



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

# Informed decision making using the NMPPF and Marineplan.ie

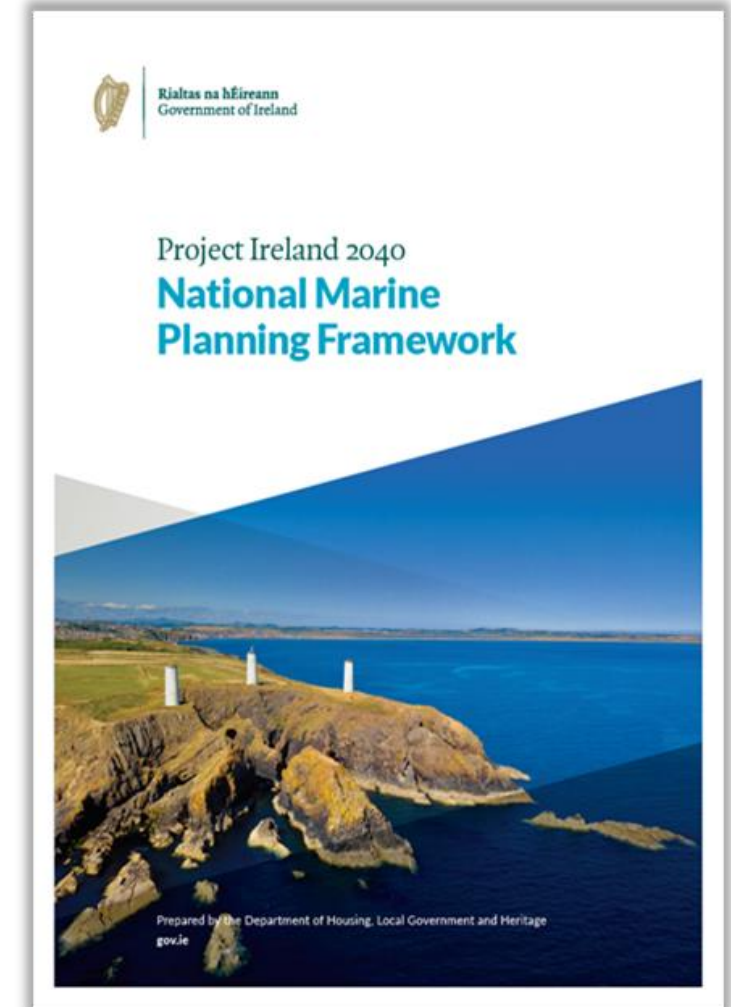
Juliet Fitzpatrick  
Assistant Principal, Marine Planning Policy and Legislation  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



# National Marine Planning Framework



- Long term planning framework for how we use, protect, enjoy seas – out to 2040
- Parallel to National Planning Framework
- Sector by sector elaboration of guiding objectives and planning policies (aquaculture through to waste water)
- Critical basis for future decision making by marine decision makers - who are obliged to implement NMPF

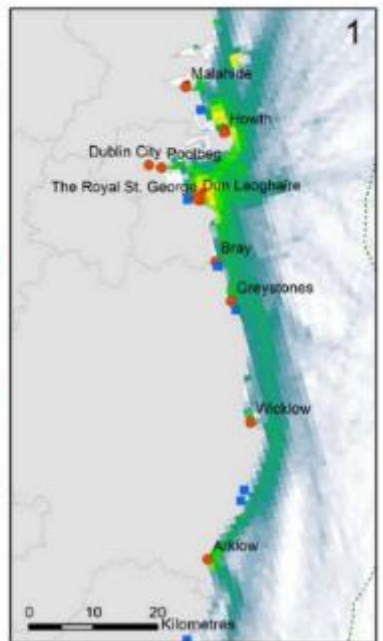
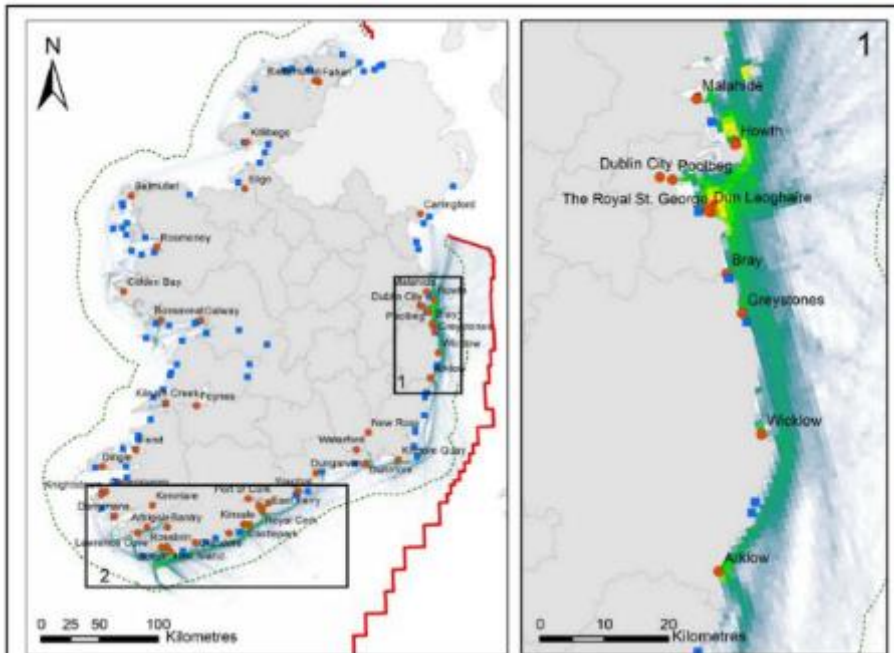


# Structure – NMPF Chapters



- **Overarching Marine Planning Policies** – Apply to all proposals
  - Grouped according to the three Sustainable Development Pillars – **Environmental, Economic and Social**
- **Sectoral Marine Planning Policies**
  - Aquaculture, Defence & Security, Energy, Fisheries, Mineral Exploration, Ports/Harbours, Safety at Sea, Seaweed Harvesting, Sport & Recreation, Telecommunications, Tourism, Wastewater Treatment & Disposal
- **92 Policies to be referenced – 32 Overarching, 60 Sectoral**
- **Large quantity of Maps showing different activities and uses of the marine**





These maps are to be used for reference only. Please refer to the [www.marineplan.ie](http://www.marineplan.ie) to explore the most up to date National Marine Planning Framework data.

