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South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

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Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

11 Oct 2024



Policy Context

- Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) critical enabler of Ireland’s decarbonisation and energy security.
- SC-DMAP supports Ireland’s climate objectives enabling the delivery of 5 GW of offshore wind by the end of 2030, 20 GW by 2040, and 37 GW by 2050.
- Provide for the strategically managed and sustainable development of offshore wind. Developed in the context of:
 - Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021
 - National Marine Planning Framework, 2021
 - Establishment of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), established 2023



Project Ireland 2040
**National Marine
Planning Framework**



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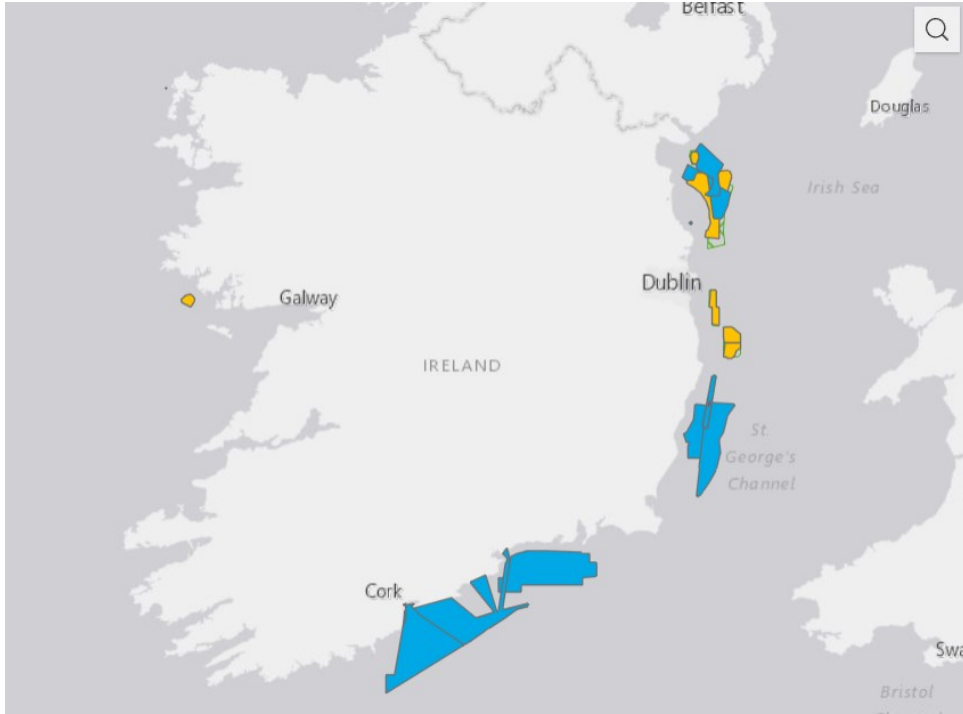
**Future Framework for
Offshore Renewable Energy
Policy Statement**
2024



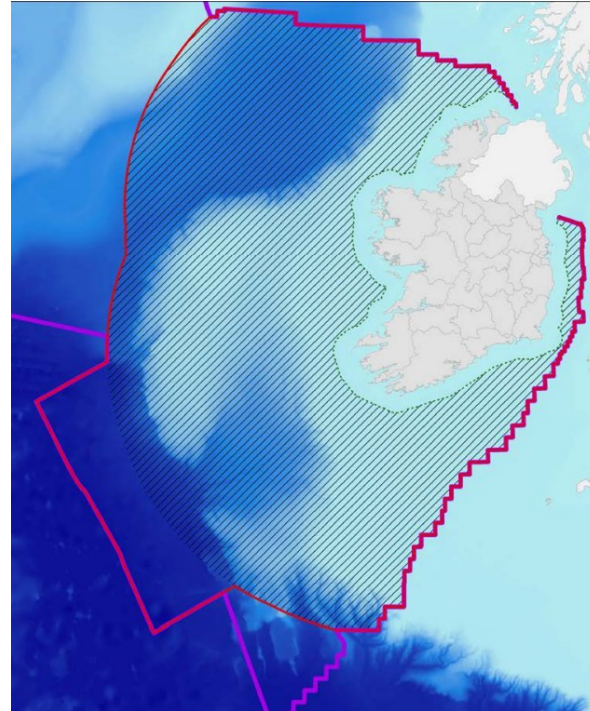
**Climate Action Plan
2024**



Plan Led System



Source: Marineplan.ie
Site Investigations for Offshore Wind Farms



- Deliver a secure, sustainable, and cost-effective supply of indigenous energy for future generations, while unlocking green energy export opportunities.
- Transformational economic, societal, and environmental opportunities presented by Ireland's offshore wind resource.
- Accelerate designating maritime areas for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) according to legislative provisions for Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) in the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act.

South Coast DMAP Proposal

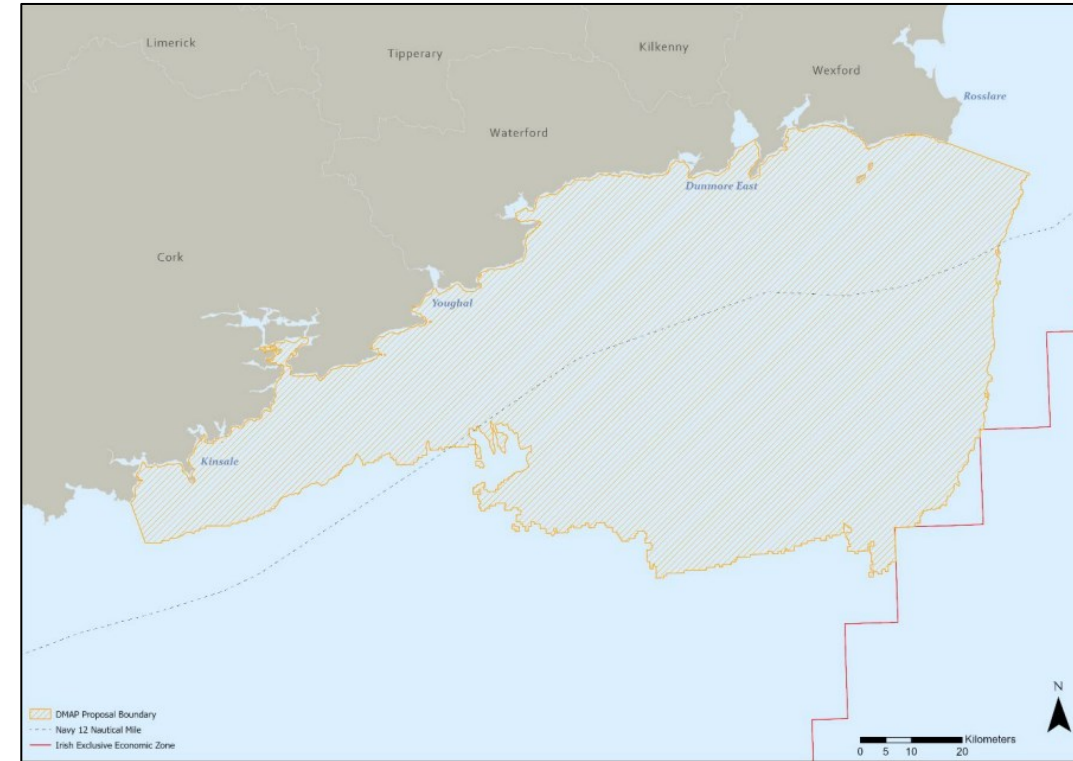
- In accordance with s 21 of the MAP Act 2021, SC-DMAP Proposal was initiated in July 2023 - Study Area
- To identify Maritime areas for Fixed Offshore Wind
 - 900 MW Project for development by 2030
 - Post 2030 development areas

