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Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment

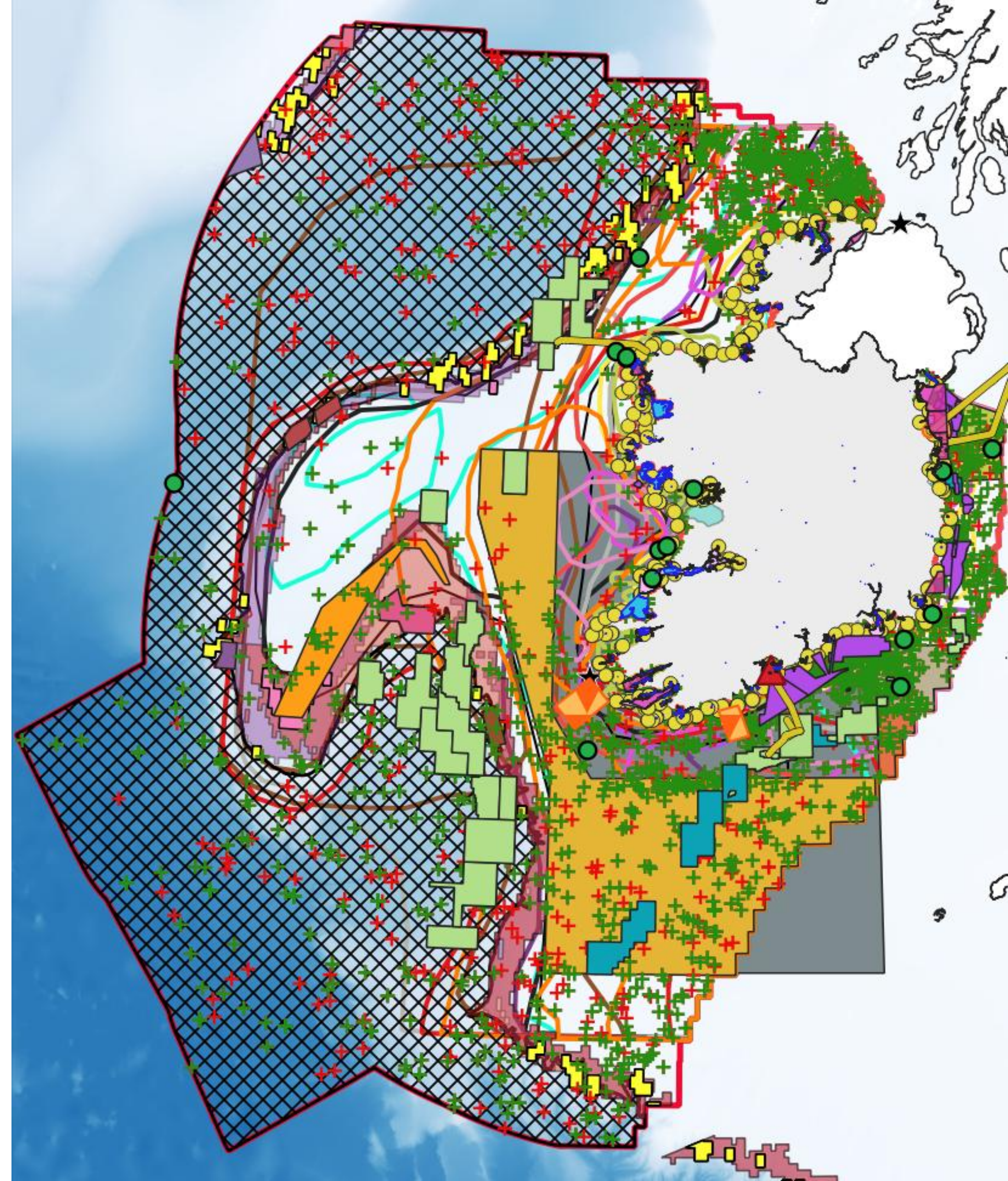
Marine Spatial Planning Update

Tom Woolley – Marine Planning Advisor
DECC - Marine Planning and Environment Technical Advisory

10th of October 2025

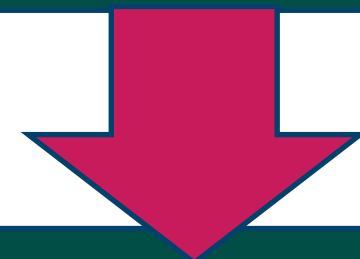
Marine Spatial Planning Update

- National Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)
 - *Proposal and accompanying*
 - *Public Participation Statement (PPS)*
 - *Next steps*
 - *Data approach*
- Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS)
- South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy (SC-DMAP)
- Marine Functions at DCEE
- Research

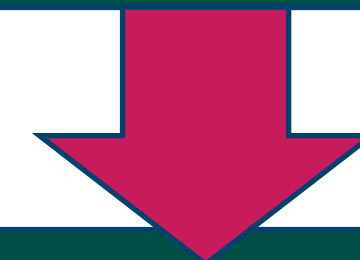


Marine Planning Policy Hierarchy

1. Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS)



2. National Marine Planning Framework (NMPPF)
National Marine Spatial Plan



3. Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs)



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National DMAP for ORE

- DMAP will support our decarbonisation ambitions and our offshore renewables target of 20GW by 2040.
- MSP is considered an essential and well-established tool for facilitating ORE.
- Having a single National DMAP will accelerate the process of site designation for offshore renewable energy, will support the Programme for Government commitment and provide greater certainty for marine stakeholders and the renewables industry.
 - ***“Fast-Track Offshore Wind Development by prioritising the publication of Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs)”***
- Aligning Energy Policy with Forward Spatial Planning – Providing a policy basis for managing development of offshore renewable energy.

