups and organisations which represent the interests of these sectors and they will be key contributors when engaging in marine plan making. It is expected that these groups will play a major role in marine planning, adding value to the work of the Department by contributing to the overall stakeholder engagement process.

### COASTAL COMMUNITIES

As part of the planning process, we want to ensure the interests of local people, their communities and local interest groups are taken into account. The Department will support the empowerment of local communities through the marine planning process, together with local authorities.

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER REGULATORS

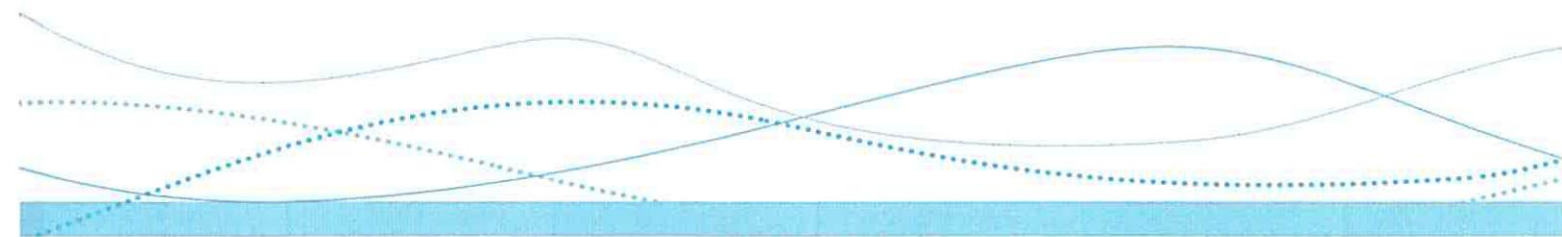
Local authorities and other land-based regulators such as the EPA will have an important role to play in marine planning. We need to engage with coastal local authorities throughout plan making and to ensure good alignment between the marine plans and existing forward plans at national, regional and county / city level, as well as other relevant land-based plans such as river basin management plans and others. We will maintain an ongoing and open dialogue with the relevant authorities, consulting with them at each stage of plan making. Local authorities can also act as a channel for communicating with local communities, representing their interests and offering another opportunity for engagement, such as newsletters and community events. Elected members will also play an important part in the marine planning process, representing the interests of their local communities. The Marine Institute will support the Department in this engagement.

### NEIGHBOURING JURISDICTIONS

We will consult and engage with the Maritime Management Office in England, Marine Scotland, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland throughout plan making. We will also engage with neighbouring international administrations throughout the marine planning process to ensure that we take into account their policies and emerging marine plans.

### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

Environmental groups and NGOs will play an important role in marine planning. NGOs such as the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), An Taisce, Sustainable Water Network (SWAN), Birdwatch Ireland, Coast Watch, Coastal Concern Alliance and many others, have a great deal of experience in land use and coastal planning and of marine ecosystems. These organisations can represent a wide range of interests of groups and individuals and are therefore key to engagement throughout the process.





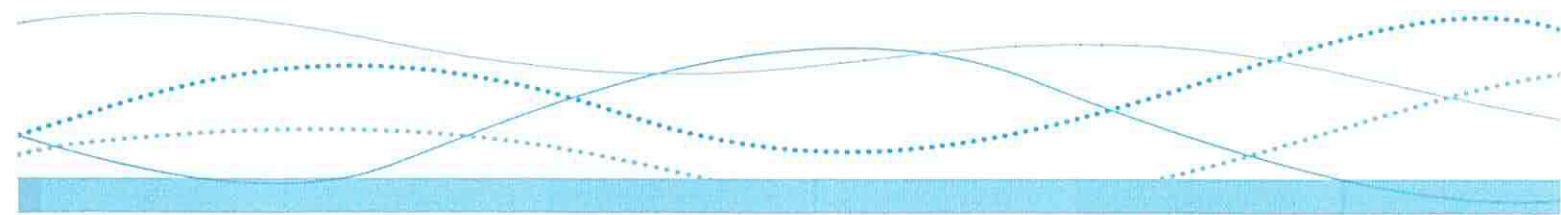
### INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS

There are many industry groups which represent a number of sectors making use of marine resources such as fisheries, aggregates and renewable energy. These representative groups will have an important input into marine planning. It is essential to engage with these groups and the individuals they represent to obtain their views throughout the process making best use of their knowledge and experience.