Why the South Coast

- Sea-depths suitable for immediate and future developments of fixed offshore wind.
- The Celtic Sea contains a very significant offshore wind resource.
- Available onshore grid capacity along the South Coast, to connect approximately 900 MW of ORE capacity to the onshore transmission system.
- Proximity to several significant port facilities.
- There is a significant and growing population and industrial base along the South Coast.

The proposal was advanced informed by:

- Public Engagement: Aug-Oct 23
- Environmental & Technical Analysis
- SEA and AA



Draft SC-DMAP Process



Section 22 of the MAP Act 2021 Draft DMAPS.

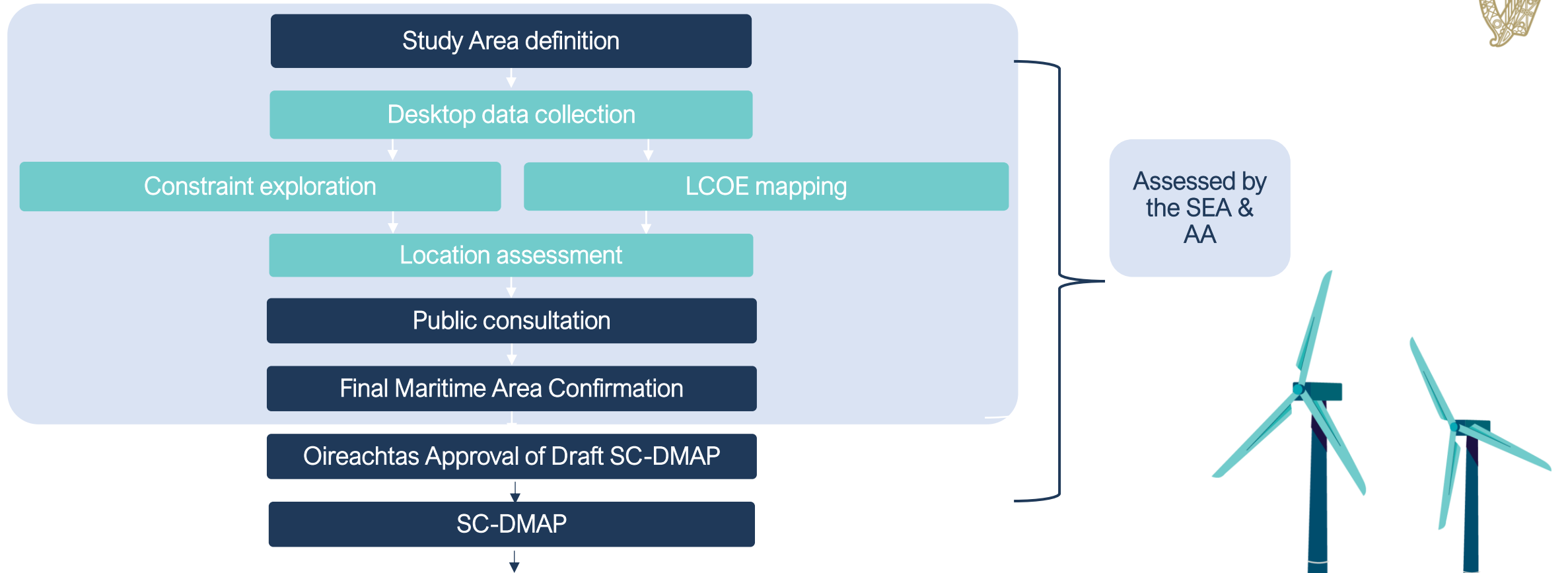
Consistent with the NMPF

Examples of what a draft DMAP shall specify under s 22 (2) of MAP Act 2021 :

- The objectives of the NMPF that the DMAP will seek to attain or assist.
- The geographical or sectoral areas, or both, of the maritime area proposed to be subject of the DMAP.
- The proposed extent of the maritime area proposed to be utilised by the maritime usages the subject of the DMAP.
- Any prohibitions or restrictions proposed to be imposed on the maritime uses.
- Any proposed co-location or co-existence
- Any proposed measures to avoid or mitigate any adverse impact of the maritime uses on protected sites, species or habitats.
- Proposals to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on the environment or benefit the environment or protected sites.
- Proposals to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse impact on other lawful users of the maritime area.