Programme
for Government
2025

Securing Ireland's Future



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National DMAP for ORE - Proposal

- 12/09/25: Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien, and the Minister of State at the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment with responsibility for Fisheries and the Marine, Timmy Dooley, announced publication of the National Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Proposal and accompanying Public Participation Statement (PPS).
- **AIM:** Designate sufficient maritime area to deliver a target of 20GW of offshore renewable energy by 2040 taking account of the Phase one projects and sites already designated by the South Coast DMAP (SC-DMAP).

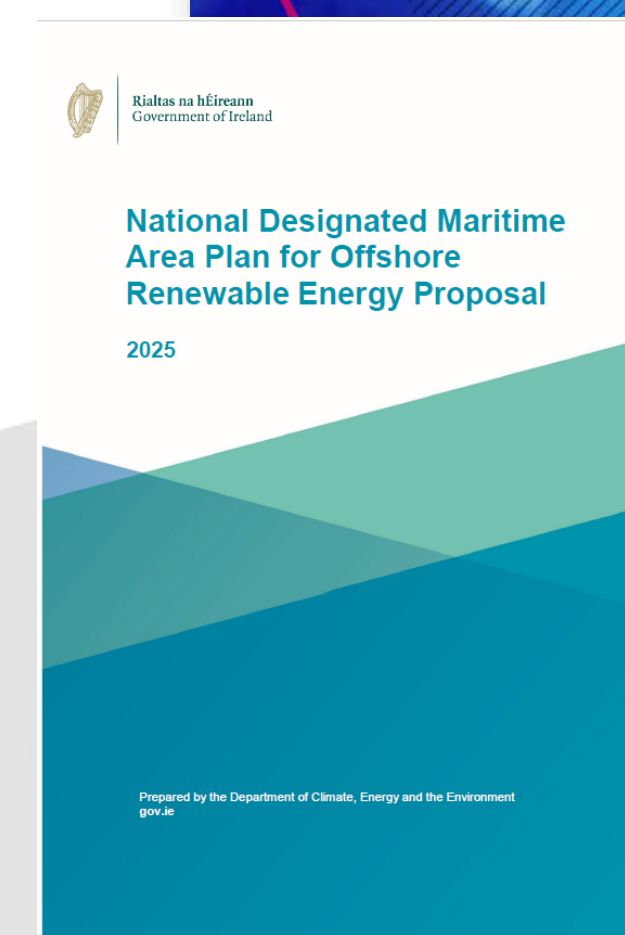
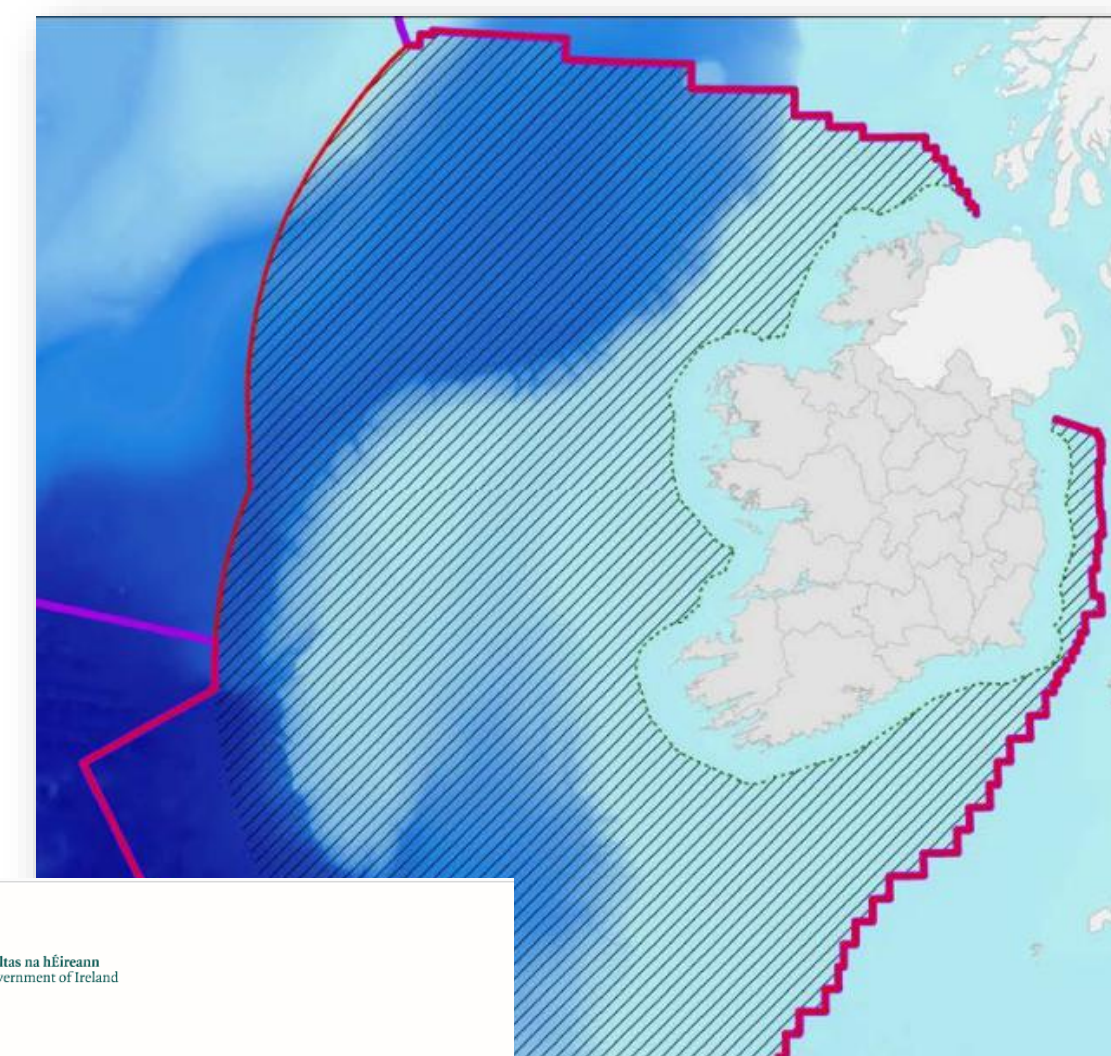




