

Introduction to MARA

Presentation to IPI Marine Planning Series

27th October 2023



MARRA

An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuirí
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

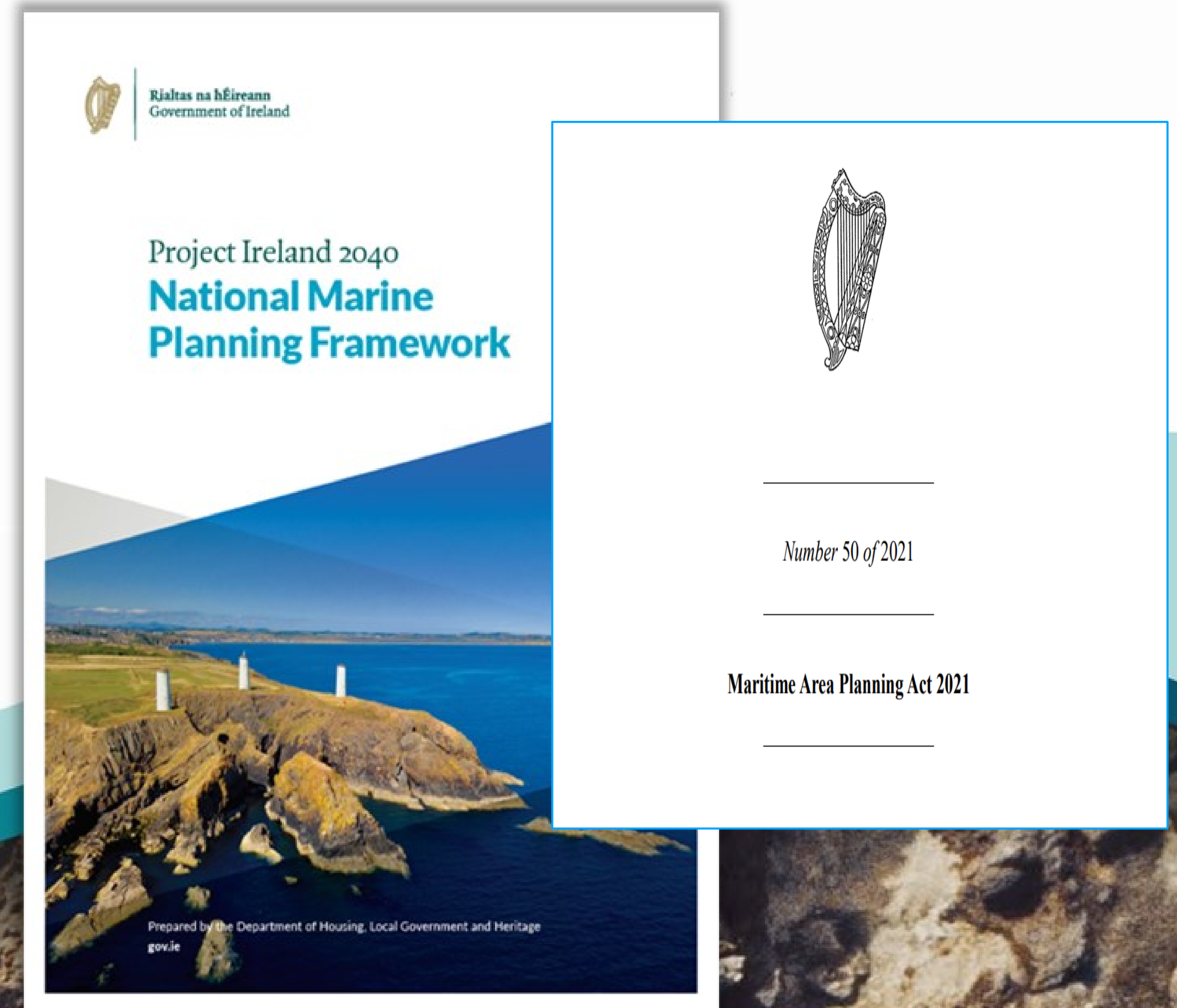


Reform of Marine Management in Ireland