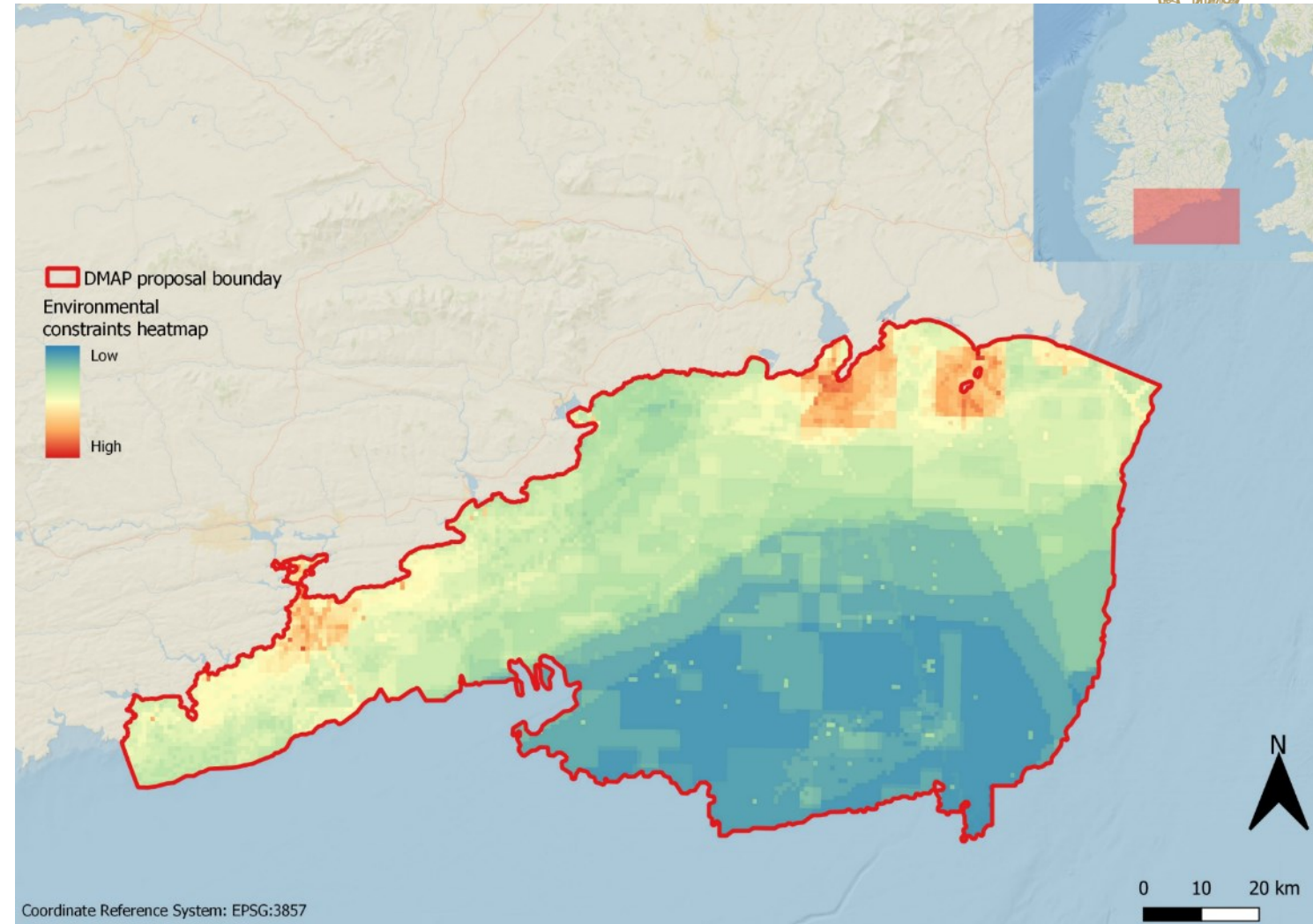
Maritime Area Identification Process



Constraint exploration

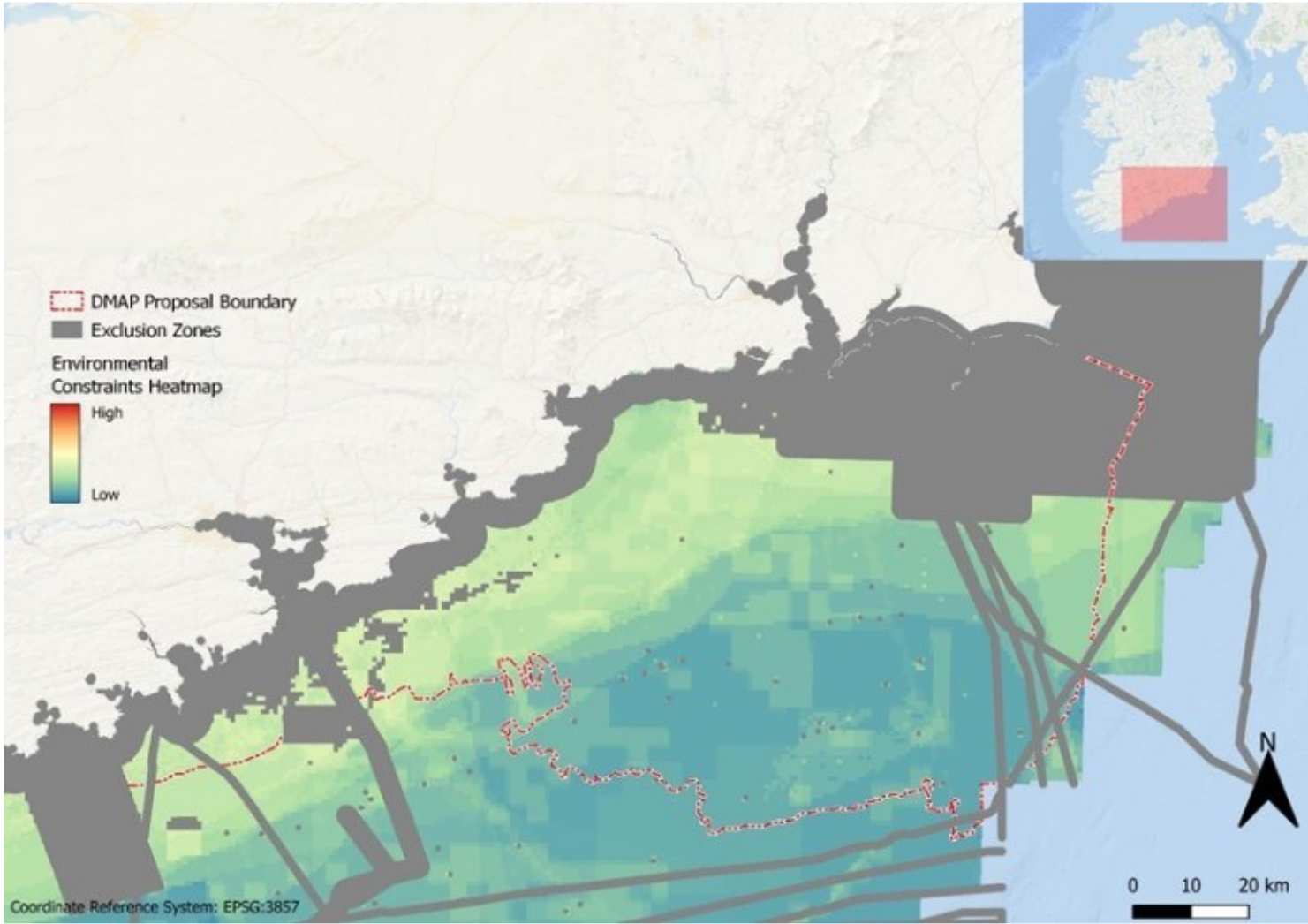


- Ecosystem-based approach, including analysis of social, economic, biodiversity data
- Spatial data for environmental attributes potentially constraining ORE location was collected
 - ▶ 17 Attribute categories
 - ▶ More than 200 Environmental Layers
- Environmental constraints assessed through analysis of data layers including:
 - ▶ Fisheries/Aquaculture
 - ▶ Fish/Shellfish (spawning/nursery grounds)
 - ▶ Distance from shore
 - ▶ Designated Sites (SACs/SPAs)
 - ▶ Ornithology / Marine Mammals
- DMAP Area broken down in 10mx10m cells to highlight areas of greatest environmental constraint