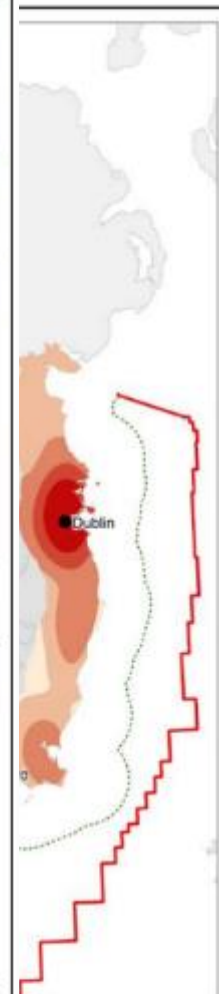
### Sport and Recreation Trends and Features



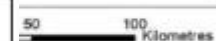
Credits: An Taisce: Blue Flag Beaches (2019), EMODnet: Sailing Vessel Density (2019); MaREI: Marine Irish Digital Atlas, Irish Sailing: Marinas (2020).

Credits: National Monuments

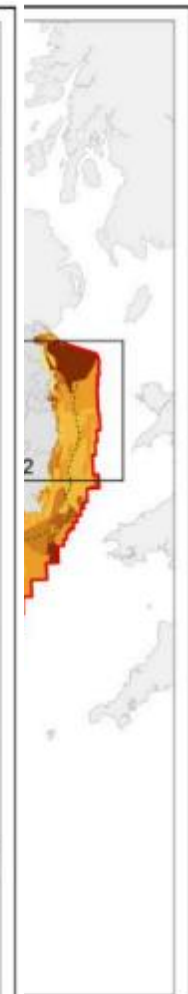
Boundaries (2019)



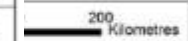
the most up to date



25km of the shoreline (2018);



most up to date



data from pilot project and is indicative only.

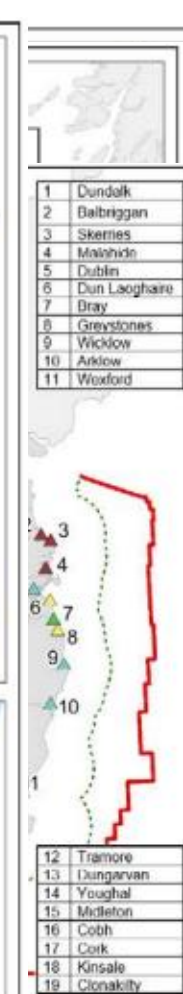
localised services.



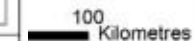
most up to date



National Statutory

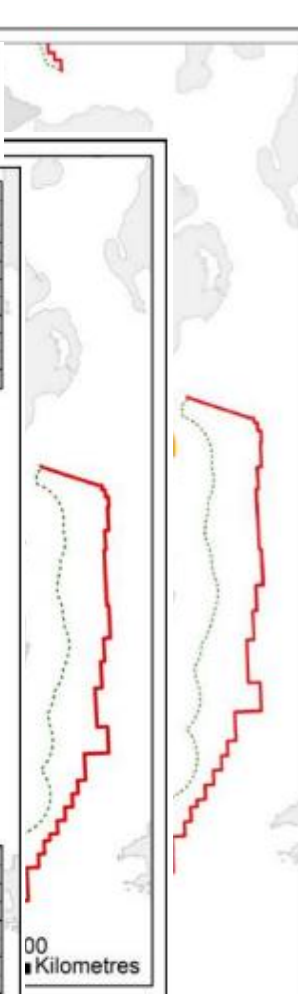


ework data.



through series

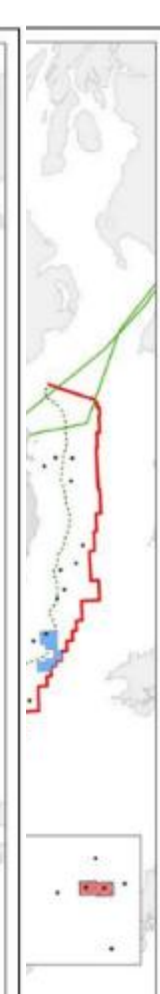
Service: Naval Bases (2019).



most up to date



5.1 Danger and displays areas that locations only.

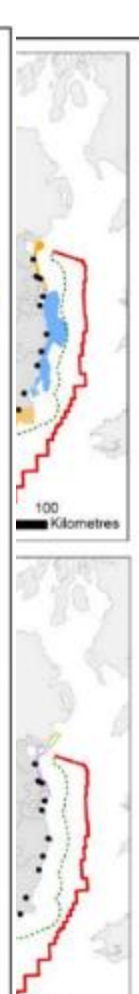


most up to date

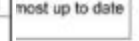


ne Fishing  
d fishing ports are those  
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rills Harvesting (2014);

9).