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National DMAP for ORE - Proposal

- The proposal serves as a foundational document based on which the National DMAP will be prepared.
- The National DMAP will deliver a comprehensive national marine spatial planning framework and a policy basis for the guidance of the development of ORE within appropriate areas where maritime area consents for offshore wind applications will be considered.
- It will give a greater level of certainty for decision makers and stakeholders, creating a pathway for the realisation of offshore renewable energy ambition.





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What will the DMAP provide for?

- Spatial designations for fixed bottom and floating offshore wind including to facilitate floating wind demonstration sites.
- Policies / objectives to guide future ORE development.
- Policies / objectives for ocean energy (wave and tidal).
- Consideration of social, economic and environmental impacts (SEA, AA and socio-economic analysis).
- Application of an ecosystem based approach driven by data and stakeholder engagement.
- Due regard will be given to wider maritime uses and potential for co-existence.

Public Participation Statement (PPS)



The Proposal and Public Participation Statement were published by the Minister 12th Sep 2025.

Quarter 3 – Quarter 4 2025

- Publication of the National DMAP for ORE Proposal and Public Participation Statement

Quarter 1 2026 – Quarter 1 2027

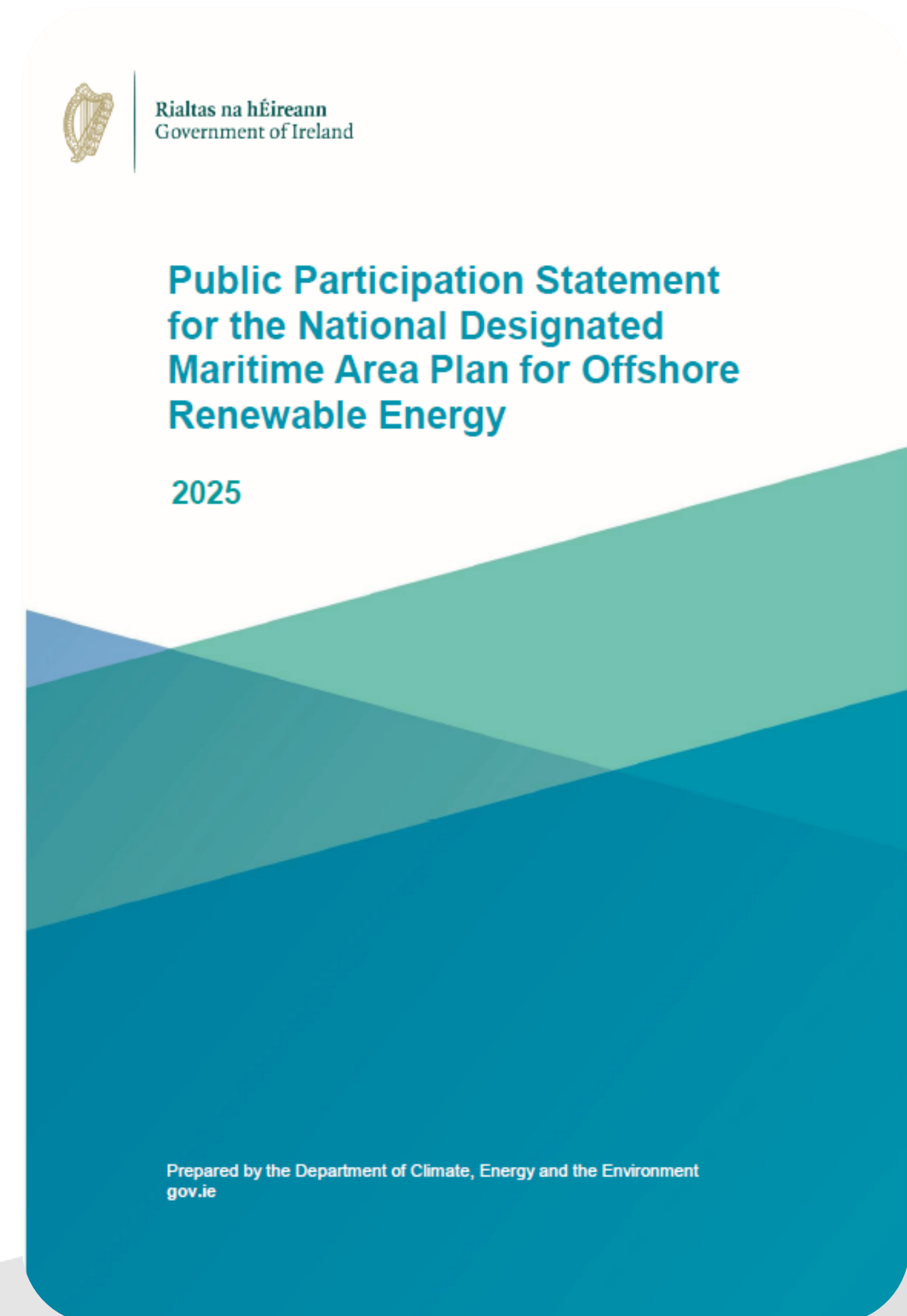
- Pre-Draft Targeted Consultation
- On-Going Dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, authorities and public