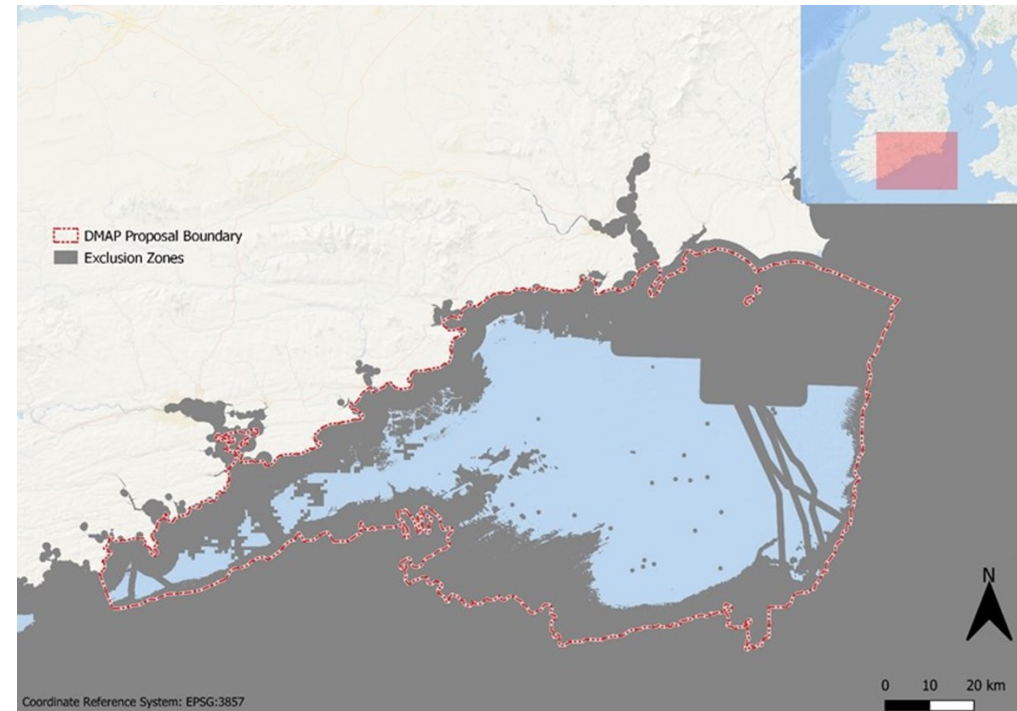
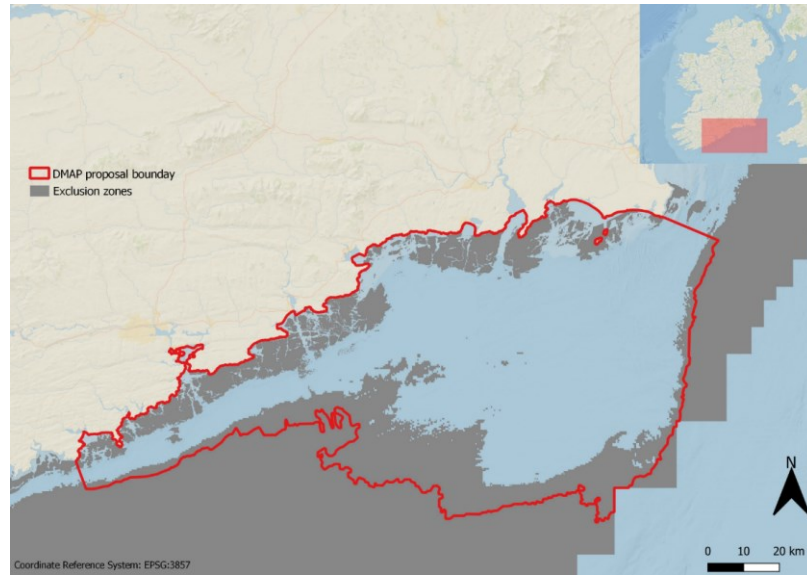




