



An Roinn Comhshaoil,
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications

Marine Planning Updates

Marie Minihan

11 October 2024

Marine Planning has moved



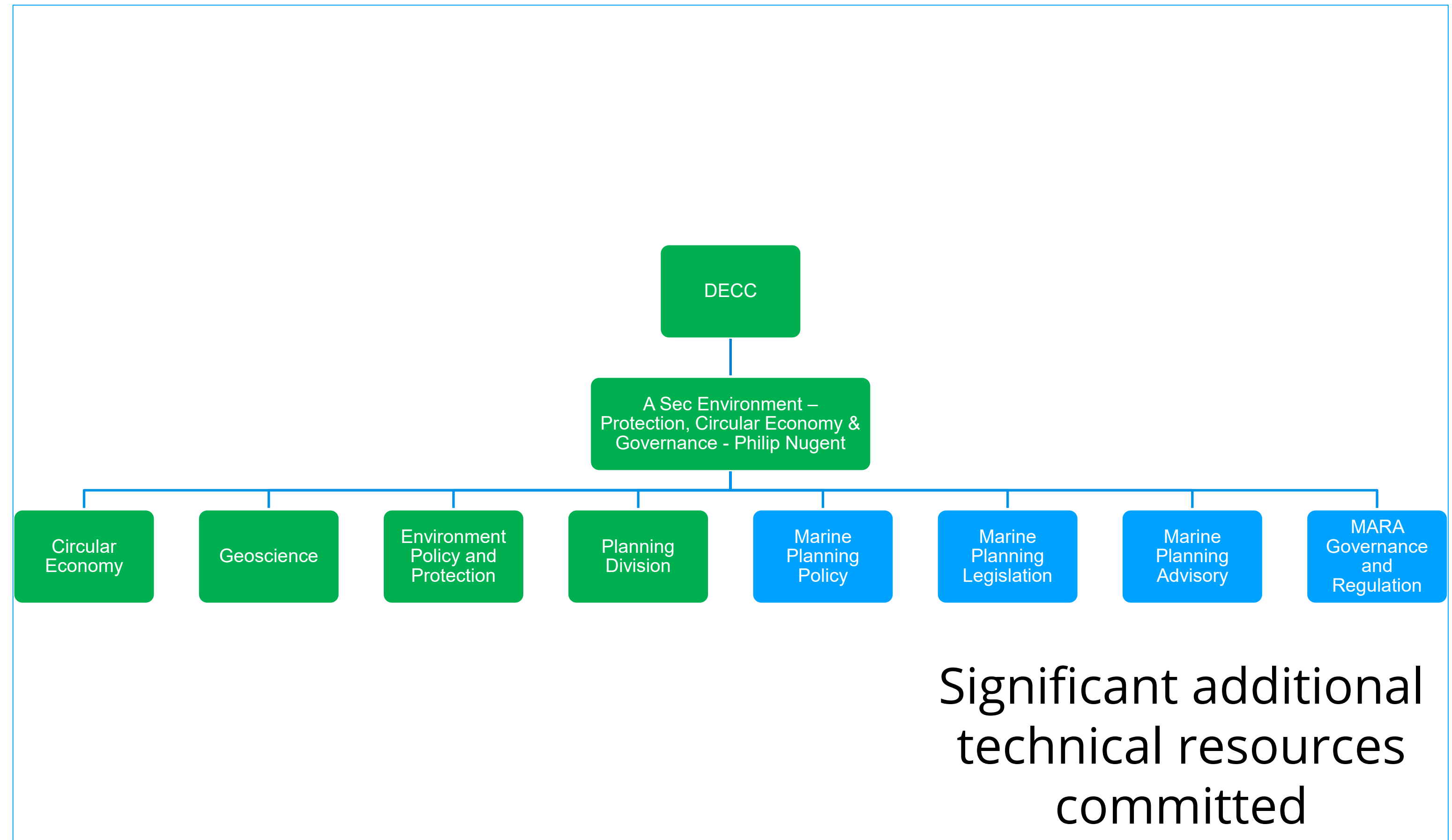
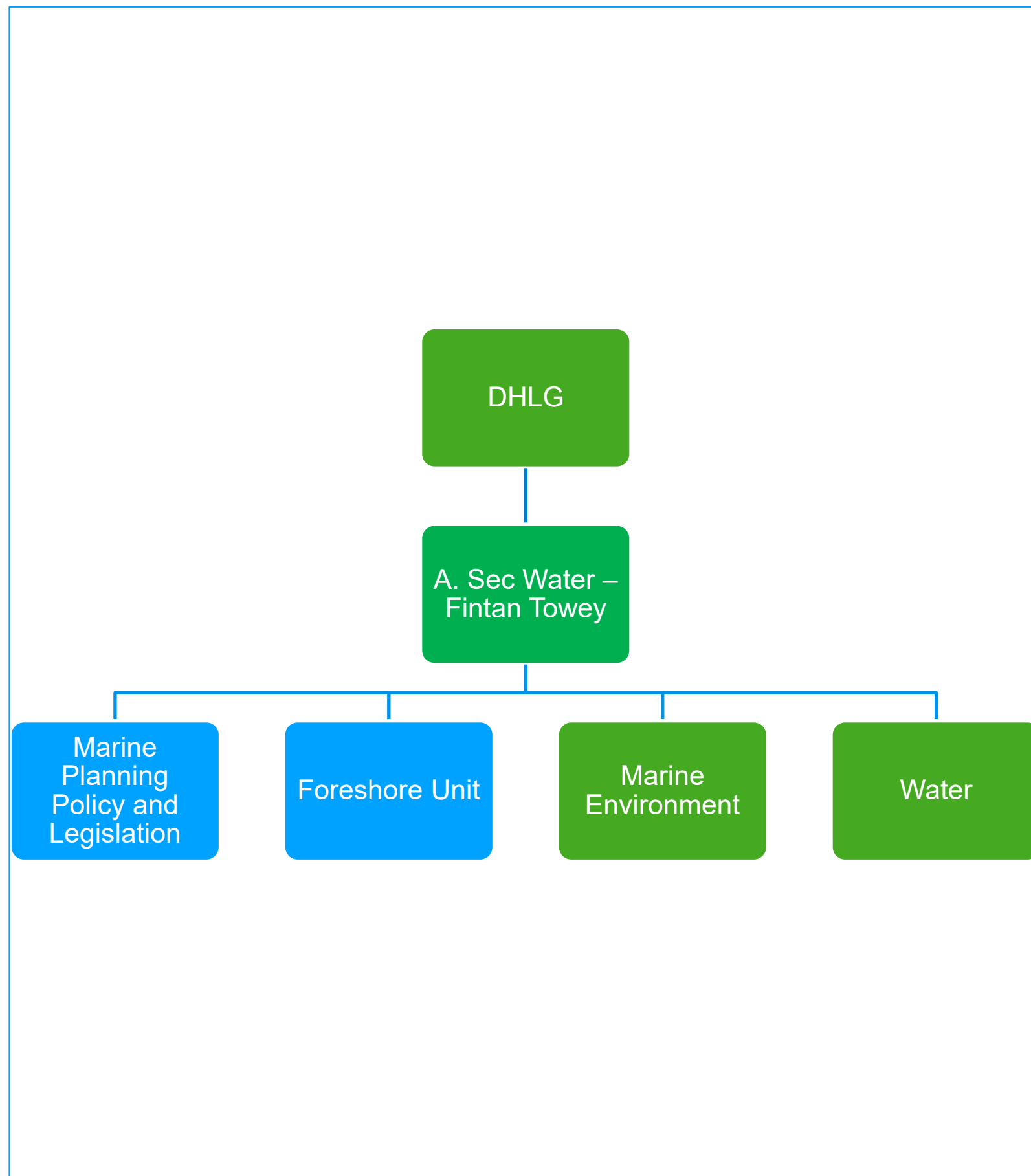
- Government decided in December 2023 to transfer the functions, under the Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021 and the Foreshore Act, 1933, of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communication.
- The move of marine planning was provided for in primary legislation through the Gas (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2024.
- The move of the foreshore unit was provided for in secondary legislation through S.I. No. 236/2024 - Foreshore (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2024.
- These changes were given effect in May 2024.