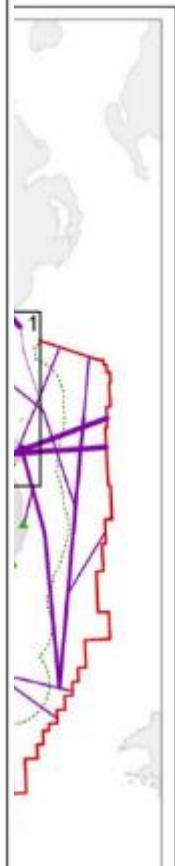


most up to date



ly Used Routes  
(tonnes and above)  
1.5+

pe District Limits (1998);



most up to date



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(tonnes and above)  
1.5+

pe District Limits (1998);



## Activities

This section allows the user to learn more about the Environmental, Economic and Social sections of the NMPF's Overarching Marine Planning Policies. It also allows the user to get more information about each sector or activity in the plan's Key Sectoral / Activity Policies. You can see the relevant policies and a map of the areas where these policies apply.

### Overarching Marine Planning Policies

1. Environmental
2. Economic
3. Social

#### Environmental - Ocean Health



#### Economic - Thriving Maritime Economy



#### Social - Engagement with the Sea





## Key Sectoral / Activity Policies



Aquaculture



Defence and Security



Energy



Fisheries



Mineral Exploration and Mining



Ports, Harbours and Shipping



Safety at Sea



Seaweed Harvesting



Sport and Recreation



Telecommunications



Tourism



Wastewater Treatment and Disposal





## Hyperlinks

### Welcome to MarinePlan.ie

This web map portal is Ireland's first marine spatial planning portal. It links planning within the Maritime area and the relevant policies for each marine sector or activity listed in the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The web portal is an initiative of the Government of Ireland. The site has 3 main areas: Activities Map, Activities and Policies Map.

Our latest update has added a MSP Hub which has information on all Government Departments and Agencies with a role in the Maritime area, as well as the latest news and updates on Marine Planning in Ireland.

**Activities Map:** The map here will display marine activities. All activities are off by default and you can turn on each activity layer by clicking the eye icon. The legend for each layer is available once the layer is turned on. You can choose to turn on and off as many layers as you need but there will be slower response times when everything is turned on or very busy layers are resolving.

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**Policies Map:** Here the user can draw a shape on the map to select an area of interest and the relevant NMPF policies will be displayed. These can then be expanded to show the full policy wording or explored in more detail using the "more info" link.

You can read the National Marine Planning Framework [here](#). For further information click [here](#).

**Disclaimer:** All information on this site is correct at time of upload. This is a BETA version and new data will be added at scheduled intervals as it becomes available. All data is Open Data and has been collected and managed in collaboration with the Marine Institute. Datasets are available for download from the [Marine Institute](#) and [Ireland's Open Data Portal](#). There may be other marine data in the public domain which is not available on this platform due to licencing or other issues.

### Project Ireland 2040

## National Marine Planning Framework







## Activities Map (BETA)

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Please Note: The Layers and Legend lists may take a few moments to load. Some layers will not display until zoomed in (these layers appear listed in grey text until available).

## Layer List Options

+

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200 km

100 mi

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Layers

Legend

- ▶ Aquaculture
- ▶ Biodiversity
- ▶ Climate Change
- ▶ Defence and Security
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Energy - Offshore Renewable
- ▶ Energy - Petroleum
- ▶ Fisheries - Effort
- ▶ Fisheries - Species
- ▶ Fisheries - Ports, harvesting, distribution
- ▶ Heritage Assets
- ▶ Protected Marine Sites
- ▶ Ports, Harbours and Shipping
- ▶ Sport and Recreation
- ▶ Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity

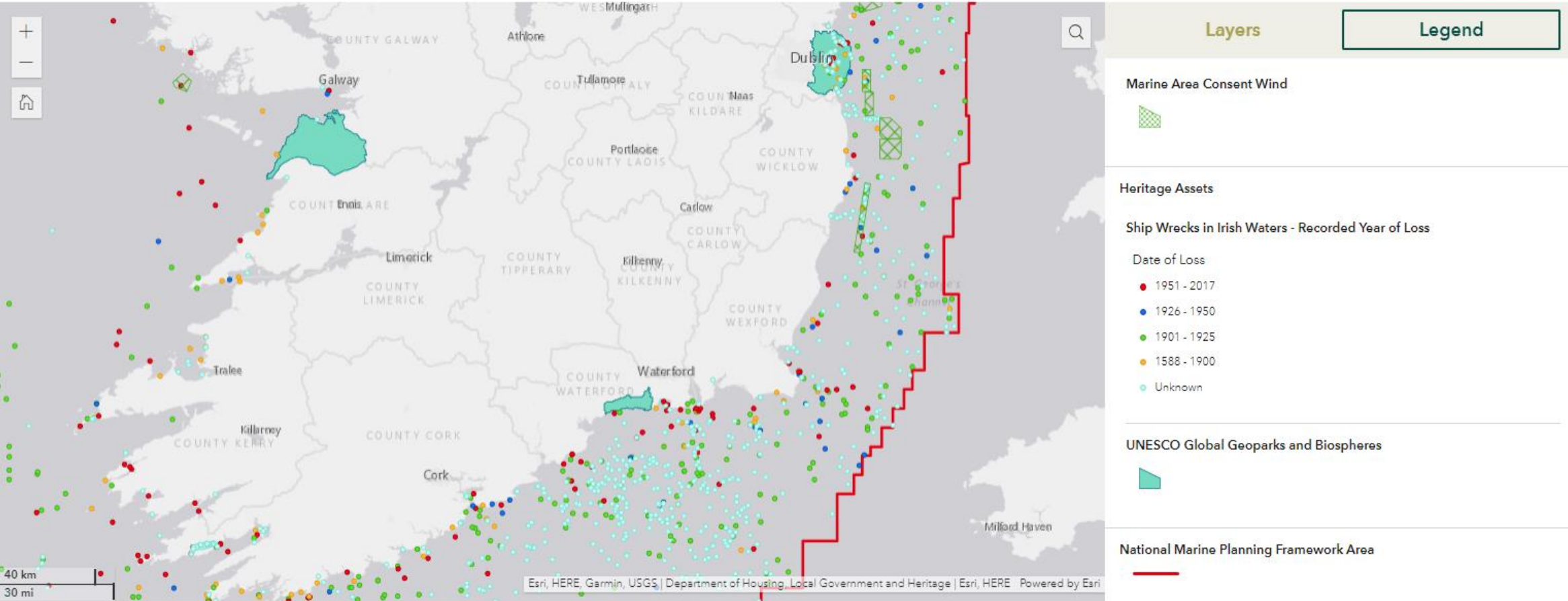


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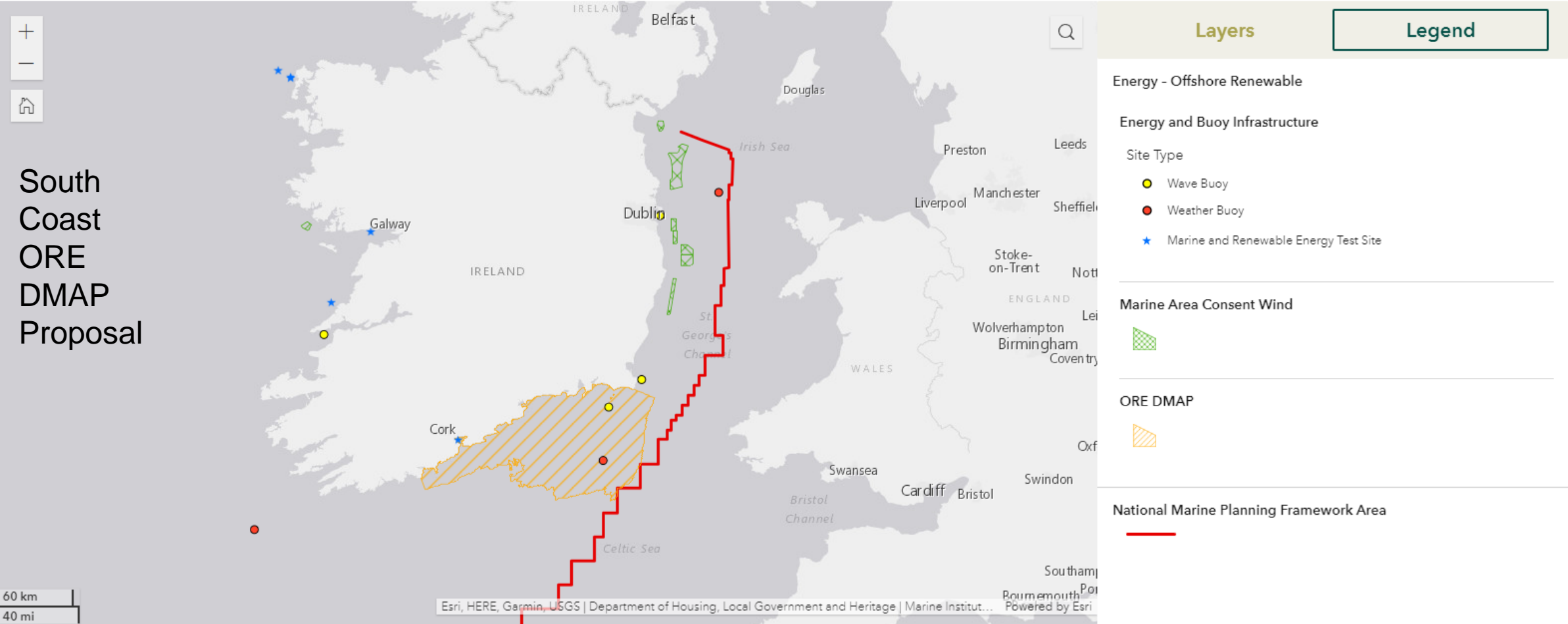
## Legend List of Layers Turned On



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## Overarching Marine Planning Policies - Environmental

Each of the  
Overarching  
MPPs have  
a Second  
level of  
cards

Environmental - Ocean Health



Biodiversity



Protected Marine Sites



Non-indigenous Species



Water Quality



Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity



Marine Litter



Underwater Noise



# Overarching Marine Planning Policies - Environmental



## Environmental - Ocean Health

Ireland’s marine waters (offshore, inshore and coastline) are home to a rich and diverse range of species and habitats. Our maritime area contains a wide variety of habitats ranging from shallow inshore reefs and sandbanks to canyons, seamounts, troughs and cold-water coral reefs in deeper waters.

The Environment - Ocean Health chapters of the NMPF help to realise the opportunities Ireland has to continually improve its marine and coastal environment. With regard to policy related to the management of marine environment matters, the NMPF is but one part and the Environment - Ocean Health chapters are shaped by Ireland’s ongoing Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) work among other factors.

### Policy 1



#### Environmental - Ocean Health Policy 1

Compliance with NMPF policies relating to:

- Biodiversity
- Non-Indigenous Species
- Water Quality
- Sea-floor and Water Column Integrity
- Marine litter
- Underwater Noise

should include demonstration of contribution to the relevant MSFD targets identified.