### STATUTORY PARTNERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT BODIES

Government partners and bodies who will be heavily involved in the marine planning process include government departments and agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment including the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Marine Institute, port companies, Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland, the Irish Coastguard, the Irish Naval Service, and the Office of Public Works.

As we progress through plan making, we will identify more and more stakeholders and interested individuals and so we will take their interests into account during the planning process.



## 5. When and how will we be carrying out stakeholder engagement?

Each of us has a stake in Ireland's marine wealth. Extensive and active stakeholder engagement at local regional and national levels will improve the quality of this plan for the future realisation and use of our marine wealth. It is important that individuals, communities and organisations take the opportunity to contribute to the engagement processes to positively shape Ireland's Marine Spatial Plan.

The table below sets out the timetable for marine planning and outlines methods for engaging stakeholders in each stage of the planning process. All stakeholders will be given an opportunity to input at the earliest stage during the stakeholder engagement process that will take place on publication of an issues paper. This is important – it means that the work of producing a first draft of the plan will be informed by that early engagement.

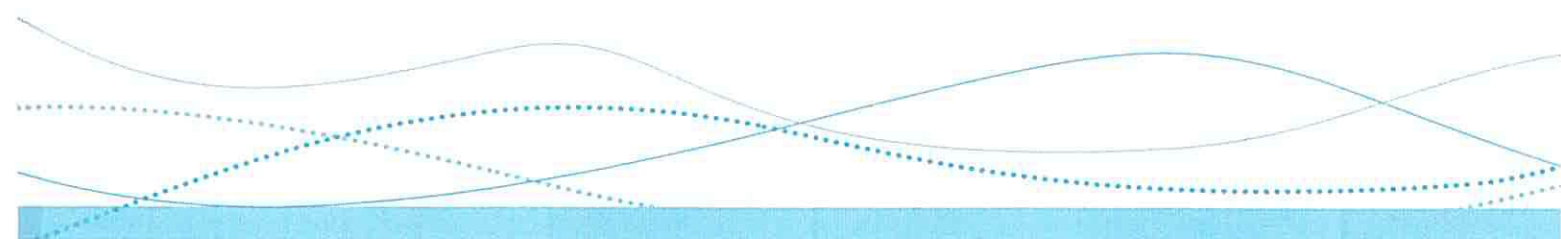
We appreciate the need to take into account the differences between stakeholders and stakeholder groups and that some methods of engagement may not be appropriate for all. Therefore stakeholder participation in marine planning will be flexible and take account of the individual needs of stakeholders. As the marine planning process evolves our methods of engagement and communication with stakeholders and interested parties will take these developments into account. Engagement in this context is concerned with both informing stakeholders of progress of, and ensuring stakeholder input into marine planning.

We will notify stakeholders and interested parties of the consultation drafts in the following ways:

- localised press release;
- email notifications;
- web-based consultation;
- newsletter;
- hard copies at coastal locations and on request; and
- dissemination via stakeholder groups.

In advance and running alongside of formal consultation we will also seek to engage through the following means:

- geographic or sector-based groups;
- workshops;
- web portal;
- one-to-one meetings;
- exhibitions and drop-in sessions;
- attendance at stakeholder meetings;
- questionnaires;
- web updates;
- newsletters.





Via our MSP website, we will confirm the timings of each stage of the plan making process so that stakeholders are clear on all stages of marine plan production and when they will occur. We will keep you up to date on general marine planning progress via electronic newsletters, printed newsletters, emails, web updates, and press and media coverage.

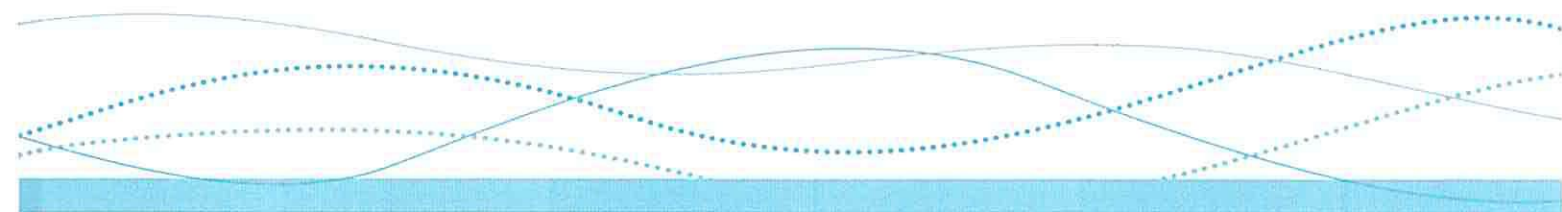
As part of the preparation of the Marine Spatial Plan, the Government is required to carry out a number of environmental assessments of the proposed plan. These include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

These assessments are undertaken so the impact of the proposed plan objectives on the environment can be evaluated and used to inform the direction of the final plan, so as to ensure that it responds to the sensitivities and requirements of the wider natural environment. The assessments will commence jointly with the preparation of the MSP and will be published alongside the draft document.

