

Towards an integrated Policy Framework for Marine Spatial Planning in Ireland

Introduction

We are pleased to welcome you to our project Towards an Integrated Policy Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning in Ireland. In light of the recent adoption of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive in July 2014, Ireland's greatest challenge will be to overcome the lack of integration in marine governance.

While there is little cooperation and coordination to cover the regulation of human activities at sea and on the foreshore, the overarching objectives for Ireland are to protect fragile species and habitats and to maintain Good Environmental Status of Irish marine waters.

The marine environment is currently governed by a fragmented policy framework, which is not suited to securing environmental and planning objectives. The new MSP Directive must be transposed into national law by September 2016 and plans must be prepared by March

2021. This is a short period within which to implement the Directive.

Aim and Objectives

Having regard to the impending implementation, the overall aim of the project is *to inform the development of an integrated policy framework for marine spatial planning in Ireland.*

There are six objectives for the project as follows:

1. To establish the state of knowledge and main issues in this area in Ireland and abroad.
2. To isolate and learn from successes and failures in integrated marine management policy frameworks in Ireland and abroad.
3. To identify key concerns and challenges in this area, with key stakeholders and policymakers
4. To establish the role and potential of different approaches to MSP and related policy in Ireland.

5. To set out the priorities and elements of an effective framework for integrated policy for MSP in Ireland.
6. To maximize the impact of the research on policy-making, plan-making, decision-making and public interest domains.
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Project Partners and Team

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