Quarter 1 – Quarter 3 2027

- Formal Public Consultation, SEA and AA

Quarter 3 – Quarter 4 2027

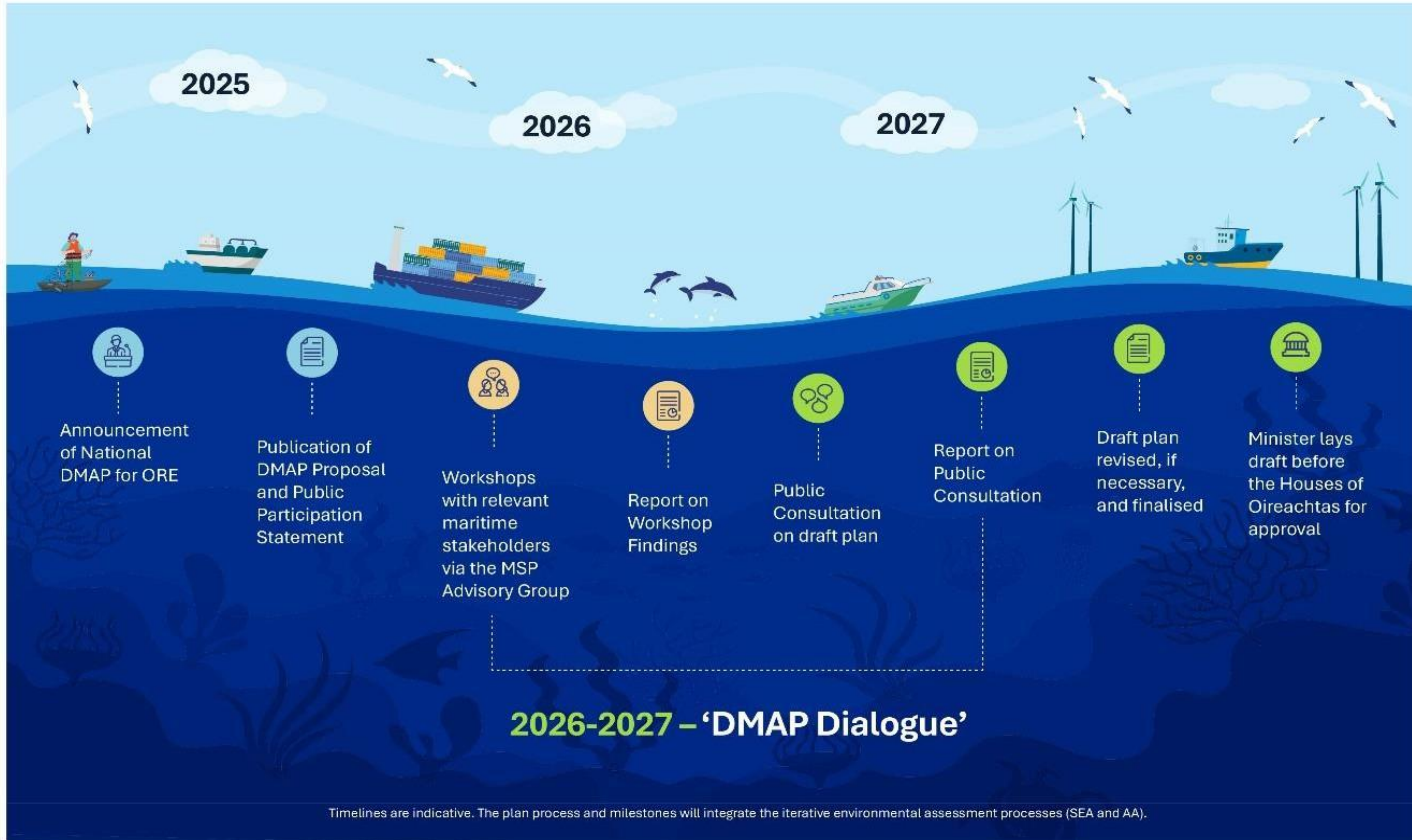
- Finalisation of the National DMAP for ORE



National Maritime Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy: **Milestone Stages**



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Public Participation Principles



- Give effect to Aarhus Convention
- Consultation through advisory structures, especially:
 - ❑ Project Ireland Marine 2040
 - ❑ National DMAP for ORE Steering Group
 - ❑ MSP Advisory Group (public sector, economic, environment and social pillars)
- Inter-Departmental and State Agency Co-ordination
- Direct consultation with relevant sectors and stakeholders in workshops throughout early pre-draft stage including fisheries, environment and ORE industry.
- In accordance with Article 6 MSP Directive, planning for land-sea planning coordination through Close consultation with Regional Assemblies and Coastal Planning Authorities
- Community Liaison Officer Services
- Fisheries Liaison Officer Services
- Youth and Student Groups
- Commitment to transparency, access to information, on-gong dialogue

Public Participation Principles



- PPS will be live, updated and re-published as details are worked out on upcoming consultation workshops and events.
- On-going stakeholder consultations and outcomes will assist the iterative SEA, AA, SEIA processes.
- Early heavy lifting with relevant stakeholders for an understanding of the draft process, pre-empt and address key issues arising for different sectors/stakeholders. It will pay dividends at the draft consultation stage with a broad understanding of content and de-risk the process.