## Policy 1

## Policy 2

## Policy 3

## Policy 4

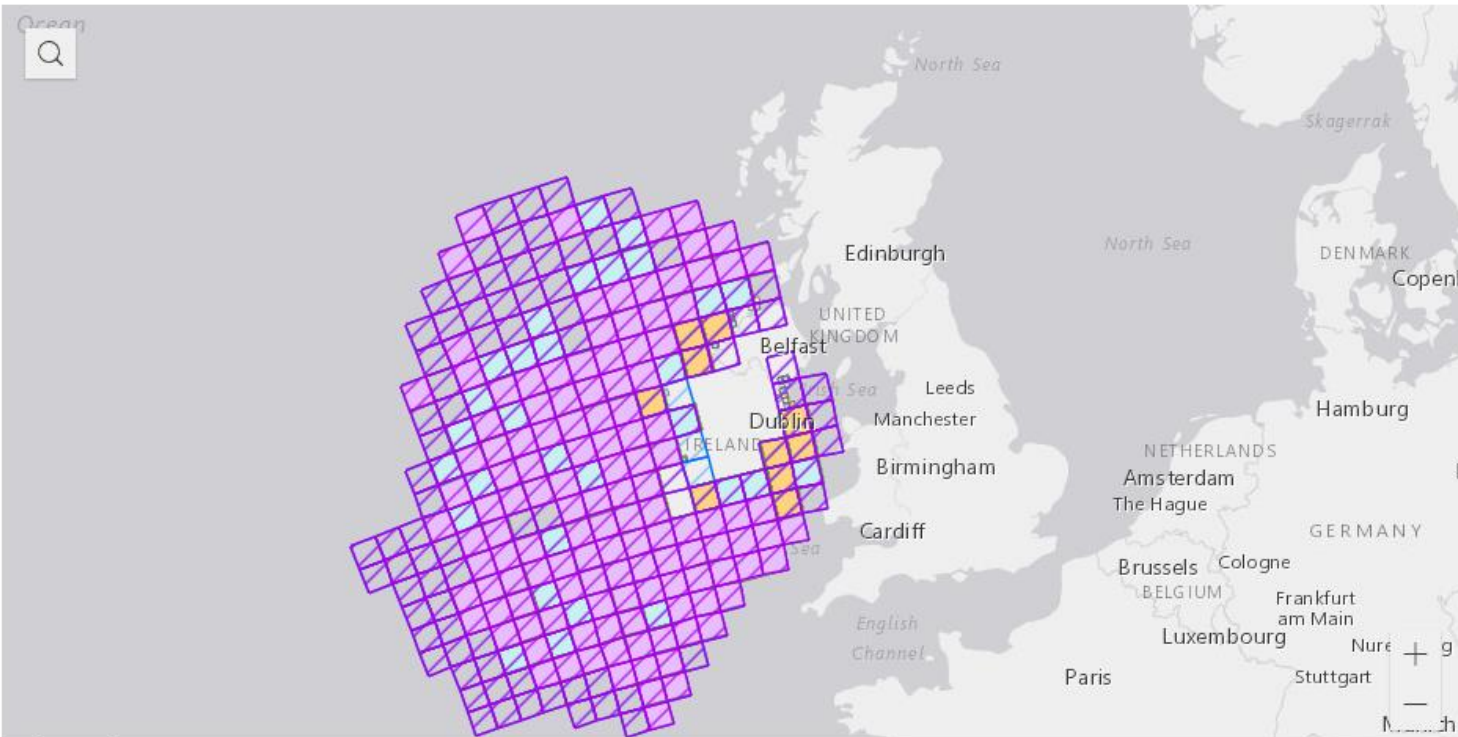
### Biodiversity Policy 1

Proposals incorporating features that enhance or facilitate species adaptation or migration, or natural native habitat connectivity will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of the NMPF. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference and in accordance with legal requirements:

- a) avoid,
- b) minimise, or
- c) mitigate

significant adverse impacts on species adaptation or migration, or on natural native habitat connectivity.

Every NMPF Policy is listed



### Layers

### Legend

- ☐ Common Dolphin Range
- ☐ Common Dolphin Distribution
- ☐ Bottlenose Dolphin Range
- ☐ Bottlenose Dolphin Distribution
- ☐ Leatherback Turtle Range
- ☐ Biodiversity - Leatherback Turtle Distribution
- ☐ Seabird Breeding Distribution - Gannett
- ☐ Seabird Breeding Distribution - Puffin
- ☐ Seabird Breeding Distribution - Kittiwake
- ☐ Harbour Seal Distribution
- ☐ Grey Seal Distribution