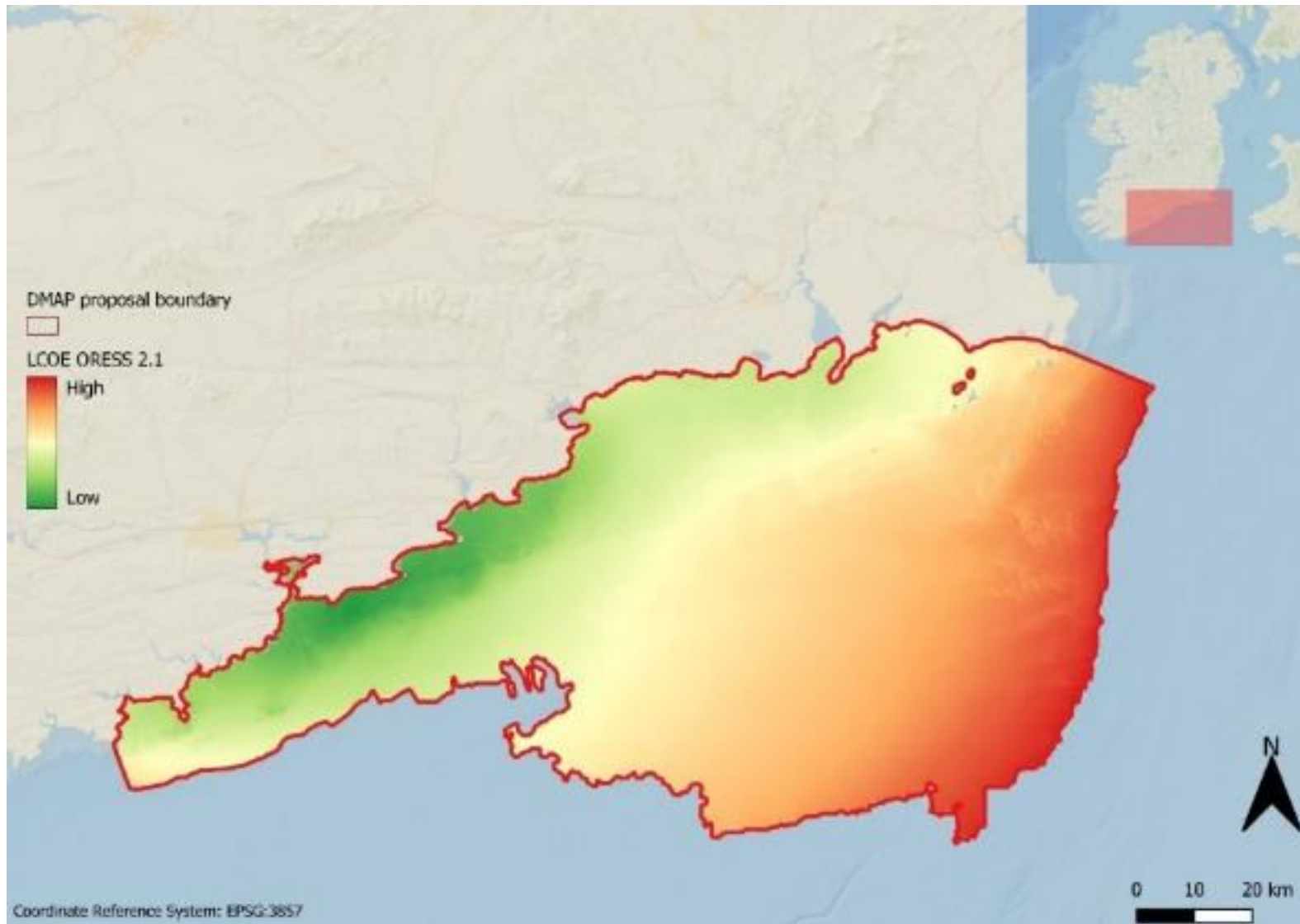
Areas of either high consolidated (cumulative) environmental constraint or highest individual environmental constraint for a given data layer were excluded from consideration for locating offshore wind projects at this stage.



- Technical constraints where ORE development especially challenging then considered
- Areas where surface bedrock is identified were excluded
- Areas where the sea depth is >75 m were excluded
- Environmental and technical constraints were consolidated into a combined exclusion map



Levelised cost of energy mapping

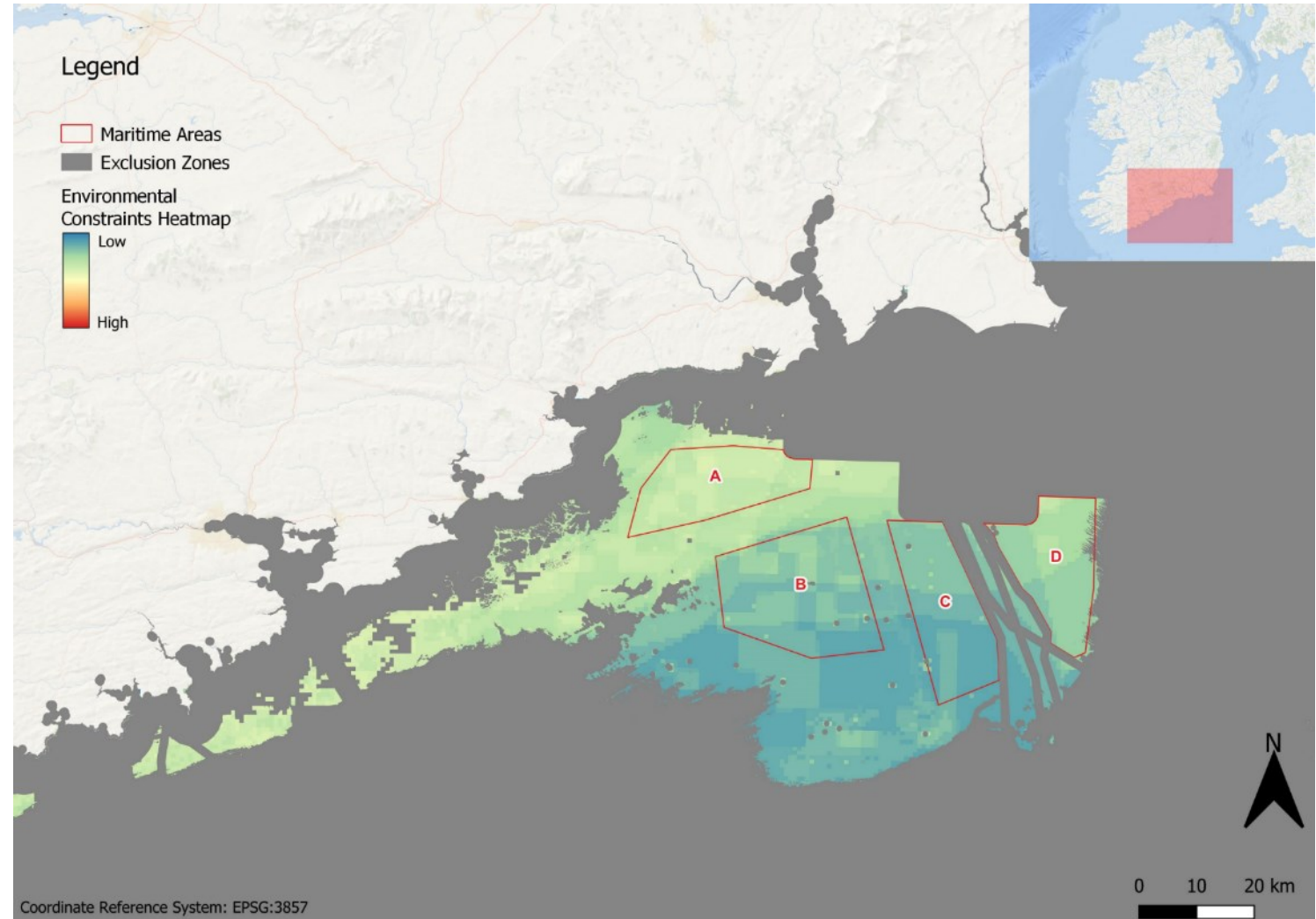


- Economically attractive locations for ORE Development:
 - Sea-Depth
 - Wind-Speed
 - Grid