Marine Planning Acts



- Functions under the *Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021* and the *Foreshore Act, 1933* have transferred to MECC.
- Forward planning, occupancy management and enforcement in the maritime area are now the responsibility of DECC.
- Part 8 of the MAP Act, 2021 inserted *Part 21 into the Planning and Development Act, 2000* dealing with Development Management in the maritime Area.
- Responsibility for the Planning and Development Act, and hence Marine Development Management remains with DHLGH.
- Marine Planning units in DECC will continue to work closely with planning colleagues in DHLGH to ensure cohesion between the land and marine regulatory systems.

Increase in resources



Marine Planning Governance and Regulation (formerly Foreshore) – Claire Finn



Divisions focus:

- To give full effect to phaseout of the Foreshore function & transition to MARA as a key strategic objective.
- MARA Governance & Oversight under the Code of Practice & MAP Act 2021.

Including:

- Ongoing management of residual foreshore function, with active caseload (received prior to MARA establishment) managed to determination.
- Close out of residual foreshore function, with hard and historic caseload brought to conclusion or where appropriate transitioned to MARA.
- Litigation-Judicial Review management.
- Departmental provision of post establishment service (HR, IT, Foreshore estate management) to MARA under an SLA.

Marine Planning Policy – Rory O’Leary



Focus on ensuring that MSP

- works for all marine/maritime users & activities;
- is an enabler of economic development/opportunity in a planned and managed way;
- is reflective of national priorities and balances competing interests;
- through co-ordination and collaboration across Government will ensure the NMPF is adhered to as the guiding marine spatial plan,
- allows for significant stakeholder and societal engagement;

Specific updates

- Marine Planning Policy Statement to be presented for public consultation next month; In the MPPS, the Government sets the high-level objectives and priorities in respect of the marine planning system. It is a guiding policy document for others to follow;
- MSP Stakeholder Advisory Group has been re-established to support the Department’s work in marine spatial planning; plan is for this to be an important forum in advising the Department and bring relevant expertise/views to the table – welcome this continued engagement with all stakeholders;
- Project Ireland Marine 2040 Group reestablished to drive co-ordination of marine related policy development and implementation across Government;
- Forward Planning - developing principles and criteria for assessing the need for future DMAPs;

Marine Planning Legislation – Marie Minihan



Focus on:

- Ensuring the Maritime Area Planning Act secondary legislation is enacted;
- Addressing operational issues with the MAP Act if they arise through Primary legislation;
- Ensure cohesion between the MAP Act and the Planning and Development Act and forthcoming Bill;

Specific Updates:

- Will bring forward amendments to the MAP Act as part of the Environmental Protection Agency Bill. Remain subject to Government approval but may address optimising operation of MARA, clarifying the DMAP making process, supporting the wind up of the Foreshore unit.
- Priorities in relation to Secondary legislation will be the identification of relevant emergency works, specification of non material amendments to MSPs and DMAPs, identification of data to which the maritime authorisation database applies and providing for exemptions to Part 5 where appropriate.
- The unit will work closely with consent and licence givers to support commencement of the Maritime Authorisation Database including possible delegation to MARA.

Marine Planning Advisory unit – Karina Fitzgerald



- Dedicated technical marine planning advisory team is being established.
- Team will be headed by a Senior Marine Planning Advisor.
- Multi-disciplinary team with expertise in the fields of planning, marine ecology, ornithology, marine engineering, GIS and data and environmental assessment.
- Posts will be filled over the coming months.
- Team will be tasked with the delivery of planning solutions including Designated Maritime Area Plans.
- The team will also provide marine planning advisory services for the Department.



Thank You