### Making comments on the marine plan

At each stage of plan making (as set out above) we will make draft plan documents available on our website and invite stakeholders to comment on them. When we are consulting or seeking comment at certain stages of the marine plans, we will clearly set out how long you have to make your views known and how best to do so. Comments at each of these stages must be made in writing via email or letter.

Some stakeholders have expressed a preference for email and web based consultation rather than paper consultation documents. However, we are keen to include as many people as possible and for those who do not have access to computers or web material we can provide paper versions of any consultation documents on request.



## 6. What will we do with your views and comments?

Whenever we carry out stakeholder engagement, we will feed back the outcomes of the process. This may take the form of the next stage of the plan, updates on the marine planning website and through newsletters and information bulletins. We will also produce a summary of consultation where appropriate.

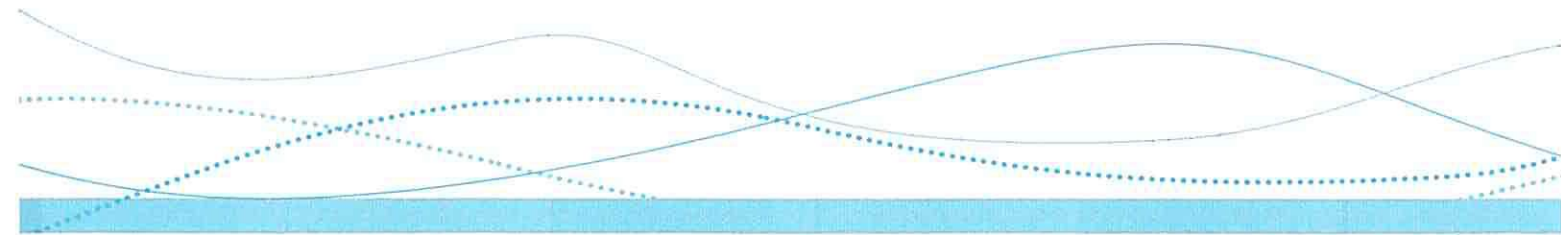
In terms of the formal consultation on the draft marine plan, once the 12-week public consultation period has closed, the responses will be analysed and a summary report will be produced detailing any comments made and published on our website. This report will also set out any changes made to the plans, any changes that weren't made and the reasons why. Everyone who submitted a response will be notified when it is published.

As part of the marine planning process, we will take into account the views and feedback from all stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is vital to the success of the marine plan and while we will consider all comments, views and representations made on the draft plans, the outcome might not result in an alteration to the plan itself. The marine planning system must integrate future needs as well as different views. There are many different factors that contribute to the decision making process and the need to operate within existing national government policies. Early stakeholder engagement has highlighted the need to balance many different factors and that aspects of the marine plans are unlikely to satisfy everyone with some compromise required. However we will take all feedback into consideration, with a duty to maintain transparency throughout the marine planning process. In addition, we will ensure we are clear with stakeholders as to how decisions will be made in the marine plan.

### Review of and revision to MSP

Marine planning is new for Ireland. It is not a static process. It will be dynamic and evolving in nature and as we move through the process, further changes may be made to draft plans to reflect evolving national policy. Where changes are made provision will be made for further stakeholder participation in the process to ensure the overall aims of marine planning are met.

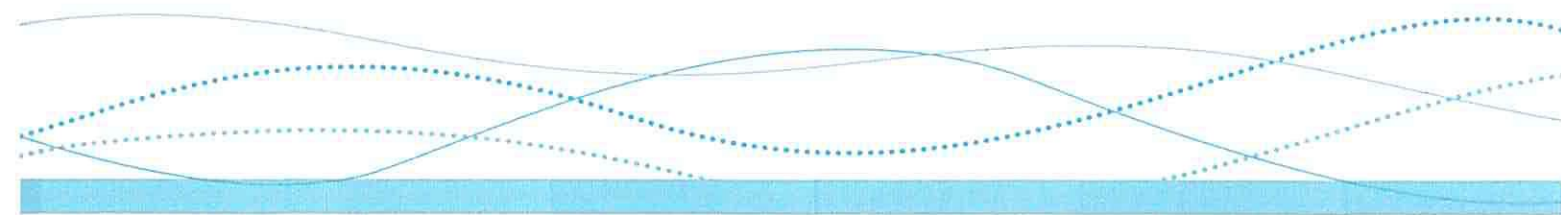
Following adoption by Government marine plans will be reviewed and updated on a cyclical basis at least every 10 years. Revising and updating plans will involve an iteration of the process as outlined in this document, culminating in the adoption by Government of revised plans.