Public Participation Principles



Post publication of the initial PPS, the team are beginning to break down the quarter bands to plan ahead for the consultations we need.

- ❑ **Q4 2025 to Q2 2026:** Preparation of the evidence base, methodology, focused stakeholder (cross sectoral) consultations. **Active phase of sectoral stakeholder consultations (workshop focused).**
- ❑ **Q3-Q4 2026 :** Addressing all issues raised to complete and refine the draft National DMAP for ORE. **Project team preparation of draft including more detailed liaison with stakeholders and advisory structures in refining the draft plan.**
- ❑ **Q1-Q3 2027 :** Publication of the draft National DMAP for ORE, SEA, AA, SEIA and public submissions. **Active phase of open public consultation and stakeholder events region wide.**
- ❑ **Q3-Q4 2027:** Review of submissions, amendments to draft where necessary, consider further public consultation and environmental assessments if required, final approval stages with Houses of the Oireachtas. **Project Team, reverting to relevant stakeholders and advisory structures, targeted/specific public consultation on amendments if necessary, preparing final steps.**



**Strand 1:
Evidence Based
Mapping of ORE
Opportunity
Areas & Draft
Renewable
Energy Sites**



**Strand 2:
Developing the
Draft National
DMAP for ORE
Content, Policies /
Objectives**



**Strand 3:
Dialogue,
Communication
and Information
Sharing with
the Public**

Iterative SEA, AA, SEIA Assessment Processes

Relevant & Timely Information is Critical for Sustainable Marine Development, Management & Adaptation



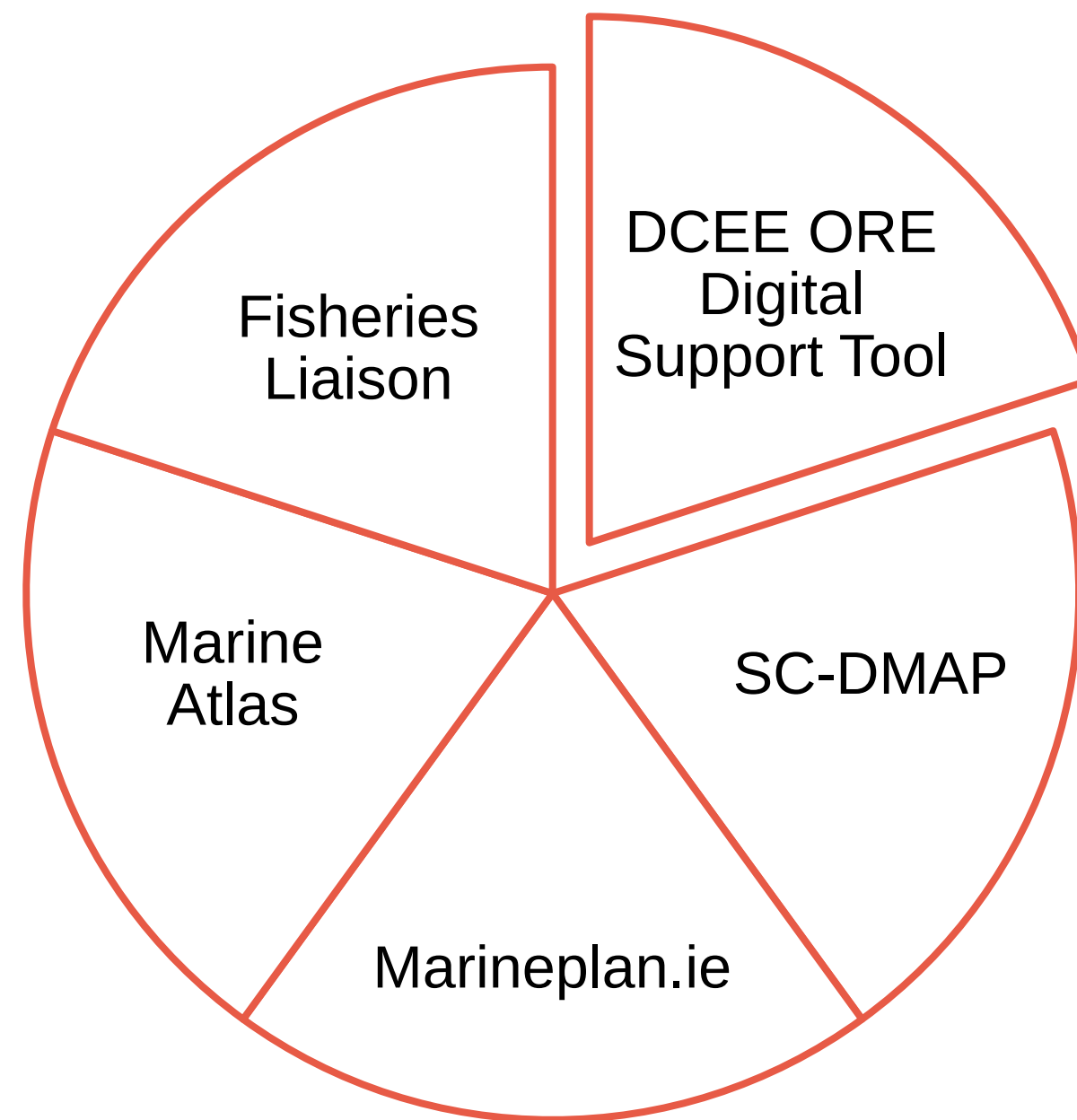


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Data Catalogue - Approach



- Building on marine planning and ORE work to date
- Over 550 individual data layers identified for consideration



