



Maritime Spatial Planning Country Information

Ireland

Contact

MSP in general

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Verification Date

This document has been verified by the responsible MSP authority (or representative) of Ireland on 29.11.2018.

Funding attribution

The EU MSP Platform is financed by the EU Commission under the EMFF. The EU MSP Platform is a result of the action MSP Assistance Mechanism implemented by EASME on behalf of DG MARE.

European MSP Platform Consortium Contractors



with Thetis, University of Liverpool and NIMRD

Background Information

Basic facts on Marine Waters



— Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) — Territorial Sea (TS)

Ireland's marine waters measure 490,000km² (approx. 7 times its terrestrial landmass) and comprise parts of the Irish and Celtic Seas and the Atlantic Ocean.

General

Ireland is in the process of developing its first MSP and a number of key milestones in the process have now been met. [The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government](#) (DHPLG) is leading the preparation of marine spatial planning on behalf of Government, with input from other relevant Departments and Agencies including Ireland's [Marine Institute](#). The marine plan will cover Ireland's maritime area, including internal waters (sea area), territorial seas, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf. A single plan will be prepared for the entire area initially, with the possibility of more detailed regional plans being made at a later date.

As of November 2018, the following steps have so far been undertaken:

National Marine Planning Framework

The DHPLG is currently developing Ireland's National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), which is a major step towards the preparation of a marine spatial plan for Ireland. It will be the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence-based and secures a sustainable future for the marine area. A [Baseline Report](#) consultation document was published on 18 September 2018, which sets out:

- the policy, legislative and regulatory context for Marine Spatial Planning in general and, more specifically, for the development of Ireland's first plan;
- a description of the "as is" situation in terms of existing sectoral development and activities in Ireland's maritime area, including an identification of the future opportunities and constraints for each;

- an initial elaboration of potential high-level objectives for Ireland's first National Marine Planning Framework, informed by [Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth](#) and the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU; and
- A number of consultation questions or issues intended to prompt discussion and consideration amongst stakeholders. Responses to these questions will be a crucial input to the draft plan.

The NMPF is being developed through extensive public consultation during 2018, with final publication due in 2019. It informs the next steps in the process by setting out the context in which the marine spatial plan is being developed and identify the key issues that marine planning will need to address.

A series of regional public and stakeholder events were held nationally throughout October 2018 to launch the report and to inform and support public and stakeholder participation.

Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland

The principles for engagement for this process were clearly set out in [Towards a Marine Spatial Plan for Ireland](#), a roadmap for the development of Ireland's National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), in December 2017. It sets out the process of MSP development in Ireland, including the principles of engagement, to enable thorough stakeholder engagement.

Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth

The '*Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - an Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland*' (HOOW) was adopted in 2012. It sets out the Irish Government's vision, high-level goals, and key enabling actions to put in place the appropriate policy, governance and business climate to enable Ireland's marine potential to be realised. HOOW sets out a comprehensive range of actions across a number of sectoral areas, with key objectives to:

- Double the value of Ireland's ocean wealth to 2.4% of GDP by 2030
- Increase the turnover from Ireland's ocean economy to exceed €6.4bn by 2020.

To enable this, HOOW included a policy objective identifying the need for development of an overarching national marine spatial plan, underpinned by an efficient and robust planning and licensing framework.

More information and the HOOW report can be found at www.ouroceanwealth.ie/publications.

Details

MSP Legislation

The European Union (Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning) Regulations 2016 initially transposed EU Directive 2014/89/EU into national law. In 2018, [Part 5 of the Planning and Development \(Amendment\) Act 2018](#) repealed and replaced the above regulations with new primary legislation to give effect to the requirements of the MSP Directive.

Competent Authority

Ireland's competent national authority for maritime spatial planning is the Department for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. More information can be found at <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/maritime-spatial-planning/maritime-spatial-planning-directive/maritime-spatial-planning>.

Maritime Spatial Plans

Existing Maritime Spatial Plans

Ireland does not have a dedicated Maritime Spatial Plan as yet.

Aspects of the MSP process

Coherence with other processes

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government is also Ireland's competent national authority for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Ireland has completed the initial assessment of its marine waters, established targets and indicators, established a monitoring programme and submitted its programme of measures to the European Commission. Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme is ongoing. More information can be found at <http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/marine-strategy/marine-strategy-framework-directive-msfd>.