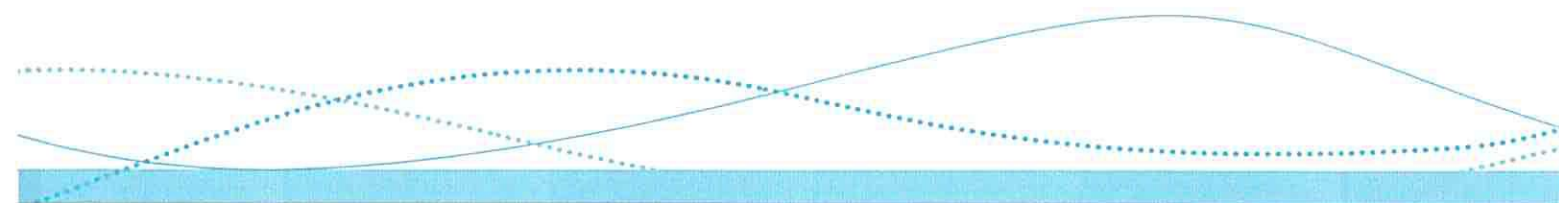
## Appendix 1: Summary of MSP Directive

Article	Title	Summary
1	Subject Matter	MSP to promote maritime economies, sustainable development and sustainable use of resources, taking into account land-sea interactions and transboundary cooperation.
2	Scope	Directive applies to marine waters, but not to coastal waters or areas covered by terrestrial planning, military requirements and in accordance with UNCLOS.
3	Definitions	Definitions for purpose of the Directive.
4	Establishment and implantation of MSP	Member States to establish MSP to take into account land-sea interaction, governance, institutional, particulars of the marine region, existing and future uses and may include existing policies.
5	Objectives of MSP	Promote sustainable development applying an ecosystem based approach with reference to energy, maritime transport, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, extraction of raw materials, preservation of the environment and resilience to climate change.
6	Minimum requirements for MSP	Appropriate procedures should be put in place to contribute to the maritime spatial planning objectives and plans should be reviewed at least every 10 years.
7	Land-sea interactions	Formal and informal processes should be used to take account of land-sea interactions without interfering with Member States existing terrestrial planning codes.
8	Setting up of MSP	Spatial and temporal distribution existing and future activities should be considered and can include aquaculture areas, fishing areas, installations and infrastructures for the exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas, and other energy resources, of minerals and aggregates, and for the production of energy from renewable sources, maritime transport routes and traffic flows, military training areas, nature and species conservation sites and protected areas, raw material extraction areas, scientific research, submarine cable and pipeline routes, tourism and underwater cultural heritage.
9	Public participation	Ensure public participation and consultation at an early stage.
10	Data use and sharing	Data should be used and shared in accordance with the INSPIRE Directive.
11	Cooperation among Member States	Border Member States should cooperate to ensure a coherent approach is taken to MSP across marine regions. Existing mechanisms and regional sea conventions should be used.
12	Cooperation with third countries	Cooperation with third countries.
13	Competent Authorities	Member States should specify competent authorities for purposes of implementing the MSP.
14	Monitoring and reporting	Member States to send their published plans to the European Commission and other Member States concerned and report on implementation of the Directive.
15	Transposition	Directive to be transposed and competent authorities to be identified by 18 September 2016 with plans to be in place by 31 March 2021.
16	Entry into force	Entry into force date.
17	Addresses	Addresses for Presidents of European Parliament and European Council.