Refresh & Refinement

- Relevancy
- Attributes comparison



Gap analysis

- Missing in ORE DST P1



Data Catalogue/Listing

- Common attributes



Quality Assessment

Attributes list

Name

Description

Owning organisation

Organisation type

Category

Metadata link

Data link

Latest update

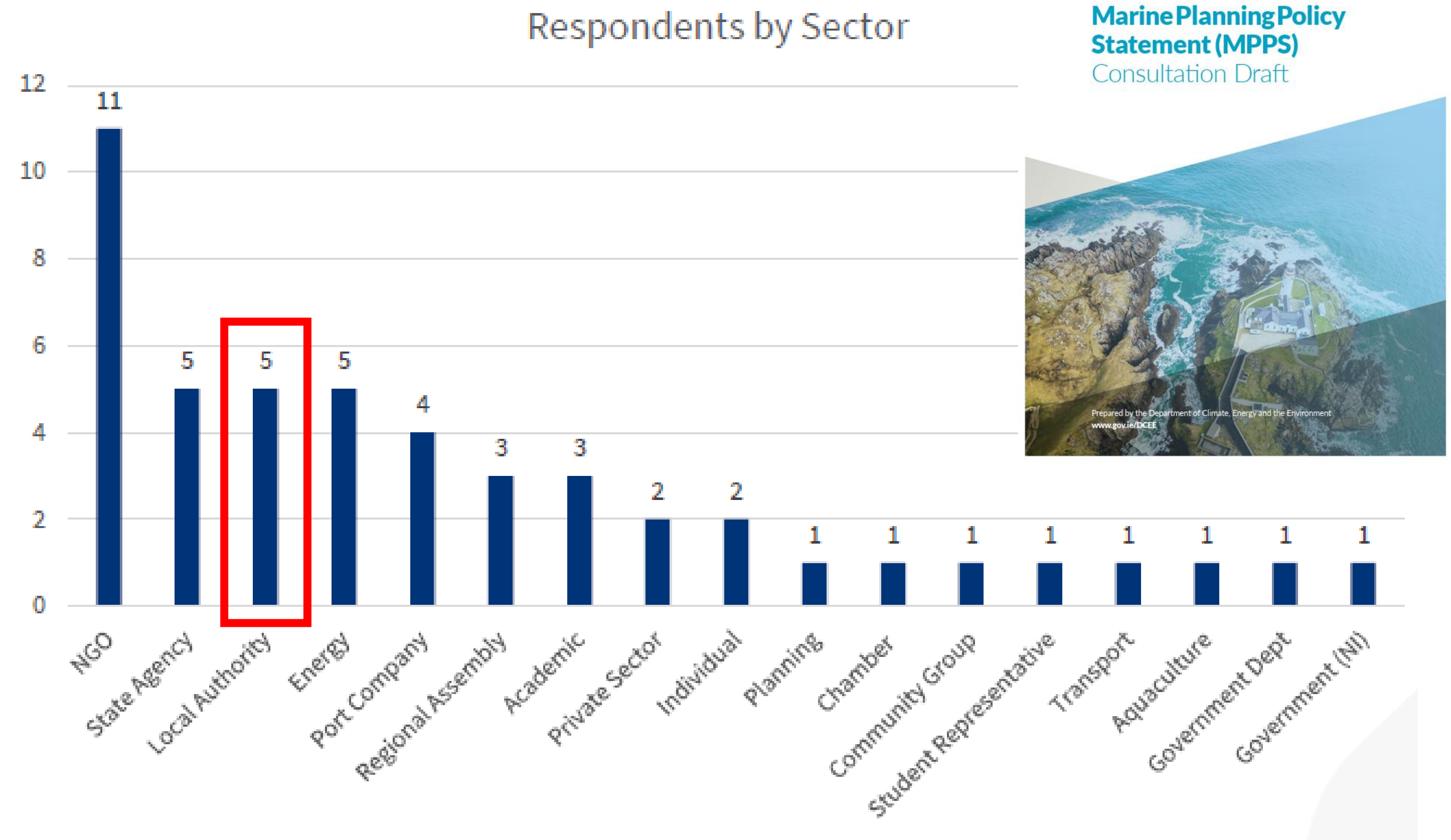
Update rhythm

Quality



Consultation on the Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS)

- MPPS sets out the principles and priorities of Government in relation to marine planning.
- [Public consultation on a statutory MPPS](#) was first announced by Minister Darragh O'Brien at EMD and was held from the 9th of June 2025 to the 5th of August 2025.
- Newspaper adverts were published in the Irish Times, Irish Independent and Irish Examiner on the 9th of June and 27th of June.
- An extensive social media campaign was also used to promote the consultation on LinkedIn, BlueSky, X, Facebook and Instagram.
- There were almost 50 submissions received, with feedback on the draft MPPS as well as the accompany environmental reports.