MARA is part of the 'wider picture' in terms of the reform of marine management

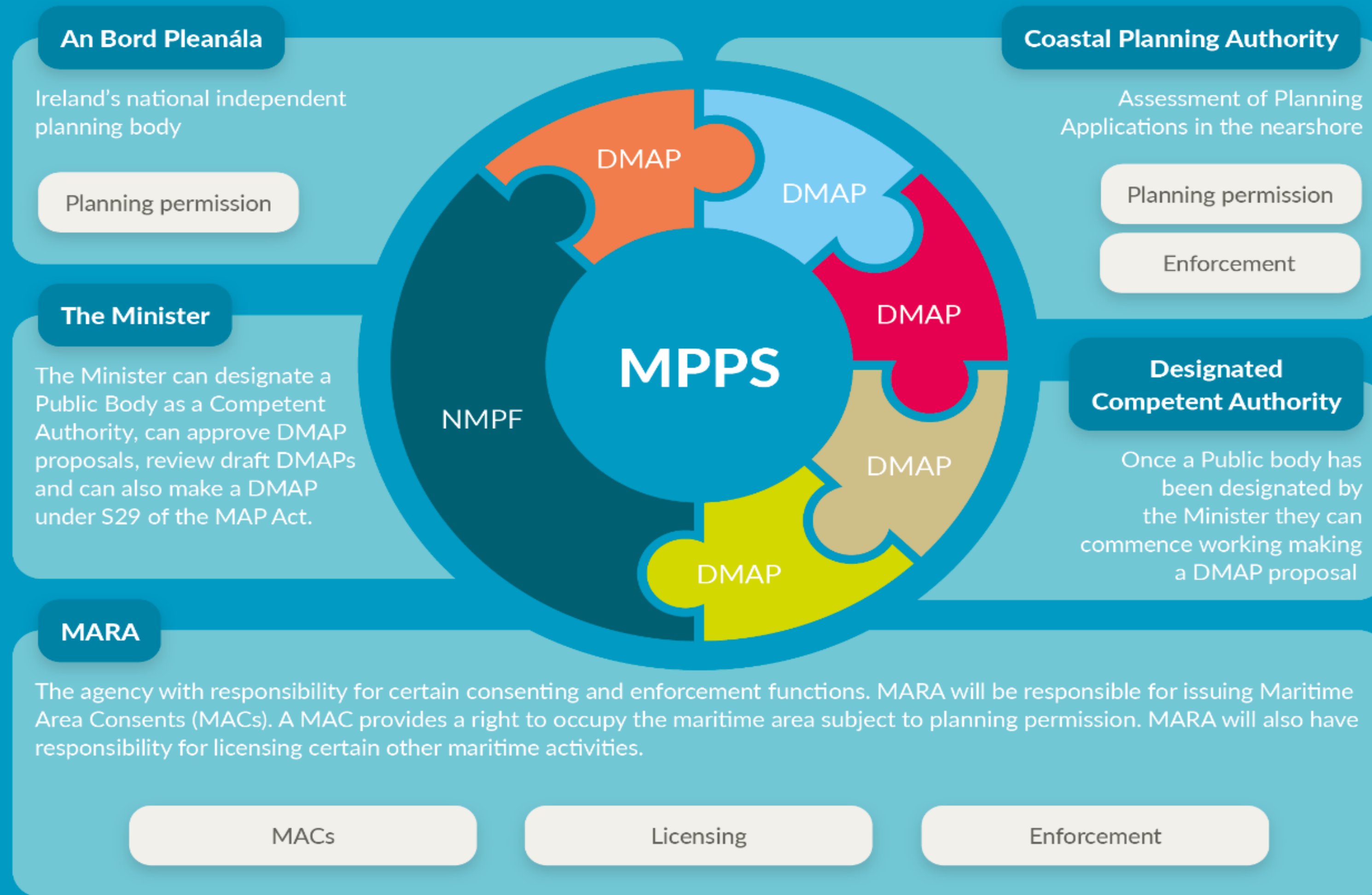
Brought about by

- National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) 2021
- Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)



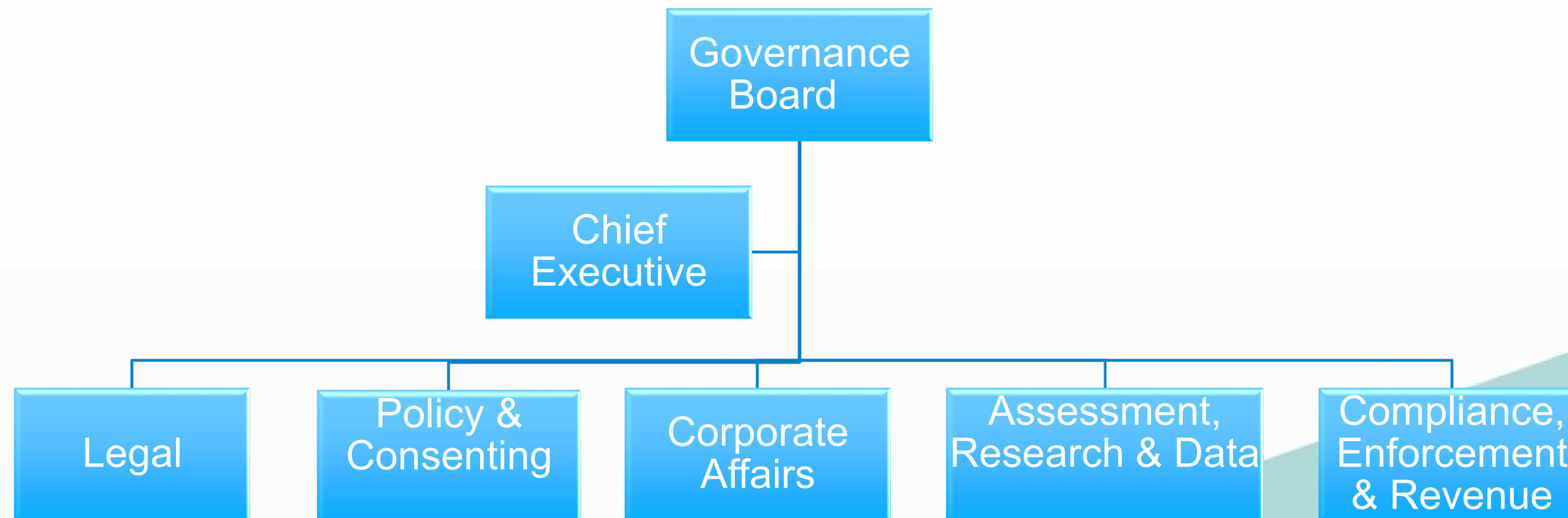
Creating a Coherent Marine Planning System