Each layer can be turned on or off

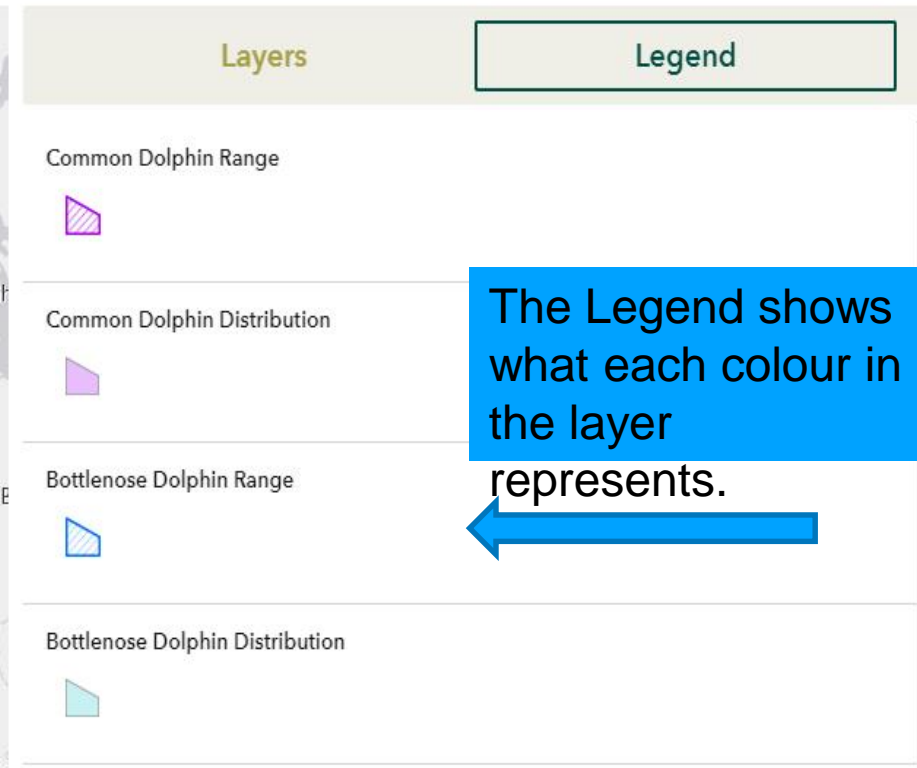
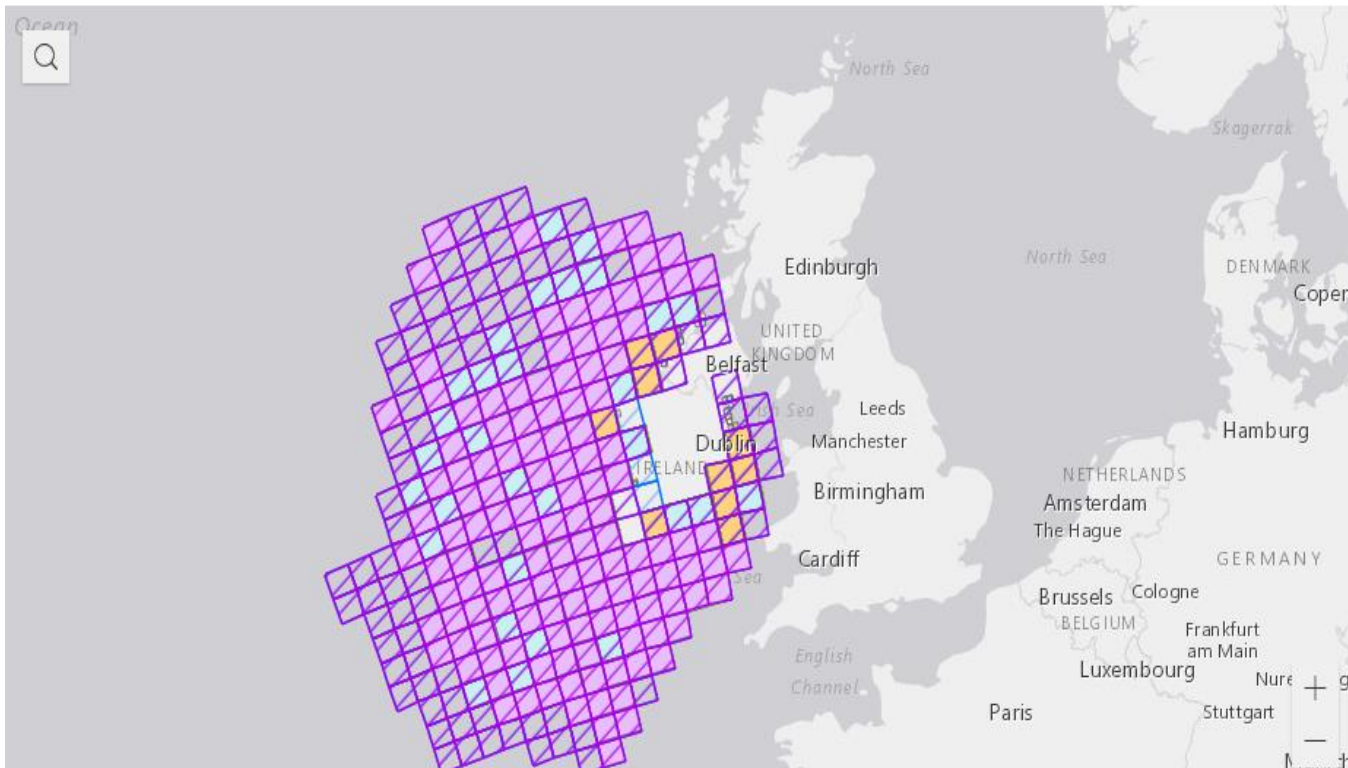


## Biodiversity Policy 1

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- b) minimise, or
- c) mitigate

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The Legend shows what each colour in the layer represents.