Consultation on the Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS)

- Comments have been received in relation to all aspects of the draft MPPS, including the marine planning hierarchy, Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs), principles of marine planning and priorities for marine planning.
- A review of submissions is ongoing but early signs show that the draft MPPS has been generally well received with many respondents welcoming it and the importance of the plan-led approach for marine planning.
- The next steps will be:
 - *Conclusion of Analysis of submissions*
 - *Amendment of draft MPPS on foot of submissions received*
 - *Arrange for MPPS and environmental reports to be laid before the Oireachtas (as per Section 6(2) of the MAP Act 2021)*
 - *Have regard to any resolution, report or recommendation arising from either House or Committee (Section 6(3))*
 - *Prepare final version and publish*

South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy (SC-DMAP)

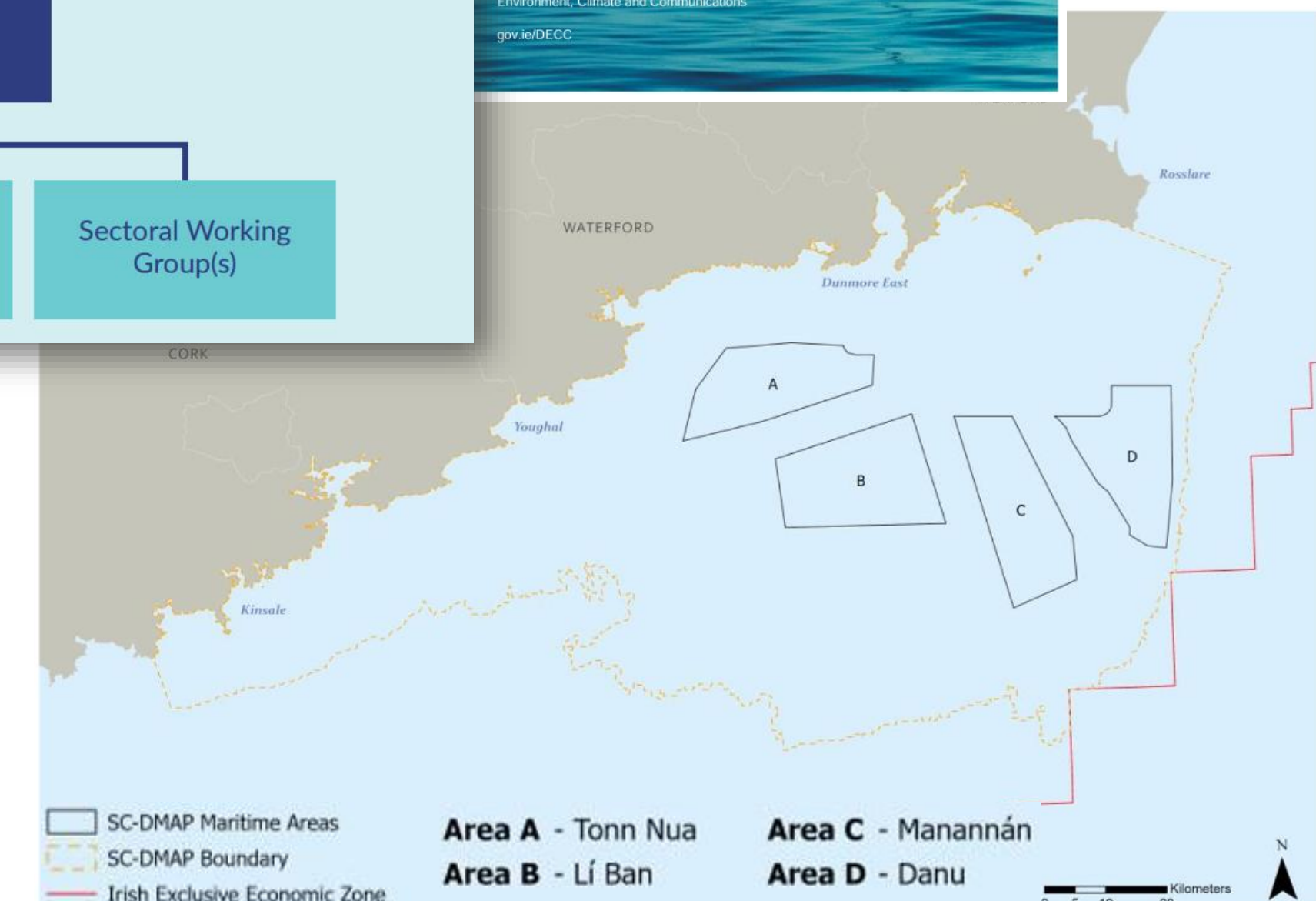
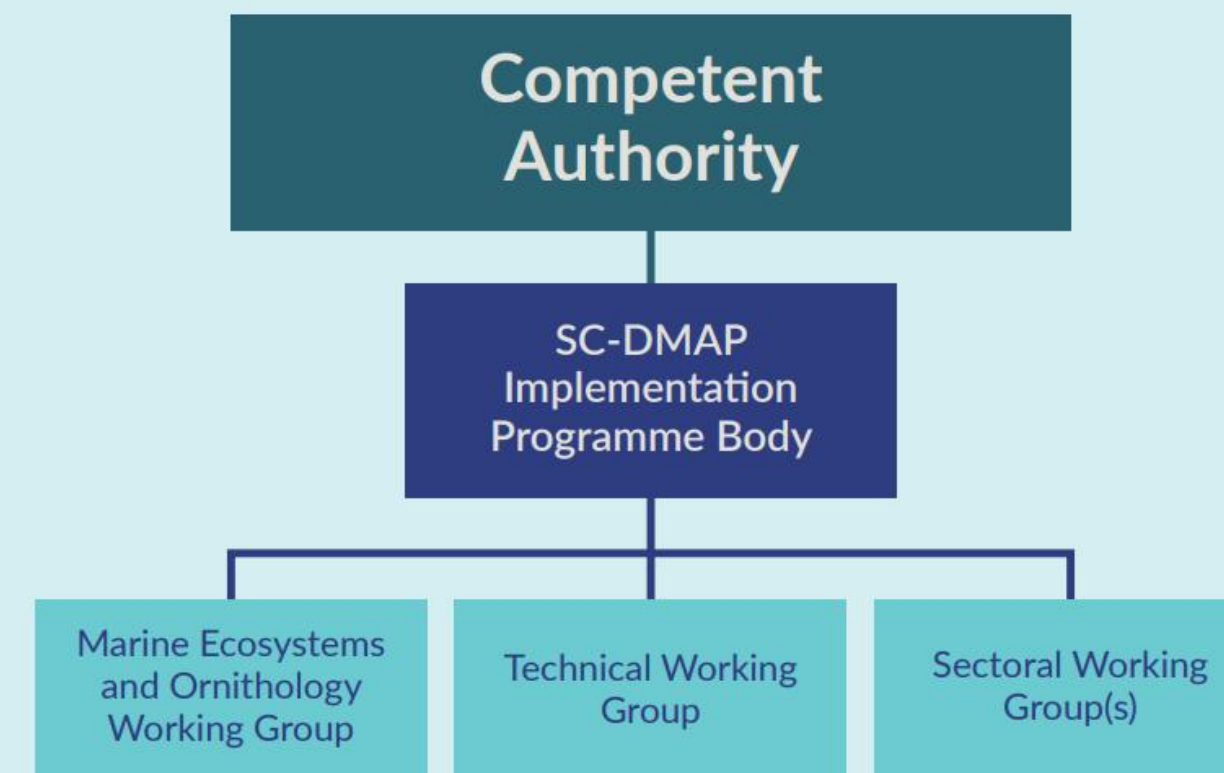