Marine Planning in Ireland



Who we are....

- Established on 17th July 2023; HQ in Wexford
- Governance Board (11 members)
- Executive team led by CEO, Ms. Laura Brien – decision making at Executive level



MARA's Role

New independent agency to manage the occupation of the maritime area and to enforce the provisions of the new planning regime

Consenting

- Maritime Area Consent (MAC)
- Maritime Usage Licence

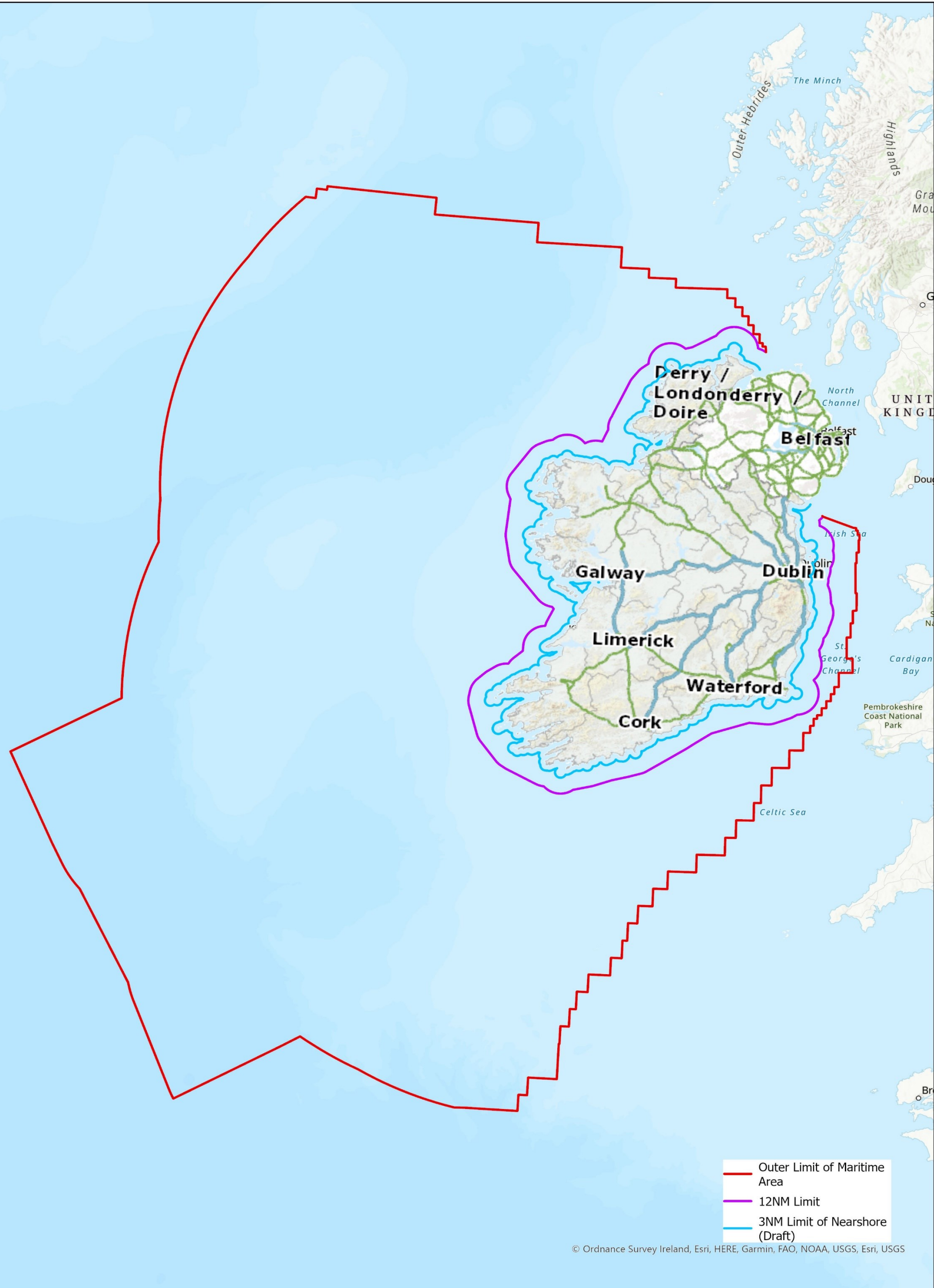
Compliance

- Enforcement
- Co-operation
- Existing Foreshore authorisations

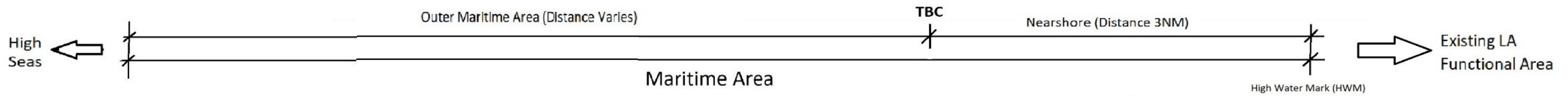
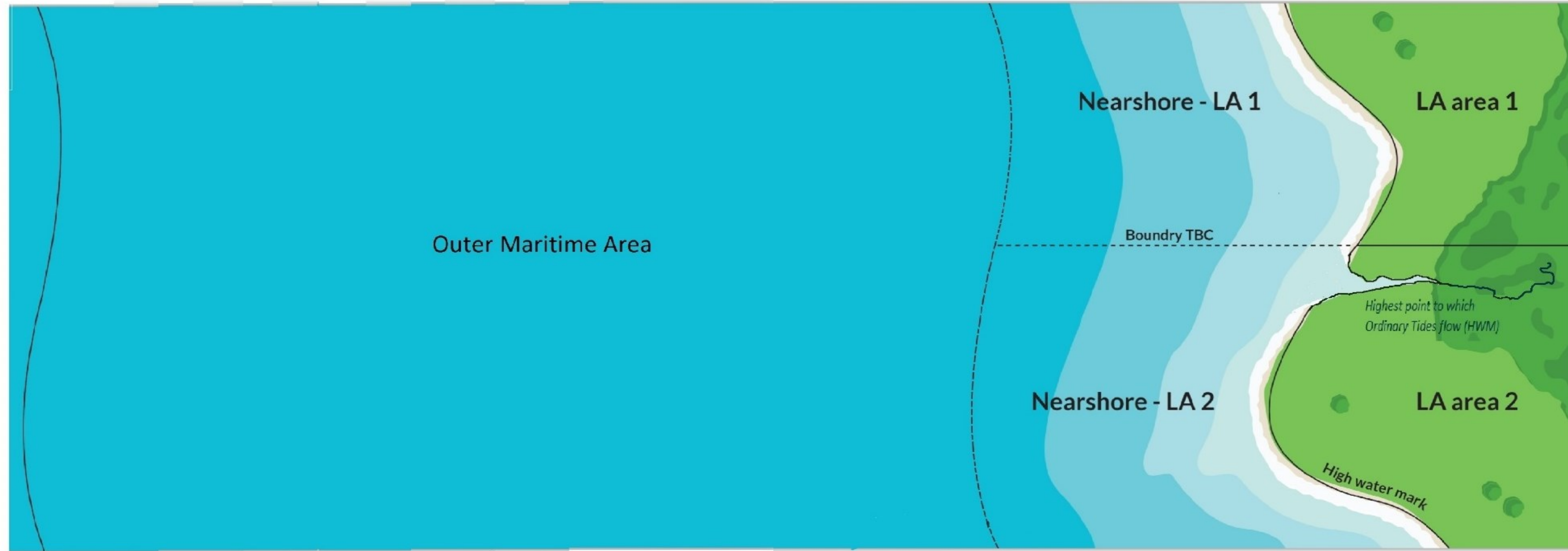