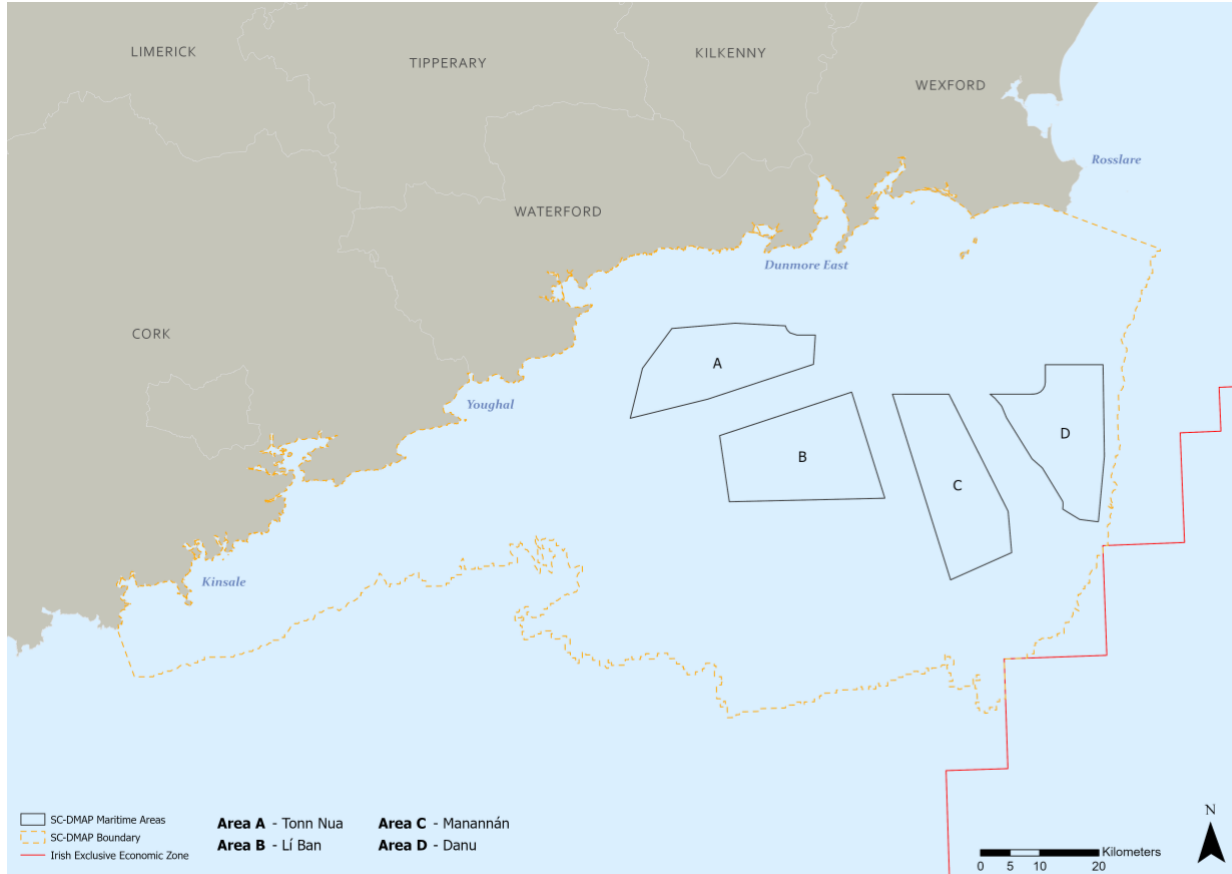
Location assessment



- 4 Maritime Areas identified where there were no exclusions and environmental constraint and LCOE are lowest
- If only LCOE were to be considered, then the maritime areas would likely be much closer to shore, where the costs of project development are lower



Maritime Areas for ORE and Policy Objectives



Maritime Area	Area/Mean Water Depth
A: Tonn Nua	306 km ² / 57m
B: Lí Ban	368 km ² / 71m
C: Manannán	368 km ² / 69m
D: Danu	300 km ² / 67m

Policy Objectives	
Maritime Areas for ORE	Co-Existence with Telecommunications
Plan Level Measures	Co-existence with Marine Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
Implementation, Governance and Monitoring	Land and Sea Interactions
Marine, Environment and Biodiversity	Ports and Harbours
Co-existence	Transmission System Infrastructure
Co-existence with Aquaculture, Seafood and Fisheries	Economic and Employment Growth Potential
Shipping	Commitment to on-going local and regional community engagement
Co-existence with Tourism and Recreation	

Draft SC-DMAP Public Consultation



Dept. Environment, Climate and Communicatio @Dept_ECC · Jun 4 ...
#HaveYourSay on Ireland's first draft spatial plan for offshore wind energy

Come along to @Dept_ECC's final drop-in events:

- 5 June in Tramore at 12pm
- 5 June in Dungarvan at 6pm
- 6 June in Cobh at 11am
- 6 June Ballycotton at 5pm

Read more: gov.ie/en/consultatio...



Dept. Environment, Climate and Communicati @Dept_EC · May 21 ...
 We will have a panel discussion in Wexford on Wednesday evening, taking place in the Wexford County Council offices, click here if you would like to register for this event
eventbrite.com/e/south-coast-...



- 14 in-person public consultation events in Counties Wexford, Waterford and Cork, from 15 May to 6 June 2024.
- Three evening panel discussions were held in Waterford City and County Council, Cork County Hall and Wexford County Council 15, 16 and 22 May 2024.
- Three public webinars 23, 29 May and 10 June 2024
- Local Authority Council Meeting and Regional Assembly Briefings 9, 10, 13, 14 May 2024
- Students in University College Cork and South East Technological University Wexford and Waterford Campus
- Community Liaison Officer and Fisheries Liaison Officer



Active Public Participation

Over 350 Submissions Received

Key Themes Raised

- Maritime Areas A-D designated for ORE
- Fisheries
- Plan Approach
- Environmental Impacts
- Co-existence
- Land and Sea Interactions
- Economic Opportunities and Employment Growth
- Social Impacts and Community Engagement



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Public Participation Statement South Coast DMAP August 2024

Prepared by the Department of
the Environment, Climate and Communications
gov.ie/DECC

Plan Level Measures –Examples



Established vis environmental assessment iterative process

- To support cumulative / in-combination impact assessment
- Complement project level assessments

Regional Level Surveys (RLS)- applies to Maritime Areas B-D

- Scope determined by SC-DMAP Implementation Body to be established within 6 months
- Informed by Marine Ecosystems and Ornithology WG; implemented by State or MAC holders
- SC DMAP supports survey licence prioritisation as far as practicable by MARA for RLS and MAC holder project level surveys

Policy Objective MI 1

- GIS Data Repository to support the requisite statutory environmental assessments at project level.
- Applications for development of ORE in Maritime Areas B, C and D in the SC-DMAP Area, shall only be submitted to and considered by the planning authority when the data meeting the scope of the initial Regional Level Surveys is available through the GIS repository.