South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy

October 2024

- In October 2024 Ireland adopted its first DMAP, the [South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for ORE](#).
- The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) has established an [Implementation Programme Body \(IPB\)](#) to oversee effective and sustainable implementation of the SC-DMAP and to coordinate with existing governance structures.
- The IPB is project managed via a section of DCEE focused on plan implementation
- SC-DMAP IPB will be supported in its work by working groups including:
 - *Marine Ecosystems and Ornithology, which will develop an implementation plan and recommend to the IPB the scope of the Regional Level Surveys in respect of mobile/migratory species including birds, mammals and bats.*
 - *A Technical Working Group that will also support the IPB, particularly in relation to coordinating a common, shared GIS data repository for the SC-DMAP.*

South Coast DMAP Governance Structure



Marine Functions at DCEE

- Marine Planning at DCEE is part of the EU, International, and Marine Affairs Division and is comprised of three sections:
 - *Marine Strategic Policy*
 - *Marine Planning and Environment Technical Advisory*
 - *Marine Planning Governance, Regulation (inc. MARA oversight; SC-DMAP implementation)*
- Marine Environment function has transferred from DHLGH to DCEE.
- Facilitates greater alignment of marine protection and maritime spatial planning.
- Marine spatial planning — grounded in robust evidence and stakeholder engagement — can play a key role in delivering the objectives of MSFD, as set out in the National Marine Planning Framework.
- By coordinating uses of the sea in a way that minimises conflict, reduces pressure on sensitive habitats, and aligns with environmental thresholds, marine planning enables us to balance ecological protection with sustainable economic development.
- Progressing the delivery of MPAs – a cornerstone of effective marine protection - 30% of our maritime area by 2030.
- Opportunity to deepen the integration of policy, science, and long-term planning — in a way that supports both nature and people.





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Marine Institute's Marine Research Programme Research for Policy Call 2025 - Awards

- Actionable Sea Level Information for Irish Policy (ASLIP)
- Demand and Capacity Requirements of Commercial Ports Beyond 2040
- Systematic review of marine bird disturbance and foraging ranges in an Irish context
- MAAT: Marine Mammal Appropriate Assessment Toolkit
- Navigating Maritime Compliance: A Technology Assessment for Monitoring and Enforcement in Ireland's Maritime Area (NAVICOM)
- Supporting Just Transition and Coexistence in Ireland's Offshore Renewable Energy Future
- Habitat restoration co-existence opportunities; assessing the feasibility of integrating Nature-Inclusive Design solutions with offshore wind in Irish waters, learning from overseas co-existence strategies
- Securing CO-existence of Biodiversity with Marine Activities through MSP (COMBA)
- Coexistence of Offshore Renewable Energy and Fisheries in Irish Seas, opportunities, policies and regulations (CORE-Fish)



An tÚdarás Rialála Limistéir Mhuiri
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority

Carried out with the support of the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme and the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), funded by the Government of Ireland



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Government of Ireland

Thank you for listening



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