Number 50 of 2021

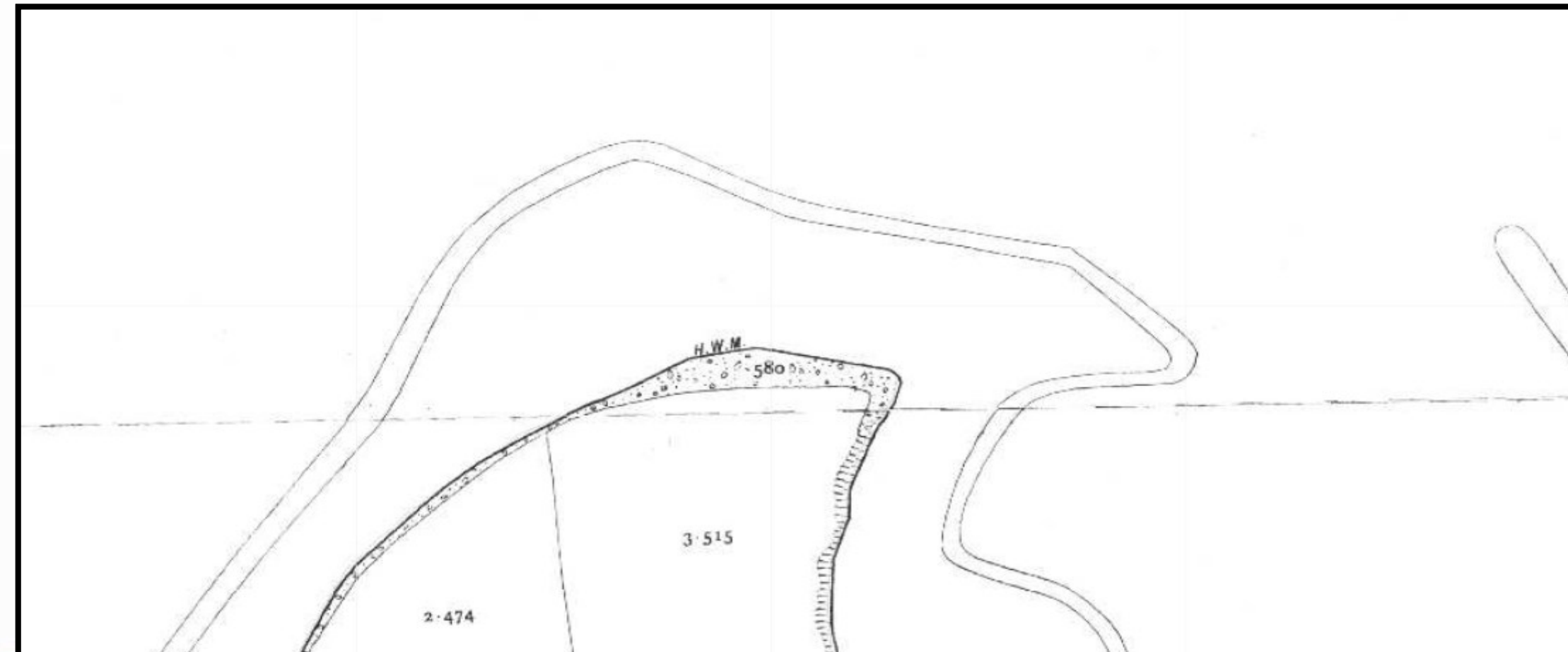
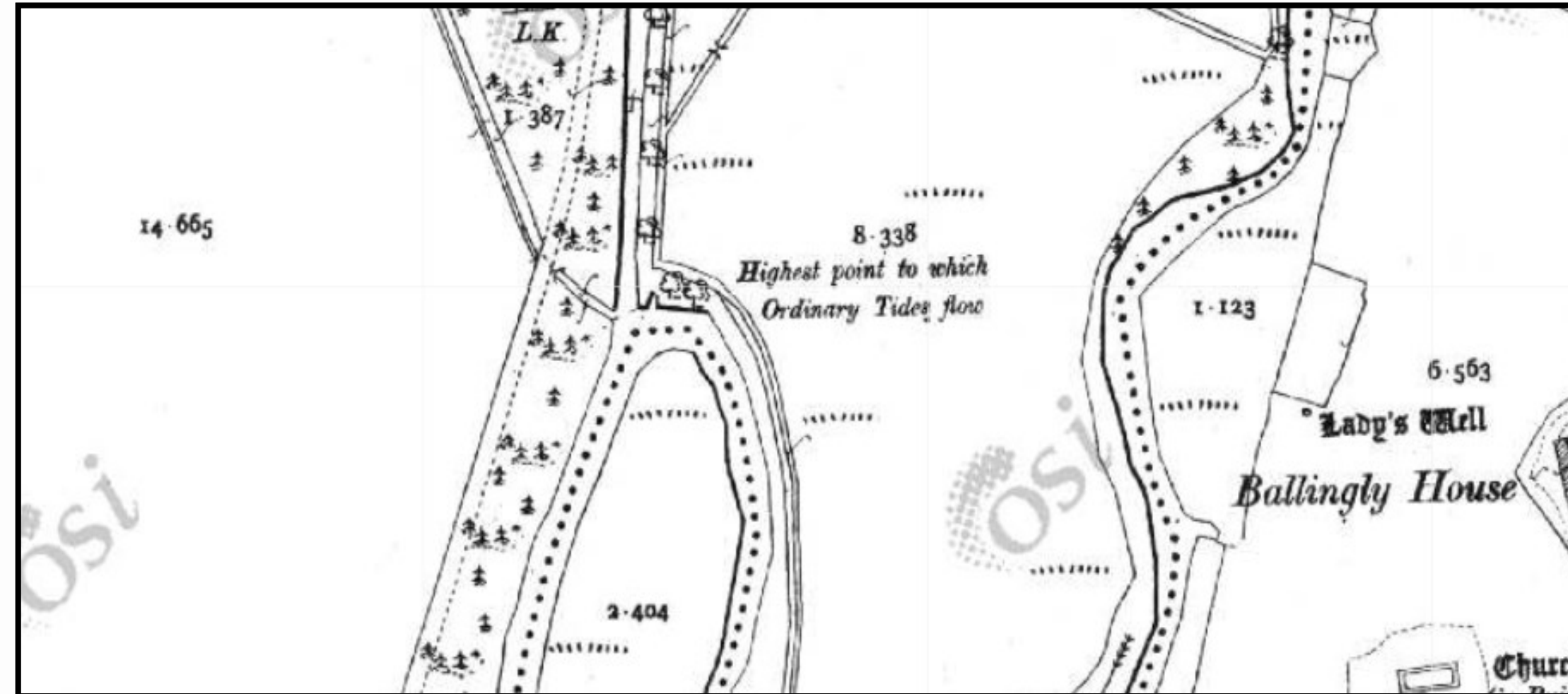
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021