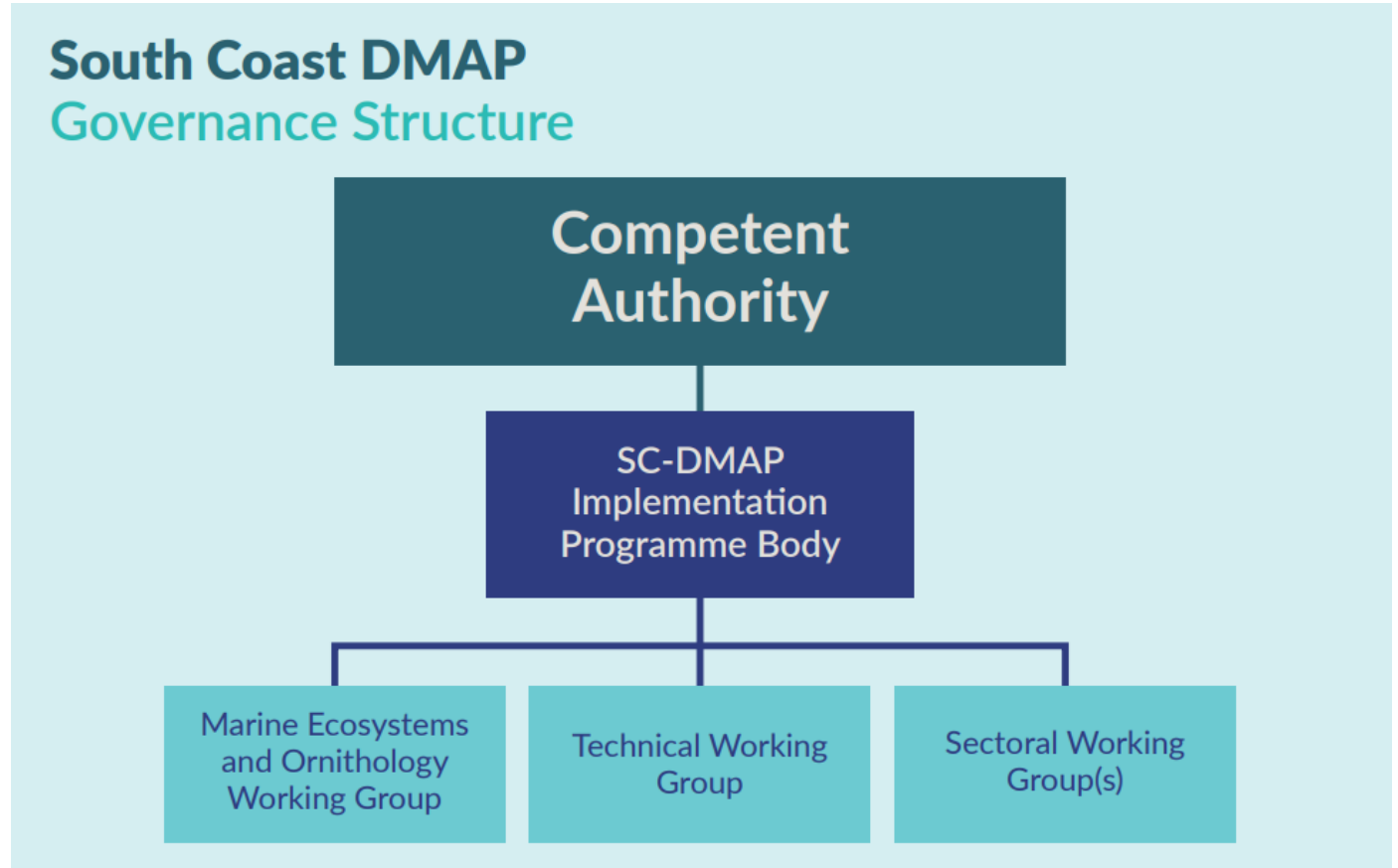


Implementation, Governance and Monitoring



Policy Objectives IGM 1-4

- Governance structure established within six months.
- SC-DMAP Implementation Programme Body, Marine Ecosystems and Ornithology Working Group, technical and sectoral working groups.
- Six-monthly meeting of all working groups within a 'Collaborative Forum'.
- Other features:
 - GIS data repository.
 - Implementation Plan incorporating SEA monitoring requirements.
 - Offshore wind-maritime research programme in partnership with, and managed by, the Marine Institute.



Co-existence Objectives-Examples



Co-existence with Aquaculture, Seafood and Fisheries: Policy Objectives SF 1- SF6

- Successful co-existence between ORE and other maritime uses, as well as marine biodiversity, is central to the SC-DMAP.
- No exclusion within the Maritime Areas for ORE on other activities save for safety or exceptional circumstances.
- Avoid, minimise or mitigate likely significant adverse effects with existing fishing and seafood activity.
- Optimise infrastructure design and layout to maximise opportunities for co-existence with fishing and seafood activity.
- Preparation of a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS)
- As part of an FMMS, prepare an Aquaculture Management and Mitigation Strategy (AMMS) where relevant.
- Any FMMS shall include a Cable Management Plan (CMP).
- Maintain a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) to facilitate consultation and engagement on an ongoing basis with Irish-registered fishers and wider seafood sector members.



Co-existence & Land and Sea Interactions Examples



Co-existence with Shipping: Policy Objectives S1-S3

- A GIS shipping density mapping analysis, based on at least 12 months data, will be prepared by DECC within six months to support project level Navigation Risk Assessments and will be shared by DECC on the GIS data repository.