## Appendix 2: Project Milestones – Stages in the plan making process

Stage	Milestone	Timeframe
<b>Activation Stage</b>	Establish and resource MSP function in Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	Immediate – complete
	Identify and initiate contact with key stakeholders	Now – end 2017
<b>Development Stage</b>	Establish MSP Inter Agency Group	End November 2017
	Develop road map – <i>Towards a Marine Spatial Plan</i>	Publish before end 2017
	Initiate contact with broader external stakeholder group (e.g. energy industry reps, fisheries, coastal communities etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In writing before end 2017</li> <li>• Regional workshop/stakeholder fora Q1 2018</li> </ul>
	Prepare issues paper (this phase includes collection, mapping and analysis of data on current conditions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish September 2018</li> <li>• 2 month consultation</li> </ul>
	Prepare draft MSP (including Environmental Assessments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Minister/Government Q2 2019</li> <li>• 3 month consultation</li> </ul>
<b>Finalisation Stage</b>	Prepare final MSP (including Environmental Assessments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Minister/Government Q2 2020</li> <li>• Publish and notify European Commission – Q3 2020</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation and Review Stage</b>	Implementation and review	2020 onwards







# **Kerry County Development Plan 2015 - 2021**

**Adopted on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2015**

( 305 page document.)





### 8.3.4 Forest Recreation

Developing a forest as an amenity creates a resource for the local community and for visitors to an area. Using the forest for simple quiet enjoyment or for a particular sport or adventure activity promotes fitness, health and a sense of well-being. Forest recreation also creates the basis for a wide range of related enterprises and opportunities for income generation. The Council recognises the tourist and recreational benefits of forested areas and will seek to encourage the sustainable management of forest lands for recreational and tourism purposes as set out in the natural heritage section of this plan.

#### Forestry Recreation

**It is an objective of the Council to:-**

- NR-19** Encourage the sustainable development of forest parks and other tourist related amenities at appropriate locations within forested areas in accordance with the *Forest Recreation in Ireland; A Guide for Forest Owners and Managers published by the Department of Agriculture and Food (2006), the Forestry Landscape Guidelines and the objectives, policies and development standards of this plan as they relate to the natural and built environment.*

### 8.4 Fishing / Aquaculture

Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for the County. Not alone fishing, but fish distribution, processing, aquaculture and related activities generate significant levels of employment and remain an important resource for the County

which has potential for further sustainable development. Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish and even plants<sup>(4)</sup>.

It is essential that a balance is achieved between generating a sustainable and economically viable industry on the one hand and complying with EU policies and quota on the other hand. The Council will support the sustainable development of the operations of the fishing and aquaculture industry while protecting and preserving the biodiversity and ecosystems in our oceans, so they can continue to provide essential monetary and non-monetary goods and services.

In recent years there has been a decline in the marine fishing industry due in part to the EU quota restrictions.

However there has been an expansion in the aquaculture and secondary sectors of the industry as a whole and overall fishing remains an important and vital sector in the economy of the County.

Aquaculture and food processing both have the potential to continue to expand in the County, while opportunities for the development of a service industry exist particularly in South Kerry with approximately 300-400 Irish and foreign fishing vessels operating off the coastline. The Council recognises the importance of the industry as a whole to the economy of the County and will continue to play a supportive role to ensure fishing and aquaculture is managed and assisted where necessary.

In addition to commercial fishing and aquaculture the aquatic environment (marine, estuarine and freshwater) supports smaller scale fishing and angling activities. The protection and support of water quality, habitat etc as natural resources necessary to safeguard these activities is therefore of importance.

<sup>4)</sup> [http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/what\\_is\\_aquaculture.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dmr/aquaculture/what_is_aquaculture.htm)



### Natural Resources Fisheries

#### It is an objective of the Council to:-

- NR-20** Support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in order to maximise its contribution to employment and growth in coastal communities and the economic well being of the County, while ensuring environmental protection through the implementation of the objectives and Development Management, Guidelines and Standards of this Plan.
- NR-21** Support the sustainable use of existing port facilities for the catching and processing of fish as an economic activity that contributes to the food industry in the County.
- NR-22** Support added-value marine and freshwater foods and service industries in a sustainable manner and at appropriate locations where they comply with the general policies and development management standards of this plan.
- NR-23** Support the protection of water quality, key habitat and other natural resource requirements necessary to safeguard coastal, estuarine and freshwater fisheries.
- NR-24** Have regard to the advice of the relevant statutory bodies, as appropriate and recommendations of the Environmental Section of Kerry County Council in assessing the environmental impacts of developments.
- NR-25** Sustainably improve road networks that link port facilities to the larger urban centres.
- NR-26** Have regard to the need to maintain Blue Flag Beach status, recreational use and nature conservation interests in an area when assessing maritime development proposals on sites.
- NR-27** Support the sustainable development of marine aquaculture and fishing industries and its diversification at appropriate locations having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans, the Habitats Directive, the integrity of the Natura 2000 network and visual amenity.