Terminology - Nearshore/Outer Maritime Area



High Water Mark



Maritime Area Consent (MAC)

- Manages the relationship between the State and the Holder – *“right to occupy”*
- **Gateway into the planning system** – required in **advance** of applying for development permission
- No environmental decision-making (*MARA are not required to undertake screening for AA or EIA*)
- No consultation at MAC application – (*consultation is a key requirement of the planning process*)
- MARA to determine a MAC application within **90 days**
- **Levy framework** for different classes of MACs (ORE, Ports, Cables etc.)



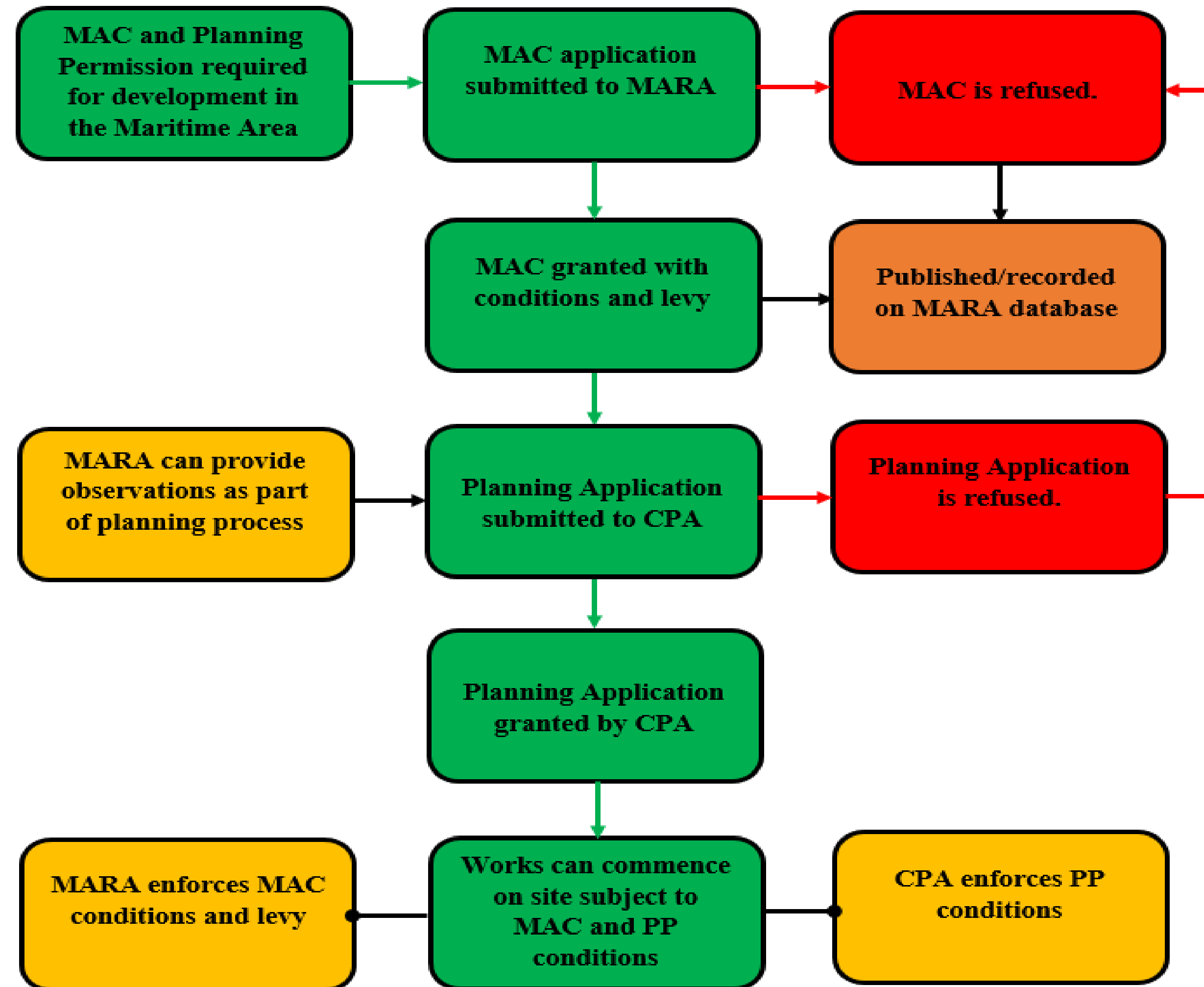
When a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) is not required