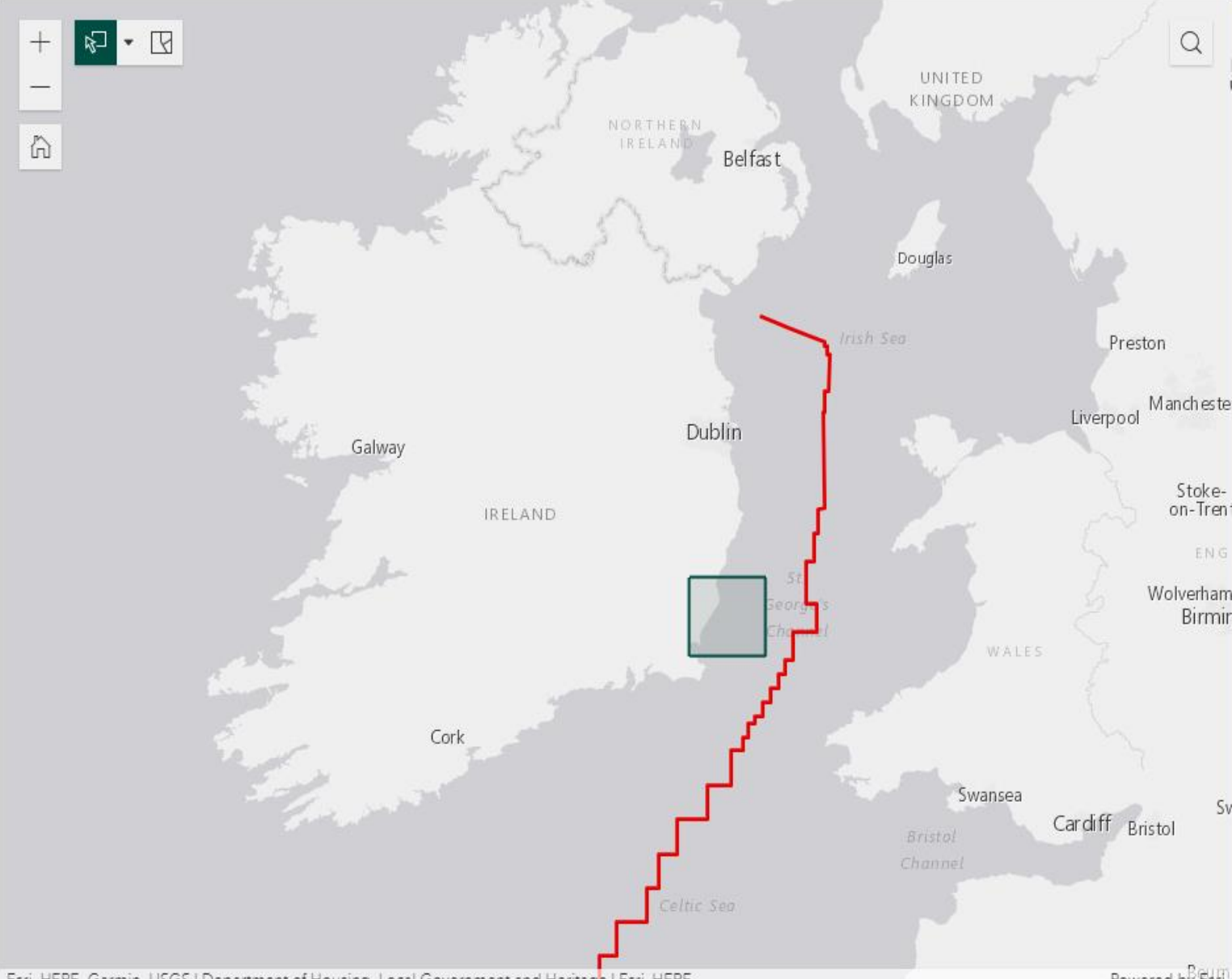


Use the map selection tool on the top right of the map to draw a shape on the map. Marine planning policies which apply to your shape will be displayed in lists on the right-hand side. Click on the policy name to see the full policy and the "More Info" button within for further information.

Marine Plan Area Policies may apply to any area within the Maritime Area.



Only 6 of the 8 Spatially Specific Policies now apply to the chosen area - specific to the drawn area



The map displays the island of Ireland and the surrounding regions of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, Wales, and parts of England. A red stepped boundary line runs along the east coast of Ireland, from the Irish Sea down to the Celtic Sea. A small rectangular area within this boundary, near the mouth of the Shannon River, is highlighted with a green border. This highlighted area is labeled 'St. George's Channel'. Major cities like Belfast, Dublin, Galway, and Cork are marked in Ireland, while cities like London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Cardiff are marked in the UK. The map includes standard navigation controls (zoom in, zoom out, home) in the top left and a search bar in the top right.

**Spatially Specific Policies:**

- Fisheries Policy 1
- Heritage Assets Policy 1
- ORE Policy 5
- Petroleum Policy 1
- Ports, Harbours and Shipping Policy 4
- Protected Marine Sites Policy 2

**Plan Area Policies:**

- Access Policy 1
- Access Policy 2
- Air Quality Policy 1
- Air Quality Policy 2
- Aquaculture Policy 1
- Aquaculture Policy 3
- Biodiversity Policy 1
- Biodiversity Policy 2
- Biodiversity Policy 3

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Each policy can also be clicked on from here and it will pop out on the right for ease of reading

Proposals that demonstrate they will contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will be supported, subject to the outcome of statutory environmental assessment processes and subsequent decision by the competent authority, and where they contribute to the policies and objectives of the NMPF. Proposals unable to contribute to enhancing the significance of heritage assets will only be supported if they demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid,
- b) minimise, or
- c) mitigate harm to the significance of heritage assets, and
- d) if it is not possible, to mitigate harm, then the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh the harm to the significance of the heritage assets. (see definition of 'Public Benefits' in the NMPF Glossary)

[More Info](#)

# Marine Spatial Planning Information Hub



## Information

The following information page provides a list of Departments and Agencies involved in the Management of Ireland's Maritime Area and..

[View](#)

## Green Schools Competition 2021

Have a look for yourself at some of the talented winners and where they came from.

[View](#)

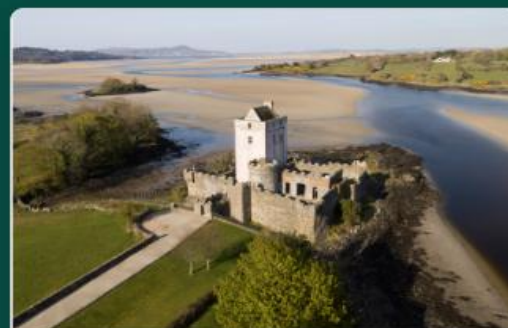
## Project Marine Newsletter

Have a look at all the previous Project Marine Newsletters. Issue No. 4 June 2023 is now available

[View](#)

## Forward Planning in the Maritime Area

Sections 20 to 29 of the MAP Act provides for Designated Maritime Area Plans or DMAPs.

[View](#)

## The Maritime Area Planning Act

The Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021 was constructed with the intention of regulating the maritime area through a...