Land and Sea Interactions and Ports: Policy Objectives LS 1, LS 2, PH 1

- Alignment of terrestrial plans and policy at national, regional, and local level to deliver sustainable onshore infrastructure to enable ORE and transmission infrastructure in the SC-DMAP area.
- Alignment of terrestrial planning with marine planning at regional and local level to provide for the sustainable development of port and harbour infrastructure that enables the development of ORE in the SC-DMAP area

Transmission Infrastructure: Policy Objectives ETS 1-ETS 3

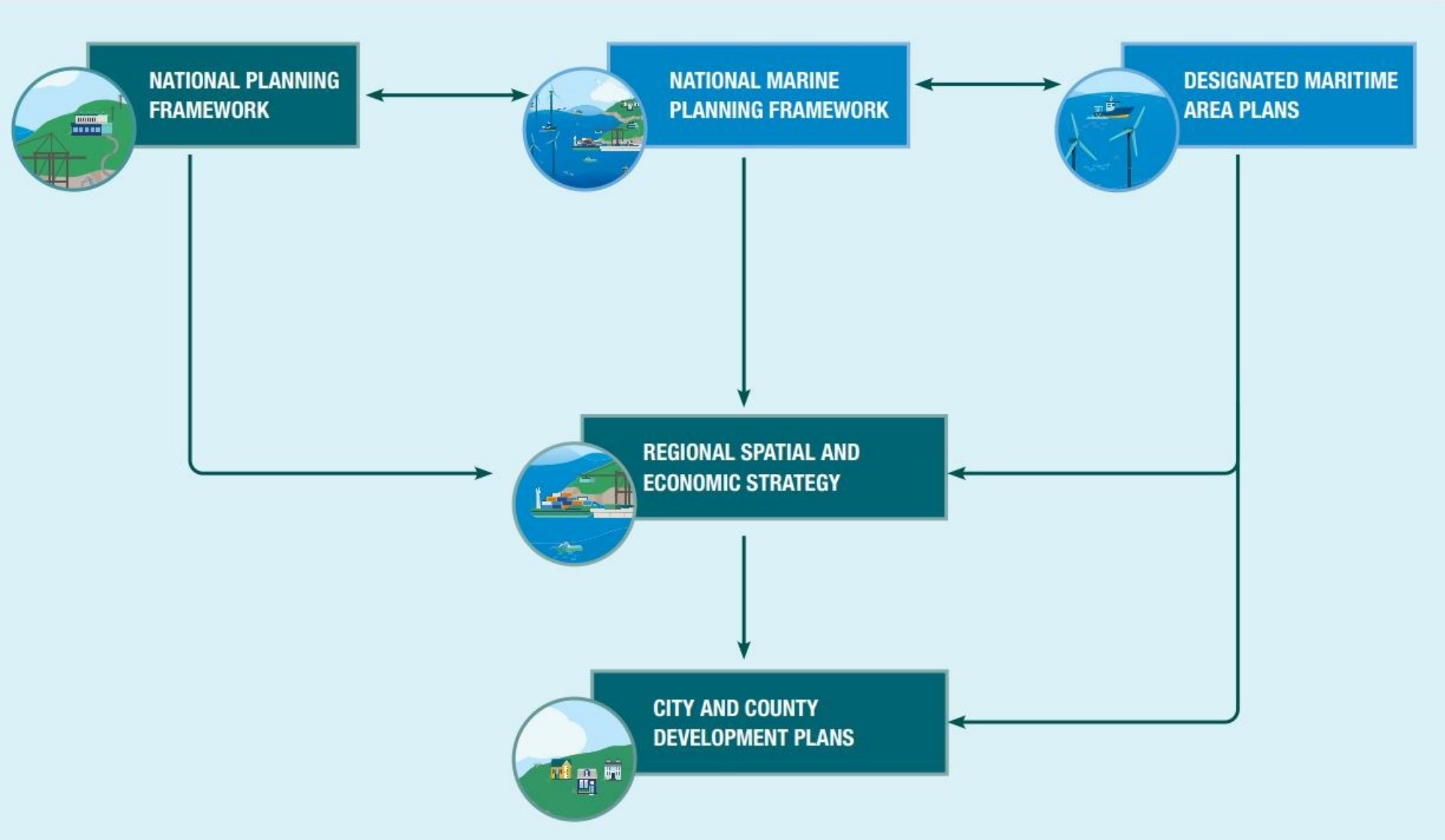
- Alignment of terrestrial planning with marine planning at regional and local level to provide for the sustainable development of transmission infrastructure to enable ORE development in the SC-DMAP area.



LAND AND SEA PLANNING INTERACTION



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Economic Opportunities and Skills Development



Economic and Employment Growth Potential: Policy Objectives EC 1-EC 2

- Support actions under Government's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy (2024).
- Support regional and local research, innovation, skills development and enterprise growth in the ORE sector.
- Support actions of the higher and further education and training sector, Regional Skills Forum, Regional Enterprise Plans and Towards a Learning Region to develop diverse skills and employment opportunities.

Regional Economic Impact of Offshore Wind Development

- SC-DMAP will deliver an estimated €4.4 billion in GVA benefits to the Irish economy. Of these benefits, between €2.9 billion and €3.1 billion GVA (66-70%) is expected to be captured by the south coast region.
- A large proportion of the economic opportunity lies in the operational and maintenance phase of the projects, which represents more than 80% of the south coast's expected GVA and employment benefits.
- Capturing the benefits requires significant infrastructure investment on-shore , especially upgrading Ireland's and the region's port facilities.



Next Steps



- The Minister approved a Department Report of public consultation, final draft SC-DMAP, SEA Statement, final NIS and draft AA Determination and the step of laying of the final draft SC-DMAP before both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- The Minister has laid the final draft SC-DMAP, SEA Statement and AA Determination before the Houses of the Oireachtas seeking a resolution to approve the SC-DMAP pursuant to Section 25 (2) of the MAP Act 2021 as amended.
- Resolution scheduled for Houses of the Oireachtas (Seanad Éireann on 9 October and Dáil Éireann 10 October 2024). Following the approval of the resolutions, the Minister will declare the SC-DMAP to be adopted and it will be published by DECC.
- Tonn Nua ORESS Auction will commence in early 2025.
- DECC will be identifying the priorities for next DMAPs.

Lessons Learned: Planner Perspective



- The strength of early-stage public engagement and valuable role of the Public Participation Statement.
- The strength of multi- disciplinary teams.
- The ecosystems-based approach and iterative process of environmental assessment informing the plan approach and policy objectives at an early stage.
- The importance of an evidence base, data sharing and an on-going commitment to improve and share data sources to support project stage planning and for effective plan monitoring.
- Layering of environmental and technical constraints analysis in identifying maritime areas for ORE.
- Through the process, strengthened commitments to cross sectoral and inclusive governance structures, shared data resources (Regional Level Surveys) and collaborative forums to monitor and evaluate both the plan and SEA mitigation measures.
- Plan level measures to strengthen project level planning, especially for robust cumulative and in-combination assessments.



More Information

SC-DMAP documentation from the draft plan stages is available at: www.gov.ie/southcoastdmap

The final SC-DMAP and associated SEA Statement, final NIS, AA Determination and Consultation Report will be published on the website soon.



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Thank you
for
listening