- Activities relating to a fisheries harbour centres & aquaculture - Foreshore Act 1933 still applies;
- Any usage which is navigation or fishing;
- Privately owned maritime area;
- Aids to navigation / shipping
- Oil & Gas exploration
- Others set out in Schedule 3 of Maritime Area Planning Act



Note: Amendments included in the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 – limited time bound transitional provisions where planning permission has already been granted

Maritime Area Consent (MAC) and Development Permission Process - Nearshore Area



Maritime Development – Nearshore

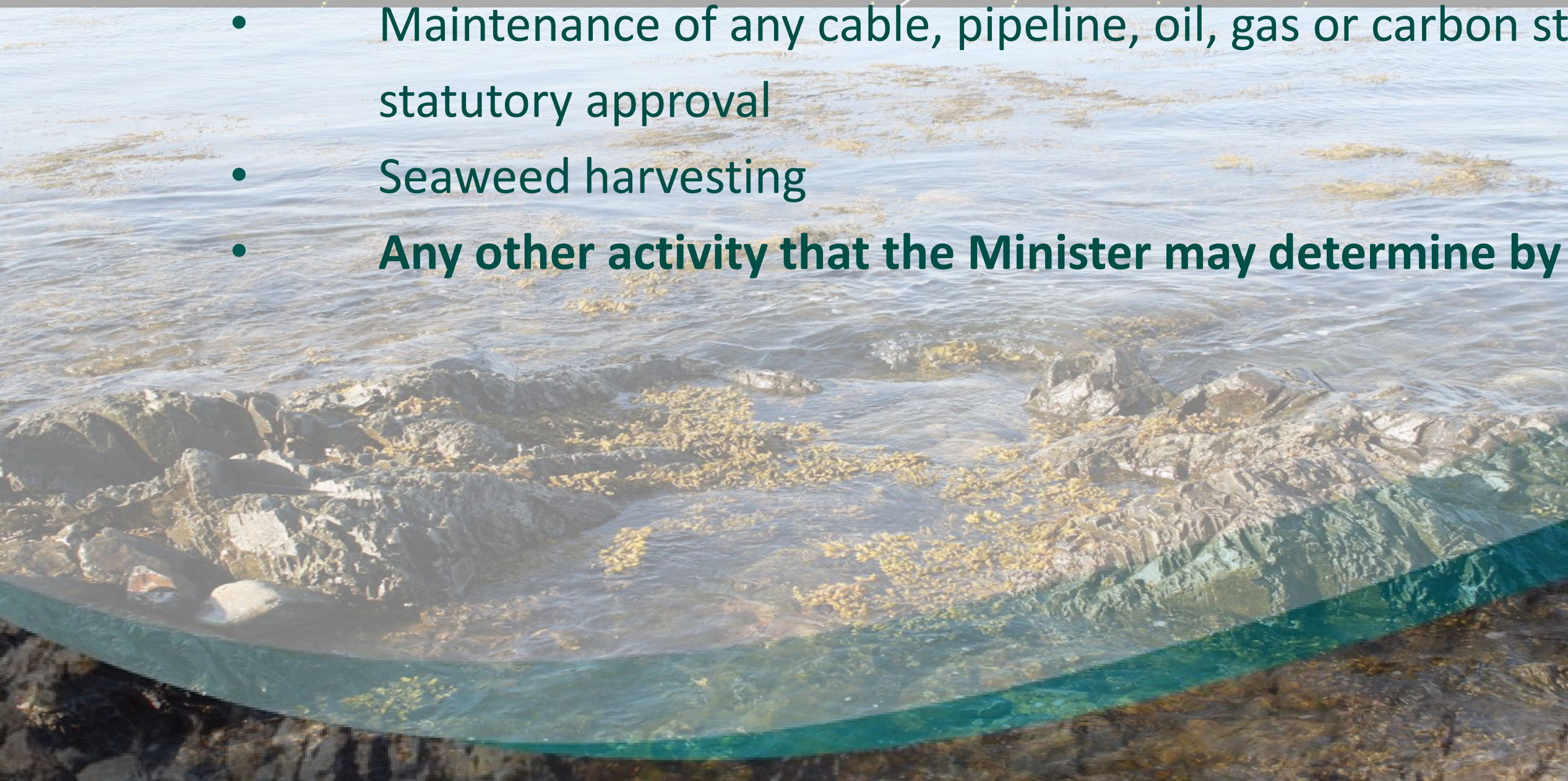


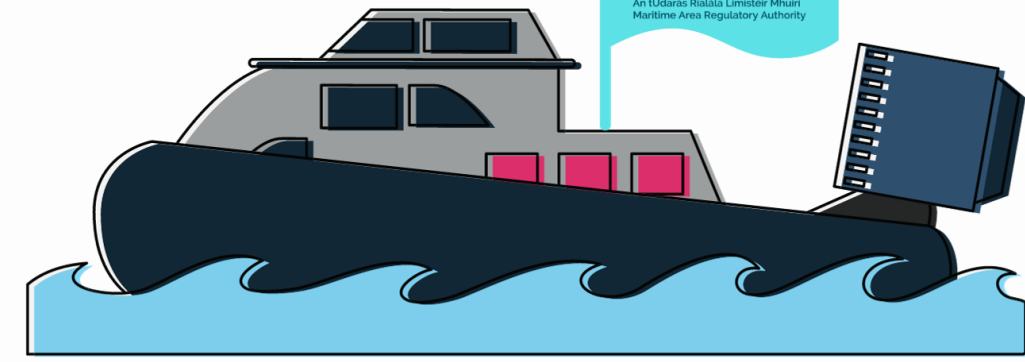
Maritime Development – Nearshore



Maritime Usages subject to licence (schedule 7)

- Dredging (not related to development)
- **Marine environmental surveys for**
 - the purposes of scientific discovery or research
 - the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of PDA
- Installation of navigational markers/ moorings/ aids to navigation not undertaken by the Commissioners of Irish Lights
- Installation of non-permanent platforms or pontoons
- Depositing of any substance or object on or in the sea or seabed
- Removal of any substance or object from the sea or seabed
- Use of explosives
- Maintenance of any cable, pipeline, oil, gas or carbon storage facility / structure not provided for under any other statutory approval
- Seaweed harvesting
- **Any other activity that the Minister may determine by regulations – one off events.**





Compliance & Enforcement

“Compliance & enforcement goes to the heart of MARA’s credibility”

- **No competence in security matters (Defence/Security agencies)**
- Compliance and enforcement of MAC & licence conditions and conditions attached to planning permission by ABP
- Special Enforcement Notices (simplified enforcement procedure under Act)
- Suspension/revocation – automatic termination of authorisations (High Court confirmation) e.g.