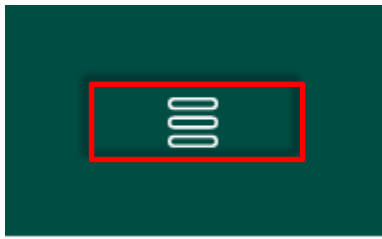
[View](#)

## Seafood ORE Engagement in Ireland

The Summary Guide on Seafood/ORE Engagement in Ireland is intended to provide Offshore Renewable Energy projects and...

[View](#)

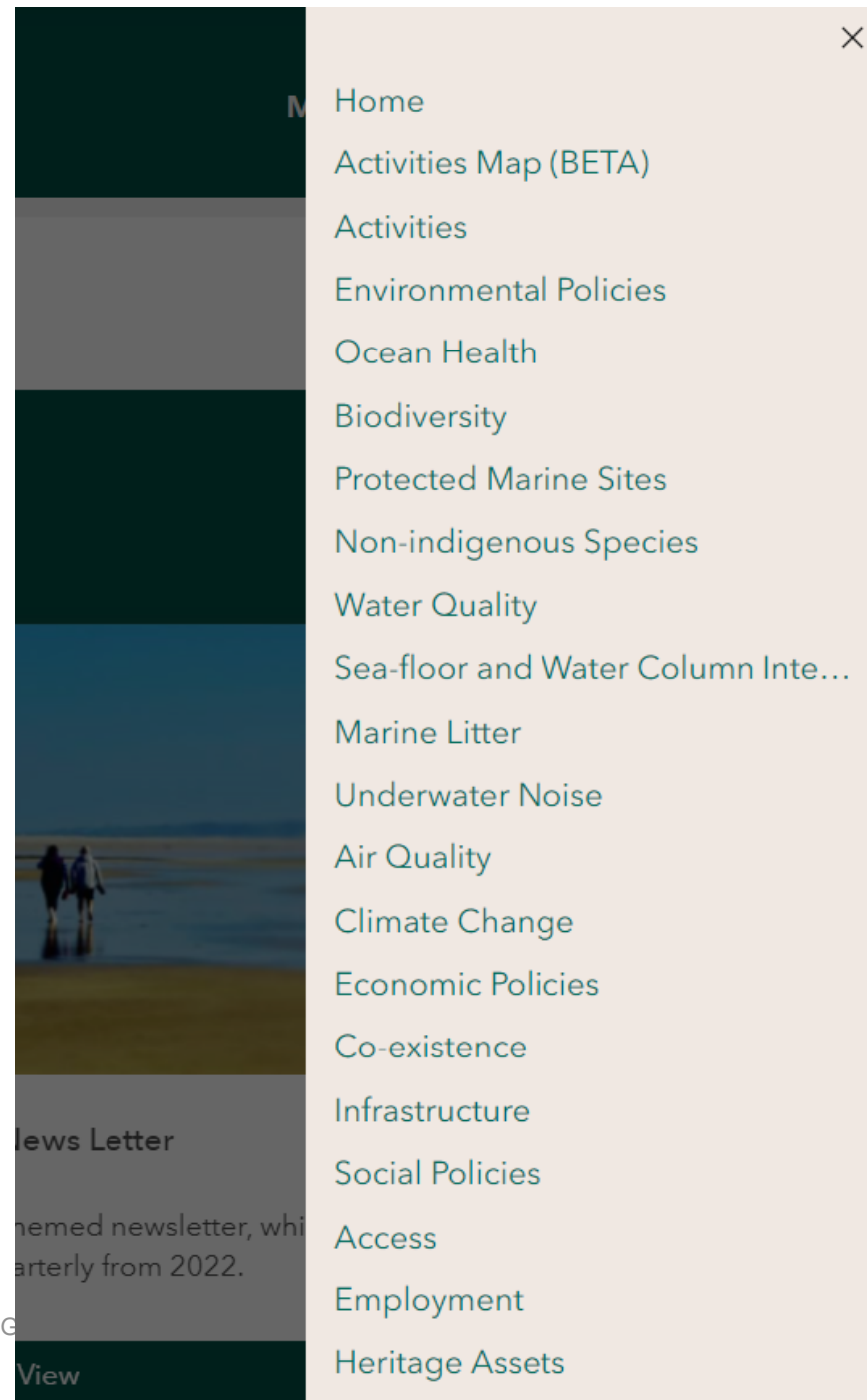




Lastly we have added this “burger menu” button.

This lets you navigate directly to any area of the site without the need to drill down into areas.

When you use the Activities you drill down into relevant areas, but if you know where you want to go or want a quick way to change – use the burger menu option





Some key points to note:

All data is Open Data – available for download from <https://data.gov.ie/> and <https://data-housinggovie.opendata.arcgis.com/> and can be reused in other GIS systems. Some datasets are also available on EMODnet.

Data is catalogued and certified by the Marine Institute before being uploaded – Other marine datasets are available for download from <https://www.marine.ie/>

Additional Data Sets will be added over time and updated quarterly or more frequently depending on the data – recommendations can be sent to [msp@housing.gov.ie](mailto:msp@housing.gov.ie)

The MSP Hub has the latest MSP updates, newsletters, education pieces for schools and information on all Departments and Agencies with a Marine function.

- ❖ Ease of finding relevant information is key to making good decisions
  - ❖ One source of truth / information
  - ❖ Identify the data and make it available to all





## Project Marine Newsletter Issue No. 5

Autumn 2023



Project Marine Newsletter  
Issue No. 4 June 2023



Project Marine Newsletter  
Issue No. 3 February 2023



Project Marine Newsletter  
- Issue 2 October 2022



Project Marine News  
Letter Issue No: 1 June...





# Thank You

[MSP@housing.gov.ie](mailto:MSP@housing.gov.ie)

<https://marineplan.ie/>

[@MSP\\_Ireland](#)