Budget  
Allocation

## €62 million increase in Department of Rural and Community Development budget welcomed by Ministers Ring and Kyne

**Budget will increase by €62 million to €293 million in 2019 – a 27% increase**

Published 9 October 2018.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD and Minister of State Seán Kyne TD today welcomed the funding allocations made available to the Department of Rural and Community Development as part of Budget 2019.

The overall level of funding for the Department will increase from €231 million in 2018 to €293 million in 2019. This funding will facilitate the continued delivery of programmes across the rural and community development areas; provide €55 million for the roll out of the new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in 2019 and allow additional supports for programmes.

### Key measures in Budget 2019:

- An additional €55 million has been made available to invest in rural towns and villages through the €1 billion **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** which begins in January, 2019
- **Walks Programme**– Additional funding of €2 million for expansion of the successful Walks Programme – bringing the total allocation for 2019 to €4 million
- **Library Development**– Additional funding of €3.3 million will be made available to support the Library Strategy – bringing the total allocation for 2019 to €7.2 million
- **Dormant Accounts**– Additional support of €2.4 million for measures under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan which address economic, social or educational disadvantage. This bring the total Dormant Accounts allocation in 2019 to €12.6 million
- **Community Enhancement Programme**– Additional funding of €2 million to enhance community facilities in disadvantaged areas. This will include, for example, renovating community centres, improving town parks and common areas and will bring the total 2019 allocation up to €4 million.
- **PEACE Programme**– Additional funding under the cross-border PEACE Programme 2014-2020 which will bring the total 2019 allocation up to €5 million
- **Western Development Commission** Additional funding of €500,000 to enhance the capacity to support innovative and strategic regional development initiatives in the West bringing the total allocation for 2019 up to €2 million

- **Irish Water Safety** Additional funding to support the work of Irish Water Safety in promoting water safety, bring the total allocation for 2019 up to €1.1 million

Speaking today Minister Ring said: "I am delighted that this funding allocation allows me to continue the great work we are doing throughout rural Ireland and within our communities. It also allows me to progress the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund announced as part of the National Development Plan, with €55 million in capital funding allocated to this Fund in 2019. The allocation of significant additional funding to my Department demonstrates our continued commitment to supporting rural and community development across Ireland."

Minister Ring added: "I am also increasing the support for a number of areas, including doubling funding for the expansion of the successful Walks Scheme, additional funding to benefit border communities under the PEACE programme, and additional investment in our libraries following the recent launch of the Libraries Strategy. This investment makes a real difference for communities and I am delighted we can increase our support in these areas."

Welcoming today's Budget announcement, Minister Kyne said: "Today's budget has provided continued support for our communities, and in particular I welcome additional support for the Western Development Commission and increased funding for Dormant Accounts measures within the Department. This increased allocation for Dormant Accounts will allow continued support for excellent existing measures such as the Social Innovation Fund Ireland and funding for new measures such as supporting enterprise hubs along the Atlantic Economic Corridor and funding a number of volunteer centres around the country."

#Budget19

**ENDS**

**Note for Editors:**

The large increase in capital allocations will support the roll out of the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, which was announced as part of the National Development Plan. This fund, which will have an allocation of €55m in 2019, provides unprecedented opportunities to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland.

Applications for the fund closed at the end of September 2018. There has been strong interest in the fund right across the country with well over 250 applications received for the different types of support. It is expected that the first round of successful projects will be announced in November, with funding commencing in 2019.

The additional supports and funding levels announced in today's Budget build on an existing strong suite of programmes delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development, including:

- The LEADER Programme (€30 million allocation in 2019)
- Town and Village renewal (€15 million allocation in 2019)
- Rural recreation (€11 million allocation in 2019)
- Local Improvements Scheme (€10 million allocation in 2019)
- CLÁR Programme (€5 million allocation in 2019)



- Local Authority preparations for roll out of national broadband plan (€2 million allocation in 2019)
- Community Services Programme (€46 million allocation in 2019)
- Supports for individuals and community groups through SICAP (€43 million allocation in 2019)
- Supports and initiatives in the community and voluntary sector (€12.7 million allocation in 2019)
- Charities Regulatory Authority (€4.6 million allocation in 2019).

Further details on these specific programmes can be found at [www.drcd.gov.ie](http://www.drcd.gov.ie)