 - **failure to comply with development permission (granted by ABP)**
 - failure to pay fees/levies
 - material breach of authorisation
 - repeated or cumulative breach

MARA's Prioritisation Framework



- Phase 1 (Special MACs) from Establishment Day
- Offshore Renewable Energy – in line with Government Decision & plan leg regime (DMAPs – led by DECC/DHLGH)
- Ports - critical marine infrastructure to support the delivery and deployment of offshore wind projects;







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Mission

“MARA will support the new governance of Ireland’s maritime resources. Working collaboratively with all its partners MARA will support the pillars of Ireland’s marine planning system by:

- bringing its expertise, knowledge and skills to enhance forward planning in the maritime area
- developing a well-functioning transparent consenting system, consistent with the principles of proper marine spatial planning, for all maritime users and activities; and
- implementing a rigorous, but proportionate, compliance and monitoring programme to ensure the sustainable use of our maritime area

MARA will achieve this by building expertise in its people, its processes and its technology. As custodians of the maritime area, MARA will ensure that through good management and transparent decision making we will optimise our maritime resource on behalf of all citizens”





Digital Resources

- <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/> - MARA's website – guidance on MAC and Licence application process
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/fab8f-maritime-area-consent-mac/> - Phase 1 (Special MACs)
- <https://revisedacts.lawreform.ie/eli/2021/act/50/front/revised/en/html> - Consolidated MAP Act
- https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2023/2/eng/ver_c/b02c23s.pdf - HAHMP Act 2023
- Email: info@mara.gov.ie
- Twitter: @maritimereg